

Make Your Own Needlework Hoop Grime Guard!

Supplies:

Cotton Fabric
¼" Elastic
Rotary Cutter and Mat
Rotary Ruler
Iron and Ironing Mat
Thread that coordinates with your fabric
Safety Pins
Measuring Tape
Sewing machine

**Not Required, but Highly Recommended
Clover Hot Ruler



I love my Grime Guard for when I'm doing Cross Stitch or Embroidery. Not only does it keep the extra fabric clean, but it also keeps everything tucked up neatly out of the way, making the whole project much easier for me to hold!



Figure 1

To start you need to determine how much fabric you need. To start, you need to determine the circumference of your hoop. You can use the equation (diameter x 3.14), but sometimes I prefer to just measure the circumference. Using a measuring tape allows for more exact measurements, especially if your hoop has a higher profile tightening device. (See Figure 1)

I love using Morgan No-Slip Hoops, but the tightening device is way higher profile than my other hoops, so I need to account for that when I'm determining my fabric requirements.

My 10" Morgan No-Slip Hoop has a diameter of 34". Then I add 2". So I need a strip of fabric that's 36" long.

For larger hoops, I like to use a strip that is 6" wide, and for smaller hoops I prefer 5-5.5" wide. Feel free to play around with it and see what you prefer!

For my 10" hoop, I'm using a strip that is 36" x 6". Before I cut the strip, I would press and square up my fabric.

With Right Sides of the fabric together, Stitch the two ends together using a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance and press open. You now have a loop of fabric.



Figure 2

Starting with one side of your loop. Press over $\frac{1}{2}$ " to create a pocket for your elastic. This fold should go all the way around the loop of fabric. This is where the Clover Hot Ruler helps so that you get a consistent $\frac{1}{2}$ " fold. (See Figure 2)

Fold over again another half inch and press. This second fold gives a finished edge inside your Grime Guard so you don't have to worry about any fraying. Repeat on the opposite side.

Take your loop with folded sides to your machine and stitch the pocket down on the interior edge of the fold. (See Figure 3). Finish your stitch $\frac{1}{2}$ " – 1" from your starting stitch to leave an opening to thread your elastic through. (See Figure 4)

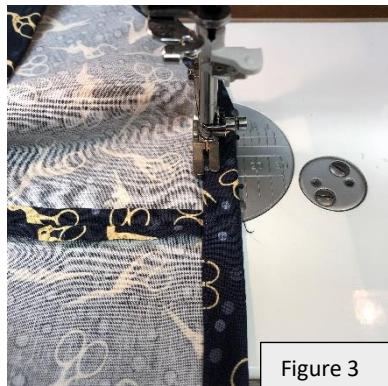


Figure 3



Figure 4

To determine how much elastic you need, you divide the length of your fabric strip in half. Since my fabric strip was 36", I will need two (2) 18" strips of elastic.

Using two safety pins, thread your elastic through the pocket. Use one of the safety pins to pull the elastic. Use the second one to pin at the opening to anchor your elastic. For threading the elastic I recommend putting the safety pin through the strip of elastic twice to help prevent fraying as you pull the elastic through your guard. (See Figure 5)

As you work the elastic through, work the pleats through evenly to make it easier to thread the elastic.



Figure 5

**If you are using flat elastic, avoid twisting your elastic as you work it through the pocket.

After the elastic is threaded through, smooth out the edges of your guard, pushing as much of the fabric pleats away from the pocket openings as possible. This makes joining the elastic much easier.

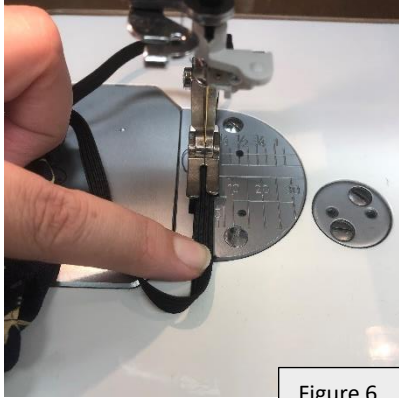


Figure 6

To join the elastic, overlap one end on top of the other by at least 1". Sew down the middle several times, or use a zig zag stitch to lock your elastic together. (See Figure 6). Once your elastic is sewn together, pull it back into the pocket and stitch the opening closed.

Repeat this process with the other side of your guard. Once complete, your Grime Guard is ready to use, and you are ready to make guards for all of your hoops!