Mug Mat/Coaster Tutorial

Follow these instructions to create a quilted machine embroidery or machine embroidery appliquéd mat in the hoop.

This is the basic process we follow to create Patrick's mug mat and coaster designs. We realize that everyone has a favorite way to do things, so this is just a suggested step-by-step guide to the way that is must successful for us.

SUPPLIES WE USE:

Fusible Warm Fleece 2
Lite Steam-A-Seam 2® Fusible Web
Sulky Sticky stabilizer
Sulky KK 2000 spray adhesive
Havel's 5½" Curved Tip Embroidery Scissors
Havel's Jumbo Rotary Cutter
Cutting mat
Straight pins (optional)

For this tutorial, we used Patrick's *Minty Mug Mat* embroidery design. It uses only one background and backing fabric and one appliqué fabric, so it's easy to demonstrate the steps. In other designs, you might have additional appliqué fabrics. Refer to the steps in the design's Stitching Master PDF for placement of fabrics and stitching order. *Photo 1* shows the printed PDF for the *Minty Mug Mat* to show you how easy it is to follow the steps.

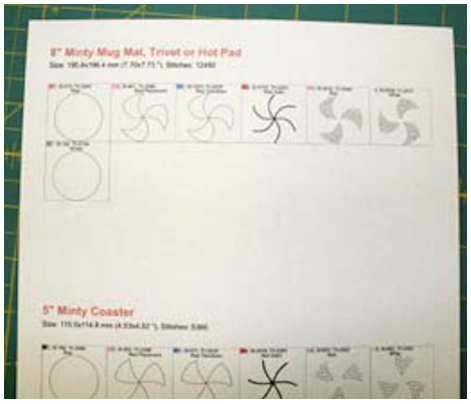

Photo 1

PREPARING THE HOOP

1. Cut a piece of Sulky Sticky stabilizer about 2" larger than your hoop as shown in *Photo 2*.

Photo 2

2. Remove the paper backing and hoop the stabilizer, adhesive side up as shown in *Photo 3*. (If you prefer, you can adhere the stabilizer to the back side of the hoop.)

Photo 3

3. Cut a piece of Fusible Warm Fleece 2 about 2" larger than the finished project and place on top of the adhesive side of the stabilizer as shown in *Photo 4*.

NOTE: If you want your mat to be heat resistant so that it can be used as a hot pad or trivet, use Insul-Bright® batting in place of the Fusible Warm Fleece 2.

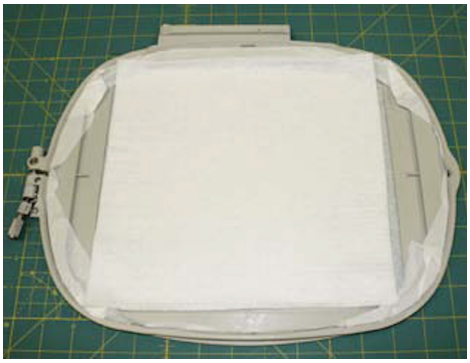

Photo 4

4. Lightly spray Sulky KK 2000 on the surface of the batting. Referring to *Photo 5* on page 2, place the background fabric on top of the batting and smooth out any wrinkles. Press in place lightly to hold the layers together.

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Photo 5

5. Lightly spray Sulky KK 2000 on the wrong side of the backing fabric. Turn the hoop over and place the backing fabric on the non-adhesive side of the stabilizer, smoothing out all wrinkles as shown in *Photo 6*. Pin in place through all layers, outside of the design stitching area.

NOTE: If you do not want the embroidery and/or quilting stitches to show on the back side of your mat, do not place the backing fabric on the back side of the hoop until you have finished stitching the design and are ready to stitch the outline.

Photo 6

STITCHING AN APPLIQUÉ DESIGN

1. Place the hoop in the machine, making sure the backing fabric is smooth *(Photo 7)*. Proceed through the steps of the embroidery. Step 1 will stitch the circle outline of the mat. Step 2 will stitch a placement line for the appliqué fabric.

Photo 7

2. Cut the appliqué fabric slightly larger than the placement line for the appliqué area. Cut a piece of Lite Steam-A-Seam fusible adhesive slightly smaller than the appliqué fabric. Follow the manufacturer's instructions to fuse the adhesive to the wrong side of the appliqué fabric as shown in *Photo 8*.

Photo 8

3. Remove the paper backing from the fusible adhesive as shown in *Photo 9*.

Photo 9

4. Place the appliqué fabric on the background fabric, right side up, making sure it extends beyond all of the appliqué placement lines as shown in *Photo 10*. Continue with the next step which will stitch the appliqué tackdown. This will show you where to cut in the next step.

Photo 10

5. Remove the hoop from the machine after the tackdown stitching is finished. Cut as close as possible to the outside of the stitching to remove the excess appliqué fabric as shown in *Photo 11*. Avoid cutting the stitches.

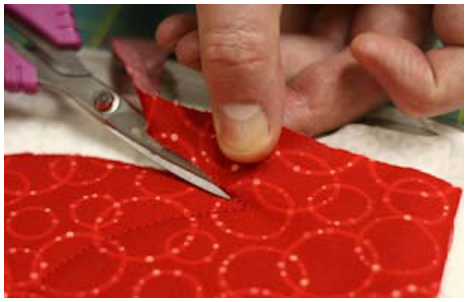

Photo 11

6. *Photo 12* shows what the appliqué should look like when the cutting is finished.

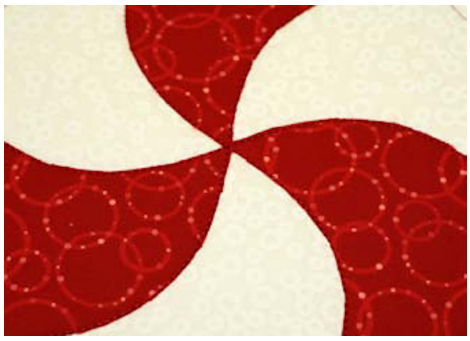

Photo 12

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7. Press the appliqué to fuse it in place as shown in *Photo 13*. This will stabilize the fabric and help to avoid frayed edges and pulling of the appliqué fabric from the satin stitching.

Photo 13

8. Return the hoop to the machine and continue with the next step to satin stitch around the appliqué as shown in *Photo 14*.

Photo 14

9. Proceed through the remaining steps of the embroidery. Stop after you have stitched the outline of the mat after the rest of the design is finished as shown in *Photo 15*.

NOTE: If you have not placed the backing on the back side of the hoop, do that before stitching the final tackdown stitch.

Photo 15

FINISHING WITH SATIN STITCH EDGE

1. Remove the hoop from the machine and trim the background fabric, batting, and backing as close to the outline stitching line as possible. Be careful not to cut the stabilizer or the project will come out of the hoop.
2. Place the hoop back in the machine and stitch the satin stitched edge.
3. Remove the hoop from the machine and tear away the excess stabilizer to complete the project.

FINISHING WITH BINDING

NOTE: We feel the mats look much more professionally finished with binding. This finish is neater than a satin stitched edge, and is worth the extra bit of effort. For circle mats, you will need to use bias binding. Instructions for Continuous Bias Binding are on page 4.

1. After stitching the outline, remove the hoop from the machine and place it on a cutting mat. Referring to *Photo 16*, cut the stitched mat from the hoop through all layers using a rotary cutter or scissors. Cut just to the outside of the stitched circle outline, being careful not to cut the stitches.

Photo 16

2. Add the binding to complete the project. *Photo 17* shows the finished mat with binding.

Photo 17

STITCHING A THREAD-ONLY DESIGN

1. Follow the instructions on page 1 to prepare your hoop for embroidery.
2. Place the hoop in the machine, making sure the backing fabric is smooth.
3. Proceed through the steps of the embroidery. Stop after you have stitched the outline of the mat after the embroidered design is finished.

NOTE: If you do not want the embroidery stitching to show on the back side of your mat, do not place the backing fabric on the back side of the hoop until you have finished stitching the design and are ready to stitch the outline.

4. Finish the project with a satin stitched edge or binding. ✸

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Continuous Bias Binding Instructions

Create a continuous bias binding strip economically.

1. Cut the bias binding fabric square in half diagonally from corner to corner (45-degree angle).
2. Place the two triangular pieces right sides together along straight edge as shown in *Illustration A*.
3. Using a ¼" seam allowance, sew the triangle pieces together. Press the seam open.
4. Using a gridded transparent ruler, measure from the long edge and draw a parallel line every 2¼" on the wrong side of the fabric as shown in *Illustration B*.
5. Fold the marked piece right sides together to form a tube, aligning the edges and pinning the marked lines so one width of the binding extends beyond the edge on each side as shown in *Illustration C*.
6. Sew the tube together and press the seam open. Cut on the marked line to make one continuous 2¼"-wide bias binding strip. Use this strip to bind curved edges.

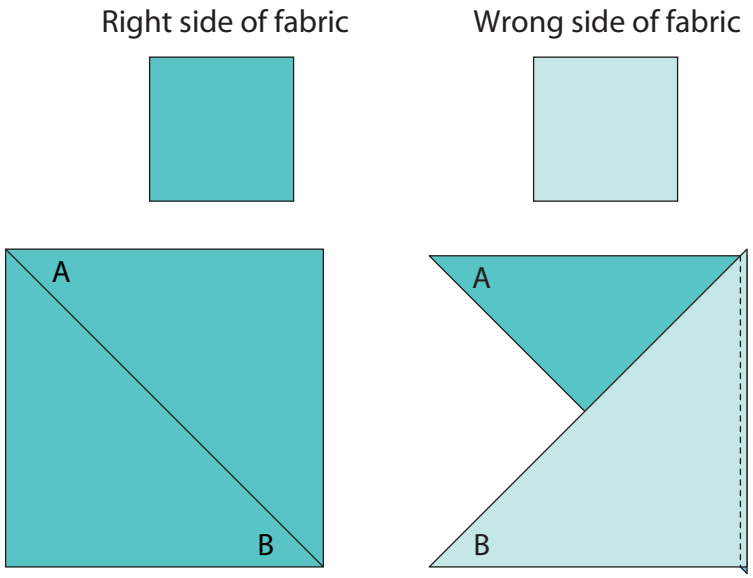

Illustration A

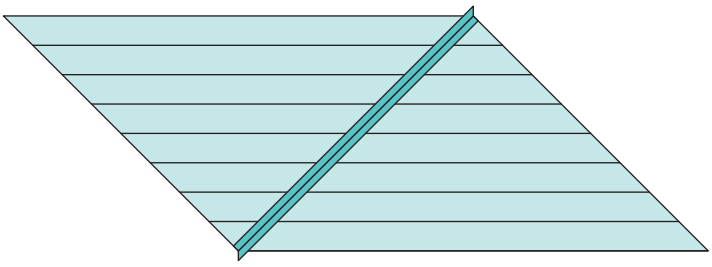

Illustration B

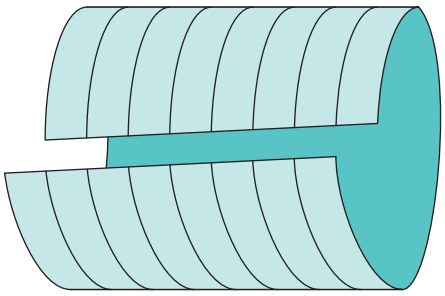

Illustration C

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