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Monogrammed Towels with Automatic Appliqué

By Eileen Roche



Monogramming is the number one reason why someone uses an embroidery machine. And towels are the number one blank that embroiderers stitch on. But they can be challenging. First off, to achieve professional results, you want all of the towels in the set to match – meaning the monogram should be in the same location on each towel and it should be straight. Also, terrycloth is bulky and difficult to secure in a hoop.

Embroidery Products

Brother Quattro Sewing and Embroidery Machine

Monogram design collection

Perfect Placement Kit by Designs in Machine Embroidery, available at www.dzgns.com

Magna-Hoop Jumbo by Design in Machine Embroidery, available at www.dzgns.com

Materials

Bath and hand towels with borders

One fat quarter of cotton fabric

Pellon ShirTailor interfacing

Tear-away stabilizer

Water soluble stabilizer

Target stickers

Temporary spray adhesive or fabric glue stick

Step 1. Prep the Applique Fabric and Towels

Wash and dry the cotton fabric to preshrink the applique fabric. Follow the manufacturer's instructions to fuse the Pellon ShirTailor interfacing to the wrong side of the fabric.

Fold each towel in half vertically and mark the center with a straight pin, place it near the border for easy reference.

Lay the towel on a flat surface and place the corresponding Perfect Placement towel template on the towel.

Align the template's vertical line with the marked center of the towel. Place the template's horizontal line on the top of the border. Place a target sticker in the hole, positioning the target sticker's arrowhead in the same direction as the template's arrow (pointing into the body of the towel). Repeat for the entire set of towels.

Step 2. Create the Monogram

At the Quattro, select Embroidery Edit and select the monogram font from the built-in designs. Select the appropriate letters for your three-initial monogram.

Touch Set. Touch Add. Select the outline key. Select the oval shape in the top row and the single outline in the bottom row. Touch Set, Sewing.

Touch the Automatic Applique key. Touch Size. Shrink the Circle Applique until it covers the single run outline.

Touch Close in the Size menu. Touch Add and select the Oval and scallop outline. Touch Size with the Oval Scallop selected, shrink the scallop outline until it is the same size as the outer perimeter of the oval applique. Touch Close on the sizing menu and Touch Sewing. Touch Memory and select a location to save the applique monogram.

Touch Return to go back to the editing screen and touch Select. Use the arrow keys to toggle through the different elements of the design, deleting all but the single oval outline. Touch Copy/Paste and fill the hoop with as many repeats as needed.

Hoop the interfaced fabric and stitch all the oval shapes. Use the Monochromatic Key to avoid having the machine stop at each color segment.

Remove the fabric from the hoop and trim each oval close to the stitching line.

Step 3. Embroider the Towels

Hoop tear-away stabilizer. Insert the metal frame of Magna-Hoop Jumbo into the hoop. Fold the towel at the border to create a straight edge. Place the folded straight edge against the inner frame of Magna-Hoop Jumbo, landing the towel square in the hoop. Place the acrylic frame on top and snap the magnets into the slots.

Attach the hoop to the machine. Select the baste feature. Slide a piece of water soluble stabilizer under the needle. Stitch the first color, the basting outline. Advance through the colors of the monogram until you reach the first outline of the oval applique, the placement guide. Stitch the placement guide.

Place the prepared oval applique over the outline (considering using temporary spray adhesive or a glue stick). Stitch color 2, the tack down. Advance to the scallop outline and stitch it. Go back to the satin outline and stitch it covering the inside of the scallop outline.

Stitch the letters by advancing the design.

Repeat for all of the towels in the set. Tear off the excess water soluble stabilizer and tear-away stabilizer.

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