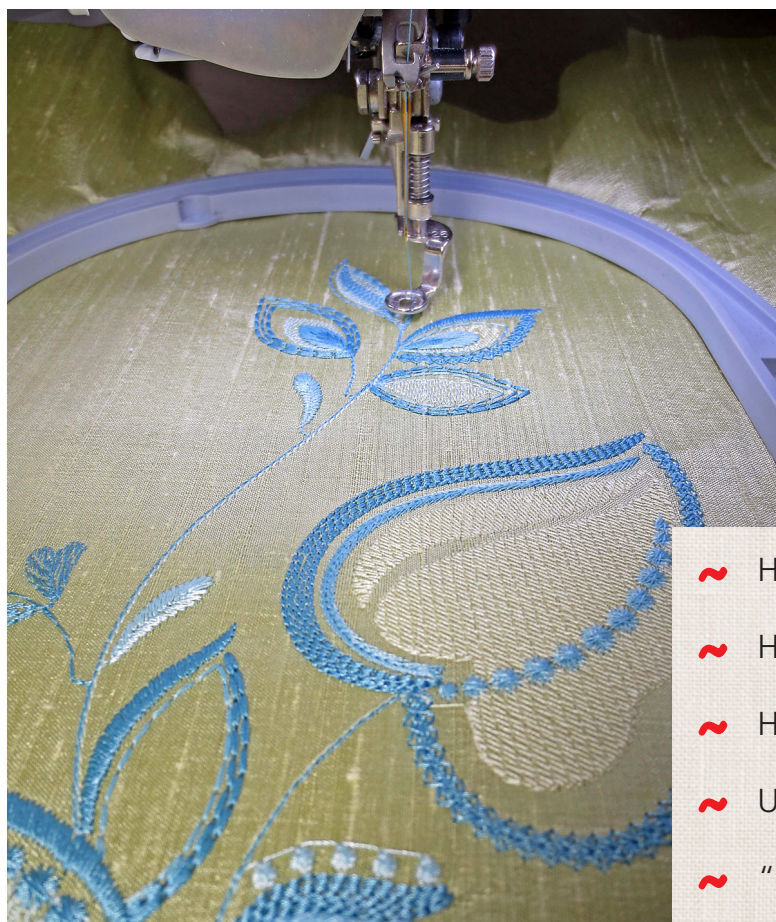


eBook
SERIES

Just EMBROIDER It!

Mastering the Art of Hooping



- ~ Hoop Anatomy
- ~ Hooping Flat Items
- ~ Hooping a T-Shirt
- ~ Using the Hoop Template
- ~ "Hoopless" Embroidery
- ~ General Hooping Tips

Hoop Anatomy

One of the most important aspects of beautiful embroidery is proper hooping. Get familiar with your embroidery hoop and you'll be more successful at all your embroidery projects!

Outer Ring 1

The outer ring of the embroidery hoop fits around the inner ring and holds it and the fabric/stabilizer in place. The outer ring adjusts in size to accommodate different thicknesses of stabilizer and fabric by tightening or loosening the screw.

Inner Ring 2

The inner ring of the embroidery hoop fits within the outer ring and is placed on top of the fabric. This ring does not adjust in size.

Alignment Marks 3

Both the inner ring and the outer ring have alignment marks to allow you to align the two pieces properly. The alignment marks should always match up when hooping.

Hoop Bracket 4

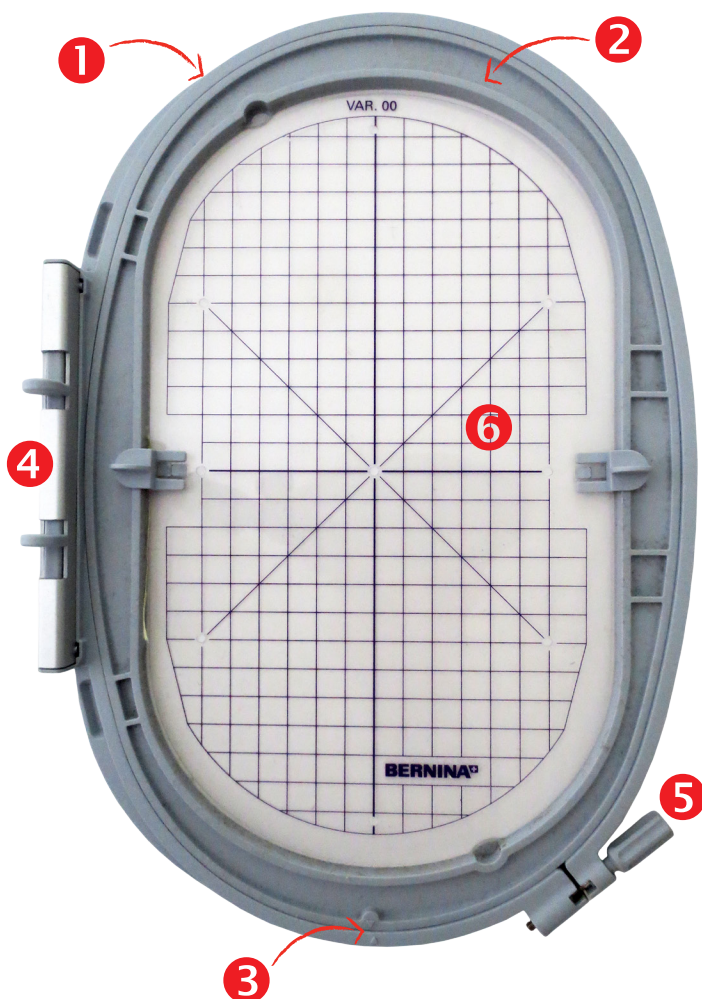
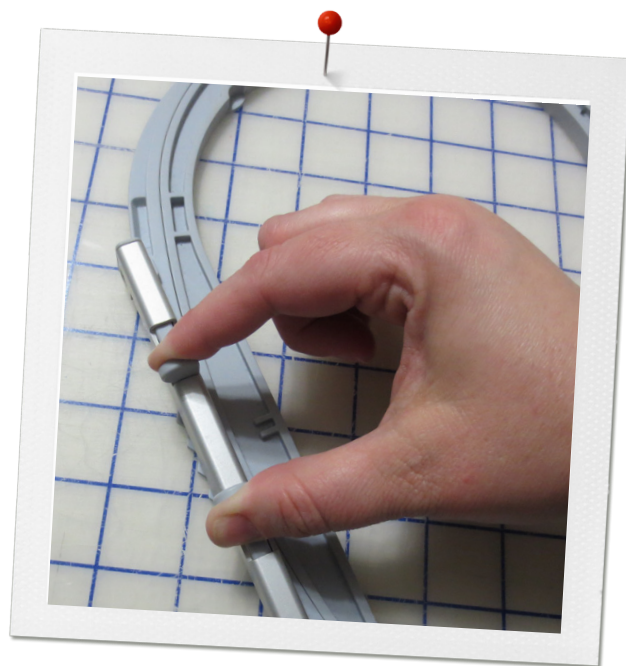
This part of the hoop attaches the hoop to the machine. Attach the bracket to the hoop by squeezing the two bracket pieces toward one another and then fitting the hoop bracket over the bracket on the module arm.

Hoop Screw 5

The hoop's screw fits into the gap in the hoop's outer ring. Unscrewing this screw will allow the gap to get wider. Tightening the screw will reduce the gap. Use caution when loosening the screw – the nut attached to the screw can separate from the screw if it is loosened too much.

Hoop Template 6

The hoop template is a plastic grid that fits into the inner ring. The template notates the center of the embroidery field with marked lines. The gridlines help you to hoop your fabric accurately for perfect placement of your design.



Stabilizer 101

Choosing the right stabilizer can make all the difference in the world in having a successful stitch out of a design.

Stabilizers are placed under the fabric to support the fabric and the stitches themselves during the embroidery process. Stabilizers are classified by the way excess stabilizer is removed from the back of the project after the design has been stitched.

The three most common types are Cut Away, Tear Away, and Wash Away (water soluble).

Cut-Away Stabilizer:

- The most sturdy – supports the greatest number of stitches.
- Always use a cut away on a knit or a stretch fabric to keep the stitches from becoming distorted during the lifetime of the project.
- Use on any fabric type if the chosen design is stitch intensive.
- Available in a variety of weights.
 - ~ Choose the weight that most closely corresponds to the weight of the fabric to be embroidered.
 - ~ Choose the weight according to the stitch count of the design – the greater the stitch count, the heavier the stabilizer should be.
- Scissors are used to cut away the excess stabilizer after the design is finished.



Tear-Away Stabilizer:

- Used when you wish to remove most of the excess stabilizer from the back of the project after the embroidery process is finished.
- Available in a variety of weights.
 - ~ Chose the weight according to the stitch count of the design – the greater the stitch count, the heavier the stabilizer should be.
- Carefully tear the excess stabilizer away after the design has finished. Some tight open areas within the design may be very hard to remove, but most tear away stabilizers will eventually disintegrate with repeated washings.



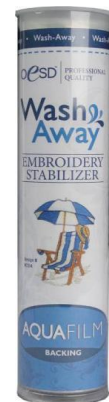
Wash-Away Stabilizer:

- The stabilizer of choice when all traces of the stabilizer need to be removed from the back of the project, such as in a garment or project that will be seen from the back side, but does not support as many stitches as the other types.
- Water-Soluble Backing – can be used on the back of the project to give support during hooping.
- AquaFilm Backing – the lightest weight of the backings.
- BadgeMaster – can be used as a backing. Also used in the creation of stand-alone lace.
- AquaMesh – can be used as a backing. Also used in the creation of stand-alone lace.



Toppings:

- AquaFilm Topping is used only on the top of the design. It is too lightweight to be used on the back as a stabilizer.
- Place the AquaFilm over the top of the fabric to keep the stitches from sinking into the nap or pile of the fabric.
- The AquaFilm need not be hooped with the project, but does need to be secured to the top of the fabric. Painter's Tape is great for this purpose.
- Should be used on towels, knits, velvets, velveteens, or anything with a nap or irregular weave.



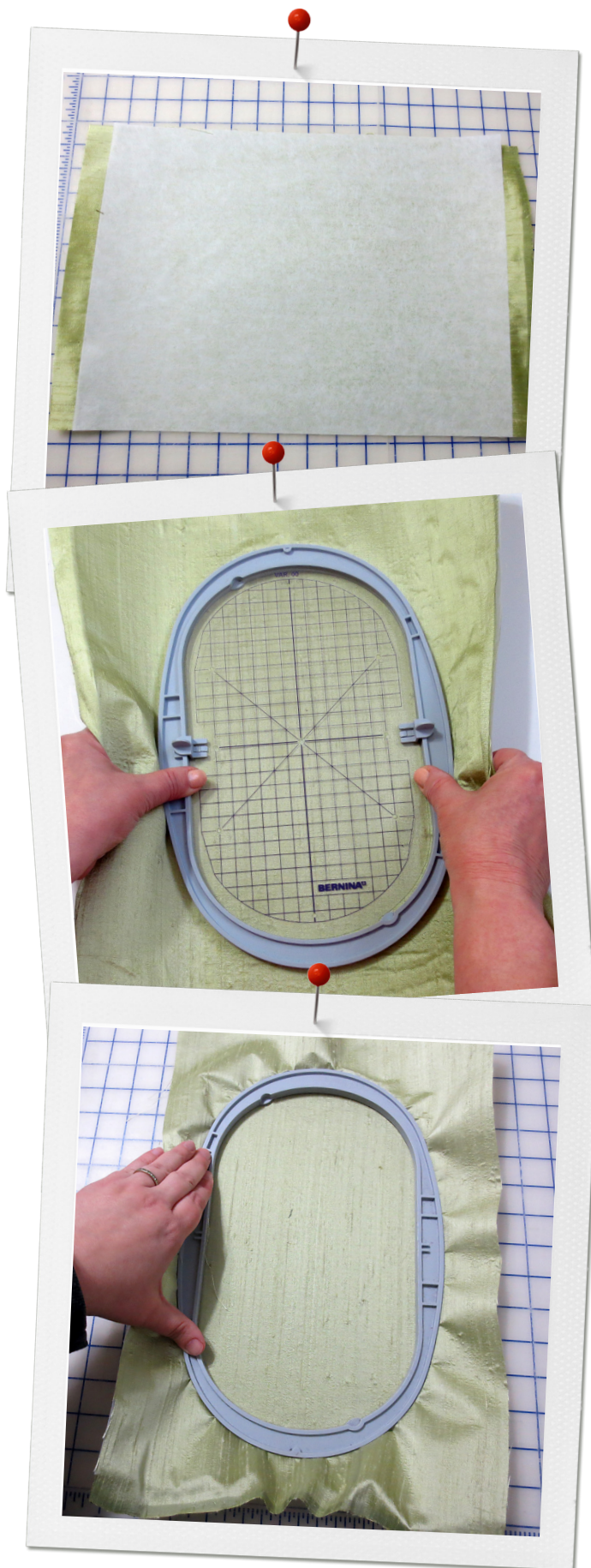
Hooping a Flat Item

Use these steps for hooping a flat item, such as a towel, napkin, sheet, tablecloths, or flat pieces of fabric before construction:

- Place the fabric to be embroidered face down onto the work surface.
- Lightly spray a piece of stabilizer with temporary adhesive spray and adhere to the back of the fabric in the area to be embroidered. (If using two layers of stabilizer, adhere the two layers together first with temporary adhesive spray, spray the top with additional adhesive and then adhere it to the back of the fabric.)
- Loosen the screw on the outer ring, and place the outer ring onto your work surface.
- Mark the center vertical and horizontal axis of the design onto the fabric.
- Place the hoop with its template over the fabric to be embroidered aligning the center marks of the template with those on the fabric.
- Place the inner ring into the outer ring, pressing the fabric flush against the work surface as you do so.
- Before tightening the screw, gently smooth out any wrinkles from the fabric and then tighten the screw. It is VERY important that you tighten the screw so that the fabric/stabilizer is held firmly in place.
- Push the inner ring down ever so slightly so that it sits just a hair lower than the outer ring. This tightens the fabric just slightly and prevents the plastic on the outer hoop from rubbing against the machine bed. The hooped fabric is ready to place onto the embroidery machine for embroidery.



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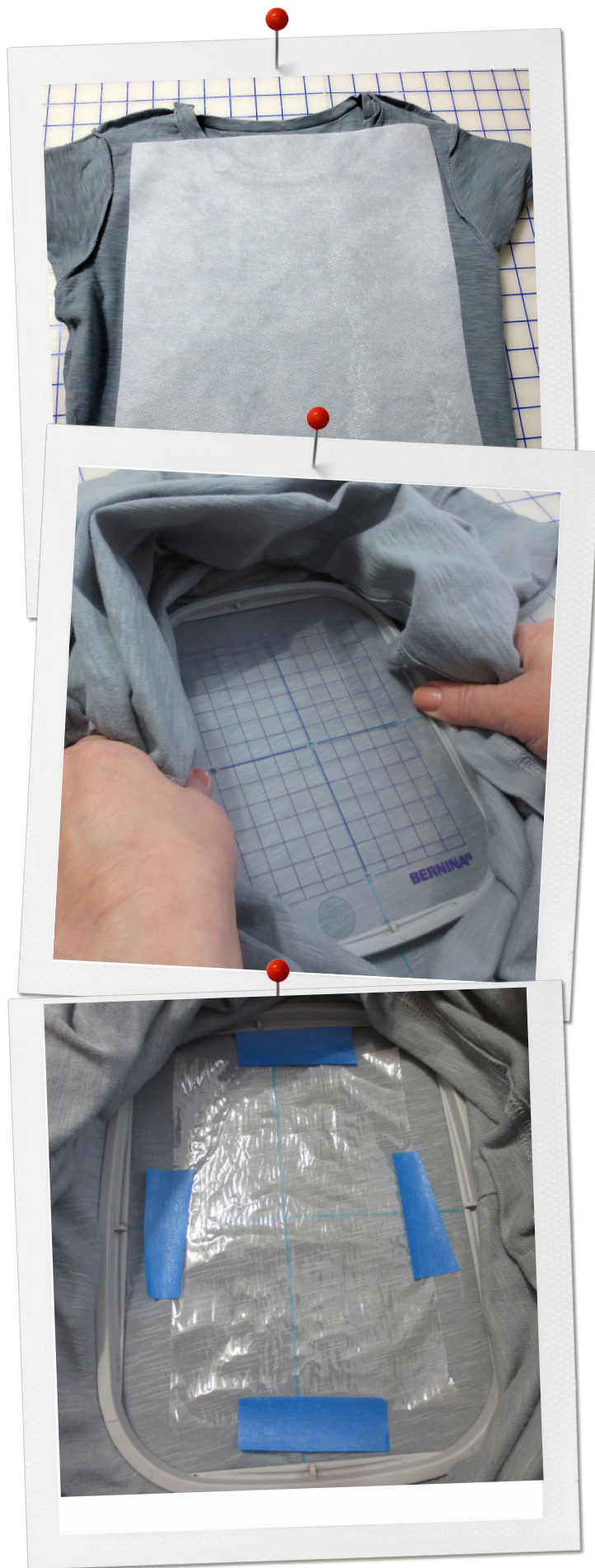


Hooping a T-Shirt

Use these steps when hooping pre-constructed articles such as t-shirts, blouses, or other garments.

If using a knit or stretchy fabric, a cut away stabilizer should always be used. Use AquaFilm topping when embroidering on fabrics with a nap or textured surface.

- Mark the desired placement of the embroidery design onto your t-shirt.
- Turn t-shirt inside out and lay flat onto work surface. The wrong side of the area to be embroidered should be on top.
- Lightly spray a piece of stabilizer with temporary adhesive spray and adhere to the back of the fabric in the area to be embroidered. If an additional layer of stabilizer is needed, adhere the two layers together first with temporary adhesive spray.
- Keeping the t-shirt turned inside out, flip it over so that the stabilized area lies flat on your work surface.
- Place outer ring of the hoop on a flat surface.
- Gather the fabric from the bottom of t-shirt up to expose the area to be embroidered.
- Place the hoop's plastic template inside the inner ring. Position the inner ring of the hoop over the fabric aligning the hoop's center with the center lines on the fabric.
- Gather the fabric and stabilizer in your hands so that you can pick up the inner ring, keeping the area centered in the hoop.
- Position the inner ring into the outer ring, pressing the fabric flush against the work surface as you do so. Gently smooth out any wrinkles from the fabric and tighten the screw.
- Push the inner ring down ever so slightly so that it sits just a hair lower than the outer ring.
- If your fabric is a knit or other textured fabric, cut a piece of AquaFilm Topping and place over the top of the hooped fabric. The AquaFilm does not need to be hooped with the fabric, but it does need to be secured. Use Painter's Tape to hold the edges, or moisten your finger and then moisten the corners of the AquaFilm before placing it over the fabric.
- The hooped fabric is ready to place onto the embroidery machine for embroidery.



Using the Hoop Template

The hoop template is a plastic grid that fits into the inner ring. The template indicates the center of the embroidery field with marked lines. Gridlines help you to hoop your fabric accurately for perfect placement of your design.

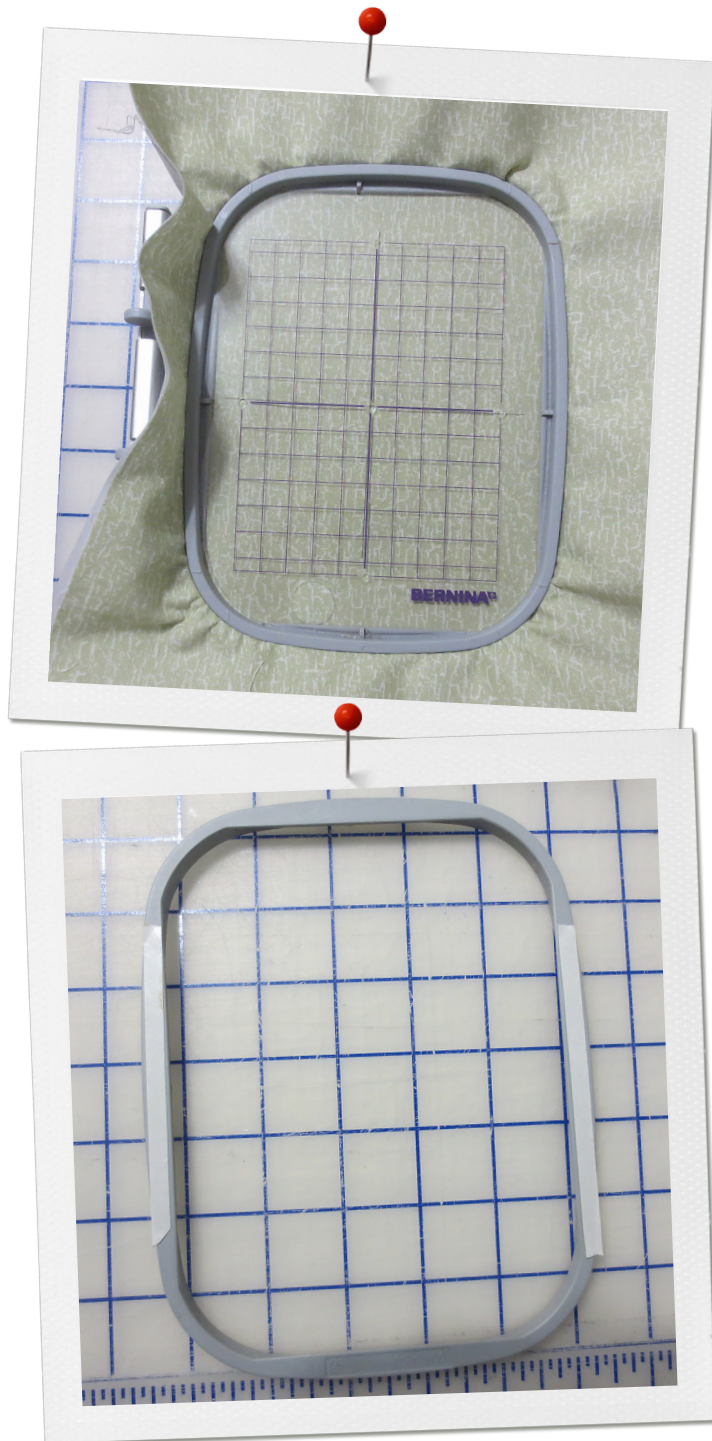
- Mark the center of your desired embroidery placement onto your fabric. Stabilize as desired.
- Place the hoop's template into the inner ring. Hoop the fabric, aligning the template's center marks with those on the fabric.
- Remove the template before embroidery.
- The placement of the fabric within the hoop need not be in the exact center, as long as:
 - a. The marked vertical and horizontal lines are parallel with the grid marks on your template.

AND

- b. The design fits within the embroidery field at its new position.
- c. Attach the hoop to the machine and use the machine's edit features to move the center needle position over the center marked on the fabric.

Using a removable double-sided tape can make design alignment much easier.

- Place removable double-sided tape (such as Collins' Wonder Tape) on the bottom side of the inner hoop ring. The tape should be on at least two opposite sides of the hoop.
- Peel away the paper backing from the double-sided tape.
- The wonder tape will provide a very light grip on the fabric. Holding the fabric, stabilizer, and inner ring together in both hands, lift the fabric from the work surface and place into the outer ring.
- Press the inner ring into the outer ring and tighten the hoop's screw as usual.



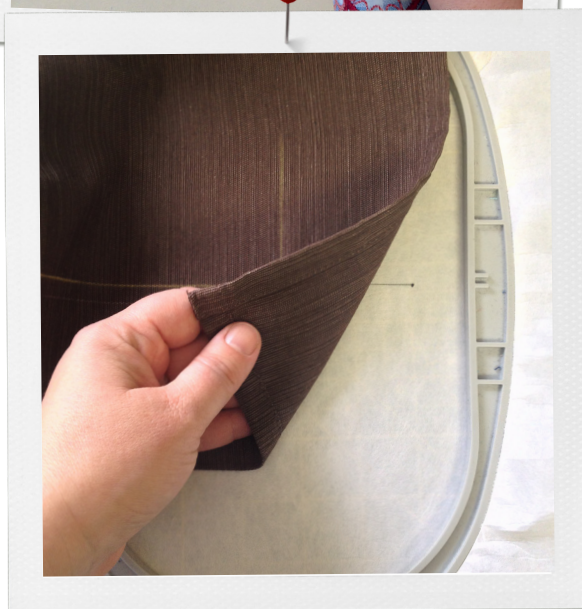
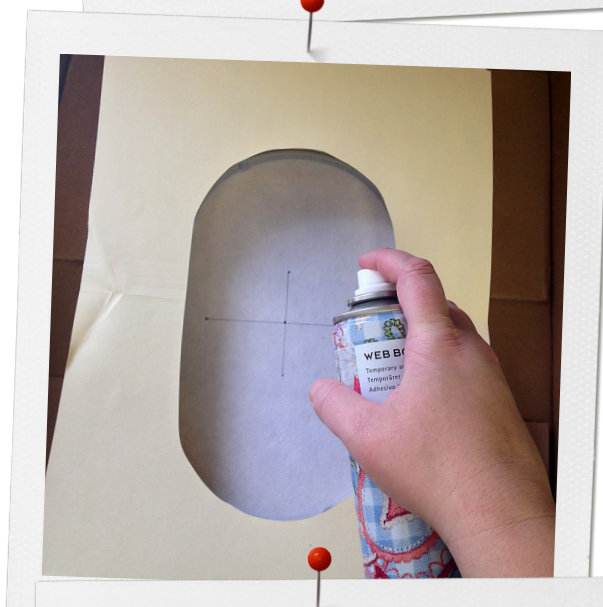
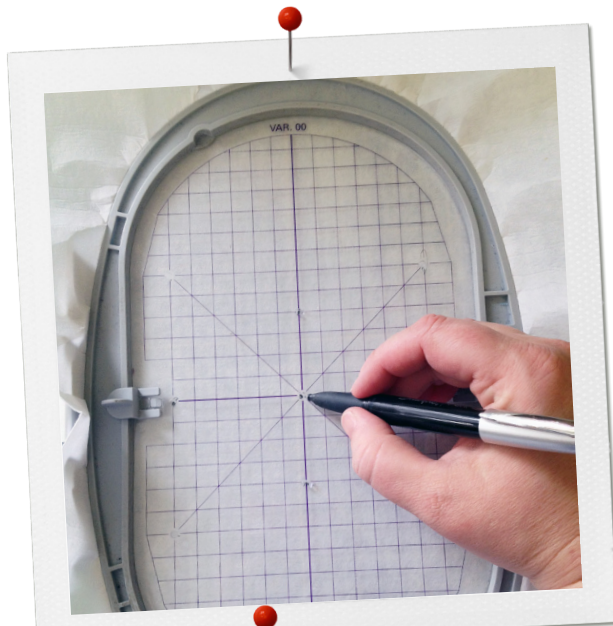
"Hoopless" Embroidery

Some ready-made items cannot be hooped in the traditional manner because the fabric will not fit in the hoop. For example:

- Napkin corners
- Pillow case edging
- Sleeves
- Collars

To embroider these items, the stabilizer is hooped alone without the fabric, and the fabric is then attached to the hooped stabilizer.

- Hoop the desired stabilizer by itself. If more than one layer of stabilizer is needed, hoop all layers together.
- Use the hoop template to mark the center of the embroidery field on the stabilizer.
- Mark the center of the desired embroidery placement onto the item to be embroidered.
- Lightly spray the hooped stabilizer with temporary adhesive spray. Use cardstock or a commercially available hoop shield to protect the hoop from the adhesive.
- Place the hooped stabilizer flat onto the work surface.
- Place the fabric onto the sprayed stabilizer, aligning the marks on the fabric with the marks on the stabilizer.
- Gently smooth the fabric onto the stabilizer taking care not to stretch the fabric. Adhere as much of the fabric to the sprayed stabilizer as possible.
- The hoop is now ready to be placed onto the machine for embroidery.



"Hoopless" Embroidery (continued)

As an alternative to temporary adhesive spray, you can also choose a stabilizer with a pressure-sensitive adhesive. The steps are similar:

- Hoop the pressure-sensitive stabilizer with the paper backing side up.
- Place the hoop's template over the stabilizer.
- Mark the hoop's center horizontal and vertical axis on the back of the stabilizer.
- From the hoop's right side, lightly score the paper and remove the paper backing to reveal the sticky surface of the stabilizer.
- Mark the center of the desired embroidery placement onto the item to be embroidered.
- Place the hooped stabilizer flat onto the work surface.
- Place the fabric over the adhesive stabilizer, aligning the marks on the fabric with the marks on the stabilizer.
- Smooth the fabric onto the stabilizer, adhering the fabric against as much of the stabilizer as possible.
- The hoop is now ready to be placed onto the machine for embroidery.

General Hooping Tips

- The fabric should be smooth and flat within the hoop for embroidery – there should not be any puckers or bubbles.
- Once the fabric is hooped, the inner ring should be slightly lower than the outer ring. This will prevent the plastic of the outer ring from rubbing on the machine bed and also will tighten the fabric in the hoop.
- Do not force the inner ring into the outer ring. If the inner ring does not fit into the outer ring with only a small amount of pressure, loosen the screw to allow more room. Forcing the inner ring into the outer ring can cause hoop burn on your fabric, and also may eventually damage the screw.
- Use a non-slip mat under the outer ring to keep the hoop still while you are hooping. There are also products on the market that are designed to hold your hoop stationary as you hoop.

