

How to Make an Ornament from Any Embroidery Design

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Your can make an ornament with a plain felt backing, or you can stitch the design a second time in reverse to make a two-sided ornament. If you opt for the two-sided ornament, select a design without lettering for best results.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR MAKING A TWO-SIDED ORNAMENT

1. Hoop a double layer of tear-away stabilizer in the 4x4" hoop. Lightly spray a 4x4" piece of white (or other suitable color) felt and adhere it to the tear-away stabilizer. If you prefer not to use spray adhesive, you can hoop a larger piece of felt along with the tear-away stabilizer directly in the hoop.



2. Stitch the design on the felt all the way to the end and remove the hoop from the machine.



- Carefully tear away the stabilizer from the back of the design.



- With scissors, carefully trim around the edge of the design just outside the outer stitching line. Make your cuts as smooth as you can, since this will be the edge of your ornament.



- To make the back of the ornament, **REVERSE THE DESIGN** to give you a mirror image of the original. I didn't have to do this on the crest because it's symmetrical, but for most other designs, such as the cat at right, I would stitch the second portion in reverse. Stitch the back exactly the same way as the front of the ornament, using tear-away stabilizer and a second 4" square of felt adhered to the stabilizer. When stitching is complete, unhoop the design and tear away the backing from around the outer edge as you did for the first stitch-out.



6. Use tacky glue to attach a hanging loop. For this purpose, you may use a cord long enough to hang the ornament from the tree, as shown in the illustration at left, or you can use a paper clip to make a smaller loop that will allow the ornament to suspend from an ornament hook, as I did for my crest ornament (right, below). Set aside until the glue dries.



7. When the glue has dried on the loop, cover the wrong side of one ornament piece with tacky craft glue, being sure to spread the glue all the way to the edges. Carefully place the front and back pieces together, wrong sides facing and matching all edges. Press together firmly around all edges and set aside to dry. Your personalized ornament is ready to hang. Below are some finished ornaments with hanging hooks.





If you like, you can stitch the two sides of the ornament together around the outside edge. I use nylon filament thread (invisible thread) for this purpose.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR MAKING ORNAMENTS WITH PLAIN BACKING

If you prefer, you can also make your ornament with embroidery on one side only and a backing of plain colored felt. In the pictures I am using several different designs to illustrate the steps.

1. Follow steps 1 and 2, above, to stitch your chosen design on felt. After stitching out the design as described, unhoop.

Gently remove the tear-away stabilizer from around the design, but **DO NOT TRIM** the felt.



2. Turn the design face down. Cut a piece of cord or ribbon approximately 7" long to serve as a hanging loop. Tape this loop in position on the back of the ornament.

When you stitch it to the felt backing, the cord will be sandwiched between front and back and held in place with your stitching.

If you prefer, you can glue the cord in position using tacky glue; if you choose to do so, wait for it to dry before proceeding.



3. Lightly spray the back of the stitched design and place it right side up on top of a piece of felt in a coordinating color. In the illustration I have used red felt as a backing, though for this cat design I might also use black.

Note the position of the hanging loop of ribbon.



4. Using invisible thread, stitch all around the embroidered design, following its edges carefully. Stitch just outside the embroidery stitches, catching the ends of the hanging cord in the stitching.

I like to use a straight-sew foot in the machine so I can more easily see what I am doing. Work slowly and turn the work as needed to follow the contours of the embroidery. Try not to stitch on top of your embroidery stitches.



5. When you've finished stitching, remove the design from the machine. With sharp scissors, carefully trim around the edge of the design just outside the outer stitching line. Make your cuts as smooth as you can, since this will be the edge of your ornament.

You may find it easier to trim one side at a time, beginning with the back of the ornament. Be careful not to cut through the hanging loop. When you're finished, the back of your ornament should look similar to the illustration.

