

# Merry Christmas Bunting Letters

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*When completed, the letters can be strung or stitched onto a cord or ribbon to make a decorative Merry Christmas bunting.*

*All of the letters can be made in the 4x4" (100x100mm) hoop. Most sew up in about 5 minutes; the "M" takes closer to 7 minutes, and the "I" stitches in about 3 minutes. Excluding hooping and thread changes, all 14 letters can be stitched in just over an hour.*

The finished letters measure approximately 3.8" (90mm) high and average about 2.5" (64mm) wide (the "M" is slightly wider, the "I" narrower).

*For each letter, you will need*

- *One piece white and one piece red felt, each approximately 3.5" x 4.5" (for the M, select slightly larger 4.5" square pieces)*
- *Tear-away stabilizer*
- *Plastic (optional)*

# Merry Christmas Bunting Instructions

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1. Hoop a double layer of tear-away stabilizer in the 4x4" (100x100mm) hoop.



2. Place the piece of white felt in the center of the hoop. If you wish, you can spray it very lightly with temporary adhesive to hold it in place.



OR, as an alternative, you can economize on stabilizer by hooping a piece of clear plastic wrap or plastic bag instead. Cut two pieces of stabilizer the same size as the felt piece. Lightly spray one piece of stabilizer and center it in the hoop, then spray the felt piece and place it on top of the stabilizer. Spray the remaining piece of stabilizer and position it on the underside of the hoop, matching the edges with the felt/stabilizer on the top of the hoop. The plastic will be sandwiched between the two layers of stabilizer.



3. Place the hoop in the machine and stitch everything except the final outline stitch. (I am making the letter A, but all letters are made the same way).  
Pause the machine before the final color change.



4. Remove the hoop from the machine and turn it face down. You will be able to clearly see the stitching. (As you can see, I'm using plastic in the hoop, along with the felt and two smaller pieces of stabilizer.)



5. Place the red felt piece over the back of the hoop so it completely covers the stitching. Secure this second piece of felt with masking tape as shown in the photo, or if you prefer you can lightly spray it with temporary adhesive to secure it to the back of the hoop.



6. Change the bobbin thread to red. If you are backing the letters with a different color, match the bobbin thread to that instead.



7. Return the hoop to the machine sew the final outline in green. When the stitching is complete, remove the hoop from the machine and unhoop the design.



8. Using small sharp scissors, carefully trim the white felt only. Cut around the outside of the design, leaving a narrow border of about 1/8" around the stitching. Take care not to cut through the stitches.



When the white felt is trimmed away, the tear-away stabilizer can be more easily removed. Here you can see the two layers of tear-away where the white felt has been trimmed.

9. Gently tear away the stabilizer, one layer at a time. Take your time and be gentle so as not to damage the stitched letter.



If you have used plastic, gently remove it at this stage as well.



I find a hemostat (forceps) helpful for removing the tear-away and plastic from small recessed areas of the letters. Grip the stabilizer or plastic as close to the stitching as you can, then gently coax it loose.



10. To trim the inner section on the A and R, work the tip a small sharp scissors into the layer of white felt and snip to create an opening. Trim neatly around the inside of the hole, again leaving a border of about 1/8" around the stitched outline. Work carefully, making as smooth a cut as you can.



Once the inner white felt has been removed, use the point of the scissors to make a hole in the stabilizer layer, then insert the hemostat and gently pull away one layer of stabilizer at a time. Repeat for the plastic and second stabilizer layer.



When you have finished removing the white felt and stabilizer, the letter should look like this.



11. To create the rick-rack border, trim the red felt using pinking shears, positioning them so that the pinked edge just meets the trimmed edge of the white felt.



12. When you have finished trimming the letter, use a stylus or awl to poke a hole through the stitched eyelet.



You can hang the letter as an ornament on the tree, or complete the set and create the bunting.

13. To make my bunting, I used jump rings to string the letters on a red-green cord.

Use pliers to open and insert the jump ring through the eyelet.



Close the jump ring around the cord, or if you prefer, string the cord through the ring after it's been closed.

13. The finished bunting hangs in my entryway.



I added a jingle bell to each end of the cord for an extra festive touch.

The letters could be used individually as tree ornaments or appliqued to a tree skirt.