

Hello Cotton Blossoms,

Not everyone could make it to our Evy Hawkins Make & Take event last weekend. As for my teaching skills, I admit they get better with each class!

I decided to send a description of how to create a basting box around a design to all of you for reference. Read all the instructions first then come back to follow along step by step.

Basting Boxes are very helpful in creating a fabric placement box.

- You can use this box to determine your fabric needs.
- The basting box can obviously be used to then secure the fabric that is being floated.
- Basting Boxes also help maintain a more even tension on the fabric while embroidering.
- Think LESS puckering!

If you attended, you quickly realized we had six different machines in the classroom! All six machines had slightly different instructions which made it not as easy to teach, but with the following descriptions, you might be able to translate it to whatever model you have. I had an opportunity to work it out on my Destiny 2. I am still digging into the how to's on my Flourish 2.

The Destiny 2 menus are a tad more like the Solaris machines.

On the Destiny 2 - NO HOOP on Machine

- Turn on Machine.
- Tap to get to the Main Menu.
- Tap on EMBROIDERY.

Now we are going to pull up a design internal to your machine to create an embroidery project for learning:

- Tap on FLORAL.
  1. Pick any design. I used 006 on Destiny 2.
  2. Observe the size of the design.
    - a. On my machine, the dimensions showed 8.98x5.58.
  3. Tap SET in the lower right corner

Your screen image may now have a red box around the design and the size will still have the same dimensions. On my machine with my design, it STILL had the dimensions of 8.98x5.58.

- Tap on EMBROIDERY.

Note the size is still the same.
- Tap the EDIT button.
  - This is what threw me off on some of the machines, **two “EDIT” menus** with two different types of editing tools. In some of the machines, it was named **“LAYOUT”**.
  - Look for an icon that has a flower with a stem surrounded by a dashed box

– this is the BASTING BOX icon. On Destiny 2, it is the second icon down in the left column.

→ Tap the basting box icon

My machine quickly displayed the message “*Please Wait a While*”. It then put a black box around the design and the size changed to 9.37x5.95 - basically an extra  $\frac{1}{8}$  of an inch to the height and length of the design area.

Now you have an idea of what the minimum size your fabric needs to be.

- You can use this as a fabric placement box.
- You can baste down your floating fabric.
- You can determine hoop size.

### **BASTING BOX ISSUES** - The work around!

Read through then come back and try it!

The basting stitch is a very long stitch and on the loose side - WE WANT THAT TO MAKE REMOVAL EASY - However, more times than KNOT (pun intended) the stabilizer is not thick enough to capture the bobbin thread or there is too little material to attach a tack down to. The machine heads off on its stitching only to drag thread along its path and not creating a locked stitch. You must help your machine to lock in the stitch.

Now is the time to find your Baby Lock Serger Tweezers - LOVE THEM!!! If you don't have a pair, I ordered dozens because I love them and now, I have two sewing areas.....

Pull up a design from the factory internal memory on your machine.

1. Create the basting box from the instructions above.
2. Find the correct size hoop for the chosen design.
3. Hoop the stabilizer or scrap fabric in the hoop.
  - a. We used the Wash Away stabilizer that was very thin.

Once your design is ready to go, the hoop is in your machine, and you have tapped EMBROIDERY, the machine should have moved the foot to the center of the hoop.

→ Once you put the foot down and press the GoGo button, the arm is going to move the hoop to the start of the basting box. That should be the top left corner.

Wait for the hoop to get to the top left corner.

- Push Stop as soon as it gets to the corner - if it tries to create a lock stitch it is okay it pulls easily
- Push Needle up/down - for down
- Push needle up/Down - for up

Hopefully it pulled the bobbin thread up to the surface! If not, try again with the needle up/down If

the bobbin thread is not on the surface.

→ Push the button to lift the foot – those of you with fancy machines may not have to do this step - we must lift the foot up to disengage the tension discs to be able to pull the threads manually.

Using the fabulous Serger tweezers, capture the bobbin thread and pull until you can use fingers to pull the top and bobbin threads directly left to at least the embroidery arm. Hold threads with your left hand politely.

- With your right hand, push the button to lower the foot - Lock the tension - and the GoGo button is now green.
- Push the GoGo button

Hold the threads politely, for at least ten stitches. It should lock it in, and it will create the basting box. Now you have a fabric placement box on your stabilizer! Place fabric over basting box. If you choose to cut your fabric larger than your basting box, you could back up one set and baste the project down.

### **To Back Up**

Look for a needle icon box with negative/positive (-/+) next to it.

- Tap the icon
  - This menu allows you to move forward and backwards in the design. If I break my thread, I usually back up at least ten stitches to restart. It all depends on the design and WHERE the thread broke.
  - If you need to go back a whole step in the design, use the up arrow.
  - Check your design box on the screen. It should now show the basting box again.

Now to use the same basting box as a basting box, you may need to grab the bobbin thread again. Sometimes it gets caught, other times it does not. Follow the instructions for creating the placement box.

Some observations:

If you are working with a design that has numbered steps that correspond to the color changes, be sure to notice if the basting box did or did not change the color step numbers. On some machines it did others it did not, so be watchful and make a note of it in the instructions.

I plan to demonstrate all this at our November 13, UFO session. Please come see it in person and walk away with fresh knowledge of doing this on your own at home.

Thank you,  
Lisa