

## Generic Instructions for Using Mylar

If you haven't done any mylar designs before, these instructions will help you. For more information, you can also check this page:

<http://www.CharmingStation.com/MylarDesigns.html>

This page includes some photos to show you actual results for mylar designs.

### Tip for sewing on dark fabric

Because mylar designs have less density (the rows of stitching are farther apart to allow the mylar to sparkle through), if you use a dark fabric or garment for the background, that color will show through when your design is finished. If you don't want that to happen, you can create a "color blocker" to place on your fabric before you embroider the design.

Use one of these methods:

1. Use White mylar - it works as a color blocker for light and medium hues; two layers work very well for darker hues. It is available at <http://www.heirloomsbysharon.com/>
2. Use a piece of "**Hide It**" that is the same color as your main design. If you don't have this product, you can use stabilizer with one of the techniques below.
3. If you have software that will print out a template of the design in it's actual size, print out the design and use this as a template to cut out the shape from a medium weight cutaway stabilizer.

Or

4. Hoop a piece of medium cutaway stabilizer and sew out the first color of the design you plan to use. Remove this from the machine and trim just to the inside of the stitching all the way around.

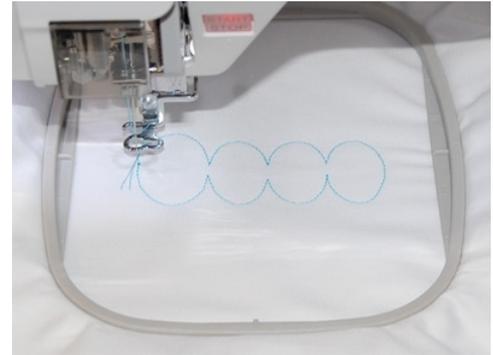
This piece of stabilizer will be your "color blocker" for use in the steps below.

## Embroidery Steps

Every digitizer can choose how they want to create their designs. We try to make it as simple as possible. We try to coordinate each design so that the 1<sup>st</sup> color stop will be the lightest color in the design. Color #2 will usually be gray. Before you start, check color #3. If it is a light color, thread your machine with this color and use it for each of the color stops 1, 2 and 3.

- Hoop your fabric/stabilizer.  
These designs are usually very light so you don't need a heavy stabilizer. We like to use poly-mesh (sometimes called "No-Show Mesh). You do NOT need to use a fusible product.

You want to use a very light color for the outline and tack down stitches. If Color #3 shows through a design, use white for the outline and tack down.



- The first color will sew out an outline for the mylar.
- If you are using a dark or printed background, lay your "color blocker" or "Hide It" on the outline you just sewed. If your background is light or white, just skip this step.
- Blue Opal mylar (which we use with most of our designs) does not have a right or wrong side.
- Place a piece of mylar on top of the hoop, making sure that it covers the entire outline sewn in the previous step (and your "color blocker" if you want to use one).
- You can use small pieces of tape to hold this in place if you want -place them on the outer corners so you don't accidentally sew over them.
- Sew the second color (use the same color as in step 1). This will tack down the mylar for you and hold it while you sew the filler parts of the design.
- Do NOT try to trim at this point. There is a much higher rate of tearing the mylar that will be under the design at this step. For these designs, we suggest you trim after the design is sewn.
- Sew out the remaining colors.
- Remove the hoop from the machine. Remove the excess mylar by gently pulling it back toward the stitching. The needle has perforated the mylar for you so it will be very easy to remove. If you have any little pieces sticking out you can remove those with tweezers.



That's it, that's all you have to do to make these fun designs!

Here is a sample color sheet:

1 		Color #1	outline for mylar
2 		Color #2	tack down for mylar
3 		Color #3	white for snowbaby
4 		Color #4	Linen for bottom of feet
5 		Color #5	Blue for hat and outlining
6 		Color #6	Orange for Nose
7 		Color #7	Black for eyes and mouth
8 		Color #8	Black for eyes and mouth (there are two for black so that trimming is easier)

Note that color #1 is the same as color #3. We have to use something different for color #2 to ensure that your machine stops (to allow you to place the mylar over the outline). But you don't need to change color here - just sew the first three color stops with the color for #3 (unless the specific design you are using gives you different instructions.)

Also note that some of our designs will have two color stops for the same color (often black at the end). Many machines will NOT display this correctly. We do this so that the machine will stop between small areas and allow you to trim jump threads. This will make a neater sew-out when you are finished.

Always check the printed color sheets for our suggested colors since various machine brands treat the colors in the stitch file differently.