

How to Embroider on Ready-Made Duffle Bags

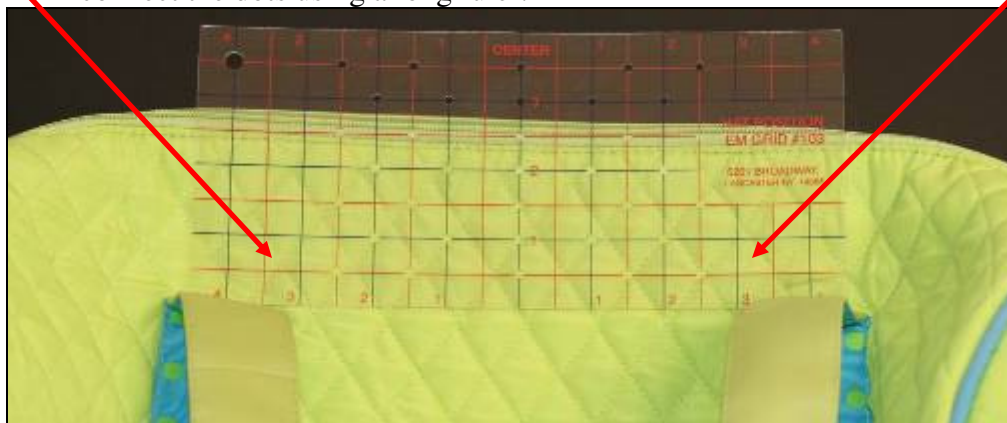


Materials Needed:

- Curlz Alphabet
- Template Tearaway Design Placement Paper
- Self adhesive tear away stabilizer (ie Sulky® Sticky™ or Floriani Perfect Stick™)
- 90 Embroidery needle
- General embroidery supplies
- Centering Ruler (DZGNS In The Hoop Kit or EM Grid Placement Grids)

Step 1~ Finding the Center

- At the computer create a name using the Curlz Alphabet & print a template using Template Tearaway Design Placement Paper
- Use a centering ruler or grid to mark the vertical center of the bag. This is a great “foolproof” way to get your name in the very center between the straps. In the image below I’ve used the EM Grid which has small holes in the center for making the vertical & horizontal placement lines.
 - To use the centering rulers/grids follow the simple steps below:
 1. Lay the grid in the area you “think” should be the center.
 2. Look at the straps and pick a point of reference (like the outer edge of each strap). In my photo, the point of reference measures “3” on the grid. It is almost centered so now all I have to do is slide the grid to the left or right until it’s exactly centered and then mark the vertical and horizontal dots using a blue water-soluble marker. Remove the grid and connect the dots using a long ruler.



Step 2 Hooping

- Hoop Sticky stabilizer with the shiny paper facing up. Score & remove the paper. Lay the hoop over a quilting mat aligning the grid marks with the vertical & horizontal hoop marks. Draw the center placement lines on the sticky stabilizer using a pencil or pen.
- To align the bag over the hoop marks, place a straight pin through the center mark on the bag and match it up with the center mark on the stabilizer. Add more pins in all 4 corners to keep the bag from slipping while placing it on the embroidery arm. The bottom of the hoop will be down inside the bag as shown.



- Carefully place the hooped duffel bag on the embroidery arm making sure none of the bag is accidentally lying underneath the hoop where it will get caught during embroidery.
- Baste the design in the hoop if you have this capability by slowing the speed of your machine down to the slowest option, carefully removing the pins as you baste to the stabilizer.

Some machines that automatically baste in the hoop are: Viking Designer & Diamond Series, Baby Lock Ellisimo, Brother Quattro™6000D, Pfaff 2100 Series & Pfaff Creative Vision ... If you don't have one of these machines that automatically baste, you can do one of the following instead..

1. Older Baby Lock & Brother machines have an embroidery edit feature with frames built into the machine. Select a frame and expand it larger than the name & embroider this first using wash away basting thread (easy to remove the stitches with water after the bag is complete.)
2. Hand-baste the bag to the stabilizer using a hand sewing needle and long basting stitches.
3. Purchase a software program that allows you to automatically create a basting box around any designs (I use Designers Gallery Studio III™ which can be found at Baby Lock & Brother Stores).



- Float a piece of tear away stabilizer underneath the hoop and check one more time to make sure none of the bag will be caught underneath the hoop. As you embroider, hold the weight of the bag (the part that is hanging off the machine near your lap) up slightly so it will not create drag on your embroidery arm. This means you will need to sit at the machine, holding up the excess bag in your lap at all times. After your embroidery is complete, remove the basting stitches and enjoy!

Here is a photo of what the bag looks like from the inside (notice the hoop is actually hanging down into the bag!)



The Easiest Way to Embroidery ~ Embroider Like a Professional

In the last two months I have added another embroidery machine to my collection and I have to say I love my new machine. In fact I often dream of using it, which means I need to get out more!!! I have never had so much fun parting with money in my life as the day I bought my Baby Lock Professional BMP8. For those of you who are not familiar with this machine you can search on www.BabyLock.com to find out more information or go into your local Baby Lock dealer to test one out. Brother has the same machine which is called Brother PR620 which you can find out about by visiting their website at www.brother-usa.com/homesewing.



What is so special about this machine? It only embroiders and it does it better than anything I've seen. The tensions are perfect, it has a single straight stitch hole, the hoops are superior because of the way they attach

at two sides instead of one. I can load six threads (the machine automatically threads through the 6 needles) and walk away and never look back until my embroidery is finished. It's so user friendly which is a bonus.

Here are some wonderful things I can do with my 6 needle machine that I can't do with any of my other embroidery machines:

- Embroider up sleeves or jeans without ever having to rip side seams.
- Effortlessly embroider on hats and other hard to reach items that I have avoided for years.
- Because the 6 needles only embroidery (and not sew) the machine has a small free arm (instead of a large flat surface) that allows me to hoop and embroider inside a man's shirt pocket, inside of the pocket on a ready made bag below that says Shayla.
- The stitch quality is far superior to any of the other machines I have used. I actually tested one of the rose "Button~Up" embroidery designs on 4 other sewing/embroidery machines and then on the BMP8 and made all my friends & husband pick the best one and hands down the BMP8 looked the best and that's when I decided I HAD to HAVE ONE. It was love at first sight!!!

In the photo below I'm using DZGNS "Quick Snap" Hooping system to hoop inside a pocket on the outside of a duffle bag. With this system I don't have to use sticky stabilizer because the strong industrial magnets hold the tearaway in place and I love the plastic placement guides that come with the hoops! You can't do this with your home sewing/embroidery machine. If you are thinking of starting an embroidery business from home, this is a great way to get started!

