

Basic Badgemaking with an Embroidery Machine

1. Fuse a layer of heavyweight non-woven interfacing to the wrong side of your fabric.
2. Hoop two layers of mesh-type water-soluble stabilizer.
3. In Embroidery Edit mode, select the motif for your badge. Add lettering if you like, using the Array function to shape the lettering. Remember the small alphabets on the machine (if available) to put lots of words on a small patch.
4. Choose a frame shape from the built-in designs. Select a straight stitch. Resize the frame as necessary to enclose your motif.
5. Choose a second frame in the same shape, but this time select satin stitch. Resize it to match and cover the straight-stitch frame.

TIP: You may also want to use the fabric-basting function, especially if the motif is large, multicolored, or high-stitch-count.

6. Place the badge fabric on top of the stabilizer. Slide a layer of tear-away stabilizer under the hoop if the design is large or has a high stitch count.
7. Stitch the straight-stitch frame to secure the fabric to the stabilizer.
8. Embroider the center motif.
9. Carefully remove the hoop from the machine, but leave the stabilizer in the hoop. Trim the fabric just outside the straight-stitch frame, cutting as close to the stitches as possible. If you used tear-away stabilizer, remove the excess now.
10. Insert a bobbin of thread to match the needle thread for the satin-stitch frame. Put the hoop back onto the machine.
11. Sew the satin-stitch frame. Dissolve the water-soluble stabilizer around the edge of the badge.

Making Badges on a Sewing Machine

1. Prepare fabrics and stabilizer as above. Optional: place the water-soluble stabilizer in a hand-embroidery hoop to keep it taut.
2. Draw the perimeter onto the badge fabric. Stitch along the line; use a straight stitch or an open, narrow zigzag (about 1.0 mm wide and 1.0 mm long).
3. Trim the fabric just outside the stitches.
4. Set the machine for a satin zigzag stitch (3-6 mm wide and 0.2-0.4 mm long)

TIP: Check online suppliers of machine-embroidery blanks for pre-made patches, ready for you to embroider or decorate.

Non-Embroidered Design Ideas

1. Ink-jet printable fabric for photos, clip art, etc.
2. Fabric markers and crayons
3. Artist's colored pencils, watercolor pencils and crayons; paint on a layer of textile medium after coloring to preserve the design
4. Motifs cut from licensed fabrics

Letterman's Sweater Appliqués

Choose athletic letter shapes and banners. Use felt as both the appliqué fabric and the background fabric. Stabilize with a layer of tear-away. After embroidery or sewing, trim the background 1/8" from the appliqué edges to leave a bit of the background visible.

Attaching Insignia to Clothing

1. Sew on by hand or machine
2. Fuse a heavy-duty fusible web (for example, Floriani Press N Bond or Peel n Stick Fabric Fuse) to the wrong side of a completed patch. Remove the paper backing and fuse the patch to the garment, using a press cloth to protect the patch.
3. Use fabric glue to adhere the patch to the garment permanently. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for each product.
4. Use Aleene's Tack-It Over & Over to create a repositionable, reusable appliqué. Follow the manufacturer's instructions to apply the adhesive to the wrong side of the badge and allow it to dry. Place the prepared badge on the garment and smooth it into place; peel it off when you're done.