

Supplies

- o Pair of Jeans (see selection guidelines below)
- o Floriani Dream Weave Fusible, Floriani No Show Nylon Mesh Fusible or Fusible Cutaway Stabilizer for use directly on jeans
- o Floriani Wet N Gone Tacky, Floriani Perfect Stick Tearaway or Heat N Sta Tearaway for use in the hoop while embroidering
- o Embroidery Thread and Embroidery Bobbin
- o Seam Ripper
- o All Purpose Thread to Match Thread used in Jean Seams and matching bobbin
- o Jean Needle in size to accommodate thread
- o Wash Away Thread
- o Wonder Clips
- o Floriani Water Soluble Topping or Embellish Iridescent Embroidery Mylar

Instructions

Select the Best Candidate for Embroidery

Select a pair of jeans for embroidery based on the following criteria.

- Since you will be putting a lot of effort into this project, find a pair of jeans that will last the test of time. Will they fit next month or next year? Jeans are a classic, but some styles may change such as distressed large holes, large cuffs, extra low rise or very large bell-bottoms. Fashion is change. A good choice is to give new life with embroidery to a well-loved pair of pants.
- Depending on embroidery placement, the inseam of the jeans will need to be released. The seam can be a traditional seam or a flat felled seam. A flat felled seam is topstitched after seaming and the thread will show on the seam. To re-create this seam matching the original seam thread color is important. Look at the inseam and decide if you can reproduce the original seam.

- All denim has some stretch, but stretch denim can have a lot depending on fiber content. Look at the label for stretch fibers. The percentage for fibers such as “elastin” or “spandex” is indicated on the label. If the percentage is 2%, the fabric will be very stretchy and determine the choice of design and stabilizer. Choose a pair of jeans with a low percentage of stretch fibers with a high stitch count design.
- Match the embroidery design to the jeans. If you have a certain embroidery design in mind, look for a pair of jeans that will complement that design. Will the design and the desired colors look best on light or dark fabric? Will the effect be subtle or bold? Will the finished project match more than just a few pieces in your wardrobe?
- Jeans with existing embroidery on the back pocket may guide or restrict your design choice. Embroider pockets in two ways. Embroider through all the layers of the pocket making them unusable or removing the pocket and reattaching it after embroidery. To reattach the pocket thread matching the original thread color is required. When selecting a pair of jeans, find the matching thread before removing the pocket or inseam.

Choose a Design and Stabilizer

All denim, even classic all cotton denim, has stretch. Jeans are very comfortable to wear because of the built in comfort of stretch. Denim with a high content of elastic fibers will act very much like a knit fabric. Embroidery designs with a high stitch count will require additional stabilizer and the design itself will not stretch. Plan the location of the embroidery based on the concept that the fabric will no longer stretch in that area of the garment.

High stitch count designs will also feel “bulky” when wearing the garment. A design of this type may be perfect for the hem of the pants and irritating on the thigh area. To create an all over effect, look for a design collection with multiple options. For example, high stitch count flowers and low stitch count swirls contained in the same set of designs. Place the flowers on the side or hem of the pants and continue with the swirls up the leg.

Choose a stabilizer that works well for this stretchy fabric and the stitch count of your design. A cut away stabilizer is highly recommended for most designs. Unfortunately, it is difficult to stitch a trial embroidery to test the combination of design and stabilizer without a swatch of the denim used in the garment. Make your first stitching in an inconspicuous area to verify your choices, then modify for the rest of the garment embroideries. Since the pants will probably be basted and not directly hooped (see below), choose a fusible cutaway stabilizer for the backside of the embroidery. Floriani Dream Weave Fusible adds body to the fabric while retaining a bit of stretch in the unembroidered areas. It is available in black and white. Fusible No Show Mesh is also a good choice for most embroideries and the product can be applied in two layers if necessary.

Sorry, You Will Probably Be De-constructing

Some areas are almost impossible to reach without releasing the inseam of the pants. Use a seam ripper to remove the stitching from the inseam. Note the construction of the seam before and during the process. Make sure you have matching thread if the thread shows on the seam. Do not release the inseam at the hem unless necessary. Jean hems are difficult to re-stitch and especially difficult to achieve the worn look on a well loved pair of pants. Jean seams are bulky and difficult to properly hoop when a seam will need to be caught in the hoop. Jeans are also heavier garments and need to be secure in the hoop for the back and forth movement of the machine. Stretch denim fabrics may also permanently distort when hooping traditionally. Use the basting feature of the machine to “hoop” the fabrics without actually placing the fabric within the rings of the frame. Secure stabilizer alone in the embroidery frame and tighten well. The garment has already been fused with stabilizer to the wrong side, so a tear away, heat away or wash away stabilizer works in the hoop. A sticky stabilizer will help hold the garment in place during basting. Make sure the stabilizer will be able to hold the pants in place for the embroidery process. Insert the hoop on the machine. In the Embroidery screen of the machine, select the Baste function. Thread the machine with wash away thread. Position the pants on the stabilizer in the hoop. Arrange the bulk of the pants to easily move during the embroidery process. Use clips or pins to keep the excess fabric away from the needle. Check all areas to ensure that the pants will not catch on any areas around the machine. Stay with the embroidery to monitor the process.



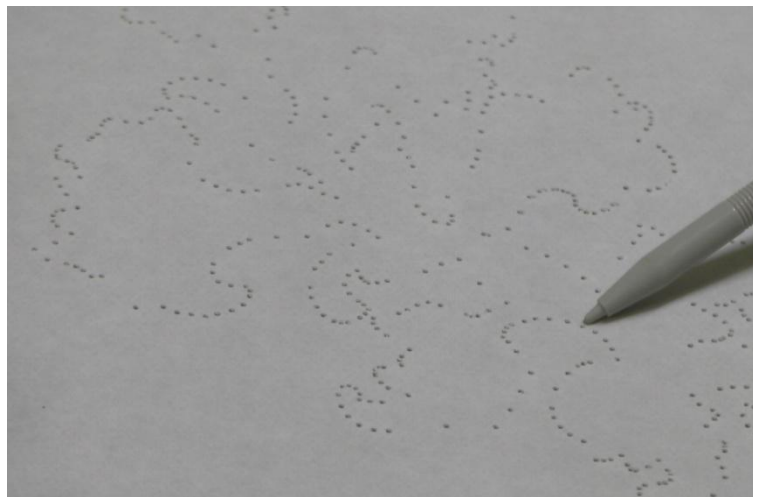
Pants have many areas to embellish with embroidery. Look around at fashion photos or the internet for inspiration. Basically, just about any area of the jeans are fair game. Plan your project based on how this finished garment will fit into your personal fashion style. Go bold with lots of brightly colored designs or choose a subtle touch of embroidery. Print out possible design choices using embroidery software and pin them on the pants while wearing them. (Use safety pins, please!) Judge the effect of the embroidery not only on visual

impact, but on wear ability as well. Embroidery will draw the eye to itself. Use this to enhance or detract from areas while wearing the garment.

Wash the pants as many times as necessary to pre-shrink them. Wear them a few times before starting the embroidery process to make sure they are still good candidates.

The first “color” of the design will now be the basting box. When stitching basting, many times the first few stitches will not catch unless the bobbin thread has been pulled up. To pull the bobbin thread, use the stitch advance feature to move to the first stitch. Use the needle down and up feature to pull the bobbin thread. (It may take a few tries to pull up enough thread if the bobbin thread is short such as after using the scissor function.) Pull up the bobbin thread and baste the pants in place. On Baby Lock and Brother machines, the machine will stitch very slowly if the start button is held down and not released. Create multiple basting boxes in different sizes to add extra security. To change the size of the basting box, go to settings and change the distance from the design. After stitching the basting, add additional security by pinning the garment overhanging the hoop to the stabilizer overhanging the hoop with safety pins.

Create a custom basting stitch with IQ Designer. After modifying the design, create an outline using the flower icon in the Embroidery Edit screen. Use the outline to create a custom basting stitch by applying the double run stitch and the longest possible stitch length to the outline. Use this to baste the area of the design. This method can also be used for placement. Stitch the outline of the embroidery onto the paper side of the tacky stabilizer before removing the stabilizer. Turn off the Thread Sensor before stitching the outline to create a series of perforations in the paper and the stabilizer. Use the perforations to perfectly place the design.



After all embroideries have been completed, re-stitch the inseam. Before rushing to sew the inseam however, pin the seam together with safety pins and try them on. Now is the time to add just one more embroidery to make the project complete.

Embroider As Usual, Except

After preparing the garment, the embroidery process proceeds no differently than on any other project. The one exception is stitching over a bulky seam such as the side seam of the pants. If the design spans a bulky seam and especially a flat felled seam with a “lip,” the embroidery foot may get caught on the seam. To avoid this, raise the embroidery foot position and place a wash away topping over the seam. To raise the foot for embroidery, go to the settings and select the height necessary to clear the seam. If you are unsure, select a height, close the settings pages and select the trial feature to check the height. After the embroidery is complete, reset the embroidery foot height to the default position. To add a water-soluble topping, place a piece of topping over the area to be embroidered and secure it with the baste feature. Use Mylar as a topping for designs with some filled areas to add a little sparkle to the embroidery. Mylar does not remain under areas with linear stitching alone such as lacy designs or outlines alone.