

Kayly's Corner

Tools, Tips and Hints for Happy Machines



Treasures to be Cherished

A beautifully embellished ring bearer's pillow, the perfect matching handbag for a Senior Prom dress, a Victorian Christmas Tree Skirt, or an embroidered stole with delicate Chinese symbols arranged perfectly in silk thread; all treasures to be cherished. However, the fabrics used in creating these timeless gifts require special care when adding embellishment with our embroidery machines.

Embroidery on delicate fabrics such as silk, satin, taffeta, chiffon or even delicate cottons such as Swiss batiste/nelona and Irish linen can be nerve racking for many reasons. These fabrics are normally more expensive than our average quilt cottons or denim and are usually included as part of a gift we are making to give for a special occasion. Sewing the project is challenge enough; embellishing or embroidery on these heavenly fabrics can cause loss of sleep!

Having the right combination of stabilizers, threads and needles can make this project flow smoothly and the finished product is sure to be a prized possession. Here are some step by step suggestions:

~ **Choose a needle that won't leave large holes behind in the fabric from the embroidery or stitching.** A Schmetz Microtex needle is an excellent choice and is available in multiple sizes. The super sharp point and slender style works beautifully on even dense embroidery designs.

~ **Prep the fabric.** A common problem with embroidery on fabrics in the silk family is "needle sheering" or running. Fusing Floriani's Dream Weave to the back of the fabric will help to prevent this frustrating situation from happening. Dream Weave is a "V" stretch tricot interfacing and will form a delicate protective barrier on the back of the fabric yet will not change the drape or "face" of the fabric. Remember that Dream Weave is not a stabilizer; it is only an important step in preparing the fabric to receive the embroidery.

~ **Consider the actual foundation that the embroidery will form in, the stabilizer.** Silk, batiste and other woven fabrics are generally very stable. Floriani's Medium Tearaway

Tools, Tips and Hints for Happy Machines

is a perfect choice for these fabrics. It tears clean yet provides firm support for the embroidery. If the fabric you are working with has a tendency to stretch and/or shift use the fusible version of this product known as Floriani Heat N Sta Tearaway. This stabilizer has a light temporary fusible coating that will prevent the fabric from stretching during the hooping and/or embroidery process and eliminates the need for messy spray adhesives. This stabilizer is also a necessity if the design is dense or oversized.

If the embroidery design is "open" or lacy and you are embroidering on lighter colored fabric, you will want to use a different type of tearaway to prevent shadowing. Floriani's Stitch N Wash (also available in fusible) is a very unique choice for this type of embroidery situation. This stabilizer is part tearaway and part water soluble. It is easily removed from around the embroidery design and won't distort the fabric or stitching as you tear it away yet leaves a secure layer of stabilizer under the design. This makes it a valuable product to have on hand for this type of embroidery, designs without outlines and/or built in machine stitches such as heirloom, decorative or quilting.

A couple of key things to remember when embroidering on delicate fabrics: Give the embroidery design enough stabilizer to form in so that the fabric doesn't have to do any of the work and it is always better to use multiple layers of stabilizer rather than one tremendously heavy piece.



Kay Brooks is the Vice President of RNK I Distributing, exclusive distributors of Floriani Sewing, Quilting, and Embroidery Products. Kay has over 16 years experience as the owner of her own retail sewing business located in Knoxville, TN. Kay has taught at many sewing industry events including machine company conferences as well as Martha Pullen Academy and Hands On Sewing Schools. She has appeared on numerous television shows and has just released her own "Stabilizing Solutions" DVD. Education is her passion.

Kay and her husband, Ricky Brooks were phenomenally successful as owners of a sewing machine business. In 2001 Kay and Rick sold their retail business and launched RNK Distributing with the same mission as before, "to make the hobby of sewing, quilting and embroidery more enjoyable". Kay has dedicated herself to the mission of finding or creating innovative problem solving embroidery products. The "Ask Kayly" column featured on www.rnkistributing.com answers features solutions, tips and hints to more successful embroidery. Visit today with your question- or to learn more about your craft. Says Kay "the success of every business is dependent on customer service and I give the very best to my customers. The more my customers enjoy their hobby of sewing, quilting, and embroidering, the more they are going to do it, and I absolutely love hearing how I have helped them."