

Embroidery  
**Make a Statement  
Quilt on the Baby Lock  
Altair**

March 2, 2022

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### Supplies

- o Pieced Quilt Top
- o Floriani Medium Tearaway Stabilizer
- o Embroidery Thread and Embroidery Bobbin Thread
- o Embroidery Needle size 75
- o Wash Away Thread
- o Removable Marker for Fabric
- o Low Tack Masking Tape and Marker such as Sharpie
- o Grid paper and Pencil for Planning project

### Instructions

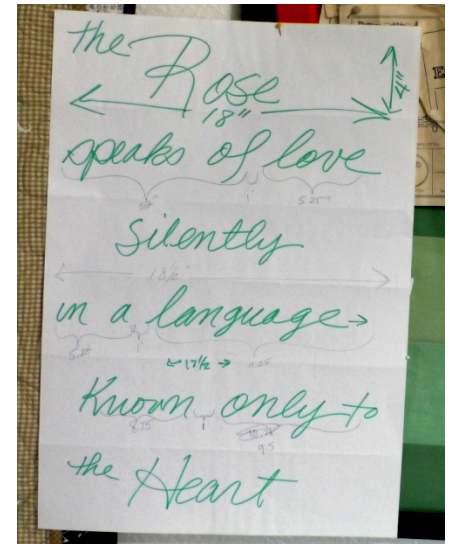
***This Doesn't Have to be a Complicated Project,  
Really***



The instructions in the sections that follow are intended to help place large text on a large project. This project can be incredibly detailed and planned out to the millimeter or it can be an easy flow for a surprisingly impressive result. Follow the instructions as much as needed to insure that two things will not happen. One thing is running out of room for the text. The other thing is text that is not straight when it is supposed to be straight. Nothing is more frustrating than wasted time in a project and nothing else will guarantee that the project will be put aside forever. So, read through these instructions as a guideline. Use the points as reminders of what to look out for.

## *Write it Out and Plan Ahead*

Write out the words that will be in your project. Check the spelling. If there are multiple lines, decide if you would like them to be centered or justified to the left or right. Are some lines of text much longer than others and can they be split into two lines? Write the text in handwriting or in block letters depending on the embroidery font you intend to use. Try several variations before beginning the project with the best plan.



## *Match the Project to Your Text*

Plan the project size to fit with the text. Ideally, the project surface is custom created to fit the embroidery. If you are creating the project to fit the text, move on to the section on creating text in the machine. After all the text has been placed in the hoops as individual embroideries and put into the memory of the machine then the size of the project surface can be worked out.

Use grid paper to plan the different hoopings and note the size of the individual embroideries on the paper. This is your map to a successful project. Be patient, it may take several attempts to get the design just right. Use the plan to decide the surface size. If the surface is a quilt, plan the size of the block or strip units to coincide with the embroideries. An additional advantage of matching the project size to the text is the possibility of embroidering the text on smaller pieces before assembly whenever possible. Allow extra fabric to replace anything stitched in error.

## *Match the Text to Your Project*

Plan how the text will fit onto your project. Adding text to an existing quilt or fabric panel requires some careful measuring of the fabric. Use grid paper to write out a potential plan for the text. Add the measurements of the quilt or panel to the grid for both the overall measurements and the measurements of the individual blocks or strips. Use the potential plan to get an estimate for the size of the text.

The width of each of the lines will vary due to not only the amount of letters and spaces, but also the distance between letters (kerning). Some letters are wide, some are thin and some

just nestle next to each other closer. To plan the style and width of lettering (font) count the letters and spaces between the letters in the longest lines of the text. Divide this number by the width the text needs to fit and that will be an approximate size for the width of individual letters and spaces. Capital letters will take up more space than lower case letters. Make a note of the average width of each of the letters to fit the space.

The height of each of the lines will be determined by the number of lines and the space needed between the lines for ascending letters (b, d, h, etc.) and descending letters (f, g, j etc.). The look of the text changes with different amounts of space between the lines. Generally plan for the distance of one line between lines. The extra room allows for the extra height in capitals and the letters that dip below the baseline. The text you are reading now has one space between the lines. Using less than one line distance between lines creates a spacing problem if a descending letter needs the same space as an ascending letter. Look for examples of calligraphy on the internet for some creative and interesting spacing solutions. To plan the style and width of lettering (font) count the number of lines and spaces between the lines and divide into the finished height of the text. This will give you the height of the lines and the average height of the letters.

### ***Create the Individual Text Embroideries***

After all the planning, now the project will take on the flow of the individual words and letters. Use the largest hoop available to allow room to move the text into position. Build the entire text one hooping at a time. Start at the beginning of each line of text and enter the text. Keep in mind the approximate width and height of the font when building the words. Leave empty space all around the text when creating the individual hoopings. Some hoopings will have partial words (long words in manageable sections) and some will have multiple small words. Adjust the size of the words as each hooping is created. Make a note on your grid plan of the size of each hooping and put each hooping in memory. The size and placement of the individual letters and spaces will probably be adjusted further during the embroidery process.

### ***Mark the Fabric and Hoop the First Embroidery***

Position the embroideries using a baseline. The baseline is the line under the letters. The descending letters will dip below the baseline. (Think of the lines on a ruled sheet of paper.)



Use a removable marker to mark the baselines on the fabric. It is wise to mark all the baselines before beginning to embroider to check your measurements. Now is the time to make sure that the baseline is straight. Any variation in the baseline will increase the longer the line of text. Measure down on both sides of fabric and even several locations in the middle for a very long line of text.

Determine where the text will start. Any text with a left or right justification can start on that side and work toward the other. Centered text can start in the middle and work to both sides. Use the measurements noted when creating the hoopings and mark along the baseline the approximate width of each hooping. Don't forget to add spaces between words when marking the hoopings. This process need not be exact as it is just to ensure that the text is not too long for the area.

