



BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO STABILIZER

We all want beautiful results for our machine embroidery projects, and choosing the correct stabilizer is crucial to that pursuit! The world of stabilizer can feel daunting at first, but we're here to help! With this guide, you'll discover the ins and outs of each variety of stabilizer and determine which type is best for your project!

STABILIZER BASICS

Before we dive in, let's review a few basics!

1 | WHAT IS STABILIZER?

It's a smooth material, often resembling paper, that doesn't stretch. Its purpose is to support and stabilize your embroidery project, and help eliminate puckering and uneven stitches. It's the secret ingredient that makes a project look amazing!

2 | HOW IS IT USED?

The first step of many machine embroidery projects is to hoop the correct stabilizer in the embroidery hoop; then, stitch a placement line on the stabilizer and proceed to add fabrics on top of it. Alternatively, some projects begin with the fabric (or blank) being hooped first, and then fusing stabilizer to the back of it.

3 | HOW MANY TYPES OF STABILIZER ARE THERE?

Stabilizer comes in many varieties, and each type serves certain projects better than others. The four main categories are: **Cut Away**, **Tear Away**, **Wash Away**, and **Speciality Stabilizer**. Within each category, variations of weight are also offered. For instance, Tear Away comes in light, medium, or heavy weight options.

4 | WHAT DETERMINES THE TYPE OF STABILIZER YOU SHOULD USE?

There are three factors to consider when deciding which stabilizer is best for your project:

PURPOSE

- Is your project a wearable or something to be looked at?
- Silky Soft Fusible Backing is great for projects that lie flat against the skin.
- Wash-Away is great for projects that will be viewed from both sides. (E.g. a freestanding lace project.)

MATERIAL

- For stable, non-stretchy materials, Tear-Away is usually best.
- For stretchy materials like cotton or knit, Cut-Away is usually best.
- For sheers or delicates, Wash-Away is usually best.

STITCH-COUNT

- The higher a design's stitch-count, the heavier its stabilizer ought to be.