

How to Make an Ornament from Any Embroidery Design

<jensoriginalsembroiderydesigns.yolasite.com>

You can make almost any embroidery design into an ornament for your Christmas tree!

Stitch the design on felt and add a plain felt backing, or make a two-sided ornament by stitching out a second copy in reverse.

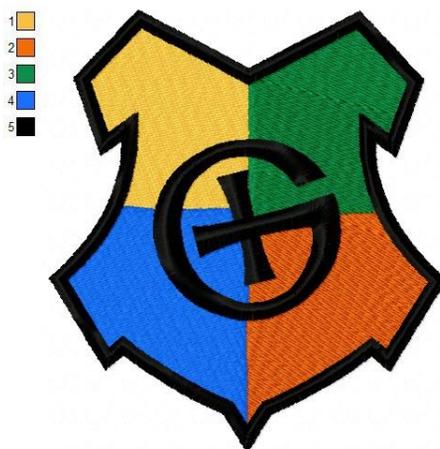
If you opt for the two-sided version, select a design without lettering for best results.



You will need

- *Two 4.5x4.5 pieces of felt in appropriate color(s); I use white to stitch out the design*
- *Medium weight tear-away stabilizer*
- *7" length of ribbon or cord OR one paper clip*
- *Tacky glue*

Choose a design in 3" or 4" size; To make my ornaments, I will be stitching this Heraldic Badge design in 4" size and this Geocaching 4-Square crest in 3" size.



Make an Embroidered Ornament from Any Design: Instructions

<jensoriginalsewembroiderydesigns.yolasite.com>

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



2. 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.



NOTE: If you are making a felt-backed ornament with a single embroidered design, continue with the next step. If you are making a two-sided ornament with embroidery on both sides, skip to step #12.

3. To make my felt-backed ornament with a single embroidered design, I will be using this Cowan family crest in 4" size (Style 1B from the website).



4. Place the hoop in the machine and stitch the design all the way to the end.



5. Stop the machine and remove the hoop. Your stitch-out should look similar to the picture, depending on the design you've selected.



6. With the stitch-out complete, unhoop the design. Gently remove the tear-away stabilizer from around the design, but **DO NOT TRIM** the felt.



7. 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 to hang your ornaments with a hook rather than a string, you can use a paperclip instead, as I have done. If so, position it on the back of the ornament with just a fraction of one end protruding beyond the edge of the design. Glue it in position using tacky glue and wait for it to dry before proceeding.



8. Spray the back of the stitched design with temporary adhesive, and place it right side up on top of a piece of felt in a coordinating color.

In the example, I have used black felt as a backing, though for this design I might just as well have chosen blue.

Note the position of the hanging loop of string.



9. Using invisible thread either by hand or machine, stitch all around the embroidered design, following its edges carefully and stitching just outside the embroidery stitches. If you have used a paperclip, operate the machine by hand around it to avoid breaking your needle.



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.

If you find it easier, you can do this step by hand using invisible thread.

10. 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. Take care around the paperclip or hanging cord so as not to cut through or damage your scissors.

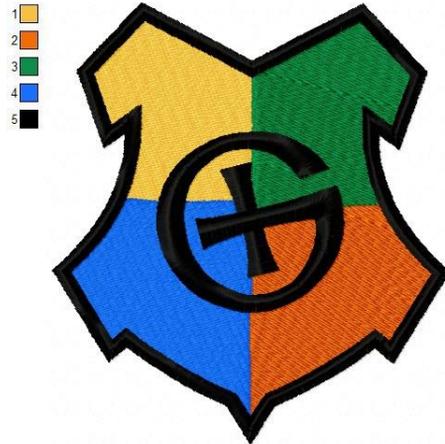
11. I usually trim the outer edge smoothly, but in this case I decided to go with a pinked edge. To achieve this effect, trim the front first with regular scissors, then trim the contrasting back with the pinking shears.



The back of the ornament should look similar to the image at left. YOUR ORNAMENT IS COMPLETE.

If you prefer to make a two-sided ornament embroidered on both sides, complete steps #1 and #2 and then follow these instructions.

12. To make a two-sided ornament with embroidery on both sides, select a design in 3" or 4" size, without lettering. For the example, I will be using this Geocaching 4-Square crest in 3" size.



13. Place the hoop in the machine and stitch the design all the way to the end.



14. Stop the machine and remove the hoop. Your stitch-out should look similar to the picture, depending on the design you've selected.



15. After completing the initial design stitch-out, Remove the design from the hoop and carefully tear away the stabilizer from the back of the design.



16. 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.



17. For this two-sided version, you will need to make a second stitch-out of your design. Before stitching, **REVERSE THE DESIGN** to give you a mirror image of the original.



Because my crest is already exactly symmetrical, the second stitch-out was the same as the first, but for most other designs the second stitch-out would be reversed, as you can see in the next image. For this reason you don't want a design with lettering.

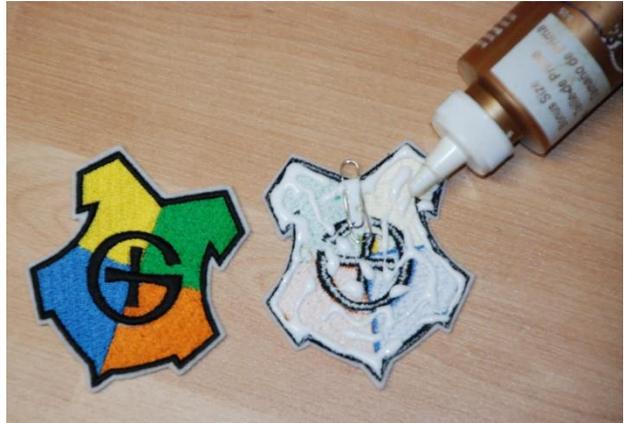
18. Looking at this other example, you can clearly see why the design needs to be reversed for the second stitch-out. Simply stitch the reversed design in the same way as the first stitch-out, and follow the rest of the instructions as given.



19. Just as you did for the single-sided ornament, attach a hanging loop. You can use a cord or ribbon long enough to hang the ornament from the tree, as in the picture at left, and attach it using masking tape or tacky glue (preferred). Or you can use a paper clip to provide a metal loop that will allow the ornament to suspend from an ornament hook. Set aside until the glue dries.



20. 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**. You really need enough glue to be sure the edges hold.



21. Carefully place the front and back pieces together, wrong sides facing and matching all edges. Press together firmly around all edges, and keep pressing until the glue grabs completely, especially around the edges. Then set the ornament aside to dry.

If you like, you could also stitch around the edge of the ornament using invisible thread, but usually the glue is enough.



I have made many of these ornaments over the past few years, including these ones for my Looney Tunes tree; see a few more on the next page.



Some more finished ornaments



Mickey is a two-sided ornament with added bling; the Red Eye motif at right is single-sided with plain black on the back.



A two-sided bear ornament, and a two-sided ornament made from a souvenir patch, because I couldn't find a ready-made ornament.