

3 BELLS EMBROIDERY SUGGESTIONS FOR A SUCCESSFUL SEWOUT

In order to assure a good sew-out please consider the following suggestions:
Never sew the design out on the final fabric until you have test sewn it first to see how your machine reacts to the design. Also be sure to use stabilizer - preferably cutaway {with a lightweight use 2 layers glued together}. For designs with a stitch count over 15,000, at least 2 layers of firm stabilizer glued together or one layer of ultra firm when working with larger designs and spray adhesive to secure the material to the stabilizer. When doing something stretchy like T-shirts at least two layers of cutaway are recommended along with a water-soluble overlay. All stabilizers should be glued together and then glued to the fabric using a spray adhesive designed for sewing. Always spray the stabilizer and never the fabric directly.

It would be best if you do not use tearaway stabilizer unless you use at least 3 - 4 layers criss crossed and glued together along with gluing the fabric to the stabilizer [use a spray adhesive made for fabric]. The recommended stabilizer to use with all my designs is a medium to heavy weight cutaway. Tearaways move no matter how good a quality they are. Commercial tearaways were made to be used with commercial machines which have a superior hooping system from home systems. Even 3 - 4 layers of tearaway will not usually give satisfactory results. And the reason tearaways are "tear away" is because their main component is paper! Just remember, no matter what stabilizer you use you need to use spray adhesive to attach the stabilizer to the fabric.

When hooping make sure you are not hooping too tightly. If you do the pull compensation will cause the design to pull in as it is sewn out leaving the outline "off". . In the old days they told us to hoop the fabric and stabilizer tight as a drum. That is way too tight. Of course, there also should not be any "give" but the fabric and stabilizer should be taut. If you sew it out and notice excessive puckering at the sides – the hooping was too tight.

Another important factor is the needle you use. Be sure to change them often as a dull needle will really mess up a sew out. The preferable choice is Schmetz Microtex needles or Schmetz for machine embroidery because of the sharpness and because they are designed to sew in layers. And please be sure to read the text files with each design. They give the color/thread changes for the design plus special instructions that may be appropriate.