

ITH Maple Shield Ornament

<jensoriginalsewembroiderydesigns.yolasite.com>

This applique-style ornament sews over fashion fabric on a foundation of colored felt and is perfect for stitching on plaid or tartan. Coordinate the colors of the embroidery stitching to match or complement the colors of the tartan or fashion fabric underneath.



The finished Maple Leaf Shield ornament measures approximately 3.5" wide x 3.7" tall (89x94mm). It stitches entirely in the 4x4" hoop (100x100mm) in approximately 10 minutes. The incorporated string at the peak of the leaf allows the ornament to hang on a hook or tree branch.

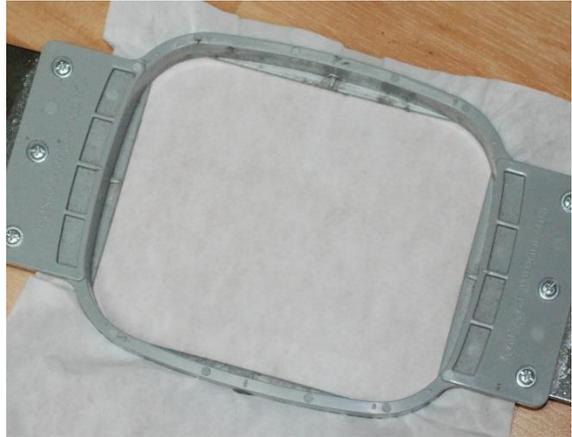
You will need

- *One 4.5" square of felt in white or color of your choice*
- *Scraps of tartan or fashion fabric*
- *One 4x4 piece of felt in a color to match your tartan or fashion fabric*
- *One 1.5x4" scrap of white felt*
- *Medium weight tear-away stabilizer*

ITH Maple Leaf Shield Ornament Instructions

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



2. Lightly spray one square of felt with temporary adhesive and press it in place in the center of the hoop.

In the sample shown, I'm using red felt, but I find that I prefer the look better if it's stitched on white.



3. Place the hoop in the machine and stitch the first color. Pause the machine and remove the hoop, but do not unhoop the design.



3. Lightly spray the fashion fabric scraps with temporary adhesive and place them over the felt in the hoop so that they cover the stitching lines. Put the hoop back in the machine and stitch the next color.



4. Pause the machine and remove the hoop. You can just make out the stitching lines on the fabric. Do not unhoop.



5. Using curved scissors or sharp nail scissors, carefully trim away the excess fashion fabric from around the outside of the stitching line, cutting as close as possible to the stitching without cutting the stitches.



6. Return the hoop to the machine and stitch the next three colors. Pause after the banner outline has stitched, and remove the hoop from the machine. Do not unhoop the design.



7. Lightly spray the white felt scrap and position it over the banner outline so that it covers the stitching completely. Place the hoop in the machine and stitch the next color. Pause the machine and remove the hoop, again without unhooping the design.



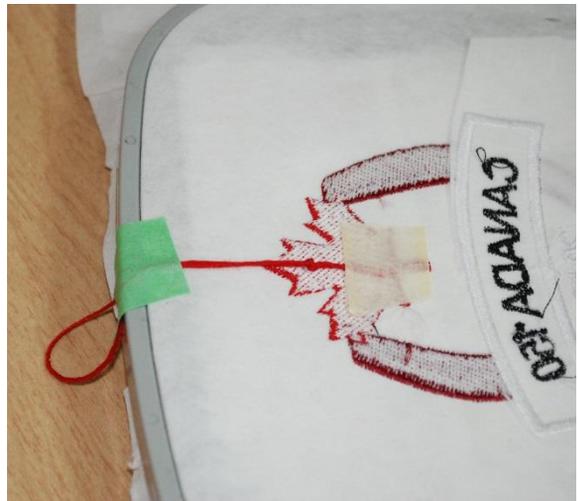
8. Using your curved scissors or sharp nail scissors, carefully trim away the excess felt from around the outside of the stitching line, cutting as close as possible to the stitching without cutting the stitches.



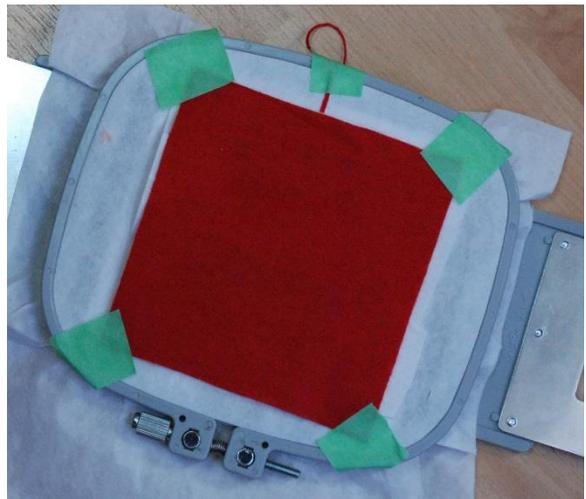
9. Return the hoop to the machine and sew up to but not including the final color. If you are personalizing with your own phrase instead, do that now. Pause the machine and remove the hoop once more. Do not unhoop the design.



10. Turn the hoop face down. Cut a 7" or 8" length of string or narrow ribbon and form a loop; knot the ends together. Position the string to the back of the design as shown in the picture; tape it in place so that it won't be caught in the stitching line. Tape down the top of the cord to the hoop so that it will stay straight and out of the way of the needle.



11. Lay the second 4.5" square of felt over the back of the hoop so that 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.



12. Change the bobbin thread to match the felt, or choose invisible thread as I have done, and return the hoop to the machine.



13. Sew the final color using invisible thread and remove the hoop from the machine.



14. Unhoop the design and gently remove the tear-away stabilizer. It should detach easily. Use tweezers to remove any remnants remaining in the inner corners.



11. Carefully trim around the ornament with small sharp scissors, leaving a narrow felt border and being careful not to cut through the hanging cord. Work carefully, making as smooth a cut as you can, since this will be the outer edge of the ornament.



10. The finished ornament ready to hang. The red version features Maple Leaf Tartan; the gold-tone one shows the Saskatchewan provincial tartan.



I stitched the front of the Sask version on white felt, and I like the white border showing around the edge. I'll do this again for the next ornaments I make.

How to add personalizations

The Maple Shield ornament comes with the phrase “Canada 150” or “Canada” but can be personalized with a different name or phrase, along with a year if you like.

If you are using embroidery software, it is a relatively easy process to change the phrase and add personalization: simply open the design file in your software and separate the stitch objects. Delete the included phrase and, using one of the installed alphabets, spell out the name or slogan you need. Size it to fit and position it over the banner, then insert the new phrase into the queue ahead of the final stitch color. Save your design with a new name, and stitch as per the instructions.

If you are adding a personalization at the machine itself, load the design as usual. Using the built-in lettering function, add the name or slogan, sizing it to fit within the banner outline. Stitch the design up to, but not including, the original phrase. Advance the machine past the end of the design to the new name object and stitch that. Pause the machine and back up again to just before the beginning of the final color. Remove the hoop, add the backing piece of felt as shown in Step 5, above. Return the hoop to the machine to stitch the final color and finish the ornament as described in Steps 6-9.