



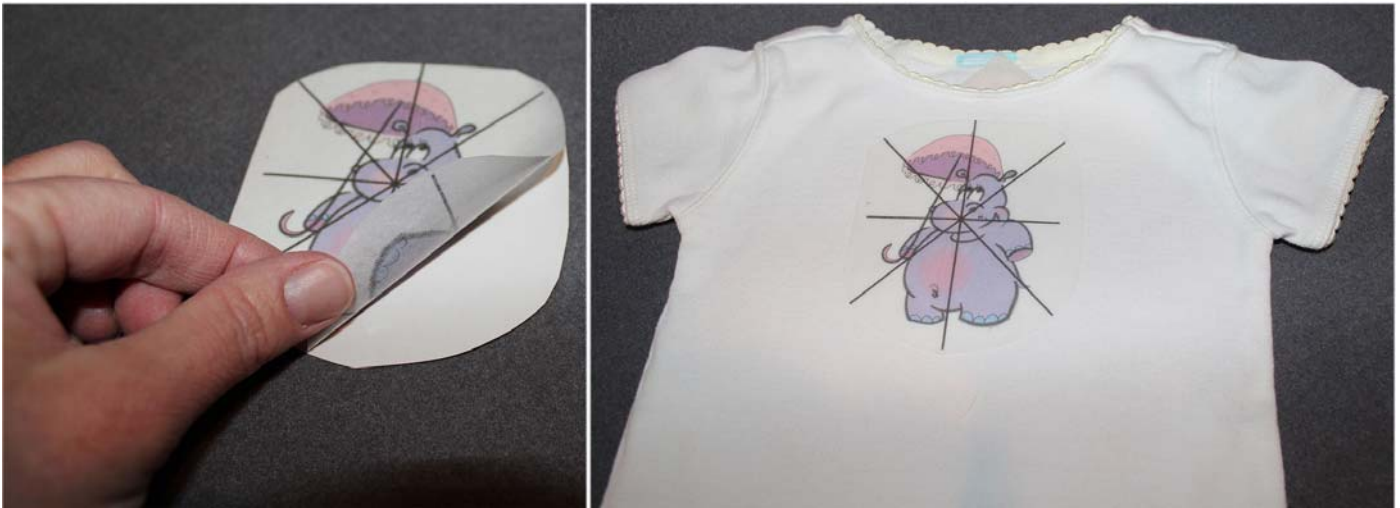
Spring is finally in the air, I can say the word “finally” because I live in the West and at a high elevation – Spring takes it time getting to my part of the world but when it does, it is a sight to behold. The swift change from white to color alone is mind boggling. Life always finds away doesn't it? Spring also brings about many opportunities for us to get new life into our creativity! With all the weddings, graduations and births – starting new projects is impossible to resist. I am sure you love creating “gifts” for showers and graduates as much as I do but we also find out more often than not that our plans for a fantastic gift doesn't come together until the night before the occasion! Having all your tools ready for the project and the knowledge of how you accomplish it successfully is important because we all want our loved ones to be proud of our gift we are giving. In this newsletter I wanted to focus on embroidery for little ones garments because that seems to be one of the first items we want to place in the hands of the expectant parent. The problem is getting this type of garment embroidered successfully with out puckers, outlines that are in tact and most importantly an end result that will feel good to our new baby's skin!

So, let's tackle the baby onesie or the small T-shirt first!

1. The age old question of “Do I pre-wash a gift item?” – A 100% cotton item (such as a baby onesie or T-shirt) is guaranteed to shrink once it is washed! My personal opinion (and it is only an opinion) is to pre-wash this item. Since this will most likely be a gift item, here is an idea for explaining the “pre-wash”. Embroider a message on a sweet little square of baby print cotton “this item has been pre-washed with love so the little one receiving it will enjoy it's softness” - you then pink the edges or use your wave blade rotary cutter and attach it to the onesie with a diaper pin – Perfect! By pre-washing, the garment and embroidery will work together much better.
2. Turn the garment completely wrong side out and relax/straighten the grain of the knit by gently smoothing it with your fingers.
3. With a low to med setting on your iron, fuse one or two layers of Floriani No Show Nylon Mesh Fusible over the area where the embroidery will be stitched. Use a piece at least two inches larger than the stitching area and be sure to use our press cloth between the iron and the mesh. Remember that our No Show Nylon Mesh is a temporary fuse – most of it will trim away close to the design! Now you know why it is important to have a “relaxed grain line” – it is very important to fuse your stabilizer to a straight grain-line or your design will not stitch straight! Stabilizer Tip – I recommend our fusible mesh as the stabilizer choice here because it is a very soft and light weight cutaway. A cutaway must be used on knit to insure the stitches form correctly and the fabric is protected properly through multiple launderings.



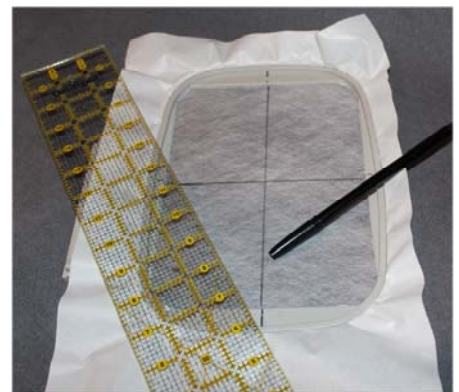
4. Once cooled, turn the garment right side out again, and mark the center (vertical and horizontal) with a marking pen or if you have printed a Floriani Template Tearaway – use that for easy placement!



5. Place one piece of a Floriani Perfect Stick or Wet N Gone Tacky in the embroidery frame with the release paper facing up – score the paper with a pin and pull it back to expose the sticky. \*Tip – if your design choice is small or open and airy, use Floriani Wet N Gone Tacky as your choice of sticky, it will completely wash away and eliminate any bulk.



6. Using a washable or heat removable marking pen, draw centering marks directly onto the stabilizer. Use a ruler and the notches on the hoop to find the center of your frame.



7. Create a “bowl” with the garment and stick it down to the stabilizer in the frame. Try to align the lines you have on the garment with the lines you have drawn on the stabilizer. Don’t worry if it does not line up perfectly because most machines have the ability to move the design into place.



8. Roll the edges of the garment as far away from the needle as possible. Tip! Use RNK Embroidery Perfection Tape or Wet N Gone Tacky Tape to secure the fabric.



9. Move the hoop if necessary and center the needle over the cross hairs of the Template Tearaway or ones you have drawn. Once centered, remove the template.



10. Place a piece of Floriani Water Soluble or Heat N Gone Topping over the area where the embroidery design will stitch. This can be secured with Embroidery Perfection Tape.

11. Stitch the design – set the machine for a slow speed – when stitching in complicated or tight areas you will be more at ease if the machine isn't running away with you!

12. Remove the garment from the hoop and remove the excess topping and sticky stabilizer. To remove the mesh cutaway, simply pull it back to the design edge and trim it away. If your iron was too hot during the fusing process, simply re-heat the mesh and while hot, pull it back to the design.



13. To finish a baby's garment with extra love (and less scratches!) fuse one layer of Floriani Dream Weave Fusible over the back of the embroidery. This will protect the skin and keep the embroidery very soft! (I use this for golf shirts too!)



I hope these instructions for stitching on little ones garments will help your embroidery project go a little smoother next time! This technique can be used for most knit items that may be hard to hoop or can be "marked" by the hoop (golf shirts, tennis shirts, polo's, moisture wicking, etc.) and the finishing with Dream Weave is a sure winner for anyone that can be irritated by embroidery rubbing against their skin!

**Wishing you stress-free stitching and perfect outlines,  
Kayly**