

Couture Embroidery

When embroidering directly onto a garment just isn't practical.

Many times I see a garment that I would like to embellish with embroidery, but do not want to embroider directly on the garment. Maybe the object is difficult to hoop, or maybe the stitches would be difficult to remove in the event of a (gasp!) mishap. There are many instances where this technique will come in handy, and in fact I find this is a useful creative tool when I want to play around with design placement.

What you need:

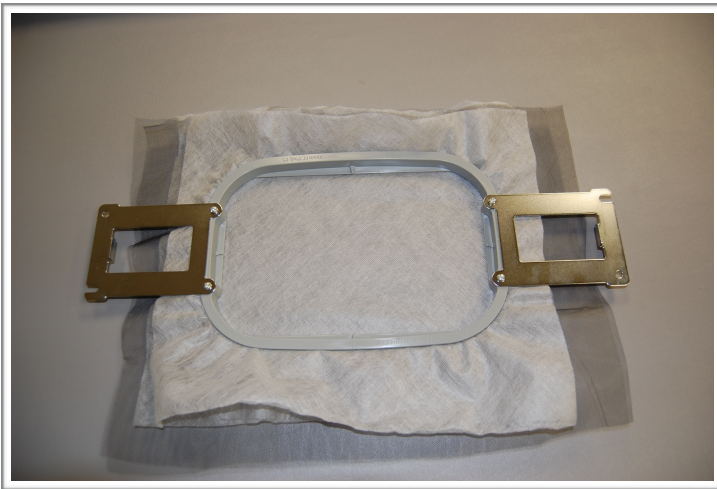
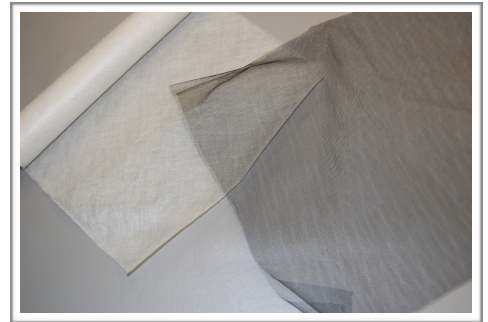
Nylon tulle, color chosen to blend with the garment or object to be embellished.

Water soluble stabilizer (I prefer the woven type such as aqua wonder or Floriani Wet n Gone.

Embroidery thread and bobbin thread

Regular sewing thread to match the garment

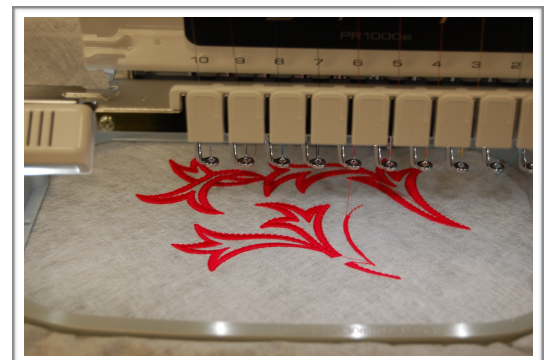
- 1. Use two layers of tulle sandwiched between two layers of water soluble stabilizer.**



- 2. Hoop all layers into the embroidery hoop.**



- 3. Select and stitch out the design(s). You can select multiple designs in one hooping depending on the maximum embroidery field of your machine.**



4. Stitch the designs



**5. Remove from hoop.
Trim around designs leaving
approximately
1/2 inches of "waste" around
each design.**



6. Rinse the embroidered medallions.

Let dry completely.

**Use a pressing cloth and iron if
necessary to block and shape the
medallions. Trim any stray threads
from the front and backsides.**



**7. Once dried, take all the medallions
and begin placing them on your
garment. Play around with placement and positioning until you find an
arrangement that you are satisfied with. Then, secure the medallions with pins
so that they won't shift during the stitching/securing process.**





8. Go to your sewing machine. Set it up for FREE MOTION stitching.

a. Thread your machine with matching thread, top and bottom. I prefer to use a fine thread such as coats and clarks machine embroidery/lingerie thread or something similar.

b. Use a free-motion darning foot

c. Drop your feed dogs or (cover the feed dogs if they do not drop)

d. Place the garment in the sewing machine and lower the presser foot.

e. Set your machine for straight stitch

f. Using a moderate speed, stitch around each medallion, stitching as close to the embroidery as possible.



9. Carefully trim the tulle from the outside of the stitched design. Since you were careful to match the color of your tulle to the base fabric, any small areas inside the embroidery will be virtually invisible and will not require trimming.



10. Now the embellishments on your garment are complete! You can now finish your garment by adding the lining, fasteners, etc.



I have found this to be a very effective method of embroidering on numerous garments or items that are difficult to hoop or just a little too delicate or expensive to risk embroidering directly on.

And here is the finished product!



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