

The Quilt Show

Nancy Prince

Tracing, Hooping, Cleaning and Attaching the Design

Tracing the Design

- Tape the pattern to the back of a piece of clear water soluble stabilizer (such as 4X by Superior). The stabilizer should be 2" wider on each side of the design to allow the hoop to the outside edges.
- Trace the design onto the *center* of the stabilizer using a Micron Pigma pen or ultra fine point Sharpie.
- Write your name (*I put the name of the project*) on the front so you will know the front from the back. The drawing on the stabilizer looks the same from both sides so it is easy to start thread painting on the wrong side (ask me how I know that). Once you start you will always know which is the top, *Figure 1*.



Example of drawn design

Figure 1

Hooping the Fabric & Stabilizer

- Lay 2 pieces of Aqua Mesh water soluble stabilizer on a flat surface.
- Lay the background fabric on top of the stabilizer.
- Lay the drawn on stabilizer on top.
- Release the screw on the screw assembly and separate the inner and outer hoops.
- Slide the outer hoop under all layers with the screw assembly at 6:00. Placing the screw at 6:00 assures you will always know where the screw assembly is.
- Hooping the design is much easier while standing.
- With your fingertips, push the inner hoop on top of the drawn-on stabilizer until it is secure inside the outer hoop, *Figure 2*.



Figure 2

- Keeping your fingertips on the inner hoop, tighten the screw on the screw assembly about 90% until the layers are secure in the hoop but not taut.
- Still holding the inner hoop down with your fingertips, gently pull on the top stabilizer to remove all the wrinkles, *Figure 2*. Repeat for the bottom stabilizer if necessary.
- Once there are no more wrinkles, tighten the screw all the way down until the stabilizer is taut.
- Evaluate the stabilizer and should wrinkles remain in the top stabilizer, back off the screw a bit to release the tension. Adjust the stabilizer again and tighten the screw all the way down. The stabilizer must be drum tight across the bottom of the hoop to ensure an even and stable tension.
- Increase the tension on the stabilizers by pressing down on the inner hoop, *Figure 3*, with your thumbs until there is about a 1/8" reveal on the bottom of the hoop. The bottom of the hoop sits slightly below the outer hoop, *Figure 4*.
- Tighten the screw one last time.
- To avoid getting the fabric and stabilizer caught underneath the hoop, roll the fabric and stabilizer toward the hoop and pin it out of the way.
- Slide the hoop underneath the pressure foot, pull the thread to the top and you are ready to begin.



Figure 3



Figure 4

To hoop designs off the quilt

- The layers when working off the hoop are from bottom to top: 1 piece of Aqua Mesh water soluble backing; 2 pieces of gray tulle and the drawn design on top.
- The remaining instructions are the same.

Setting up the Machine

- Drop the feed dogs.
- Insert a 80/12 Microtex Sharp needle.
- Insert an open toe free-motion foot.
- Set the machine to the appropriate stitch—straight or zigzag.
- Insert a gray 60 weight bobbin thread in the bobbin case.
- Thread the machine with 40 weight polyester or rayon thread..

Removing the Stabilizer

1. Remove the project from the hoop.
2. Cut away the top and bottom stabilizers to within 1/2" of the design. Be cautious—don't cut into the fabric or thread appliqué.
3. Run cold water (check with the manufacturer's recommendations for water temperature for your brand of stabilizer) over the design. As the water breaks the stabilizer down, it turns the stabilizer into "goo".
4. Continue rinsing the design under running water until all the "goo" is gone from the front and back.
5. Take some soap (bar or hand) and rub it into the design on the front and back. The soap will help to break down the stabilizer trapped inside the stitches.
6. Place the project into a sink with 1 part fabric softener to 4 parts cold water and let soak until the stabilizer is gone.
7. Rub the top and back of the design between your thumb and forefinger. If your fingers are tacky, the project needs to soak longer. Change the water and fabric softener and continue soaking until there is no more tackiness and the stabilizer is out.
8. Leaving any residue in the design will leave it stiff so try and get the all of the stabilizer out.
9. Blot and allow to air dry. For fabric press the design from the back to press out any wrinkles. For designs worked off the stabilizer lay down a pressing cloth, the design on top and another pressing cloth on top and steam to block the design

Removing the tulle

1. Cut away the excess tulle or use a stencil cutter.
2. Attach the sharp tip to the stencil cutter and plug it in.
3. Lay the thread appliqué right side up on a piece of glass, an old tile or a plate. Run the hot tip of the stencil cutter around the outside edge. Like magic the tulle disappears.
4. The residue from the tulle can collect on the tip of the stencil cutter so use an old cloth to wipe away the residue about every minute or so.
5. Keep the tip moving as resting in one place can make a hole along the edge.

Attaching the thread appliqué

1. Put a small amount of water soluble glue on the back of the thread appliqué and glue in place for a few minutes.
2. Place clear polyester invisible thread on the top spindle and whatever thread you used in the bobbing when you quilted the quilt.
3. Set the zigzag stitch to 1-2 mm and lightly zigzag around the edges of the design.

For more of Nancy's thread painting projects and free thread painting videos click on this link - www.NancyPrince.com Nancy's email address is nancy@nancyprince.com