

Charming Station Embroidery

How to Layer Mylar



www.CharmingStation.com

Layering 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>

If you would like to view video instructions for layering mylar, please check our free YouTube Videos:

<http://www.youtube.com/charmingstationembr>



Supplies

Fabric You can use any fabric or garment with mylar designs. For this sample we recommend that you use white or off white.

Thread colors You can alter the suggested thread colors.

Stabilizer These designs are light enough to use most any stabilizer; we used a diagonal mesh (our preference for embroidery that will be used in a quilt or garment).

Mylar We recommend using the mylar that is made for embroidery and can withstand washing and a pressing with a press cloth. For more information on mylar and what the differences are, please visit this website:

<http://www.heirloomsbysharon.com/>

This site has some very interesting background on mylar and how it is made and sells the kind of mylar that can be washed safely. Sharon also sells sample packs in various colors so you can try things out without spending lots of money!

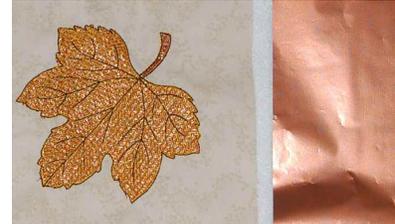
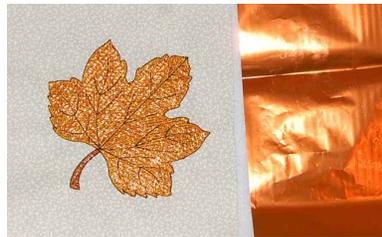
General Mylar Information

These are the general principals for using mylar:

- If you use Opal Iridescent Mylar you can use one piece of mylar under your entire design because this kind of mylar reflects back the color of the thread you are using (allowing you to use different colors throughout the design).
- If you want to use a brilliant or metallic color of mylar, your design will appear to have that brilliant color no matter what color thread you use.

For many of the designs that we do, we like to have the thread control the colors that appear in the design so we use Opal Iridescent Mylar. For design in this sample, though, we want to use some of the brilliant colors available.

- If you have a design that is just a single leaf, for instance, you can do it with Opal Iridescent mylar and let the thread control how it looks.
- Or, you could also use a single brilliant color of metallic mylar and let the mylar control how it looks. Each of these is the same leaf with a different color of mylar behind it:



- For this sample, we will show you how to use several of these brilliant metallic colors in the same design for especially beautiful results.
- To follow our exact steps you will need metallic orange, metallic green or lime, metallic red or burgundy, metallic gold and opal Iridescent mylar.
- We recommend sewing this first sample on white or slightly off white fabric.



If you would like to try some of the metallic colors of mylar, please check the following site for the "Fall Pack":

<http://www.heirloomsbysharon>

We purchased these in 9x9 sheets so that we could cut the pieces we needed and have some for more than one design. There is also a 4x4 sampler pack of many of the brilliant colors (one sheet of each color).

Tips for sewing on dark or printed fabric

Mylar designs have less density (the rows of stitching are farther apart to allow the mylar to sparkle through). If you use a dark or printed fabric for the background, that color or print 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:

- ! Try White Mylar, available from <http://www.heirloomsbysharon.com/>

! Use a piece of "Hide It"¹ 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.

! 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

! 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.

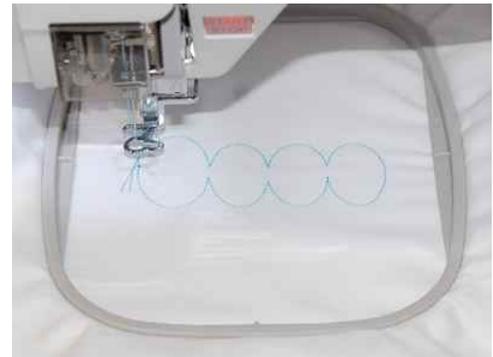
This piece of stabilizer will be your "color blocker" for use in the steps below.

Embroidery Steps for Opal Iridescent Mylar (using one piece of Opal Mylar for the whole design)

The first color in each of Charming Station's designs is an outline of the entire design. The second color will tack down the mylar for you. Despite what the color sheet shows, we recommend that you use color #3 for the first two steps as well as the third. This keeps you from having to change the thread color for the first three steps.

! Hoop your fabric/stabilizer

! The first color will sew out an outline for the mylar. Use the color in the color sheet for color #3 here.



! 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.

! 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 - I find that the mylar may bunch up a little if you don't tape it down.

! Sew the second color (use the same color thread 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.

¹We purchase this product from <http://www.nancysnotions.com//>

- ! 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.



Embroidery Steps for using one brilliant color under an entire design

These steps are essentially the same as using Opal Iridescent mylar.

The first color in each Charming Station design is an outline of the entire design. The second color will tack down the mylar for you. Despite what the color sheet shows, we recommend that you use color #3 for the first two steps as well as the third. This keeps you from having to change the thread color for the first three steps.

- ! Hoop your fabric with your stabilizer
- ! The first color will sew out an outline for the mylar.
- ! Place a piece of mylar on top of the hoop, making sure that it covers the entire outline sewn in the previous step.
- ! You can use small pieces of tape to hold this in place if you want - I find that the mylar may bunch up a little if you don't tape it down.
- ! Sew the second color (use the same color as in step 1). This will tack down the mylar for you.
- ! 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 and the fabric from the hoop.
- ! 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.



Remember that, because of the brilliant color of the mylar, the entire design will have the color of the mylar rather than the thread.

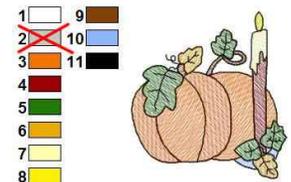
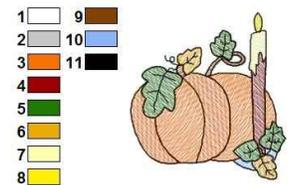
Embroidery Steps for using more than one brilliant color in a design - Layering

Caution: Not all mylar designs will work with this technique!

Essentially, if there are only two or three colors in a design AND, if the sections are fairly large, layering works really well. If there are lots of small areas then layering may not be the best technique to use.

This sample design is a good example of a design that works well with layering. There are several fairly large areas that will look very nice with brilliant metallic colors. To explain how this works, we will walk you through this sample design.

- ! Hoop your fabric and your stabilizer.
- ! The first color in the design is the outline for the entire design. Although you will be using different layers of mylar, you will still need to know where the design is going to sew out.
- ! In most of our designs we match the color for the outline with color #3 which is for the first "fill" color. In this case however, if you use a bright orange as your outline it may show through at the very end of the design and that won't look too nice. We recommend using white or a very light color that matches your background fabric for color stop # 1. This way the stitches won't show after the design is completed.
- ! Once the first color has sewn out, lay a piece of metallic orange mylar over the outline. Use tape to hold this in place if necessary.
- ! Skip the next color on your machine - you don't need to sew the second color to tack down the mylar. The color is included in the design for when you are using Opal Iridescent mylar behind the entire design.
- ! Then sew the third color which, for this design will be the pumpkins.



Note: If you were using Opal Iridescent mylar, you could continue sewing out the remaining thread colors in the design without doing anything to the mylar. Opal Iridescent mylar reflects back the color of the thread and your design would be lovely. In that case, you would wait to trim the excess mylar until the entire design was finished.

Since we are learning about layering different colors of mylar, however, please follow the instructions below.

- ! Remove the hoop from the machine but do NOT remove the fabric from the hoop. This is just to make it easier to remove the orange mylar from the design.

! Trim all of the excess mylar around the design - including any areas inside the outline that have not yet been sewn.

! Be careful here - there has not been much perforation of the mylar so you want to be very gentle when tearing off the excess.

! Return the hoop to the machine.

! The next color in this design (#4) is the red for the candle stick. Lay a small piece of red, burgundy or cranberry metallic mylar on the area where the candle stick will sew out. *There are no tack down stitches for this!*



! Use red (or matching) thread and sew out this color.

! After each new color of mylar repeat these steps:

! Remove the hoop and trim the excess mylar (gently!)

! Replace the hoop on the machine

! The next element will be the leaves (#5)

! Now lay a piece of metallic green over the design. Note that there are leaves in the lower right corner and upper left corner. I find it easier to lay one large piece over the whole area rather than trying to put two small pieces in the correct place.



! Sew out the green thread color

! Remove the hoop and trim the excess mylar

! Replace the hoop on the machine

! The next color is two gold leaves, also on opposite sides of the design.

! Lay a piece of metallic gold on top of the hoop and sew out this color.

! Remove the hoop and trim the excess mylar

! Replace the hoop on the machine

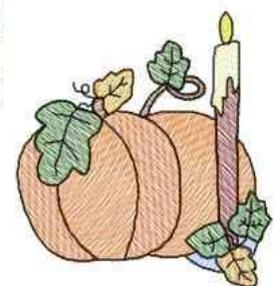
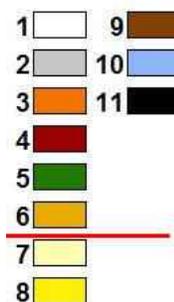
At this point, stop and look at the remaining colors in the design. You have a choice to make now.

All of the remaining areas in this design are fairly small (the flame, the stem, the vines, the candle holder, etc.). You can now choose one of the following:

! Continue to layer small pieces of colored mylar for each little section,

or,

! Finish the design with a layer of Opal Iridescent and allow the thread to provide the colors for these remaining parts.



If you choose option #1:

- ! continue sewing all of the colors up to the last one (the black outline) the way we sewed each of the preceding colors - changing the mylar for each new color
- ! trim any excess mylar
- ! then sew out the black outline.

If you choose option #2:

- ! lay one piece of opal Iridescent on top of the whole design
- ! sew out the remaining colors up to the last one (the black outline)



- ! trim any excess mylar - including any that may be on top of the areas sewn with metallic mylar. You want to be sure there is nothing left on top to get trapped in the outline stitches



- ! then sew out the black outline

If there are any little pieces of mylar left around your design, use tweezers to remove them.



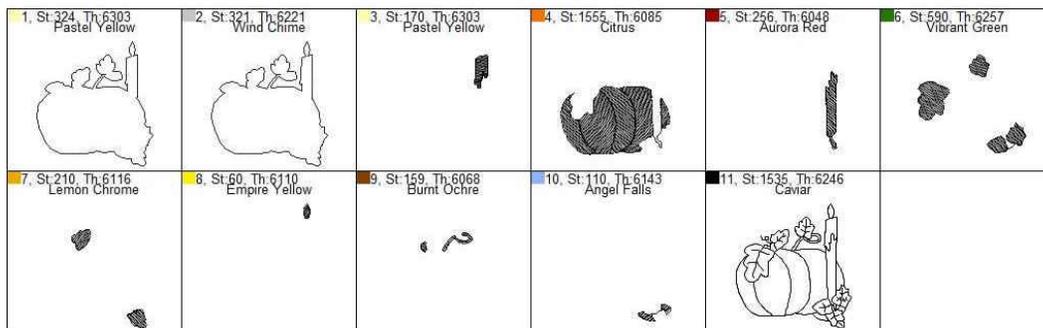
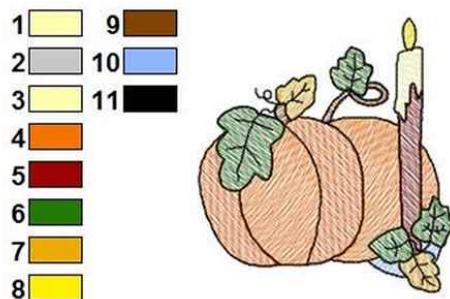
Little Charmers - Layering Mylar

The colors listed here are only suggestions - feel free to use the colors that you prefer

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If you have any questions, please send email to CustomerService@CharmingStation.com



The color names and numbers listed in this diagram are for Isacord Polyester thread. You are welcome to substitute your preference for brand or color.

To see other designs that work well with layering mylar, please check these links:

Mylar Autumn Wonders: <http://www.charmingstation.com/SpecialSets/Specials15/Specials264.html>

Mylar Autumn Fancy: <http://www.charmingstation.com/SpecialSets/Specials10/Specials172.html>