

**Are you ready? Let's go sew!**

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**Segment Title:** Accessorizing, embroidering, and sewing on slinky type travel knits.

**Presented by:** Joanne Banko on [It's Sew Easy TV](#)



Watch how easy it is to transform a slinky knit travel dress with added accessories and machine-embroidered accents. Simply add ready-made scarves, belts, or a bit of jewelry, and you are good to go. Of course you can really step up your style statement by adding a custom embroidered scarf such as the Color Blocked tri-color shawl featured on this show. You'll find complete instructions for this item included in my book titled [Wrapped in Embroidery](#). The dress I am wearing on this show, and the tri colored shawl are both decorated with an embroidery design from the book collection.

During this segment I showed how to add some "off-site" machine embroidered motifs to the beautiful turquoise blue dress. This technique is ideal for super stretchy, slinky type knits. Learn how to decorate a dress like this. It's a dress style that can take you places both near and far away!

**Materials and Supplies featured in this episode:**

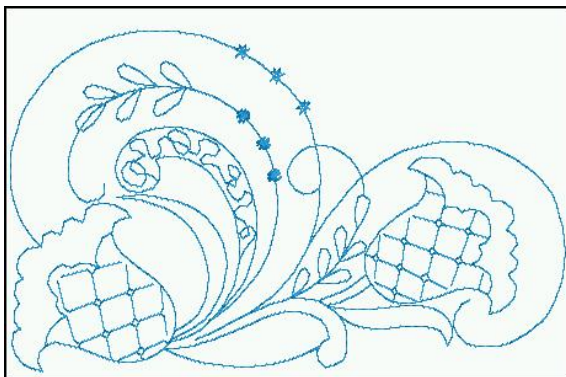
- [Brother XV8500D Sewing and Embroidery Machine](#)
- [Brother Embroidery Thread and Bobbin Thread](#)
- [SA145](#) Brother Closed toe, clear presser foot
- Basic tank style dress pattern specifically for stretchy \*slinky type knits.
- [Dritz Ball Point Pins](#)
- [Coats Dual Duty XP](#)
- Flexible, thin monofilament thread for attaching embroidered motifs
- [Wash Out Glue Stick](#) or wash out fabric glue to temporarily attach motifs before stitching.  
**Tip:** It's a good idea to test glue on the fabric and make sure it will thoroughly wash out.
- Fine bridal netting (tulle) to closely match fabric
- [SA540](#) Water soluble (fibrous type) stabilizer
- Standard size 11 embroidery needle for embroidery
- Size 11 Stretch needle for sewing slinky type knit.
- Brother 5" X 7" Embroidery Hoop

- Embroidery designs suitable for this technique are plentiful. It is wise to select motifs that have solid areas such as the rose designs featured here. Feel free to experiment and make a sample if you are unsure if your design is suitable.

*\* Slinky type knit is a very special fabric commonly found in ready to wear, especially popular with retailers that feature garments designs for cruising and for traveling. This knit is made from a combination of acetate and spandex or polyester and spandex. Both types look almost identical and are known for being flattering to all figures, easy to pack, and comfortable to wear.*

Before I show you this “offsite” embroidery technique lets talk about embroidering directly on this super stretchy fabric. I’ll start by saying that experience is the best teacher and ready-to wear is often the best example of successful embellishment techniques. Most ready-to-wear garments made from this fabric feature simple lines and little to nothing in the way of fabric embellishment. Of course when you make it yourself you are the designer! The offsite method shown here is ideal for embellishing this knit.

If you choose to embroider directly on this fabric it is important to choose a design such as the one below, a quilting style design made up primarily of running stitches. You want a design that is very light weight and will not interfere with the stretch of the fabric. It is best to embroider in areas that do not bear the weight of the fabric. Therefore, I recommend keeping designs close to the neck and shoulder area. You will need to stabilize the wrong side so the fabric does not stretch at all. I prefer an iron-on temporary tear away or adhesive backed wash away for the necessary stabilizer. In addition, use a clear water-soluble on top to keep stitches from sinking into the fabric. See examples below:



### Steps for Creating Embroidered Rose Motifs:

**Note:** The beautiful blue rose motif embroidery designs (Rose cluster and Rose border) are available from the Brother embroidery download site: <http://www.ibroidery.com>. You will also find these designs built-in to Brother Sewing and Embroidery combination Model [NS2750D](#) and Brother Embroidery only Model [NS1150E](#).



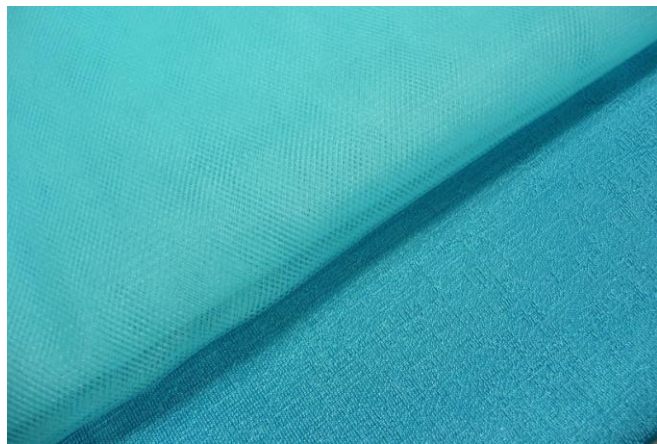
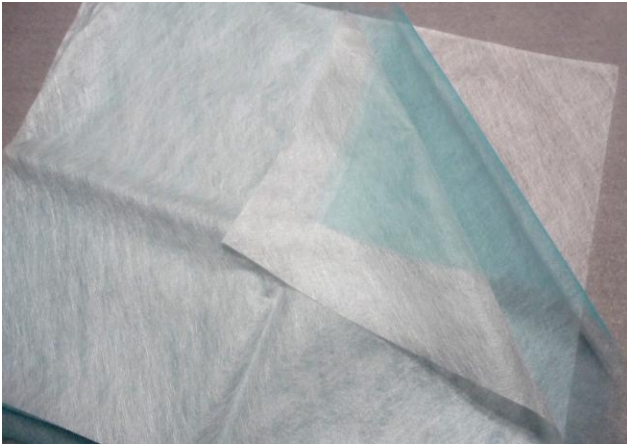
Rose Cluster - Motif No.20

Rose Border – Motif No. 21

**Step 1.** Please visit my Sewing and Embroidery website, [www.letsfusew.com](http://www.letsfusew.com) to download a Free Fabric tip sheet for sewing on this type of knit. Cut and sew your dress as follows:

- Stabilize neckline
- Sew shoulders
- Finish neckline

**Step 2.** Cut two layers of netting and two layers of the water-soluble stabilizer to fit your chosen hoop.



Hoop the netting with one layer of [SA540](#) water-soluble on top and one on the bottom. Be sure to hoop having all layers smooth and firm. Embroider the necessary amount of motifs you need to trim the neckline.

**Tip:** You can stitch multiple motifs in one single hooping if there is room to position them in your hoop. Be sure to make mirror image versions of each matching design. Below you will see that I stitched two motifs side by side in one 5 X 7 inch hoop.





After embroidering, cut motifs apart and then use sharp curved tip scissors to trim excess netting and stabilizer just beyond the embroidery. **Note:** Trim as close as possible to outside areas of embroidery, leaving netting in between areas that are too small to cut. See below:



**Step 3.** Carefully wash out stabilizer, pat pieces with a towel and allow to air dry. Press each piece from the wrong side using an iron set for low heat.

### Steps for Sewing Motifs to Dress Neckline:

**Step 1.** Place the finished neckline on a flat surface, smooth out the fabric, and then pin to a large piece of [SA540](#) water-soluble stabilizer. Arrange motifs as desired on your neckline and temporarily attach with the washable glue.



**Step 2.** Set machine for sewing with a narrow zig zag stitch, using monofilament thread in the needle and thread to match dress fabric in the bobbin.



**Step 3.** Carefully trim away excess stabilizer and finish constructing your dress. **Note:** You can wash out the remainder of the stabilizer when you have finished sewing your dress.

#### **Additional Resources:**

- Visit the Brother web site at [www.brother-usa.com](http://www.brother-usa.com) for additional Free embroidery designs, project instructions, tutorials, and more! Sign up for their monthly newsletter and you'll get notifications for special offers, free embroidery designs and other valuable information.
- Visit your local [Brother sewing machine dealer](#) for Brother Machines, Brother software programs, and special machine accessories.
- The Color Blocked tri-color shawl is constructed from a silk cotton blend fabric. You'll find complete instructions for this embroidered wrap along with eight more wraps, plus a set of embroidery designs suitable for wrap style garments in *Wrapped in Embroidery* by Joanne Banko. Visit [www.wrappedinembroidery.com](http://www.wrappedinembroidery.com) for more details.
- Please visit me at my Sewing and Embroidery website, [www.letsdosew.com](http://www.letsdosew.com) for more tips, techniques, video lessons and free downloads. Sign up for updated sewing ideas and inspiration, project ideas, and more when you visit [www.letsdosew.com](http://www.letsdosew.com).
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Happy Sewing!

*Joanne*