

Help Hooping Small Items (Gift Bags and Baby Bloomers)

Hooping smaller items can be a challenge! I have found a few tricks that may make this task a bit easier and get you stitching faster!

I use Sticky Stabilizer to facilitate hooping items that are too small to hoop the traditional way.

Sticky Stabilizer is a tear away type stabilizer that has a light adhesive on one side. The adhesive is backed with paper to protect it until you are ready to use. We carry this product by Sulky in rolls and in precut sheets. Rather than hooping the item, the stabilizer is hooped, then the item is pressed directly on to the adhesive to hold it in place during the stitching process.

- Cut a piece of Sticky Stabilizer approx 2" larger than your hoop. With the paper side facing up, hoop the stabilizer.



- Using an old needle, score the paper in an area large than your design. Then, peel the paper away from the surface exposing the “sticky stuff”.



- Mark the center of your design on the item to be embroidered. I use a Water Erasable Blue Marker to make removal of the markings easier! Mark vertical and horizontal guidelines.
- Turn your item inside out and fold along the horizontal guide line. Pull the extra material of the item out of the way if possible.
- Stick the lower part of the item (wrong side facing down) to the exposed adhesive paper. I use the cross marking arrows on the hoop to help me position the center of my design area square along the horizontal and vertical lines. Examples of the Baby Bloomers and Gift Bag are shown below.



Baby Bloomers



Gift Bag

- Smooth out the top portion of the item and adhere it to the Sticky Stabilizer. In the case of the Gift Bag, you can usually just pull the excess fabric out of the way for stitching. You may want to pin the bag handle down so it does not get caught on your presser foot lever (yes, I speak from experience!). It is a good idea to keep a close eye on this item as it stitches.



- In the case of the Baby Bloomers, a few extra steps will make stitching this item a snap! The elastic edges of the bloomers may be stretched and pinned to the outer edges of the stabilizer to make the stitch opening larger. (ok, so the Organ Titanium Machine Needles work best when actually inserted into your sewing machine for stitching rather than used to hold bloomer elastic to the paper stabilizer but an old needle works well to score the paper and as a substitute for a pin if one is not handy! I never throw anything away!) Keep Stitchin'!



Product Sources:

Sulky Sticky Stabilizer:

<http://www.embroiderthis.com/sulstabrol.html>

Baby Bloomers:

<http://www.embroiderthis.com/indoubseatpa.html>

Gift Tote Bags:

<http://www.embroiderthis.com/giftbag.html>

Organ Titanium Needles:

<http://www.embroiderthis.com/neformaem.html>

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