



LEARN & CREATE

with Baby Lock



Studios Unicorn Embroidered Backpack and Lunchbox

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Skill Level: Intermediate

- **Supplies**
 - Baby Lock embroidery machine
 - 4x4 or 5x7 hoop
 - Embroider-able backpack and/or lunchbox (see Resources)
 - Array of desired Madeira polyester embroidery threads (see Information)
 - Finishing Touch bobbin thread
 - Titanium Embroidery Needle size 11 or 12
 - Array of fabric remnants for appliqué (see Information)
 - Baby Lock Stick-Tear, Tear-Away Stabilizer
 - Remnant of Baby Lock Tear-Away Stabilizer (Optional - See Creative Option #3)
 - Download the FREE .pes embroidery designs [HERE](#), which include
 - 4x4 and 5x7 Unicorn, with and without glasses PES file
 - 4x4 and 5x7 Beautiful, strong, courageous quote PES file (optional - see creative option #3)
 - Fabric marking utensil
 - Appliqué scissors



- Optional fonts for name and monogram embroidery* (not included, see creative options at the end)
- Optional metallic thread (use a metallic embroidery needle with this thread)
- Optional gems to bedazzle the unicorn's glasses

*This project can be completed with built-in machine fonts and without embroidery software! But you can also have a lot of fun with software and have more options available!

Resources:

- You'll want to find a backpack and lunchbox that is easy to embroider on a flatbed machine. When you're shopping, make sure to open it up as much as you can to ensure that you can get a hoop in and so the rest of the item will lay flattish or be able to be moved out of the way when embroidered. Also check that you will not be sewing through too much thickness. The backpack and lunchbox used in this tutorial were Viv & Lou® brand, which are typically easier to embroider on a flatbed machine (BUT, still make sure to check its embroider-ability; they have some lunchboxes that do not have a flap that can be embroidered on a flatbed machine). <https://www.vivandlou.com/>

Information:

- For fabric and threads, if you are stitching the 5x7 unicorn design, you'll want to look for fabric to fill the unicorn horn, ears, hair and flowers, and select coordinating threads for embroidery.
- If you are stitching the 4x4 design, you'll want to look for fabric to fill the unicorn horn, the white part of the ears and the hair, and select coordinating threads for embroidery.
- NOTE: the inside of the ears, the flowers, and the glasses are embroidery stitches.
- For my fabrics, I used remnants of both woven and knit fabrics that I had on-hand. Woven fabric is more stable during appliqué stitching, but knits are really nice for trimming around curves for appliqué.
- For any fabric (too thin or knit, etc), you can always add an interfacing or stabilizer on the underside of the fabric before placing it onto your appliqué shape to give it more stability when necessary.
- If you are new to embroidery and stitching on an awkward shape like a backpack or lunchbox scares you, consider stitching onto a flat piece of fabric and either sewing the fabric on as a pocket or adhering it somehow, perhaps with a fusible webbing of sorts (you'll just need to finish the edges of the fabric).

Unicorn Embroidery Instructions

1. Determine the size hoop that you are able to use with your embroidery machine and that will work with the backpack or lunchbox that you have chosen. Hoop some Baby Lock Stick-Tear, Tear-Away Stabilizer. Then, score it with a pin and tear away the top layer to reveal the sticky stabilizer underneath.



2. Mark your center line on a pocket, or other embroider-able area of your backpack/lunchbox and place the hoop under the pocket and line it up straight, as best you can, and stick it to your stabilizer, smoothing out the fabric and pressing it down firmly. Try placing it into the machine and if it doesn't work (like you can't get the needle into the places you need to stitch), unstick the fabric and see if you can reposition the hoop in a different way to get it to work.

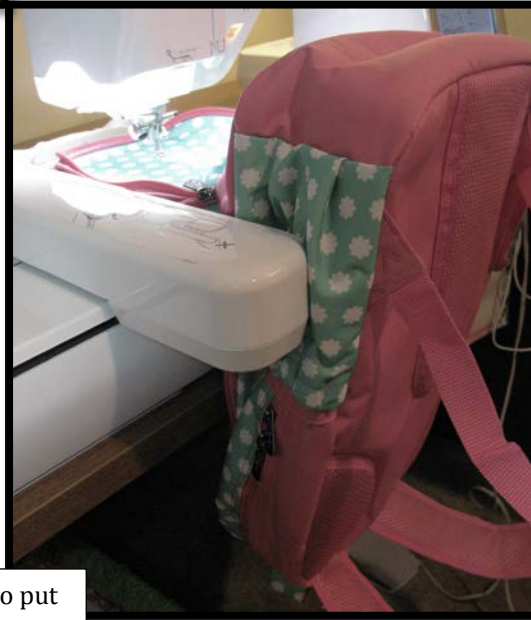


This is how I hooped the front pocket of the backpack so that the bulk would hang in front of the machine. You may need to hoop differently depending on your hoop size and the embroider-ability of the backpack/lunchbox you chose.



I hooped the lunchbox this way for the unicorn design, but re-hooped it opposite of this when I stitched the name on. I liked both ways!

3. Place the hooped project into your machine. You may need to get creative here getting any bulk around the needle. You will likely need to support your project with your hands during embroidery. This means you'll need to gently lift the weight of the backpack or lunchbox that is not hooped to relieve any pull/pressure on the hoop as it stitches.



This is how I had to put the backpack in the machine and I needed to gently lift and hold it as it stitched.





This shows the bulk of the lunchbox in front of the machine. As you can see, I had to hold on to it as it stitched.

This image shows the bulk of the lunchbox behind the machine head. You can see, I still need to move the needle so it doesn't stitch on the inner lunchbox! I had to bring the hoop in from the back side to get it under the needle and then to slide into the machine.



4. Choose a straight stitch square shape from your built-in shapes category in your embroidery machine and make it as big as it will go for the hoop you are using and that will stitch within the embroider-able area of your project (without stitching on a zipper, etc). This stitch will act as a basting stitch to hold your project in place during stitching. You'll want this shape to stitch first before your embroidery design.



5. Now pull up the .pes Unicorn Embroidery Design to your screen (choosing from the 4x4 or 5x7 designs, with or without glasses, that was included with this project in the supplies list).
6. Follow the steps of the design and thread color changes. The unicorn horn, ears, hair, and flowers all contain areas of appliqué (there are fewer appliqué areas in the 4x4 design because of its small size; those areas have been replaced with stitches – see Information above).



TIP: The appliqué consists of a placement stitch, a tack down stitch and a finishing or satin stitch. The placement stitch will stitch the outline of the shape onto the project and then you'll cover that area with fabric. Next, you'll stitch your tack-down stitch, which will stitch the exact same outline straight stitch as the first stitch line. When that is done, use appliqué scissors to clip away fabric as closely to the stitch line as possible. Be careful not to clip into your appliqué shape or your project fabric. If you accidentally nick a stitch on the appliqué stitch line, it's ok – just don't cut in any further! Your finishing stitch may likely cover a nicked stitch. [Check out this video to see the appliqué process!](#)

7. After you've appliquéd and stitched your embroidery design, you're done! See below if you'd like to add some other creative touches!

Creative option # 1 – Monogram it!

Add a monogram if you have room in the stitch-able area! The standard monogram is embroidered with the initials in this order: first name, last name, and middle name. And the last name initial is typically larger than the other two letters. Look online for other creative options in monogramming! You can totally use the letters built-in to your machine to create the monogram you desire! The font that I used for the backpack monogram is called Adalynn from Designer's Gallery Embroidery Software [FontWorks](#).* I still stitched a basting stitch before stitching the monogram to avoid any of the layers shifting



Creative Option #2 – Personalize it!

Again, if you can find the space, add the child's name! And as mentioned above, you can use the fonts built right into your machine! However, the font used to spell Olivia on the lunchbox was from Designer's Gallery Embroidery Software [FontWorks](#).* I still stitched a basting stitch before stitching the monogram to avoid any of the layers shifting!



Creative Option #3 – Add a secret message or inspirational quote!

I found a nice space inside the backpack to place a sweet message to my daughter! I've actually included it for free in the file that you found the unicorn design within! There's a 4x4 and 5x7 option! If you want to purchase the program that contains this font called Giddyup (which is ADORABLE!) that created the Beautiful, Strong, Courageous quote, you can find it within Designer's Gallery Embroidery Software [MonogramWorks](#).* I still stitched a basting stitch before stitching the monogram to avoid any of the layers shifting! And for this, I floated (or slid) an extra layer of Baby Lock Tear Away Stabilizer underneath the hooped project before it started to stitch to add more stability since it was on the thin lining layer of the backpack.



*This project can be completed with built-in machine fonts and without embroidery software! But you can also have a lot of fun with software, so we like to let you know about it! ☺



5x7 Hoop.pes Unicorn Design

Appliqué – horn, white and pink part of ears, hair, both flowers, optional appliqué for the glasses (underneath the eyes; just leave clear of fabric if you don't want to use fabric under the eyes)

Filled with stitches – flower centers, glasses frames



4x4 Hoop .pes Unicorn Design

Appliqué – horn, white part of ears, hair, optional appliqué for the glasses (underneath the eyes; just leave clear of fabric if you don't want to use fabric under the eyes)

Filled with stitches – pink part of ears, both flowers and flower centers, glasses frames

