

Smith Street Designs

Project Portfolio
Machine Embroidery

Use your embroidery machine to make a Home Sweet Home sign to hang or display. Learn the Tack & Trim method for embroidery machine applique.



Supplies

Embroidery hoop large enough for a 7.9" H x 5.2" W embroidery design

Stabilizer - Paper-backed self-adhesive tearaway, large enough to hoop

Heavyweight Cut Away, 7½" x 10½"

Heavyweight Cut Away, 12" x 15" (optional)

Soft & Stable - 12" x 15"

Embroidery threads - medium green to match the applique fabric, lettering
pink flowers
darker green vines and leaves

Bobbin thread - 60 wt. polyester bobbin thread

Embroidery scissors

8 fabric clips

Rotary cutter and cutting mat

6½" x 24½" ruler

9½" square ruler

Spray adhesive

Sewing machine

Walking foot

Thread to co-ordinate with backing fabric

Neutral thread

20" length of 18 gauge wire (to hang)

Buttons - 20 buttons, ½" - 1", various colors

Perle cotton, #8

Chenille needle #20

Fabrics

Embroidery background - 11" x 8"

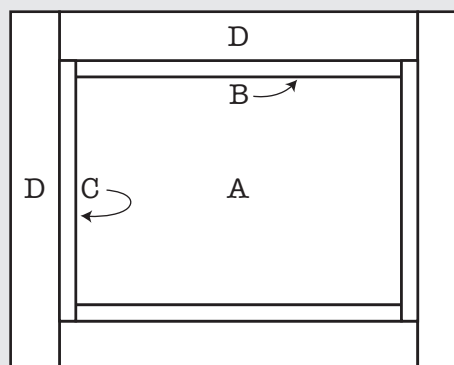
Green appliques - 4" x 4"

Green frame - 5" x 11"

Pink frame - 9" x 12"

Backing - 13" x 16"

Binding - 6" x 40"



Cutting

Embroidery Background

A 1 8" x 11" yellow

Embroidery Applique

S 1 2" x 3" green

T 1 2" x 4" green

Frames

B 2 1" x 9½" green

C 2 1" x 7½" green

D 4 2" x 10½" pink

Backing

1 12" x 15"

Binding

2 2½" x width of fabric (56" needed)

Soft & Stable

1 12" x 15"

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Let's Begin - It's All in the Prep

1. Cut a piece of stabilizer large enough to hoop and hoop it paper-side up.
2. Score the paper backing with the closed tip of a pair of embroidery scissors around the outside and make a large "X."
3. Remove the paper backing.
4. Spray the 7½" x 10½" heavyweight stabilizer piece with adhesive spray and attach to the bottom of the hoop. Don't interfere with the hooping mechanism.
5. Fold the embroidery background fabric in half right sides together and lay the fold in the middle of the hoop.
6. Open the fabric and gently press with your fingers to adhere to the stabilizer.



Thread Chart

Thread Color

1. Green
2. Green
3. Green
4. Green
5. Green
6. Pink
7. Dark Green

Thread Stops

- Basting stitches
- Placement lines for S and T
- Cutting line for S
- Cutting line for T
- Lettering and applique edge cover
- Flowers
- Leaves and Vines

Bobbin Thread - 60 wt. polyester bobbin thread



Tack & Trim Technique

7. Bring up the embroidery design on your machine. Thread the machine with green embroidery thread and use 60 wt. bobbin thread for the entire design.
8. Stitch out Thread #1, the basting stitches to keep all layers in place. This will be removed when the embroidery design is finished.
9. Stitch out Thread #2, the placement lines for the S and T letters.
10. Cut the applique pieces. Place the rectangles over the placement lines making sure to cover the stitches.
11. Stitch out Thread #3, the cutting line for the S.
12. Stitch out Thread #4, the cutting line for the T.
13. Remove the hoop from the machine, and taking care not to disturb the stabilizers and fabric in the hoop, trim around the S and the T stitches, as close as possible without cutting the stitches.
14. Return the hoop to the machine and stitch out Thread #5, Home Sweet Home. This includes the edge cover stitches for the applique pieces. This takes a while and is a good time to cut out the frame and backing pieces.



Let's Do More Embroidery

15. Change the thread to pink for the flowers. Stitch out Thread #6.

16. Change the thread to the darker green for the leaves and vines. Stitch out Thread #7.

This completes the embroidery portion of our project.



And Now For the Big Finish

17. Remove the embroidery from the hoop and flatten it out with your hands. Don't remove any of the stabilizers. Trim the embroidery background and all stabilizers to 9½" wide and 6½" high. Now remove any of the paper backing left on the self-adhesive stabilizer and smooth the fabric down with your hands.

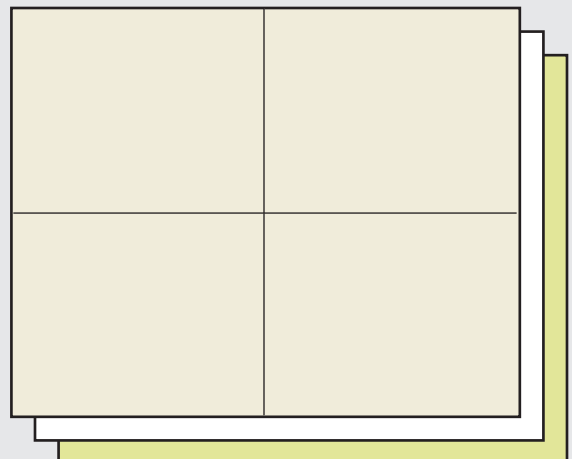
18. Remove the basting stitches.

19. Mark the mid-points of the embroidered piece within the ¼" seam allowance on all 4 sides. The halfway point of 6½" is 3¼" and the halfway point of 9½" is 4¾".



20. On the Soft and Stable make 2 lines with a pencil across and up & down halfway on the stabilizer. (At 6" and 7½")

21. On the reverse side of the Soft & Stable place the backing fabric right side up and adhere with spray adhesive. If a stiffer sign is desired (for a stand up display rather than hanging) add a 12" x 15" piece of heavyweight stabilizer in between the Soft & Stable and the fabric. Keep all the layers together with 8 fabric clips. Turn the piece to the front.



A Few Clips and Seams...

22. Place the embroidery rectangle on top of the Soft & Stable, matching the dots and the lines. Pin in place.

On your sewing machine use bobbin thread that co-ordinates with the fabric backing. The top thread won't show and can be any neutral color.

23. Place the B frame pieces, right side down, on the top and bottom of the embroidery rectangle and pin in place. Join together with a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam using a walking foot. Sew through all the layers.

When finished, finger press the frames open and pin.

24. Continue with the C frame pieces.

25. Place 2 D frame pieces on the top and bottom, right side down and join as above.

26. Continue with the remaining 2 D frame pieces.



...And Voila!

27. Remove the clips and trim all layers along the edge of the outer frame.
28. Add the binding and finish by hand or machine.
29. Lay out 10 buttons on each of the upper corners. Thread the chenille needle with 2 strands of perle cotton and attach the buttons.
30. For a hanging sign, attach each end of the wire to the stitching on the back side of the buttons. Tuck in the end of the wire.

