

Fall Fleece Jacket

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In this project I used random embroidery placement to create a fun jacket! Embroidering on fleece takes more consideration when choosing designs, stabilizers, and threads. Working with fleece and berber is fun and easy if you follow the guideline listed on the back. Have fun stitching!! ☺

Supplies

Jacket pattern
Fleece or berber
Poly Mesh stabilizer
Aqua Film topping
OESD Design - #FM203
Sulky embroidery thread (1181-Rust, 1126-L. Brown, 1131-D. Brown, 1170-Brown, 1149-Tan)
505 Spray Adhesive
Straight pins



Fabric Construction:

Pre-wash the fabric and cut out the jacket pattern pieces. If you would like the jacket lined, cut out a lining also. DO NOT sew the pieces together! Baste 5/8" away from each fabric piece edge on the side seams, armholes, shoulders, and neck. Baste along the bottom of jacket where the hemline will be. If buttons are down the front of the jacket, baste across center front edges, allowing for the overlap. These basting lines will show you the boundaries on the jacket for embroidery placement.

Design Preparation:

Open OESD Design FM203 into your embroidery software program. Select the biggest brown leaf. Copy and paste the leaf onto a new file. Enlarge the leaf 20%. Name this file "Fall Leaf #1". Go back to design FM203 and select the medium orange leaf. Copy and paste the leaf onto a new file. Enlarge the leaf 20%. Name this file "Fall Leaf #2". Note—When you are modifying designs, always save the edited design into a new file; never save over the original!

Print multiple copies of each single leaf design with the X and Y lines. (The point where the X and Y lines intersect is the center of the design.) These will be the templates to know where to place the embroidery. Cut out around the design template. Write the name of the design and mark the top and bottom of design on the back of the template.

If you do not have computer software, you can stitch the original design (all 3 leaves) in place of "Fall Leaf #1" and "Fall Leaf #2". Create a template with your machine by stitching the outline of the design or the entire design on cut away. Hoop 1-2 layers of cut-away and mark the x and y lines with a pen, using your grid. Then stitch your design in the middle of the hoop. After stitching is complete, trim around the stitched design, leaving some of the marked x and y lines. Photocopy the stitched design. Cut out around the design template. Write the name of the design and mark the top and bottom of design on the back of the template.

Embroidery:

Randomly scatter both leaf templates over jacket front and back. These do not have to be exact, but should not look sloppy or haphazard. Pin templates in place. Be sure you put ALL the leaves falling down.

Cut 3" squares of aqua film--enough for one square per leaf. Lay aside.

Hoop 2 layers of poly mesh. Although this design has a low stitch count, the 2 layers give more stability for stitching multiple designs. Since these designs are small and do not require exact placement, you will be able to stitch multiple designs in one hooping.

To do this, spray 505 on the hooped stabilizer in the upper left corner. Begin with the designs at the neckline and work your way down. Place the highest leaf on one of the jacket fronts on the sprayed stabilizer corner. You do not need to worry about straightening the grainlines. For this design, small degrees of rotation will add variety to the finished project. Although, be sure the leaves are not rotated so much that they are upside down.

Adhere the fabric to stabilizer and remove template, marking the approximate center of the design. Pin an aqua film square on top of the fabric where the design will be stitched. Be sure the pins will not interfere with the stitching.

Snap the hoop onto the machine. Send the file that matches the design template to be stitched to the machine. On-screen, move the design in the hoop, matching the on-screen center with the center marked on the fabric. Stitch.

After stitching is complete, take the hoop out of the machine. **DO NOT** take the fabric out of the hoop! Select another nearby leaf on the fleece. Spray another area of the stabilizer and stick the fleece to it. Be sure that the area to be stitched is not overlapping the other stitched leaf. You may need to pin extra fabric out of the way. Take off the template, mark design center, and put an aqua film square over the stitching area.

Put the hoop in the machine. Match the onscreen center with the marked fabric center and stitch. Continue to select another leaf on the jacket front, place on stabilizer, and stitch. Don't forget to pin on a square of aqua film! The more designs you stitch, the more bunched your fabric will become in the hoop. Be careful that the bunched fabric doesn't get caught in the stitching or hung up on the machine, causing the embroidery to be misaligned. Depending on the hoop size you are using, you should be able to embroider 5-10 designs in one hooping. *Isn't that a great way to save stabilizer?!*

After the hoop is filled, take the fabric out of the hoop. Cut away the poly mesh close to the stitching and tear off the aqua film. Hoop another 2 layers of poly mesh and repeat the process for the other jacket front and back. After all the embroidery is complete, trim the loose threads. Finish your jacket by stitching the pieces together along the basted line on the fabric. Complete the hem as marked by the basting stitches.

Now step back and admire the masterpiece you created! Wasn't that fleece fun to stitch?! ☺



- **Selecting fabric** - Choose a high quality fleece or berber that will withstand decorative stitching. If the fabric has a high loft, you may need to raise the pressure foot pressure on the machine to allow the foot to glide over the fabric.
- **Use spray adhesive** - Don't hoop the fleece. Hoop the stabilizer and spray it with 505 spray adhesive. Then stick the fabric to the stabilizer. This will prevent permanent hoop marks.
- **Use cut away stabilizer** - Because this fabric stretches you will need to use heavy cut away or light weight poly mesh.
- **Use a water-soluble topping** - Using aqua film on top of the fleece or berber will prevent the stitches from sinking down in the fabric and help keep accurate stitching.
- **Choosing designs** - Select simple, less dense, motifs. Dense designs pile in too many stitches and interfere with the drape of the fabric. Designs with satin and fill stitches will show up more than outline stitches, especially if the fleece has a high loft.
- **Threads** - Choose decorative threads that will not get lost in the loft of the fleece. For more visible stitching lines, use 2 strands of threads or stitch the design twice.