

Supplies

- Washable Scarf for two-sided embroidery
- Embroidery Thread
- Embroidery Bobbin Thread
- Extra Fine Embroidery Thread such as Quilters Select Para-Cotton Poly
- Extra Bobbins
- Floriani Wet N Gone Stabilizer
- Floriani Wet N Gone Tacky Stabilizer
- Basin and warm water for removing stabilizer
- Best Press #2
- Pen for note taking

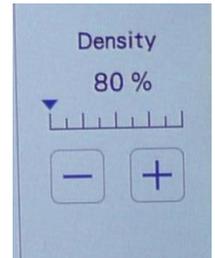


Instructions

Choose a Design for Two-Sided Embroidery

When the backside of a project will be visible, such as in a neck scarf, make the embroidery look good from both sides. Two-sided embroidery requires extra care in selecting the design, the stabilizer and the embroidery bobbin thread. Choose a lightweight and low-density design that will not affect the hand of a soft scarf. If necessary, reduce the density of the design using the density reduction feature in the Baby Lock Altair. Access the density

feature in the Edit menu. The Density icon is greyed out until the recalculate stitches feature is activated under the Size icon. Select the design,  touch the size icon and the recalculate stitches option (looks like a zig zag with an arrow). The machine will remove any previous editing of the design. Close the Size menu and select the Density icon. Use the slider to reduce the density. The lowest percentage in reduction available is 80%. Be aware this will change the stitch count of the design and any part of the embroidery that contains specialty lines or fills may not stitch optimally. For success, test any design before working on your final project.



Choose Bobbin Thread and Stabilizer for Two-Sided Embroidery

Machine embroidery is designed for an unbalanced stitch. The top thread is pulled to the back to ensure the bobbin thread doesn't show on the front. This is optimal for embroideries that will only be seen from the top side, but are not the desired result for an embroidery seen from both sides. Before starting a project, test the thread and modify the tension to create and embroidery with a more balanced stitch that looks good on the back.

Embroidery bobbin thread is available in two colors, white and black. It is also a thinner thread and when used with the standard bobbin case (the bobbin case with the green paint on the adjustment screw) creates uneven tension balance. This is not a good choice for a two-sided embroidery unless the embroidery thread used on the top is all white or all black.

Thinner thread is available in colors for use as a bobbin thread. Quilters Select Para-Cotton Poly is an 80-wt. thread works well as a bobbin thread. The tension of the embroidery will be unbalanced (the top thread will be pulled to the back) but the effect will not be as noticeable when the colors match. Choose this option when using a single-color thread that is not black or white and match the bobbin thread color to the top thread. A multicolor design can be stitched in one color using the single-color option (a single blue spool) in the Layout menu on the Embroidery screen.

For a multicolor embroidery that matches front to back, use the same embroidery thread in the bobbin being used in the top. Wind bobbins for every color in the design and change the bobbin when changing the top thread. To balance the tension, stitch a test using the letter "I" from a simple font built into the machine. The tension will need to be adjusted to create a balanced stitch in embroidery.



All stabilizer must be removed for a two sided embroidery. Use a wash away stabilizer and remove the stabilizer by first trimming away excess as shown in the photo and then soaking the project in warm (not hot!) water at least overnight. Change the water several times and don't skimp on the quantity of water. If the stabilizer is not completely removed, the fabric will be stiff and scratchy. When removing stabilizer from fabric, keep in mind the fiber content of the fabric. Wool will felt when shocked with alternating hot and cold water or rubbed. Cotton may shrink and distort the design. Know the properties of the material and how it reacts to wet conditions when removing the stabilizer. Some fragile fabrics will deform when hooped. Use a sticky wash away stabilizer to float them in the hoop as shown in the video. Very light designs may be stabilized with a fabric stiffener such as Best Press #2. This pressing aid adds body to fabric and can be easily washed out. Always do a stitching test and remove the stabilizer test to determine the best stabilizer for your project.

Adjust Embroidery Tension and Set up the Machine for a Beautiful Back

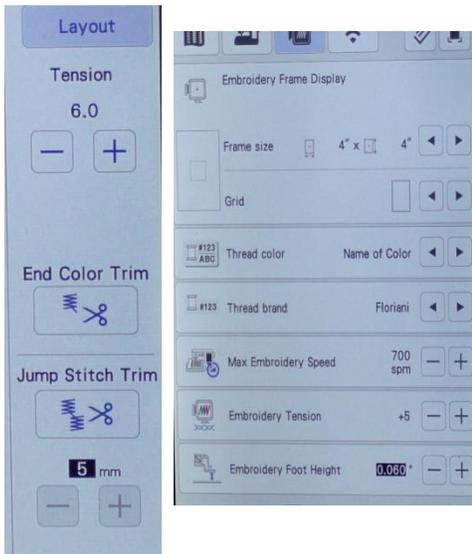


In the Baby Lock Altair used in the video, the tension can be adjusted several ways. Create a sample embroidery using the letter "I" and repeated several times. Stitch the first "I" using the embroidery thread and bobbin thread for the project. Try to use a similar fabric and stabilizer as will be used in the project if possible. Remove the hoop and check the back. It may not be possible to completely balance the stitch, but adjustments can create acceptable results. Make a note of all the adjustments made on the test sample or a note attached to the sample. Notice the thread trim tails in the back view on the right above. Thread trims will be turned off in the final embroidery.



An alternate, adjustable bobbin case and small screwdriver are included with the accessories of the Altair. This bobbin case does not have green paint on the adjustment screw (green circle photo left) and has a blue/purple dot stamped in the center (blue circle photo left). **Do not adjust the standard bobbin case** because it is optimally set at the factory or by a trained technician for both sewing and standard embroidery. The green paint on the screw is there to remind you to **NOT adjust** this bobbin case. The

bobbin case has two screws on the side. The Phillips (screw with an X type slot on the right) is NOT the adjustment screw. The screw with the straight slot on the left adjusts the tension and should be moved in small increments until optimum tension is achieved. Imagine the screw position as a clock and only move it 5-10 “minutes” at a time. Test the tension after each adjustment until the desired results are achieved.



The tension on the top thread is also adjustable. There are two locations for changing the top tension in embroidery. For any given design, adjust the tension on the Embroidery Settings screen using the icon that looks like scissors and a stitch.  The tension adjustment stays for only that design. Remember to change the setting when stitching additional two-sided designs. To change the embroidery tension for all designs, the tension is adjustable in the settings pages. Use this feature when stitching lots of two-sided designs and remember to reset the machine for standard embroideries.

To eliminate knots on the back of the embroidery, turn off the trim functions for both color change and end of embroidery. Pull up the bobbin thread at the beginning of the embroidery by advancing the design by one stitch and then the needle up and down button to pull up the bobbin thread. Hold the bobbin thread for the first few stitches, stop the machine and clip the threads close to the beginning. Trim threads manually front and back during every color change when changing the bobbin.



Quick Make: Infinity Scarf

A quick project using ½ yard of fabric and does not require two-sided embroidery is the Infinity Scarf. Cut a rectangle of fabric 12-18" wide and the width of the fabric, usually 40-60". Fold right sides together and matching the long edges (hot dog fold). Starting 4" in from one of the short edges, sew along the long edge and end 4" from the opposite short edge. Turn right side out. Align the short edges and stitch the seam. (Optional: Twist the tube before sewing the short edges together.) Finish by turning under the edges of the 8" opening and sewing by hand or with a small zig zag stitch using matching thread.