

Hoopng Specialty Fabrics

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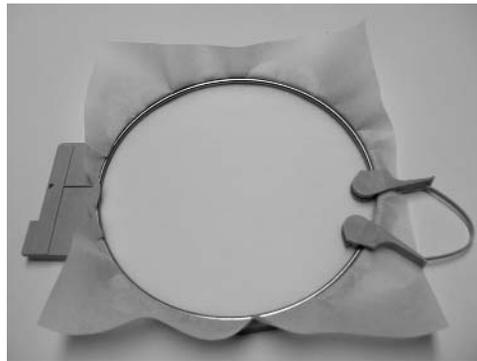
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When hooping fabrics for machine embroidery, some need TLC. Read on to find out how to handle specialty fabrics for successful embroidery results.

Hoop It Up

Stand-alone embroidery machines and sewing machines with embroidery capabilities come with a two-part hoop that securely holds the fabric while the machine stitches the embroidery design. The hoop may be a rectangle, square, circle or oval and may come in several sizes, depending on the machine capabilities.



In most cases fabric is placed over the outer hoop, then the inner hoop is snapped in place to hold the fabric taut for embroidery. Specialty fabrics, however, often need a different treatment because they can suffer from hoop burn, tearing or distortion when not properly handled.

Hoopng Know-how

How materials are handled for embroidery varies by the type of fabric. Here are some common materials requiring special care.

Faux Fur

Do not hoop faux fur as it is thick, bulky and can permanently spring the hoop.

- Hoop mesh or another lightweight cut-away stabilizer only.
- Spray with temporary adhesive, place the fabric on top of the stabilizer and adhere, smoothing it into place.

What's Hoop Burn?

This phrase means that there are marks left either temporarily or permanently on the fabric after it has been hooped. The marks are embedded in the fabric when the hoop is removed.

- Optional: Place a piece of tear-away water-soluble stabilizer or vinyl topper over the embroidery field. This will keep the stitches from sinking into the nap of the fur.
- Use a basting stitch to secure the fabric to the stabilizer and then embroider the design. Remove the basting stitches after embroidery.
- Un-hoop and cut away the stabilizer from behind the design. Carefully tear away any excess topper. A water-soluble stabilizer will completely wash out while a plastic topper will stay permanently under the stitches.

Leather, Suede or Faux Suede

Do not hoop leather, faux suede or suede fabrics, as the hoop will leave permanent marks.

- Hoop mesh or lightweight cut-away stabilizer only. Spray with temporary spray adhesive and adhere the suede to the stabilizer. Note: Do not use a basting stitch or extra pins to secure the suede in the hoop as holes are permanent.
- Embroider the design.
- Un-hoop and carefully cut away the stabilizer.

Organza and Other Sheer Fabrics

Sometimes organza and other sheers can be hooped. However, do a test first to see if the fabric slips in the hoop. If the fabric

slips, try one of the following hooping methods, depending on whether or not the fabric is dry-clean-only or if it's water-tolerant.

- Hoop the fabric along with two layers of water-soluble tear-away stabilizer. Embroider the design; un-hoop and rinse away the stabilizer.
- Use a heat-removable stabilizer with dry-clean-only sheers. The stabilizer is similar in weight to muslin. Hoop the stabilizer, spray with temporary adhesive and adhere the fabric. Pin outside the embroidery field for extra stability, if needed. Embroider the design; un-hoop and remove the stabilizer (it disintegrates when heat is applied).

Satin

Satin can easily suffer hoop burn due to delicate thread floats. Protect the fabric with the method that works best:

- Wrap the hoop pieces in cotton strips; hoop as usual with a fabric scrap to see if marks are left.
- Or, hoop mesh stabilizer, spray with temporary adhesive and adhere the fabric to the stabilizer.
- Hold the layers together by pinning around the hoop perimeter.
- Embroider the design.
- Un-hoop and remove the pins. Carefully cut away the stabilizer.

Taffeta

Avoid hoop burn on this delicate fabric with the following methods:

- Hoop adhesive tear-away or cut-away stabilizer, paper side up. Score the inside hoop perimeter with a pin, peel away the paper to reveal the adhesive and adhere the taffeta to the stabilizer.
- Create a hooping aid window from muslin fabric. Hoop muslin and mesh cut-away stabilizer and cut out a center window from the muslin only (leaving the mesh stabilizer intact). Spray with temporary adhesive and adhere the taffeta to the intact stabilizer under the embroidery area.
- Embroider the design, un-hoop and cut away the stabilizer.

Tissue Lamé

Tissue lame, a lightweight metallic, is a fabric that can be easily damaged. Handle it with one of the two following methods:

- Interface the fabric back with a fusible mesh or fusible interfacing. Wrap the hoop pieces in lightweight cotton strips and hoop as usual, checking a fabric scrap first for marks.
- Or hoop mesh cut-away stabilizer (only), spray with temporary adhesive and adhere the fabric to the stabilizer.
- Embroider the design.
- Un-hoop and trim away the excess stabilizer.

Velvet

Do not hoop velvet fabric, as it will certainly suffer permanent damage. Instead, try this:

- Hoop mesh or another lightweight cut-away stabilizer only.
- Spray with temporary adhesive and adhere the velvet to the stabilizer, smoothing it into place.
- Optional: Place a piece of clear tear-away stabilizer over the embroidery field. This will keep the stitches from sinking into the nap of the velvet.
- Use a basting stitch to secure the fabric to the stabilizer and then embroider the design. Remove the basting stitches after embroidery. Some velvets may retain needle marks, so test on a sample before basting the project.
- Un-hoop and cut away the stabilizer from behind the design. Carefully tear away the clear stabilizer used as a topper.

When in doubt about the hoopability of any fabric type, always do a test first. Hoop a scrap and leave it in place for several hours. Un-hoop and check the results, then choose the method that best fits the fabric type. 🖨️