

Techniques - Stick and Pin Method



Embroidering Without Hooping the Garment: "Stick & Pin" Method

Not every fabric hoops well and projects using purchased garments may not lend themselves to being hooped. Here are some techniques to help you through such situations and one method of embroidering without hooping the fabric.

Materials and Supplies

- Hoop
- Item to embroider
- Brother embroidery thread and bobbin thread
- Stabilizer (tear away, cut way or wash away, depending on technique) [Self-stick or water-stick tear away stabilizer also work]
- Temporary spray adhesive
- Chalk marker/wash away marker
- Straight pins
- Brother centering ruler (SA530)
- Design is from Brother Ultimate Embroidery Design kits, SA628 "Eagle", Morning Flight

Level of Difficulty

Beginner/Intermediate depending on difficulty of fabric

Process

Step 1 Draw cross marks on the fabric with the chalk/wash away marker where you plan to place the embroidery. Insert straight pins at the center of the lines and about 1" away from center in four directions (about 2" away for 6" x 10" hoop). Fold the item along the top to bottom pins with right sides together.

Step 2 Hoop tear away stabilizer in the appropriate hoop for your design. Draw lines top to bottom and side to side with the chalk or wash away to guide in centering. Spray the hooped stabilizer with temporary spray. [Self-stick or water-stick stabilizer could be used instead.] The Brother flexible Centering Ruler (SA-530) makes easy work of marking these lines.

Step 3 Place the folded project on the hooped/sprayed stabilizer. Use the pins to line it up with the lines on the hoop. Reposition as necessary so that the pins will line up with these marks. Respray if you find fabric is slipping as you rearrange. When satisfied, lay wash way stabilizer on top (if fabric seems to need it, such as velvets or loose weaves) and anchor all layers to the hooped stabilizer with at least four pins. (The wash away material helps the thread to not sink into some fabrics and extra pins are needed with the largest hoop.) (Design No. 20 is from Brother memory card No.61 (SA361).

Step 4 Insert card/disk into embroidery machine, position hoop project and adjust placement on the screen, as required. Depending on how you hooped the project, you may need to rotate the design. Consider switching to black bobbin thread if your project requires it. Embroider the design(s), remove stabilizers and press your project.

Step 5 The technique also works to machine quilt top/batting/back units. If available on your machine, the built-in rectangular frame pattern (enlarged to fill



the hoop) works well to keep designs in place for 6" x 10" hoops, especially with quilt batting. The "stick & pin" method also is great to create larger combined designs when you have a machine with only a 4" x 4" hoop capacity. (Designs No. 33, 20, 45 are from Brother memory card No.62 (SA362).

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