

HOW TO QUILT IN THE HOOP

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NOTE: If you are quilt challenged or a beginner at quilting, this technique is just for you! It's amazingly easy and quick to do and will get you creating gifts a lot faster. While I am by NO means a quilting expert, I am very comfortable with any part of quilting that includes an embroidery machine! LOL



MATERIAL USED:

- Thread: Thread, when it comes to quilting, is a very personal choice. Some will say poly and others would faint at the thought. Matching your thread to your fabric is usually a good choice. Cotton to cotton, poly to poly works better."
- Bobbin Thread: same as on top
- Stabilizer: Use your choice of tearaway stabilizer remnants; it doesn't matter if it's fusible, sticky or regular. When stitching a fairly large design on different embroidery projects, the center part of the stabilizer is really covered by stitching and what is left once the project is completed around the hoop becomes useless. But it can be reusable when quilting as we don't need any stabilizer for the quilting of the quilt. We need just a tiny bit to pin the quilt to it so it stays in place in the hoop without having to hoop the quilt itself.
- Needle: Size 75/11 or 80/12 (Like any other project, your needle should match your project depending on the type of project and fabric used.)

Quilt In-The-Hoop Instructions:

1. Hoop your stabilizer remnant to create your quilting “window”. If you look at the photo, this is exactly how the stabilizer looked when I hooped it. I used a piece of stabilizer already used in another project; normally I would have thrown it away since the hole in the middle is so big that I couldn’t possibly reuse it even with a smaller project. Since quilting doesn’t require stabilizer for the stitching of the quilting design, I can pin my quilt to the bits of stabilizer left inside the hoop to keep my quilt from moving in the hoop during the embroidery.



2. On this wall hanging I did some in the ditch quilting around my pieces with contrasting thread on the back so you could easily see what I did; this created some very specific hooping referral points. I then used those straight stitches to line up with the markings on the hoop making it easy to hoop the project straight. You could just as easily mark the quilt with an air erasable or water-soluble pen to make sure you are hooping straight.



3. Pin your quilt to the “window” of stabilizer so that the work doesn’t shift in the hoop while the embroidery is done. (In many cases, 4 pins for a large hooping placed at each corners is enough.) Find the center of where you want your design to be and mark it with an air erasable or water-soluble pen. I recommend printing out templates of your designs to be 100% sure of where your design will be on your project. Here is a link to a tutorial if you need help with templates: <http://www.myembroideryhaven.com/templates.html>)



4. This is a view of the back once the quilt it is hooped.



5. Load the design to the machine. Line up with the center markings and start the quilting design.



6. The good thing about using tearaway stabilizer is that if somehow the “window” wasn’t large enough, it will be easy to remove the bits and pieces from the back of the quilt.



7. And voilà! That easily, the quilting is done.



Happy Quilting!

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