

*A collection of 10 holiday-themed in-the-hoop projects
to make on your embroidery machine*

IN-THE-HOOP

for the

HOLIDAYS



MACHINE EMBROIDERY GEEK
JULIE GRIFFEY

In-the-hoop for the Holidays

V1

A collection of 10 in-the-hoop and appliqué designs with comprehensive instructions.

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In-the-hoop gift tag

These in-the-hoop gift tags in two different styles integrate a clear, vinyl window so you can reuse them again and again.



Supplies

- Water soluble stabilizer

Because this design has raw edges, I suggest using water soluble stabilizer so that you can wash it away when you are done and you don't see the stabilizer along the edge of the tag.

- Scrap fabric

In order to make these tags you will need about 8" x 4" of fabric cut into three pieces. You can use almost any type of fabric, keeping in mind that the edges of the tags are left raw.

- Interfacing

If you want the tags to have a little bit more stiffness then fuse interfacing onto your fabric before putting it on your embroidery hoop.

- Thin ribbon or cording

You will need some type of thin (1/8") ribbon or cording to pull through your tag and attach it to your gift.

- Clear vinyl

You will need a very small piece of clear vinyl to serve as the window for your gift tag.

- Machine Embroidery Thread

You will make this entire project with embroidery thread - the color of your choice. I used some metallic embroidery thread which I thought gave my in-the-hoop gift tags a festive look.

Steps

Setting Up

Before you get started you should first change your bobbin thread color to be the same as your top embroidery thread. This is because the back of your gift card tag will be visible, so you want the stitching on the back to look just as nice as the stitching on the front.

Cut your fabric into three pieces. Both pieces should be 4" x 4." Leave one alone but cut the other one into two pieces so that one is 4" x 2.5" and the other is 1.5" x 4". On the two pieces of fabric you just cut, fold over a half inch of fabric along the line you just cut.

The fabric should be folded over from the right side to the wrong side of the fabric. Press down this fold.

If you are working with a material like felt, there is no need to add the fold. This is just to create a finished edge look for a fabric that has a tendency to fray.



Finally, hoop a piece of water soluble stabilizer very securely in your embroidery hoop.

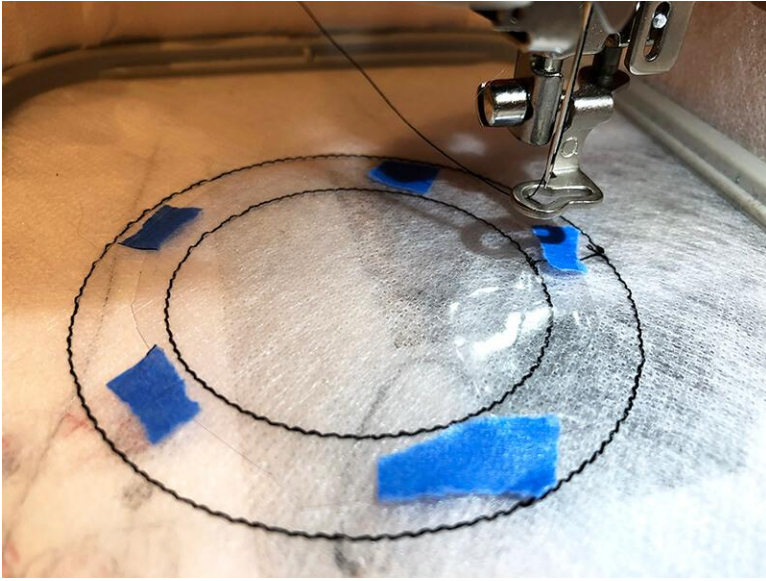


Stitch out your design

Load your file onto your embroidery machine and start stitching out the first thread color. This is your placement stitching for both your vinyl window and your tag front



When your stitching is done, lay a small piece of vinyl over the inner rectangular (or circular) shape of your placement stitching. Make sure that the vinyl piece does not overlap the outer placement stitching line. Tape the vinyl in place with very small pieces of tape that don't extend beyond the outer placement stitching line.



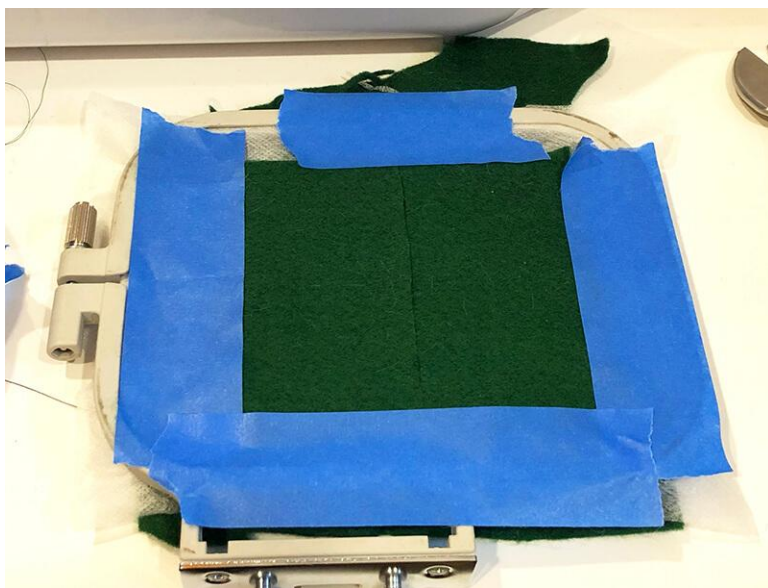
Lay a piece of fabric over the entire placement stitching area.

Now you are ready to start stitching out the next thread color. Your embroidery machine will stitch out a rectangle (or a circle depending on which version of the design you are using) which will tack down both the fabric and the vinyl shape.



Remove the embroidery hoop from your embroidery machine and tape The two pieces of fabric onto the back of the stabilizer. Positioning these pieces of fabric is key. You want to keep the two folded over edges touching each other but you want to position the spot where they come together high up on the tag. Ideally these two pieces should come together right at the spot where the tag tapers from a rectangle to a quadrilateral or in the top quadrant of the circle.

Tape the fabric in place around the outside edges.



Return the embroidery hoop to the embroidery machine and start stitching out your next thread color. When this is complete you, you are ready to remove the embroidery hoop from the embroidery machine.

Finishing details

Cut out the tag completely around the outside line stitch line. Now you need to cut away the fabric that is obscuring the vinyl window. This can be a little tricky as you only want to cut the fabric and not the vinyl. I suggest using a seam ripper to make a tiny cut in that top layer of fabric over the vinyl window which will allow you to get your appliqué scissors into that hole and cut away that fabric.

The last cutting you need to do is to make a small slit inside of the button hole shape at the top of the tag.

Cut a piece of ribbon recording about 6 inches in length. Fold it together and feed the two ends through the buttonhole slip front to back. Don't pull the ribbon all the way through. Hold onto the

folded end, then go back through the ribbon loop and pull it tight. Now, tie a knot around the two ends of the ribbon to create a loop.

You will see that the water soluble stabilizer is completely obscuring the vinyl window. So you just need to soak your little tag and let it dry.

All you have to do now is cut a little piece of paper slightly larger than the vinyl window and write who the gift is to. Then, you can slide the little piece of paper into the tag using the opening you left in the back.

In-the-hoop Rudolph and Santa napkin rings

Make your Christmas table a bit more festive with these fun little in-the-hoop Rudolph and Santa napkin rings.



Supplies

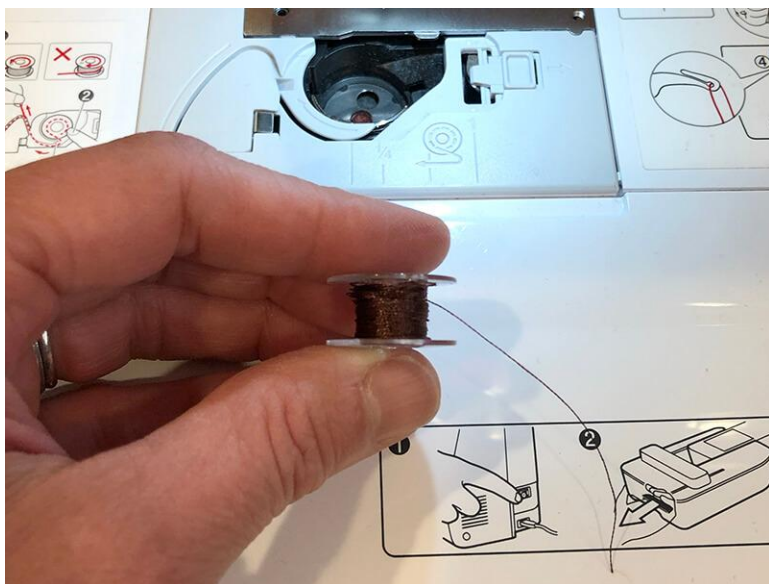
You don't need much to make these in-the-hoop Christmas napkin rings. In fact, you may just have all these supplies laying around.

- Felt – I used black and brown
- Black, brown, red and white machine embroidery thread
- Water soluble stabilizer
- Blue painters tape
- Christmas In-the-hoop napkin ring design (Santa hat and Rudolph antlers)

Steps

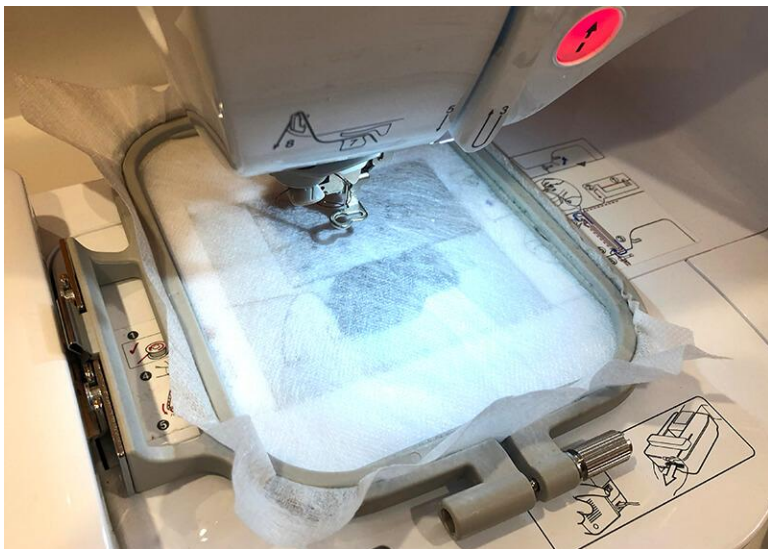
Change the bobbin color

The first thing you want to do, before you forget is to change your bobbin thread color. For this particular design, the napkin ring back is going to be quite visible. So, you will want to wind a bobbin in the same color as the felt. For the Rudolph napkin ring I used a brown bobbin and for the Santa hat napkin ring, I used a black bobbin.



Hoop your water soluble stabilizer

The next step is to hoop a piece of water soluble stabilizer. Make sure that it is very taut in the hoop.



Load in the embroidery design and start stitching

Start stitching your first thread color. It will serve as a placement stitching line so you know where to lay down your fabric.



Lay down your fabric

Lay down your napkin ring fabric completely covering the placement stitching lines. I chose a dark brown felt for my fabric because it had some body and it also was an appropriate color for antlers.



Stitch the design details

There are not many details on this design. The only one is the red nose. So, change your top thread color to red and stitch out the nose.



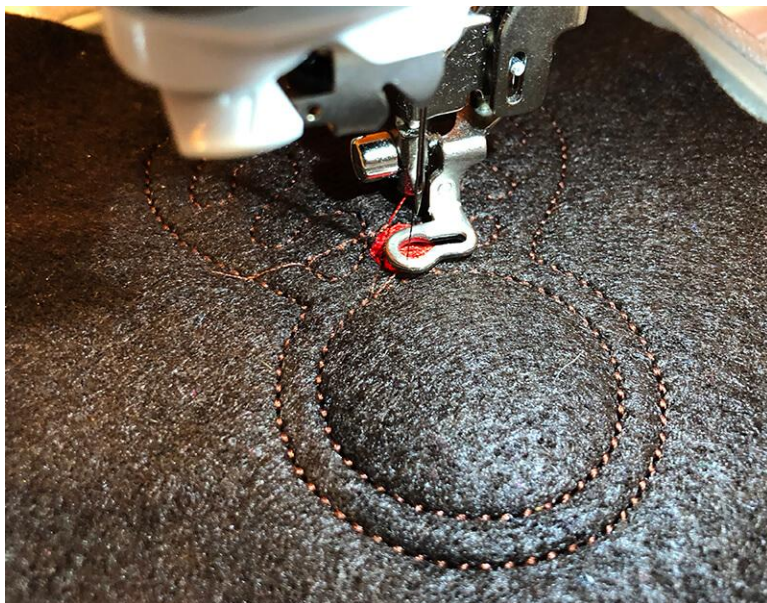
Add the backing

Remove your embroidery hoop from your embroidery machine. Then tape another piece of your fabric to the back of your embroidery hoop, completely covering the placement stitching lines. Tape it down using blue painters tape. Return the hoop to the machine.



Complete the final stitching

Change your thread color back to brown, and then start stitching the next thread color. This stitching will serve as top stitching and secure the back fabric to the front.



Cut out your napkin ring

Once you are done, you should remove all layers of fabric and stabilizer from the hoop and trim your jump stitches. Then cut out your napkin ring, leaving about 1/8" of a raw edge outside of the stitching.

All done!

And that is it! Repeat about 11 more times if you want to make a set of 12.

Obviously, I've only described my process here for making the antler napkin ring, but you would make the Santa hat napkin ring using the same method. The only difference is that instead of stitching out the red nose, you will stitch out the colors on the hat with red and white embroidery thread.