

## Supplies

- T-Shirts
- Fusible Iron-on Stabilizer such as Floriani Power Mesh
- Fusible Wash Away Stabilizer
- All Purpose Thread
- Embroidery Thread and Embroidery Bobbin
- Optional but Very Useful: 5 x 7 Magnetic Embroidery Hoop
- Appliqué Scissors
- Scissors
- Rotary Cutter, Mat and Ruler

## Instructions

### *Best Friends T-Shirt*

Select two t-shirts of different color but the same size. Shirts will be slightly smaller after modification. Using a rotary cutter, mat and ruler cut each shirt from shoulder to hem approximately 2" from collar on both sides. Cutting apart the shirts is completely designer's choice. When cutting the shirts, cut each shirt identically to make re-assembly simpler. Multiple cuts create flashier shirts, but each cut results in a slightly



smaller shirt.

Embroidery hooping on shirts can be challenging on a flatbed machine. The garment needs to puddle around the needle when hooping the upper part of the shirt. Cutting apart the shirt and embroidering before re-assembly is very simple. When embroidering on a knit garment, use a cut away stabilizer. A fusible stabilizer pressed onto the underside of the fabric makes the garment simpler to hoop. After embroidery, cut around the design leaving the stabilizer behind the embroidery to stabilize it for the life of the garment. Re-assemble the shirts using a knit “lightning bolt” stitch. This stitch allows the knit to stretch without thread breakage at the seam line. T-shirt knits do not ravel, so a seam finish is not necessary. As an added design choice, re-assemble the shirt with the seams on the outside of the garment.



### *Polka Hearts T-Shirt*

The hearts in the polka hearts t-shirt are reverse appliqué created with the built in frames designs. The shape is stitched through the right side of the shirt and the appliqué fabric that is placed right side up under the t-shirt fabric. When placing the appliqué fabric on the underside, make sure that the design will cover the appliqué fabric. In the video, the appliqué fabric was secured to two sides of the magnetic hoop.



The t-shirt was then placed on top and secured with the remaining magnets. The magnets holding the appliqué fabric where then moved to the top to secure all the pieces.



To create the heart shape, open the shapes tab on the embroidery categories screen. Select a shape and then select the single run option. Edit the shape if desired for size, rotation and placement. Any of the shapes and a variety of appliqué fabrics can be used. Stitch the shape. After stitching, trim the top layer of the t-shirt using appliqué scissors. Be careful to cut away only the top layer inside the stitching. On the back of the t-shirt, trim away the appliqué fabric outside the stitching line.

### *Open Border with T-shirt “Yarn”*

Create “yarn” from a t-shirt by cutting a narrow strip from the body of a t-shirt. Starting at the bottom, remove the hem and then cut a  $\frac{1}{2}$ ” to  $\frac{3}{4}$ ” strip in a continuous spiral. Wind the strip into a ball while slightly stretching the strip to cause it to curl upon itself. Prepare a t-shirt to apply the border to by cutting a slice off the bottom of the shirt keeping the hem in place. At the ironing board, fuse the cut edges to a strip of fusible wash away stabilizer. The measurement of the gap is designer’s choice, but  $1\frac{1}{2}$ ” was used in the video.



Mark the fused cut edges with a basting stitch. Select the basting stitch and change the stitch length to 10 mm. Stitch along the cut edges with the stitch through the t-shirt and the wash away stabilizer. The spacing of the stitches is used to evenly place the t-shirt yarn. To tack down the yarn, select the button sewing stitch from the buttonhole menu and engage the scissor function to automatically cut by selecting the scissor icon. Attach the N



foot. Tack down the yarn from side to side on both sides of the cut and fused edges. After the stitching is complete, clip the small thread tails and carefully trim away most of the stabilizer under the yarn and right next to the cut edges. Wash the shirt completely to remove the stabilizer. Design Options: Let your creativity run wild and place this open border around the collar or on the sleeves. Create mock “lacing” down the sides of the shirt. Cut yarn from a multicolored t-shirt for a wild look. Sew the yarn on the shirt in creative designs or freehand lettering.

