

Mug Mat Tutorial

How to create a quilted machine embroidery appliqué mat in the hoop.

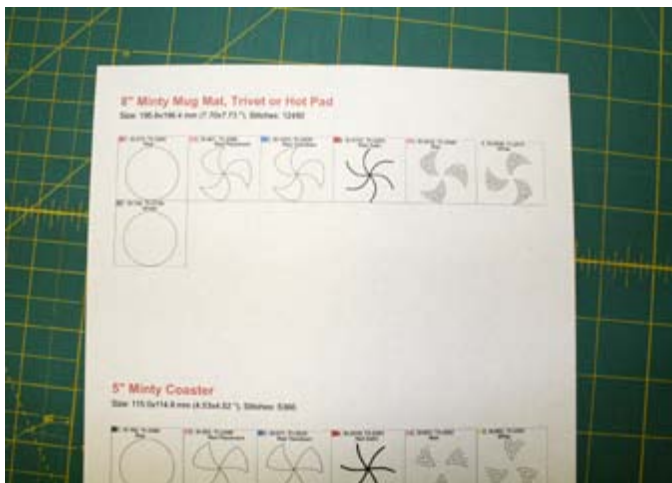
This is the basic process we follow to create Patrick's mug mat designs. We realize that everyone has their own favorite way to do things so this is just a suggested step-by-step guide to the way we've found to be most successful for us.

This PDF is interactive when viewed online. You may be directed to more information, if available, by clicking [colored text](#) or icons.

Here's a list of supplies we use:

Warm & Natural cotton batting
Lite Steam-A-Seam fusible adhesive
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'll be using 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 as you step through the project. Refer to the steps in the design's Stitching Master PDF for placement of fabrics and stitching order. Below is the the printed PDF for the Minty Mug Mat to show you how easy it is to follow the steps.



1. Cut a piece of Sulky Sticky stabilizer just a bit larger than the hoop.



2. Remove the paper backing and hoop the stabilizer, adhesive side up, as shown.



3. Cut a piece of Warm & Natural batting that will fill the hoop and place it atop the adhesive.

If you'd like 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 Warm & Natural batting.



4. Spray a bit of Sulky KK 2000 on the surface of the batting. Place the background fabric atop the batting and press in place, smoothing the fabric.



5. Spray Sulky KK 2000 on the wrong side of the backing fabric. On the bottom of the hoop, place the wrong side of the fabric against the hoop and press in place, smoothing the fabric. If you don't want to use spray adhesive, straight pins work well to stabilize. Pin through all layers, outside of the design's stitching area.



6. Place the hoop in the machine keeping the backing fabric smooth, and proceed through Steps 1 and 2 on the Stitching Master PDF. Step 1 will stitch the circle outline of the mat. Step 2 will stitch a placement line for your appliqué fabric.



7. Cut appliqué fabric slightly larger than the placement line for the appliqué area. In this mat, the appliqué fabric should be cut to extend beyond the stitched outline or about 8½" square. Cut a piece of Lite Steam-A-Seam fusible adhesive slightly smaller than the appliqué fabric. Following the manufacturer's instructions, fuse the adhesive to the wrong side of the appliqué fabric.



8. Remove the paper backing from the fusible adhesive.



9. Place the appliqué fabric atop the background fabric, right side up, making sure that it extends beyond all of the appliqué placement lines. Begin Step 3 which will stitch the appliqué tackdown. This will show you where you'll cut in the next step.



10. Remove the hoop from the machine when the outline stitch is finished. Cut as close as possible to the outside of this stitching to remove the excess appliqué fabric. Avoid cutting the stitches.



11. When cutting is finished, the mat should look like this.



12. Press the appliqué to fuse it into place. We do this to stabilize the appliqué fabric and to help avoid frayed edges and pulling of the appliqué fabric from the satin stitching.



13. Return the hoop to the machine and start Step 4 to satin stitch around the raw edges of the appliqué.



14. Step 5 stitches the quilting on the appliqué.



15. In Step 6, the quilting on the white background fabric will be stitched. Step 7 stitches the circle outline, again. The closer this outline stitches to the one made in Step 1, the more stable and accurate your hooping and stitching was.



16. The stitching is finished.



17. Place the hoop on a cutting mat and carefully cut the stitched mat from the hoop through all of the layers with a rotary cutter. Cut just to the outside of the stitched circle outline, being careful to leave all stitching intact.



18. We feel the mats look much more professionally finished when bound with bias binding. A satin stitched edge is not very neat looking and the binding is worth the extra bit of effort.



Here's the finished mat with binding.

For instructions on how Patrick binds this and other projects with a curved edge, download his *Binding Basics* tutorial by clicking [here](#).

He's also taught his technique on several videos like the one you can view by clicking [here](#).

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