

# Yo-Yo Embellishments in IQ Designer



A yo-yo is a gathered fabric shape, usually a circle that is either stitched together side by side or stitched down to a base fabric. IQ Designer can create an embroidery to stitch a yo-yo directly onto the fabric and not only make the process simple but the embellishment more secure. This simple embellishment can be manipulated in a surprising amount of ways to create textile art and texture for a wide variety of projects.

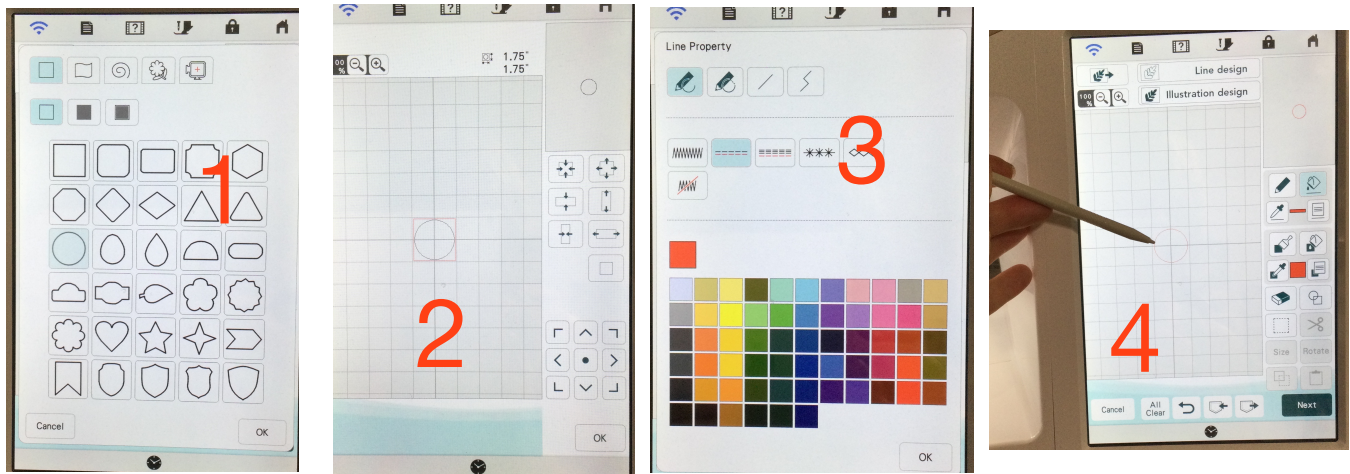
A yo-yo can be made in just about any size. These instructions are for a certain size. Modify instructions for the size that works for your project. In the video the Clover Large Quick Yo-yo Maker was used, but any size can be created by cutting a circle. Measure the diameter of the fabric circle after the edges have been turned down and stitched. Create a stitched circle in IQ Designer that is about 1/2 that measure. For example, if the diameter of the un-gathered yo-yo is 4", make a 2" circle to stitch.



Prepare yo-yo fabric by cutting a circle 5 1/2" in diameter. Using a hand sewing needle and a long length of doubled sewing thread stitch around edge while turning under the edge about 1/4". Take long stitches that are about 1/4" long for this size circle. When the stitching is complete around



the circle do not cut the thread or draw up the edges. Fold the circle in quarters to find the center and mark the inside center to use in positioning.



At the IQ Designer workspace select the shapes and then the circle (1). Select the Size icon and reduce the size of the circle to 1.75" (2). Select the Line Properties icon and select the double run and a bright color (3). Select the Paint Bucket and touch the circle to create double run stitches on the circle (4). Touch next. This screen is where you can change the Run Pitch (stitch length) of the double run stitching. There is no need to adjust the stitch length for this circle. Send the circle to embroidery and put the embroidery into the memory.

Mark the center of the desired yo-yo position on the frame and hoop the base fabric in the frame. The base fabric may need stabilizer depending on the size of the yo-yo. Usually a lightweight stabilizer is all that is necessary. Place the yo-yo by touching the W+ icon to engage the LED pointer. Position the yo-yo design using the LED light to place the center of the embroidery design on the center mark on the base fabric. After positioning, slide the prepared yo yo under the embroidery foot and positioning the center mark with the LED light. Thread the machine with matching thread. Press the start button of the machine and hold it depressed while keeping the yo yo fabric in position with a stylus. By keeping the Start button depressed the machine will stitch slowly around the circle. When you are confident that the fabric will no longer shift, release the button to complete the embroidery at normal speed. Watch the process carefully to keep the edges of the fabric from under the foot.

After the embroidery has completed, remove the hoop from the machine and pull the attached thread to draw up the yo-yo. Take some hand stitches through the gathered edges and the base fabric to secure the gathers.

## Design Options

- Sew a bead or button in the center of the yo-yo while securing the gathers.
- Because the yo-yo is not structural, use a variety of fabrics including fragile ones.
- Create a multi-colored yo-yo by piecing fabric before preparing fabric.
- Make the circle that stitches down the yo-yo smaller. The finished yo-yo will be puffier.
- Make the circle that stitches down the yo-yo larger to expose the center after gathering. Line the yo-yo with a different colored fabric or even a shiny plastic such as Mylar or a mirror.
- Place pedals around circle to create a flower.
- Create additional stitching around the main circle. These could be stitched before stitching down yo-yo or after gathering yo-yo.
- Experiment with different shapes. Try an oval, heart or a flower shape. Would a square work?
- Using the repeat feature of the machine, create a yo-yo embellished fabric with multiple units. When stitching, stop the machine between yo-yos to gather. Hand stitching can be finished after embroidery is completed. Placing the fabric is trickier with multiple units. To make this process easier, consider creating a small stitch in the center of the original circle created in IQ Designer to aid in placement.



## Just a Few Project Ideas

- American Flag quilt with small white yo-yos on a blue background for the stars.
- Sheer yo-yos on a scarf.
- Garment embellishment. (I have placed velvet yo-yos with a Pearl sewn in the middle on a sweater. It really made the sweater very fancy.)
- Flowers on anything.
- Quilt a quilt. Yo-yos on one side and stitched circles on the back side.