

## Supplies Used in Video

- Vinyl Fabric, also called Imitation Leather, Faux Leather and Pleather
- Ultra T Sewing Foot Set for Baby Lock and Brother Machines or Teflon Foot
- Non-Stick Embroidery or Universal machine needle
- All-purpose thread and Polyester Embroidery Thread
- Floriani Fusible Power Mesh and Floriani Medium Tear Away used in the video
- 505 Temporary Spray Adhesive
- Wonder Clips

### *Types of Vinyl Fabric*

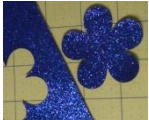



Vinyl is a synthetic material that comes in a wide variety of styles and textures. It is durable, easy to clean and water-resistant. It has no grain line, doesn't fray and is flame resistant. Vinyl fabric has so many uses that it is worth learning how to sew with it. It is a man-made material first invented in 1872 and is officially called polyvinyl chloride (PVC). Vinyl does have special characteristics that we need to consider when sewing or embroidering on it. Vinyl is "sticky" when sewing under a presser foot, will crease permanently and any stitch holes are there forever. Once these special properties are overcome with a few simple accessories, sewing with vinyl is actually simple. PVC is not an environmentally friendly material, so be aware that it is difficult to recycle. Some vinyl will have an unpleasant smell due to off gassing. Try to avoid this type if you are sensitive. Vinyl also does not "breathe" and is not a good choice for clothing that is close to the body.

## Types of Vinyl:

- **Non-Backed Vinyl** looks the same on both sides. It is usually thin and easy to sew. It is ideal for appliqué or pockets that do not receive stress.
- **Backed Vinyl** is stronger because of the cotton or polyester backing. The backing makes this vinyl strong enough for very durable purses, totes and upholstery.
- **Expanded Vinyl** has a layer of foam on the back to not only give it strength, but also make the vinyl thicker and rigid. It is the most challenging to sew.
- **Marine Vinyl** is a high-quality vinyl with extra weatherproof and stain-resistant features. It also has additional Ultraviolet Light protection to prevent the color from fading in the sunlight. It is mold, mildew and cold resistant. In other words, it's the "Ultimate Vinyl".
- **Clear Vinyl** is a non-backed vinyl that is perfectly clear. It is easy to cut, sew and embroider. It is sold according to gauge numbers. The higher the gauge, the thicker and stiffer the vinyl is. Typically a gauge of 6-8 is excellent for an embroidery project.
- **Faux Leather** is a product that has recently improved in recent years. It mimics the natural leather while being more affordable and durable. It does not involve the use of animals and avoids ethical concerns.
- **Vinyl Mesh** fabric is popularly used in chair seats. It is lightweight , flexible and strong. It really adds texture and interest to a project. Consider it for tote bags, placemats, shelf liner and non-slip surfaces. It is more challenging to sew than solid vinyl because it can be really "sticky".
- **Quilted Vinyl Fabric** is available. It has a wonderful texture and can be easily replicated using all-over embroidery, such as a decorative fill.
- **Vinyl Coated Fabric** is polyester fabric with a vinyl coating. It is lightweight and strong. Use it for weather resistant clothing, covers, placemats and upholstery.
- **Craft Vinyl** is plastic, but not PVC and comes in thin sheets. It is perfect for use in die-cutting machines and works great in embroidery appliqué. It is typically not used for clothing or upholstery, but for the embellishment on these items.

## *Tips for Sewing and Embroidery with Vinyl Fabric*

- Remove creases in vinyl by laying or hanging flat on a warm day. Use a low-heat setting on vinyl protected with a heavy towel on a padded surface. Never touch the iron directly to the vinyl. Store vinyl rolled up to avoid creases. 
- Use an all-purpose thread on lightweight vinyl or a bonded nylon for heavy duty applications. Universal machine needles work well on lightweight vinyl, but don't choose too large a needle as it may leave a big hole. Specialty needles are available for sewing with vinyl and have a non-stick coating to avoid friction. Because of the variety of vinyl available, it is difficult to have a hard and fast rule for materials. Test your needle and thread set-up on a scrap to determine the best combination for your project.
- Use a longer stitch length of 3.0mm or higher. Small stitches can cause needle breakage and will weaken the vinyl. Avoid backstitching and choose reinforcement in place on seams to avoid extra holes. On machines without an Automatic Fabric Sensor, adjust the tension and foot pressure to accommodate thicker materials.
- Don't use pins because they will leave permanent holes in the vinyl. The thickness of the material will also deform your pins. Use Wonder Clips to hold seams together. Don't leave clips in for a long period of time or they may leave an impression on the surface of the vinyl.
- Marking tools will not perform on vinyl as they do on fabric and may damage the surface. Consider transparent or painter's tape to mark the right side of vinyl when necessary. Test to make sure the tape removes easily, especially on embellished vinyl. 
- Use a non-stick presser foot such as UltraT or Teflon feet to enable the vinyl to slide under the foot easily. Avoid walking feet or roller feet with "teeth" as they will leave impressions on the surface of the vinyl. Smooth roller feet and the Digital Dual Feed with the band work well.
- Traditional hooping will permanently crease vinyl. Float the vinyl on a tacky stabilizer or use a magnetic hoop. A light application of spray adhesive works

very well. Spray in a well ventilated area. Protect the edges of the hoop or remove any overspray promptly. Use an embroidery needle or a needle with a non-stick coating to reduce friction. Slow the machine to reduce heat buildup on the needle and thread breakage. Vinyl can support most designs beautifully, but avoid dense designs with heavy fill stitching or satin stitching *especially on non-backed vinyl*. Because non-backed vinyl does not fray, it is ideal for appliqué with only a large running stitch to hold it down. When designing vinyl embroidery lighten the density, choose a longer stitch length and opt for more open fill patterns.

- Stabilize vinyl as you would any embroidery design with the exception that no heat can be applied the surface. Iron on products can be applied to the back if the front surface is placed on a padded surface and caution is used. Tacky stabilizers that use an adhesive surface or those activated by water work well. The baste function is not available as it will leave permanent holes. Even though vinyl looks “solid”, do not think that it “may not need as much (or any)” stabilizer. Use as much support as you would for traditional fabric.

## Instructions

### *Quick Eyeglass Case Project to Explore Sewing and Embroidery with Vinyl*

- X x 14” piece of Backed Vinyl
- X x 14” piece of Felt
- 9 ½” x 14” hoop or larger
- Floriani Tear Away Medium Stabilizer to fit 9 ½” x 14” hoop
- All-Purpose Thread to match vinyl
- Polyester Embroidery Thread
- Non-Stich Machine Needle size 75/11
- 505 Temporary Spray adhesive
- Pair of Pressure Set Snaps, such as Kam Snaps
- Ultra T or Teflon presser foot

Select or create an embroidery design to fit on the vinyl. Keep the design at least ¼” from the edges of the vinyl. Remember that the vinyl will be folded in half when stitched together and only one side will show at a time when selecting a design. Hoop the tear away stabilizer. Lightly spray the back of the vinyl piece and place in the hoop with the sticky side down. Use the IQ Positioning app on the Altair (or the positioning features on your machine) to place the design on the fabric. Stitch the design and remove the stabilizer from the back of the vinyl. Lightly spray the back of the embroidered vinyl and center the felt on the back. Test fold the piece in half and adjust the felt if necessary. Secure the short ends with wonder clips. Change the machine to sewing with all-purpose thread and matching bobbin. Sew across both short ends to hold the felt in place. Fold the piece in half and secure the edges with wonder clips. Sew each side seam using in sew in place reinforcement stitches at the end of the seam. Position and place a snap to close the eyeglass case.

