

June 23rd, 2025

Supplies

- Brother Stellaire
- “Y” Foot and Yarn Guide for Yarn Couching (included with the Stellaire)
- Embroidery Thread to Match Yarn (in the video - Quilter’s Select 80 wt. Para Cotton Poly Used in the Needle and the Bobbin)
- Yarn for Couching

Choose a Yarn

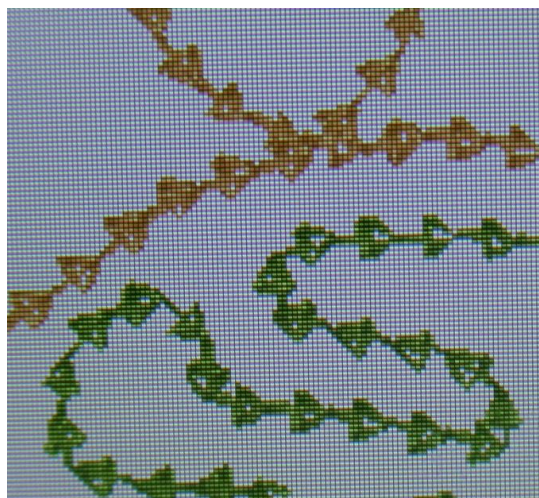
Yarn held in place with an embroidery stitch is Embroidery Yarn Couching. The yarn passes through a specially designed foot and guide to be captured by the needle thread. The ideal yarn for couching is a yarn with some “body” and the correct thickness. Yarn with a small diameter, very loosely twisted or that has a very thin core will not be caught in the needle consistently. Yarn that is too thick or too thick in spots will not easily flow through the foot. Look for a “goldilocks” yarn that is twisted, fairly dense and just smaller than the opening in the Y foot.



STANDARD YARN WEIGHT	UK YARN TYPE	US YARN TYPES	AUSTRALIAN YARN PLY	WRAPS PER INCH	METRIC SIZE RECOMMENDED HOOK	RECOMMENDED HOOK IN US SIZE RANGE	CROCHET GAUGE* RANGES IN SINGLE CROCHET TO 4 INCH	METERS PER 100GM
 0 LACE	1 ply	Lace	2 ply	30-40+ wpi	1.5 - 2.25 mm	Steel 8-1 Regular Hook B1	32-42 double crochets **	600-1100
 1 SUPER FINE	2 ply	Fingering	3 ply	14-30 wpi	2.25 - 3.5 mm	B1 - E4	21-32 sts	420-580
 2 FINE	4 ply	Sport	5 ply	12-18 wpi	3.5 - 4.5 mm	E4 - 7	16-20 sts	260-400
 3 LIGHT	DK	DK	8 ply	11-15 wpi	4.5 - 5.5 mm	7 - I9	12-17 sts	210-250
 4 MEDIUM	Aran	Worsted	10 Ply	9-12 wpi	5.5 - 6.5 mm	I9 - K10 ½	11-14 sts	130-200
 5 BULKY	Chunky	Bulky	12 Ply	6-9 wpi	6.5 - 9 mm	K10 ½ - M/N13	8-11 sts	90-120
 6 SUPER BULKY	Super Chunky	Super Bulky	Over 12 ply	5-6 wpi	9 - 15 mm	M/N13 - Q	7-9 sts	40-80
 7 JUMBO	Jumbo	Ultra /Roving	Over 20 Ply	1-4 wpi	15mm and larger	Q and larger	6 sts and fewer	<100

Determine yarn density and thickness with a wrap test. Wrap the yarn around a cylinder, such as a ruler, pencil or a dowel. The core of the yarn should touch the previous wrap but not be wrapped so tightly that it is stretched thin. Count the number of wraps per inch. The yarn used in the video is a well-twisted cotton yarn with 15 wpi (wraps per inch). When shopping in person for yarn look on the label to determine the weight of the yarn. See the chart below for symbols and yarn size names to Look for yarn with a twist and avoid yarns with a very thin core. Lightly twisted yarns tend to separate with the back and forth action of the yarn couching stitch. When shopping online, look for weight names (*sometimes* wpi is indicated). Look for a magnification of the yarn to see the amount of twist.

Set Up the Machine

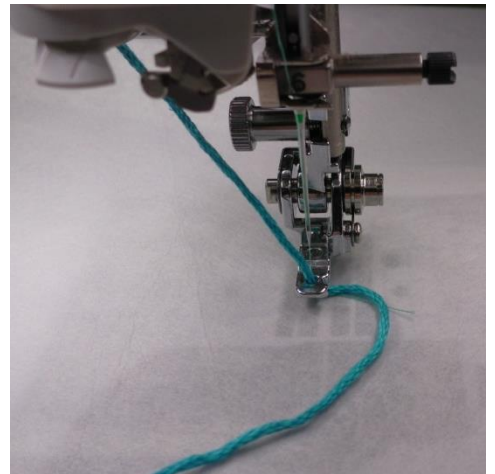


Select an embroidery yarn couching design from the tab on the machine. On the Stellaire two categories of yarn couching designs are available: outline designs and a filled alphabet. Select a category and then a design. See photo left for a close up view of the thread path for a yarn couching design. Yarn couching designs can only be combined with other yarn couching designs. When the design is Set, the screen will indicate the Y foot. When installing the Y foot for the first time it will need to be

adjusted. (Look in the Help section of the machine under Accessories to find a video on adjusting the foot and treading the yarn.) Install the Y foot on the machine and use the Multi-Position screwdriver to move the foot so the needle is very close to the left side of the opening of the foot. Use the hand wheel to move the needle up and down to check the position. The needle should not rub against the side of the opening of the foot or be deflected by contact with the side of the foot. Once the Y foot has been adjusted, it should not need further adjustment. (It is a good idea to check the adjustment periodically.)



Position the design on the hooped fabric. Note that the W+ foot is not installed and that feature is not available for positioning. Thread the machine with embroidery thread that coordinates with the yarn. By using a very thin thread, such as Quilter's Select Para-cotton Poly 80 wt. the thread will not show. This thread can also be used in the bobbin. Open the lid of the machine and place the tab of the yarn guide into the slot. Position the yarn guide as shown in the illustration right. The yarn will pass through the top of the guide and the slot on the bottom of the guide. There is a pigtail guide on the top left of the foot. Thread the yarn through the hole in the foot. A wire guide is provided with the machine to help pulling the yarn through the foot. Leave a tail of yarn as shown in the photo.



Stitching the Design

The trick to successful yarn couching is keeping the yarn in the sweet spot on the left side of the opening of the foot. The guides will position the yarn to enter the foot from the left side. The yarn needs to flow smoothly through the guides with just a little resistance to avoid kinks in the yarn. Puddle the yarn on the top of the machine so it gently pulls through the guides. In the settings, reduce the top speed of the machine. Supervise the embroidery by

carefully watching the progress of the yarn through the guides. When the yarn has resistance, it will not be properly caught by the needle and will miss that part of the design. A missed part of the design can be repaired when the embroidery is finished using a narrow zigzag stitch.