

The Paris Stitch Project

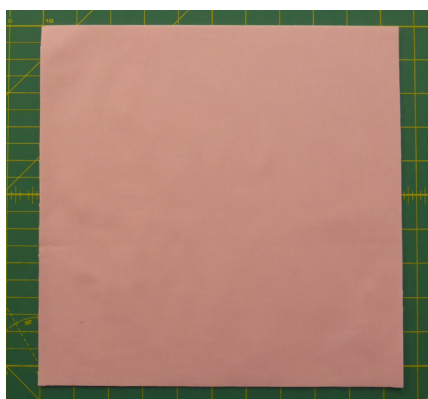
By Kimberly Einmo

"I absolutely love using my Janome Horizon Memory Craft 15000! As a quilt designer, I realize most of the time I only use a small percentage of the many fabulous features on my machine for piecing and quilting. Of course, my MC15000 makes these stitches I use daily perfect, but there are so many amazing decorative stitches on this machine and I have been very eager to stitch them out to see how they look on fabric. So rather than create a typical "stitch library" by stitching out the various stitches on sample cloth to keep in a binder, I decided to incorporate a nifty stitch technique I learned from Pat Holly - an award winning quilter and personal friend. Pat uses the utility and decorative stitches on her machine to create new fabric." - Kimberly

Kimberly began by choosing a variety of theme fabrics from her stash, including her collection of Eiffel Tower and Paris prints plus a few coordinating solids and tone-on-tone fabrics.

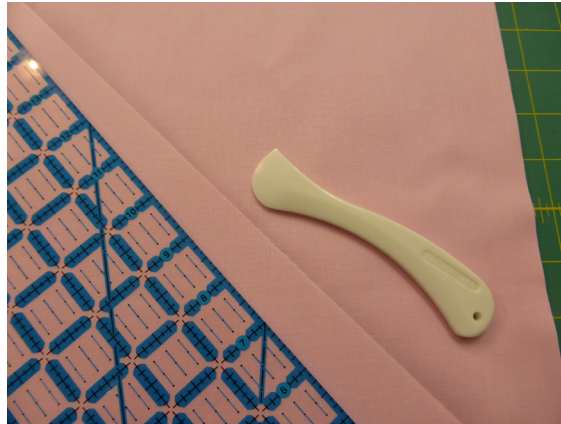


Kimberly chose two different colors of solids for her background fabrics (pink and mint green) and cut two squares of each measuring 10 1/2" x 10 1/2". She recommends using spray starch and a very hot iron to make the fabrics quite stiff before stitching.



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A Hera marker is a fabulous tool to mark diagonal lines on the background fabric squares. Start by marking a line from point to point on your squares.



Next, Kimberly auditioned thread colors. It is important to choose a thread color that is very close in tint and value to your background fabric.



A good way to actually audition thread color is to unwind some thread from the spool and lay it on the fabric. My favorite thread for this technique is Aurifil 50wt. cotton.



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This fun technique will work for any model of machines; use the stitches you have available to you! Choose a decorative stitch on your machine and stitch on top of the diagonal line you marked with the Hera marker. Kimberly began with her built-in alphabet; she chose the word “Paris” to get the ball rolling. (Don’t forget to include spaces between your words or phrases.)



After you have stitched your first line, use the Hera marker to add more diagonal lines in 2” increments. Or course you can add as many lines as you desire.



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When you have finished stitching along the drawn diagonal lines, you can fill in the spaces with other decorative stitches. Kimberly used the edge of her presser foot as a “guide” and lined it up along the side of the previous stitching.



This process is quick and easy! All you have to do is gently guide the fabric with your hands to keep it aligned. The feed dogs and the presser foot do the job of pulling the fabric through evenly.



It's fun to choose a wide variety of different stitches to fill in the lines and create texture and visual interest. In essence, you are creating a brand new piece of fabric. (For this project, Kimberly kept the default settings for all of the stitches she used.)

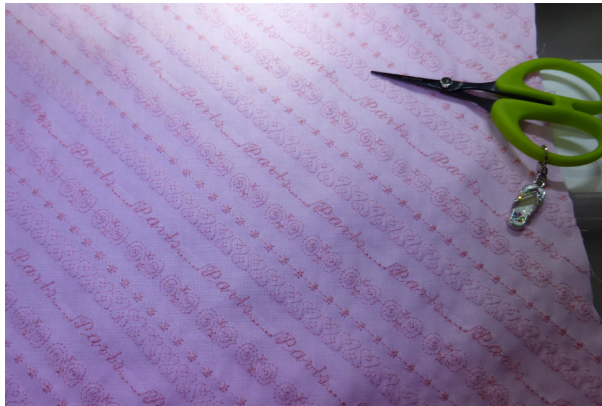


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Choose the stitches that vary in style and density. Your new “fabric” will be even more exciting for the viewer’s eye when you mix graceful, curvy stitches with geometric ones.



Once your fabric square is finished, trim the threads and continue creating the other three “stitch embellished fabrics” using the other fabric squares you cut.

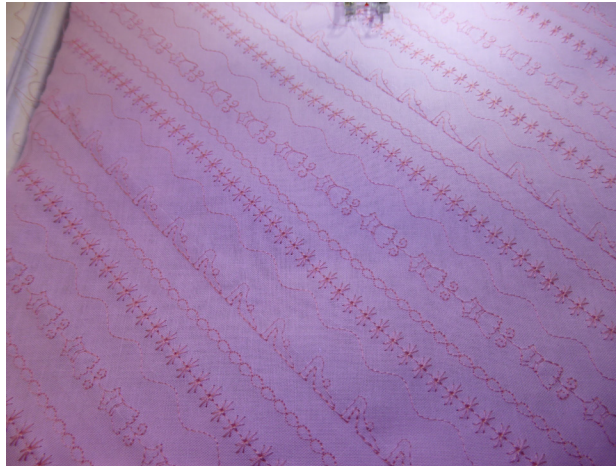


Have fun selecting stitches which compliment your themed fabrics. Kimberly loves these cute shoes and the dress form was perfect for her Parisian theme!



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“It was exciting to see each new “fabric” being created as I combined all of the various stitches.” - Kimberly



Don't forget to try the basic block lettering if your machine has that capability. If your machine doesn't stitch letters, then don't worry about it. Even basic utility stitches can look beautiful when stitched out on fabric!

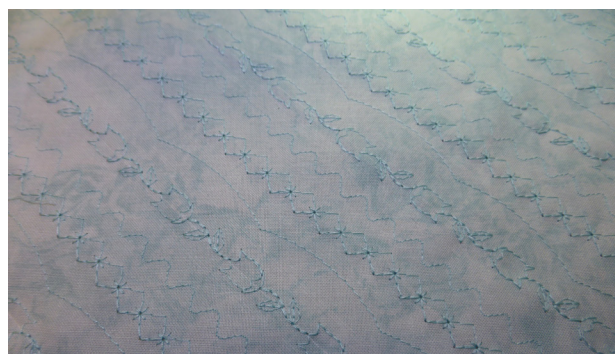


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The process of creating your new stitch-embellished fabric is super creative and fun!



Just look at the texture and variety! You'll have so much fun stitching decorative stitches on the fabric that it will be hard to stop!

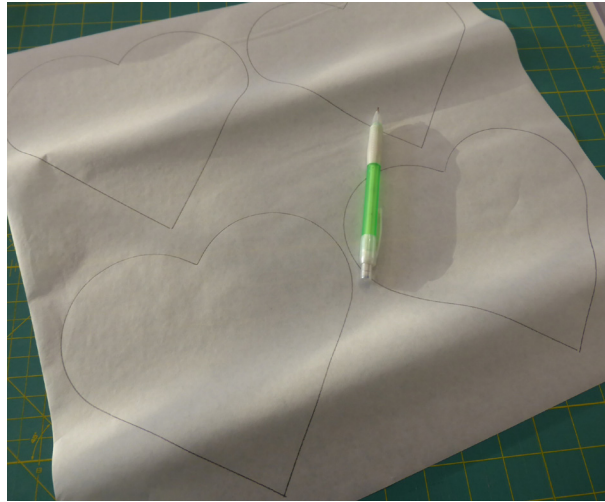


After the stitching is complete, trim your fabric squares to 10" x 10" (unfinished).



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Trace four hearts measuring approximately 7" wide onto the paper side of your favorite fusible web. (Be sure to follow the manufacturers' instructions carefully.)



Roughly cut out the drawn heart shapes and fuse them to the wrong side of your fabrics. After the fabric has cooled, cut out the hearts on the drawn lines. For the time being, leave the paper on your hearts.



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Before fusing the hearts to the new, stitch-embellished fabric squares, audition them with the other fabrics you intend to use.



Once you decide on the final layout, remove the paper backing and fuse the hearts onto the fabric squares. For Kimberly's little quilt, she cut 3" strips for the sashing and borders.



Choose your favorite stitch to machine-applique the hearts to the background fabric using contrasting thread for maximum effect! Kimberly used the small buttonhole stitch on her machine.



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There are many different ways to machine-applique your hearts to the background squares. You could even use a simple zig-zag stitch.



Kimberly loves the high contrast of the black thread for the machine-applique. The black thread shows up beautifully against the pink and mint green backgrounds.

For a project this small in size, Kimberly recommends Fairfield's Fusi-Boo batting. There is no need for basting because you use a hot iron to temporarily fuse the batting to the top and backing fabric.



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Kimberly did some fast and easy stitch-in-the-ditch machine-quilting to hold all of the layers together. She stitched-in-the-ditch around each of the hearts as well.



Kimberly also did free motion quilting in a gentle meander pattern in the sashing and borders.



Kimberly added black fabric for the binding and a sleeve for hanging on the back. Her Paris Stitch Project was then done! "This was such a fun way to sample a wide variety of different stitches and I simply love the texture created by the decorative stitches and words. I also stitched my name on one of the background squares, which is the perfect way to "sign" my quilt!" - Kimberly



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"I hope you'll try this fun little technique for making a quilt to keep or share. In the process, you will have fun getting to know the many capabilities of your Janome machine!" - Kimberly

