

Photo Frame Ornament

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Photo-frame ornaments are made with two felt pieces: a back with embroidered design, and a matching front with a cut-out to display a photo. Each design includes separate files for front and back of ornament. They stitch up in approximately half an hour. Make several to show treasured photos of family, friends, pets, or special events, or even to preserve a pretty image from a Christmas card.



Each ornament back includes a greeting caption, but you may choose to stitch a different greeting or design on the ornament back, or personalize your keepsake ornament with the free designs from the site. Use them to frame a favorite photo or a pretty cut-out from a Christmas card.

You will need

- *Two 4.5" squares of felt in white or the color of your choice.*
- *Medium weight tear-away stabilizer*

The example shows the Heart Frame Ornament, but all the ornaments are made in exactly the same way.

Photo Frame Ornament Instructions

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



2. Lightly spray a 4.5x4.5" piece of white or colored felt with temporary adhesive and press it in place in the center of the hoop. I am using white in the sample. 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. Put the hoop into the machine and stitch the design front all the way to the end. Remove the hoop from the machine.



3. Unhoop the design and carefully remove the tear-away stabilizer from around the stitched design. It should come away easily.



4. Carefully remove the stabilizer from behind the center section. You can use a pin to lift the edge so you can grab hold and pull it away.



5. With sharp scissors, carefully trim around the outside edge of the design, leaving a narrow border about 1/8" wide. Repeat for the center opening. Cut as smoothly as you can since this is the opening that will frame your photo in the finished ornament. Set the front piece aside for the moment.



6. Set up and stitch the back of the ornament exactly as you did for the front, using a double layer of tear-away stabilizer and a 4.5x4.5" piece of felt.



7. When the stitching is complete, remove the hoop from the machine, unhoop the design, and tear away the stabilizer. Trim the outer edge of the frame just as you did for the front, leaving a border of about 1/8".



8. To finish the ornament, you will be gluing the front and back together, sandwiching your photo or image between the two layers.



9. Before you glue the front and back together, you will need to fix a loop of cord or ribbon to the top of the ornament back on the inside. Make the loop long enough to hang the ornament from the tree, or if you prefer, you can make a smaller loop and insert a regular ornament hook, as I have done for the samples below. Let the glue dry for at least an hour.



10. Next, place photo on the back of the ornament and position it so that the picture will show through the opening when the two pieces of the ornament are placed together. Trim the photo as needed so it doesn't protrude beyond the edges of the felt frame.



11. Spread a bit of tacky glue on the back of the photo and stick it into position on the wrong side of the ornament back. Let it dry in place for several minutes. You don't need to saturate the picture; use enough glue to get it to stick but not so much that you wet the photo.



12. When the glue on the photo and the ribbon hanger has thoroughly dried, cover the wrong side of the ornament front piece with tacky glue, being sure to spread the glue evenly all the way to the edges.



13. Carefully place the front and back pieces together, wrong sides facing, and matching all edges. Press the whole ornament together firmly all around the edges and set it aside to dry. You may wish to clamp it with clothespins until it has dried. Your personalized ornament is ready to hang.

Each of these designs comes with a Christmas greeting on the back, but if you prefer, you can create a different caption in your software or insert a stitched motif instead.

If you like, you can make a double-photo ornament by stitching two front pieces instead of a front and a back and centering a photo in each opening. You can use two different images or two prints of the same image. Glue down the photos so they show in the frame openings, then complete the ornament as described above.

See more examples on the next page.



The green ornament (Style #2) was stitched using the caption included in the design; the image was taken from a Christmas card.



By changing the caption on the back, the ornament (Style #4) becomes an anniversary memento.



Use the ornament frame to commemorate a special event, as I did with this blue one (Style #1). I replaced the original caption with the band logo and the date.



An adorable baby is always a good choice for a photo ornament, as in this purple one (Style #3).

