

Instructions for Stitching Machine Embroidery Split Designs

by
Marjorie Busby
bluefeatherquiltstudio.com

Creating larger designs than our embroidery hoop opens a world of possibilities with machine embroidery. These instructions are very simple, but work well for aligning additional embroidery designs once the initial design has been removed from the hoop.

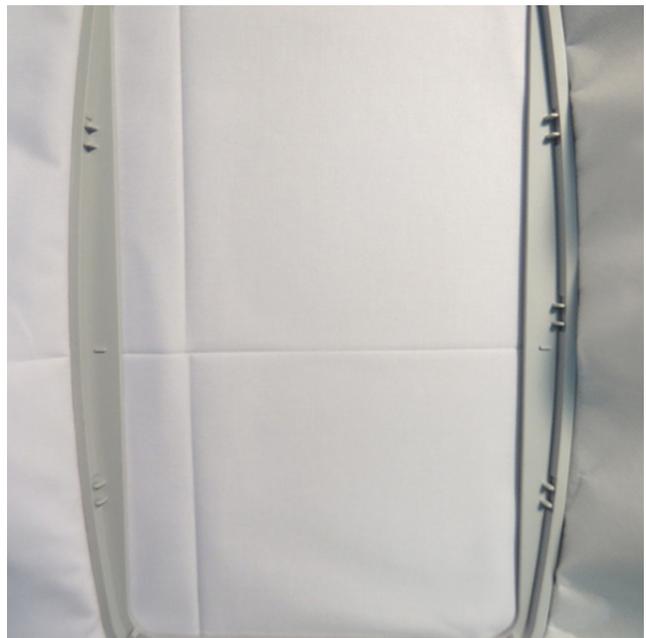
Sometimes the second and sequential hoopings are called “floating” designs or “hoopless” designs, because the stabilizer is hooped and the background fabric is attached to the stabilizer but is not placed inside the embroidery hoop.

The following instructions will demonstrate a very simple design and also how alignment marks allow you to create larger designs.

Step One: Prepare the background fabric.

Marking the background fabric assures that the design will be placed evenly and in the desired place. To do this, the center and horizontal and vertical center lines should be marked. This may be done by finger pressing the background fabric. In some cases, one may want to use a marking pen. The use of a marking pen is contingent upon being able to remove the marks after the embroidery is complete.

The following picture shows fabric that has been finger pressed and is hooped with the vertical center line to the left and the horizontal center line matching the centering marks on the embroidery hoop.



Step 2: Stitch alignment marks and complete the first section of the embroidery.

The first set of stitches will be alignment marks that will be used to align the design with the second part of the design.

The alignment marks stitch first and are stitched onto the background fabric.

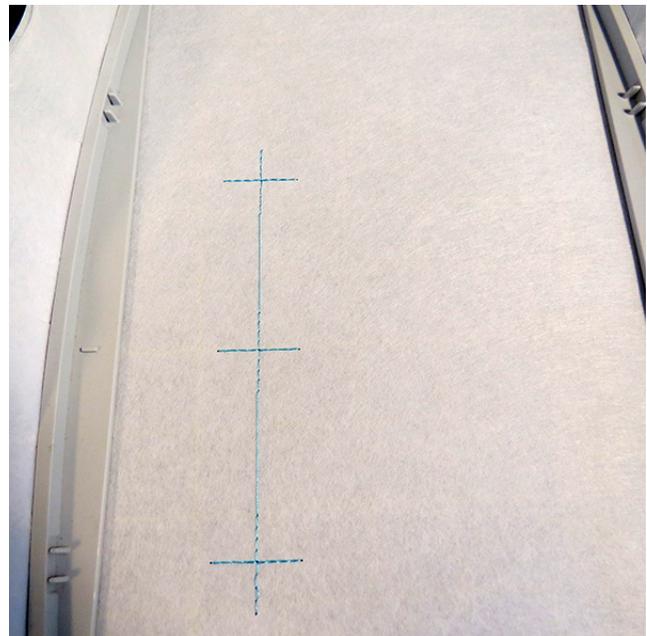
When the first half of the design is complete, remove the background fabric from the hoop and trim or tear away any excess stabilizer.

You are now ready to align the second half of the design.



Step 3: Hoop stabilizer and stitch alignment lines onto stabilizer.

In this step, you will stitch the first set of alignment stitches onto the stabilizer and not onto the background fabric.



Step 4: Align and attach the completed first half of embroidery design to the hoop and stabilizer for stitching the second half of the design.

The easiest way to line up the background fabric with the stabilizer is to use thumb tacks. In the image below you can see the thumb tacks inserted from the back side of the hoop into the exact center of the alignment marks. The hoop is then turned over so that the first alignment marks on the background fabric can be aligned with the second set of alignment marks on the stabilizer.

Carefully align and place the background fabric onto the thumb tacks, matching the alignment lines. Use glue, pins, or spray to secure background fabric to the hooped stabilizer.

REMOVE thumb tacks--critical step as the thumb tacks could interfere with the movement of the machine.

Take re-aligned hoop and background fabric to the machine and stitch the second half of the design.



Step 5: Stitch second half of design.

NOTE: If you are stitching a design that has additional hoopings, the design will have additional placement marks that will be stitched onto the background fabric. Continue to follow steps 3-5 to complete all hoopings.



Complete embroidery by removing from the hoop, remove the basting alignment stitches, trim or tear away stabilizer, and press.

