

Embroidered Drink Coasters

(Designs and instructions by Flora Joy, ©2007, www.storytellingworld.com)

To save both time and stabilizer, do the following before you embroidery your coasters:

- Make a “HOOP SAVER” by stitching 2-3 **heavy** fabrics with the provided *HoopSaver.ART* design in the large oval hoop.
- Remove the fabric from the hoop and cut out the center section (and toss the center scrap).
- Center the remaining piece inside the medium hoop. (Leave it there as long as you are making these coasters, and you will never need to rehoop—no matter how many coasters you make.)

For each of the provided coasters (A, D, F, J, M, P):

- Spray 505 Adhesive onto the hooped reusable base fabric.
- Place a 5½” x 7” sheet of Badgemaster (or Tear-Away stabilizer) atop the sprayed fabric. Pin with 2-4 straight pins (4 for Badgemaster) for extra support.
- Give a “spit” of a squirt of 505 on both back and front sides of the stabilizer.
- On the **BACK SIDE** of the sprayed/pinned stabilizer, position the backing fabric for the coaster, and on the **FRONT** side, position the **TOP FABRIC** for the coaster.
- *For TRAPUNTO coasters, position a piece of batting just slightly larger than the size of the actual letter (sprayed on both sides with 505) just beneath the top layer of the coaster fabric (about where the letter will appear) before stitching Step 1. To avoid puckering spray complete back of top fabric and hold in place during Step 1.*
- Sew Step 1 of the design.
- Remove the **hoop** from the machine (but **DON’T** unhoop the fabric) and separately trim (1) the top fabric, and (2) the backing fabric. Carefully trim close, but don’t snip the stabilizer or the threads in the stitched circle.
- Sew Step 2 of the design.
- Unpin the stabilizer/coaster “sandwich” from the base hoop fabric (without unhooping the fabric), and tear away the stabilizer from the coaster.
- If needed (likely not), touch up with a fabric pen. There is no need to wash these coasters because any Badgemaster stabilizer will be completely **INSIDE** the coasters. If a “beard” is left from the tear-away stabilizer, trim it carefully with appliqué scissors.

TO MAKE ADDITIONAL LETTERS like those provided, pull up one of the prepared (non-trapunto) coaster files. **RENAME** the file to the **NEW** letter of your choice. Click on the old letter in the design, then go to that letter’s properties. **CHANGE** the old letter to the new letter of your choice. You **MAY** need to change the **FONT** because some fonts simply don’t work for some letters. Keep experimenting until you are happy with the looks of your selected new letters.

TRAPUNTO LETTERS:

Eleven letters have been prepared that have the trapunto (raised sections) effect. These have surrounding stippling or echo stitching (designed in the Bernina software). The provided circular letters are: E, T, S, U, (U, T), C, G, and R. The provided trapunto letters that are **NOT** circular are A, M/W. *You won’t be able to use the HOOP SAVER for these three letters (but you may prepare one in a manner similar to the circular one).*

TO MAKE ADDITIONAL TRAPUNTO COASTERS (like those provided) pull one of the trapunto files and begin with a new letter shape. (I “fattened” the **ROUNDED BLOCK** font for these provided trapunto letters.) Give a triple-stitch outline for the actual letter, then manually digitize the stippling/echoing (with the open star). This may take awhile and you might need to stitch out a sample or two before you know if the results are satisfactory.

TIPS: (1) Cut a 4 ¾” circle to use as a template for cutting top and bottom fabrics for the coasters (before stitching). (2) A **CANVAS** fabric makes **GREAT** coaster bottoms. Consider using **TWO** layers of this canvas. (3) Using the same color of top and bottom threads will help in the final appearance of the finished product. (If the thread color is the same color as the **BOTTOM** of the coaster, that will help also.)

If you notice any errors on this page or in the provided designs, thank you for communicating them to Flora at: florajoy@comcast.net. If you have any questions, feel free to contact her at this same address.