

# Pre-quilt your fabric

using an in-the-hoop quilting motif

**When you want to pre-quilt a large amount of fabric** for a project that exceeds your largest hoop for your embroidery machine, you may find this instruction guide helpful.

This guidance document explains the steps I use when using an in-the-hoop quilt motif to fully cover an area of fabric that is larger than my hoop. You will essentially be “tiling” an embroidery motif to fully cover the area needed for your project.

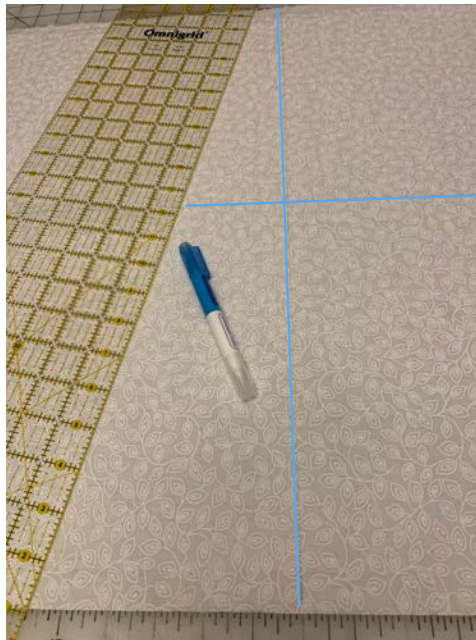
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## using an in-the-hoop quilting motif

1. First look at the design (or layout) that you want to embroider on your pre-quilted fabric. Look at the design's dimensions and think about the size block or project you will want after all of the embroidery is complete to determine how much fabric/stabilizer/batting you need to cut. You will need excess fabric all the way around to accommodate your hoop. You always want to fill your hoop with fabric for both the quilting and the embroidery. How much you need will be determined by the size hoop you will be using and the orientation of your quilting and embroidery designs.
2. Press the fabric. I like to use Mary Ellen's Best Press. Fuse a piece of No Show Fusible Mesh to the back side of the fabric. (image 2)
3. Find center of each edge of the fabric and make a mark. Connect the marks to draw a vertical and Horizontal line using a Water Soluble Pen. (image 3)
4. Layer Stabilized Fabric with a piece of batting that is slightly larger than your piece of fabric. (image 4)



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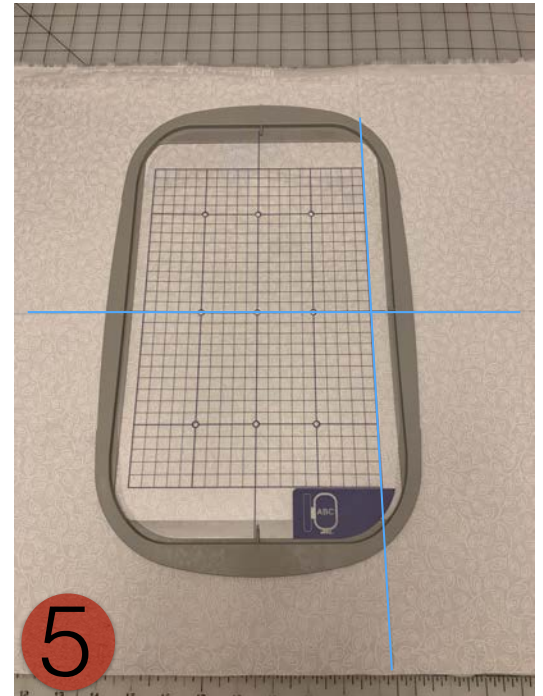


3



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5. Start to fill the fabric with a quilting motif before you embroidery any design. Always start in the center and work out to the edges. In this example, I need a 12" x 16" area of quilting. My design will require 2 hoopings using my largest hoop (8" x 12"). I start at the center and choose one side of my center line and center the hoop across the perpendicular line. If you need a larger area quilted, choose a quadrant for your first hooping. Lay your inner hoop with the hoop grid inserted, on your fabric. Align one side of the grid with the center line and align the center horizontal line on the grid with the horizontal line on the fabric. Hoop your fabric/batting. Put the hoop on the machine.



6. If your Quilting Motif design does not already have a perimeter basting stitch as the first color change, as in diagram 7 in red, add one to the design before stitching. You will want to stitch this basting stitch in a bold color.



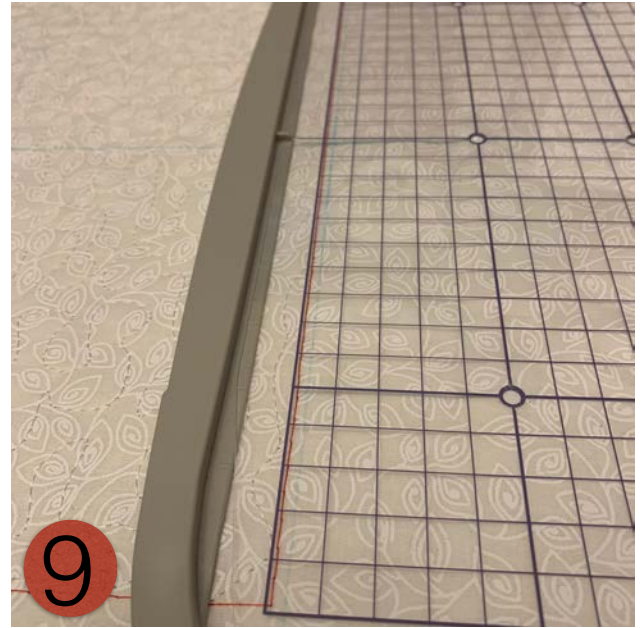
7. Check your hooping by moving the needle position to the far left center. Adjust, if necessary, so that your needle is over the marked center of the fabric.



8. Stitch the Basting stitch (Color Change 1). Next stitch the quilting motif using a thread color that matches your background fabric so that the quilting will not show-through the embroidery design that will eventually stitched over it.



9. Once your first motif is complete, remove the fabric/batting from the hoop. Hoop again, using your hoop grid. Align one long edge of the grid with the basting stitching from the first stitch-out. I am now hooped on the righthand side of the center vertical line. You can see that the line on my grid is on the red basting stitch from the prior quilting motif stitchout.



10. Put the hoop on the machine and check alignment. Use the Needle position feature on the screen of your embroidery machine to test the left center, left upper corner, and left lower corners of the hoop to see if your needle drops on that previously stitched red basting line. See below. Use your directional arrows to make any necessary adjustments. If the adjustment needed is too great, you may have to re-hoop.



left center



left upper corner

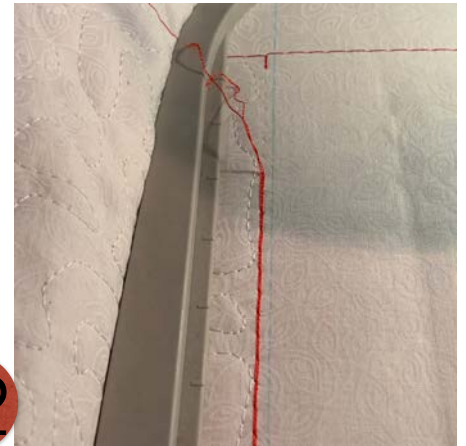
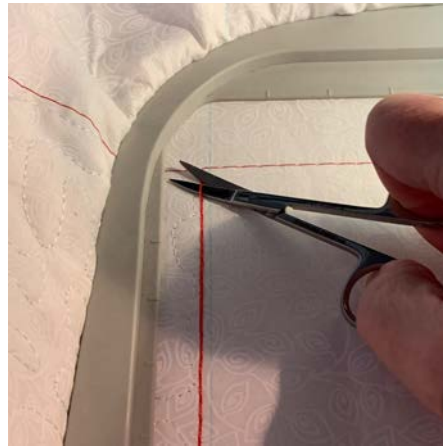


left lower corner

11. Now you are ready to stitch the first color change which is the built-in basting stitch. Once you stitch it, you will see how well you did in aligning the next quilt motif.



12. To avoid the risk of your quilting motif overstitching the previous red basting line, go ahead and remove any center basting stitches, leaving only the perimeter stitches in tact.



13. Now stitch color change 2. Since this quilting will be under your final embroidery, be sure to match the thread color for the quilting motif to the color of your background fabric to avoid it showing through your embroidery design. Here I used white thread to match my white background fabric.



14. Once the quilting motif is complete, remove your fabric from the hoop. Now you can remove the remainder red basting stitches. If you were to need a larger area quilted, then repeat the steps above to fully pre-quilt your fabric.

