

Instructions for: ITH DOLL CLOTHES



For machine embroidery designs by Ballyhoo Creations

ABOUT THESE DESIGNS

INTERACTIVE PDF FORMAT

- You may print these instructions like any other PDF file.
- Or you can view it on your computer, tablet or phone for an interactive version.
- Links, buttons, checkboxes, forms, and even a notes section can be filled out and saved by you. Your notes are private and only reside in your version of the file. Links and buttons will take you to the Ballyhoo Creations website where you are invited to share your feedback with me if you choose.

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TOOLS & MATERIALS

TOOLS

1. embroidery machine with files loaded
2. sharp fabric scissors
3. small embroidery scissors

MATERIALS

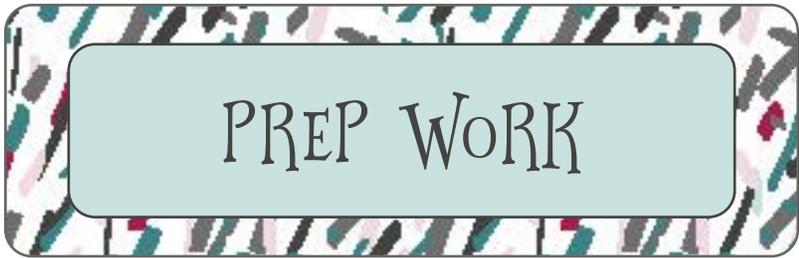
1. tear-away embroidery stabilizer
2. thread
3. (optional) fabric glue OR 1/4" seam tape OR hand needle and thread to hem clothes if desired
4. (optional) elastic thread for pants waistband
5. stretch fabrics

	small for 5x7 hoops	medium for 6x10 hoops
pants	5" W x 12" L	6" W x 13" L
t-shirt	5" W x 10" L	6" W x 10" L
dress	7" W x 14" L	13" W x 10" L
sweater	8" W x 6" L	10" W x 10" L

VIDEO TUTORIALS

accompanying video tutorial at:
<https://ballyhoo creations.com/product/ith-clothes-for-8-dolls/>

Video refers to 8" or small dolls but instructions are the same for all sized of the doll clothes.



PREP WORK

A NOTE ON EMBROIDERY DESIGN THREAD COLORS

- The thread color code for Ballyhoo projects is: purple is for placement lines; scarlet red means a finished seam; Teal is for triple-stitched border such as feltie projects, green is a tackdown stitch to hold your fabric in the hoop, and black or other colors are part of the main design (like the pants pockets in this project). You may use any thread color you like, those colors in the design are for demonstration of stitch order and are labelled in the TnT (terms and templates) document from your download.
- Suggested thread colors: choose a thread to match your fabric for the seams. You may want a contrasting color for placement and tackdowns so you can see them better - they will be your cutting guides during assembly.
- If you are using a DST or EXP file, the colors may not be represented correctly on your machine because those formats don't store color information. This is fine - just follow the directions for the NUMBER of the color and everything will work out. Example, color 1 is the outline on stabilizer.

PREP YOUR EMBROIDERY MACHINE

- Use whatever method you typically use to transfer the files to your embroidery machine.
- **If you have a MULTI NEEDLE machine** - you will need to manually program stops after each color to allow for fabric placement.
- Ensure a good needle is in your machine.

DESIGN TEMPLATES

- The .zip file you downloaded contains templates for your designs along with the machine embroidery files.
- Although not applicable to this project, here's our webpage for tips on how to place designs using printed templates.

<https://ballyhoo creations.com/template-placement-tips>

You may find the face templates useful for planning hair for your dolls ;-)

T-SHIRT, SWEATER AND DRESS STEPS

1. Hoop tear-away stabilizer in the appropriate sized hoop for the design. (File name includes the hoop size)
2. **STITCH COLOR 1** on to the stabilizer. This will stitch a loose basting stitch outline for placement and eventual cutting guide later on.
3. Place stretchy fabric on the stabilizer to cover the placement outlines with the right side of the fabric facing UP (so you see the good side.) Refer to the table in the materials section to see what size fabric you need for this.
4. **STITCH COLOR 2** which will tack down the fabric to the stabilizer
5. (OPTIONAL) If you want to add an embroidery design to the front of the shirt/dress, you can do that here. (You will need to provide a design from your own library for that)
6. The FRONT of the garment has a line at the top of the sleeves with a half circle stitched at the neckline. Fold the back half over the front at that fold line. (you won't see that half circle after you've folded) Smooth out the fabric to make sure it's flat and evenly folded at the line.
7. **STITCH COLOR 3** which will create the seams under the arms and along the sides. Your embroidery machine will double stitch these to create a strong seam.
8. Remove project from hoop.
9. Use the placement lines on the stabilizer as your seam allowance cutting guide and cut away all the excess fabric away from the seams. DO NOT cut the fold line since this will be your shoulder "seam." You will also need to cut away the excess fabric from the sleeve cuffs and the bottom hem, leaving 1/4" extra to turn under if you're finishing the hems later.
10. Use the half circle that was stitched on the front neckline as a guide to cut out the neck hole. You can cut the neck differently if you want a v-neck, wide neckline, etc. Fabrics with a lot of stretch can have a smaller neck hole, but fabrics with less stretch will need it bigger so it will fit on your cloth character. Pull out the basting stitch from the shoulder fold since we don't need it any more.
11. Gently tear away the stabilizer and clip or remove any remaining placement stitches.
12. {Optional} Finish the seams by turning them under and either hand stitching, or by using fabric glue, or by using 1/4 seam tape (called wonder tape). This step is optional for stretch fabrics since they don't fray and can be left raw if that's your style.
13. Turn the garment inside out and dress your cloth character!

"POCKET" PANTS STEPS

1. Hoop tear-away stabilizer in the proper sized hoop.
2. **STITCH COLOR 1** on to the stabilizer. This will stitch a loose basting stitch outline for placement and eventual cutting guide later on.
3. Place your stretchy fabric to cover the placement outlines with the right side of the fabric facing UP (so you see the good side.) Make sure the bottom of the fabric covers the bottom of the pants, while the top will extend out of the hoop. The arrow stitched on stabilizer shows the direction of the most stretch for your fabric. You can tape or pin that excess if you prefer to keep it out of the way.
4. **STITCH COLOR 2** which will tack down the fabric to the stabilizer in the shape of the pants with the fold line at the waist.
5. **STITCH COLOR 3** in a coordinating thread color to create pocket outlines. These are not actual pockets, they're just made to look like pockets.
6. Trim jump threads from pocket stitches if needed.
7. Carefully Tear away the back pockets from the stablizer and any other stitches on the back of the pants so you can fold in the next step. You may need to clip the bobbin threads so it will tear off the stabilizer. There is no need to repair the holes in the stabilizer - we won't be stitching on that part of the hoop any more. But be careful that you don't shift the project in the hoop while lifting those pockets from the stabilizer.
8. Fold the back over the front with right sides together at the waist fold line. Smooth the fabric so there are no creases in front or back layer. Make sure both sides are evenly folded at the line.
9. **STITCH COLOR 4** - this will doublestitch the seams of the pants.
10. Trim threads to 1/2" tails, then remove project from hoop.
11. Use the placement lines on the stabilizer as your seam allowance cutting guide and cut away all the excess fabric away from the seams for a 1/4" seam allowance. Cut the pants hems, leaving 1/4" extra to turn under if you're finishing the hems later.
12. Carefully remove tear-away stabilizer and any remaining placement or tackdown threads.
13. Cut the fold line to open up the waist.
14. Fold the waistband to the inside all the way to the side seam line. This will hide the topstitching on the front which is not intended to show. You may use fabric glue, 1/4 seam binding or hand stitch this down. You can also sew it with elastic thread to create a stretchy waistband.
15. {Optional} Finish the cuffs by turning them under and either hand stitching, or by using fabric glue, or by using 1/4 seam tape (called wonder tape). This step is optional for stretch fabrics since they don't fray and can be left raw if that's your style.

SIMPLE PANTS STEPS

1. Hoop tear-away stabilizer in the proper sized hoop.
2. **STITCH COLOR 1** on to the stabilizer. This will stitch a loose basting stitch outline for placement and eventual cutting guide later on.
3. Place your stretchy fabric to cover the placement outlines with the right side of the fabric facing UP (so you see the good side.) Make sure the bottom of the fabric covers the bottom of the pants, while the top will extend out of the hoop. The arrow stitched on stabilizer shows the direction of the most stretch for your fabric. You can tape or pin that excess if you prefer to keep it out of the way.
4. **STITCH COLOR 2** which will tack down the fabric to the stabilizer for the front of the pants. There is a straight line at the waist. This will be your fold line.
5. Fold at the fold line so the back of the pants will cover the front of the pants with right sides together. (The back is the side where the placement stitches had arrows) Smooth the fabric so there are no creases in front or back layer. Make sure both sides are evenly folded at the line.
6. **STITCH COLOR 4** - this will doublestitch the seams of the pants.
7. Trim threads to 1/2" tails, then remove project from hoop.
8. Use the placement lines on the stabilizer as your seam allowance cutting guide and cut away all the excess fabric away from the seams for a 1/4" seam allowance. Cut the pants hems, leaving 1/4" extra to turn under if you're finishing the hems later.
9. Carefully remove tear-away stabilizer and any remaining placement or tackdown threads.
10. Cut the fold line to open up the waist.
11. (Optional) Finish the waistband and cuffs by turning them under and either hand stitching, or by using fabric glue, or by using 1/4 seam tape (called wonder tape). This step is optional for stretch fabrics since they don't fray and can be left raw if that's your style.
12. Turn the pants inside out and dress your cloth character!

TROUBLESHOOTING

TROUBLESHOOTING

- My seams are too loose!
Some machines automatically adjust tension and others do not. If your seams are loose and you want to tighten them, you can increase your machine tension to somewhere between 4-5 for a proper seam. Consult your machine manual or google your machine name with “tension adjustment” for help with that.
- My multineedle machine stitched the whole thing without stopping!
You will need to program stops after each color on your machine when assigning colors. This is mentioned on page 4 under Prework.
- My placement stitches on stabilizer are really loose.
Some machine don't adjust well to those long stitches. It's OK if they're loose since the placement stitches are just a guide and you'll cut those away towards the end of the project. If you want them tighter, you can increase your machine tension (see bullet #1 above)
- I'm having a hard time tearing away the stabilizer
Try holding the stitches as you gently tear away the stabilizer. And it's OK if there's a little stabilizer left. Your doll won't mind.

