

HoopSisters

SEE WHAT YOUR EMBROIDERY
MACHINE CAN REALLY DO

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Dear EmbroidaBlock® of the Month HoopSister/Mister,

Welcome to HoopSisters EmbroidaBlock® of the Month Program, SisterHood. 2018 marks HoopSisters 10 anniversary! We are blessed to have come this far doing what we LOVE to do everyday. We hope you enjoy this years quilt, SisterHood in both wall hanging and quilt size.

SisterHood wall hanging is just 8 blocks across, and 8 down for a total of 64 blocks. Easy to stitch blanket stitch applique with beautiful quilting. To make SisterHood in quilt size, you will turn the wall hanging portion "On Point", and add corners, which we are calling the Border. This makes the quilt much larger.

SisterHood requires just two fabrics, fabric 1 is your background color, fabric 2 is the applique and some piecing as well. We recommend using a tightly woven fabric, such as a batik for fabric 2. There are two reasons for this, one - batiks tend to be the same color on each side, two - batiks are a higher thread count. Since the applique is blanket stitch, you will see a bit of the raw edge, so having a fabric that is the same color on both sides, as well as a higher thread count will make your applique look fantastic!

We welcome you to join us on Facebook and Pinterest. You can even post pictures of your blocks, quilts, fellow HoopSisters/Misters or yourself and show the world how much fun you are having. Be sure to send us photos of your completed quilts as we periodically have Cyber Quilt Shows and would love to showcase your talent. Include your name, city, state and sewing shop.

We recommend you review the rest of this document as well as the license agreement in the Organization folder. Take the time to get organized before taking your first class or making your first block. Even if you are familiar with our technique, it is good to review. This quilt is called SisterHood™, in honor of our 10 anniversary. Thank you for signing up for the EmbroidaBlock™ of the Month program. We can't wait to see your photos!

Sincerely,

Annie and Lynda

P.S. Yes we really are sisters!

Video Link: <http://www.hoopsisters.com/sisterhood-videos/>

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How to Organize And Use The Information Given To You In Class:

During each class your dealer will give you the entire folder for that particular month on your USB jump drive. You will receive the embroidery files in 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 inch in all formats. All instructions and slide shows too. The contents of the USB jump drive should be saved onto your computer in case you misplace it. To do that make a folder either on your Desktop or wherever you keep your current collection of embroidery designs. Call that folder EBOM2018 and move (or copy and paste) the files from your jump drive to your EBOM2018A folder. Don't forget to bring your HoopSisters Jump Drive to each class.

We recommend you purchase a three ring binder to keep all the information you will need to print. Open the "**Month One**" folder you've obtained from your dealer, then click on "**Organization**". Inside you will find several other files listed below that will be helpful throughout the program. Open each document, print them out if you want and place in your binder. Those documents include:

- **Binder Cover** - a title page for your binder, this year we've included the back.
- **Color Way** document will get your creative juices flowing and help you decide on what colors to use for your quilt. A line drawing is also included so you can create your own color way. Print off a few copies and get out the crayons or colored pencils and see what color fabric best suits your taste. The line drawing also shows where fabrics 1, 2, etc, will go in your quilt. **OR**
- **EQ7 file** for those who have EQ7 use the Electric Quilt file to help with fabric and color choices and leave the crayons for the kids. Have fun playing!
- **Fabric and Thread Key** will give you the fabric yardages and a place to put swatches of your fabric choices and the names and numbers of your thread choices. You will also need to have embroidery bobbin thread and water soluble thread. The instructions will tell you when to change your needle and/or bobbin thread. Pick up some empty bobbins as you will need to wind bobbins to match your needle thread. Your written instructions will show you where the embroidery is on each block.
- **HoopSisters License Agreement** is also included. We encourage you to enter your creation in fairs and quilt shows, please give HoopSisters proper credit.

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Other Folders in each Monthly Folder

- **Instructions** are available in PDF format for each month. Each numbered instruction corresponds to the thread change number on your machine. Do not follow the thread color the machine says. Instead follow our instructions for what thread to use.
- **Slideshows** are available for most blocks. It might be a good idea to view the slideshow first and then take the **Instructions** to your machine to sew the block.
- **Video Instruction** is available on the link at the bottom of your written instructions. Click on the link or copy and paste the web address into your browser to view the video. Viewing the video works best with a high speed internet connection.

Battilizer® or Batting and Stabilizer - Q & A:

Q: *What is Battilizer®?*

A: Battilizer® is a product designed for HoopSisters EmbroidaBlocks! It's a combination batting and stabilizer, no need to purchase or hoop stabilizer with your batting because Battilizer® is stable enough to sustain the areas of dense embroidery, yet will remain very soft.

Q: *If I use regular batting, do I need stabilizer?*

A: Yes, quilts made the traditional way normally do not have machine embroidery in them. These designs are machine embroidered quilts therefore stabilizer is necessary if you do not use Battilizer®. A no show poly mesh typically used for knits would be the best choice. There are many brands out there. It feels just like a very light weight fabric. It doesn't add as much bulk or stiffness to your quilts as other stabilizers. Battilizer® is of course the preferred product giving you less stiffness yet the stability needed.

Q: How much Battilizer® do I need for the SisterHood quilt?

A: Since there are so many sizes of blocks/quilts to choose from, we recommend you consult your Fabric and Thread Key for Battilizer® requirements.

Wool Batting Option

Step 2 of every SisterHood block gives you the option of adding wool batting. We like the dimension the wool batting gives the quilt. This is something you can skip if you want but we think you will be very pleased with the results. If using wool batting we recommend raising your presser foot to the highest setting.

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To Begin

- Open your monthly folder. Choose the correct file and format and send file to your sewing machine. Place Battilizer® in your hoop. Place embroidery bobbin thread in the bobbin. Place hoop on the machine. Do not follow thread colors on machine, but instead follow the instructions for that month to find out which thread to use in the needle.
- Stitch the outline onto the Battilizer®. Add wool square if desired.
- Follow the instructions which are numbered according to the thread change on the machine. The instructions will tell you what thread and which fabric to use. You will put your first piece of fabric over the appropriate section and the machine will sew a tack down stitch.

Trimming During Block Assembly

- After each piece of fabric is added you will most likely need to trim the fabric. In traditional quilting you **cut first then sew**, therefore it is important to cut the fabric to the exact size and to sew precise seams to get the quilt to turn out. In this technique you **sew first then cut**. Since each seam will be sewn in exactly the right place, the precise cutting is not as crucial. Cut as accurate as you can but don't stress out if it is not perfect.
- Any fabric that needs to be trimmed inside the block should be trimmed to a scant $\frac{1}{4}$ " unless stated otherwise. By trimming to a scant $\frac{1}{4}$ " inside the block, you will then use the edge of the trimmed fabric as a guide for placing your next piece of fabric. Any fabric that needs to be trimmed on the outside edge of the block should be trimmed at least $\frac{1}{2}$ " to 1" past the outline stitch of the pattern, this will be trimmed later.
- Some of the pieced blocks use a "Layering" technique. You may be instructed to trim as if for appliqué or the instructions may tell you to leave $\frac{1}{8}$ " or $\frac{1}{4}$ ". Trim these blocks using the HoopScissors or HoopScissors Mini if very close to the stitching. A cover stitch will cover the raw edge later. Your block instructions will tell you when to do this, as well as the slide shows.

Adding the Backing Fabric

- A few steps before the end of each design you will need to add the backing fabric. Spray the wrong side of the backing fabric with temporary spray adhesive if desired and adhere to the back of the hoop onto the Battilizer®.
- For this step you will use water soluble thread in the needle and embroidery bobbin thread in the bobbin.

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- Now you will carefully place the hoop back on the machine and peek underneath to be sure the fabric didn't do a **Dunlop** (when the fabric *dun lops* over and gets stitched in wrong. That's a HoopSisters term!).
- The machine will now sew a basting stitch around the perimeter of the block to help hold the fabric in place while finishing the quilting. This basting stitch also aids in trimming the completed block. We suggest you use water soluble thread for this step. Then after your quilt is assembled if any of the pesky basting stitches show, just wet them or toss them in the washing machine and the stitches will dissolve.
- Tips for a pretty back: If your machine has an automatic thread cutter, turn that feature off after the backing fabric is added. Do a needle down and needle up to bring the bobbin thread to the top of your block before stitching, take a few stitches and cut the thread tails. This will guarantee the back of your quilt will be as beautiful as the front.

Trimming The Completed Block

- After the block is complete. You can then remove your block from the hoop.
- The outline basting stitch has two purposes: 1.) to hold the backing fabric to the rest of the block and 2.) to use as a guide when it is time to trim.
- Instructions on how to trim each block are located on the first page of the written Instructions.

Trim Your Sash Off DVD

- You will learn in class how to sew blocks together. For further instruction we have a joining DVD available that will teach you different joining methods as well as how to add piping to your quilt. The lessons on the DVD will apply to any quilt as you go project.

Optional Border CD

- The Optional Border CD is actually the "corners" of the wall hanging turned on point, which is different from how we've done our quilt in the past. Just by adding the Borders (corners) your quilt goes from a wall hanging to bed size!

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