

Supplies

- Wash Away Stabilizer
- Glue Stick – inexpensive school type glue stick is perfect
- Sharp Medium to Small Scissors to cut multiple fabric layers
- All Purpose Thread Needle and Bobbin
- Scrap or soft Yardage Fabric – all cotton is preferred
- Stiff Brush for Fluffing Chenille



What is Chenille-in-the-Hoop?

Chenille is a type of yarn or fabric made from it or fabric applied with the yarn. The raised, soft ribs on the fabric resemble a furry caterpillar. In fact, Chenille is the French word for caterpillar. The embellished fabric is durable and the chenille becomes softer with every washing. Chenille bedspreads and bathrobes were very popular in the 40's and 50's and today are Cottage Chic.

Commercial chenille fabric is made on specialty looms and was once created by hand. Sewing multiple layers of soft fabric together in diagonal rows and then slashing the layers just short of the bottom layer creates a modern version of chenille fabric. For the modern craftsperson, ready to apply chenille strips are available to sew on and then fluff out using a stiff brush. The chenille texture is achieved when multiple narrow rows of fabric cut on the true bias are



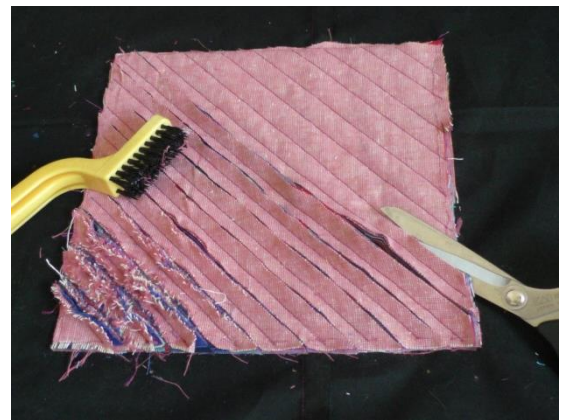
fluffed to separate the fibers into a soft fur. We can duplicate slashed chenille or ready to apply chenille on the embroidery machine by embroidering diagonal lines on layers of fabric. Create the embroidered diagonal lines in My Design Center or IQ Designer. The advantages of making your own chenille-in-the-hoop are many. Create chenille in your own custom size, fullness and color and it's a fantastic scrapbuster!

Create the Design in My Design Center or IQ Designer

Open My Design Center or IQ Designer on your Brother or Baby Lock embroidery machine. Use any medium to large hoop to make lots of chenille. When using any hoop smaller than the largest available, select the hoop outline in the Settings page for ease in designing the diagonal lines. While in settings, choose either the 3/8" or 1" grid. Start with a perfectly straight vertical line by selecting Shapes and the square. Select the double run option under the line properties menu. Select Size to make the square tall and as narrow as the desired width of the finished chenille. Select Eraser to remove the top and bottom of the tall, skinny rectangle. Select the rectangle and Rotate. Rotate the parallel lines 45 degrees by selecting 10 degrees four times and 1 degree five times. While the rotated lines are selected, copy, paste and move the lines into position. Use the grid as a guide to judge the distance between the lines. If the lines are slightly off it will not be noticeable in the finished chenille. If the lines extend beyond the edge of the workspace, that is okay. After creating all the lines to fit the hoop of choice, select Eraser and the square option to remove any lines about 1/2" away from the edge of the workspace and the hoop. Double check that all the lines outside the diagonal lines are removed. Save the artwork and the design.

Embroider the Scrappy Chenille-in-the-Hoop

The base fabric should be smooth and well secured in the hoop. Lay the fabric scraps directly on the fabric and within the hoop. Keep the grain of all the fabrics parallel to the edge of the hoop. For great looking chenille, it is important that the stitching lines are on the true bias of the fabric. Slightly overlap the scraps to avoid any gaps. Continue to layer the scraps. The number of layers depends on the width of the chenille strips. For jumbo chenille, five or six layers should fluff out



well. (Note that for a very large number of layers, it is recommended to slow the embroidery speed and use a sharp or topstitch needle. The embroidery height is adjustable in the settings pages.) The final layer is a solid piece of fabric or wash away stabilizer so the embroidery foot does not catch on any raw edges.

Before pressing start, select Baste in the Embroidery menu. If the basting box is too big, reduce the basting distance in Settings to 0.0". The first "color" is the basting line and our cutting line. Hold start button without releasing to baste the top layer slowly.

To decrease the run time of the design, turn the jump stitch trims off or increase the distance between trims. (Remember to turn the trims back on after completing the chenille embroideries.)

Remove the completed embroidery from the hoop and trim on the basting lines. Toss the small fabric scraps around the edge. Use a sharp pair of scissors to cut between the stitching lines **on the top layers of fabric**. Work slowly and carefully to not cut through the base layer. Use a wide binding to finish the edges of the chenille.

Embroider the Scrappy Ready to Apply Chenille-in-the-Hoop

Hoop wash away stabilizer in chosen hoop. The stabilizer should be smooth and well secured in the hoop. Lay the fabric scraps directly on the stabilizer and within the hoop. Keep the grain of all the fabrics parallel to the edge of the hoop. For great looking chenille, it is important that the stitching lines are on the true bias of the fabric. Slightly overlap the scraps to avoid any gaps. Continue to layer the scraps. The number of layers depends on the width of the chenille strips. For jumbo chenille, five or six layers should fluff out well. The final layer is a solid piece of fabric or wash away stabilizer so the embroidery foot doesn't catch on any raw edges.

Before pressing start, select Baste in the Embroidery menu. If the basting box is too big, reduce the basting distance in Settings to 0.0". The first "color" is the basting line and our cutting line. Hold start button without releasing to baste the top layer slowly. To decrease the run time of the design, turn the jump stitch trims off or increase the distance between trims. (Remember to turn the trims back on after completing the chenille embroideries.)



Remove the completed embroidery from the hoop and

trim on the basting lines. Toss the small fabric scraps around the edge. The extra wash away stabilizer can be overlapped and joined with a straight stitch for additional chenille hoopings. The stitching will not affect the finished chenille. Soak the layers in warm water to remove the wash away stabilizer. Generally an overnight soak in a generous amount of water will remove most of the stabilizer. Dry the piece flat. After the piece is dry, cut between the stitching lines to create ready-to-apply chenille strips. Because the strips are impossible to pin, use a school glue stick to secure the chenille strips to the base fabric. Stitch the strips down with a straight stitch over the embroidered stitching. When applying the strips to a layered quilt, stitch the path for the chenille first and then stitch the strip down. Slightly dampen the chenille strip and fluff it with a stiff brush.

