

Transfer embroidery designs

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<http://www.burdastyle.com/techniques/transfer-embroidery-design>



If you have never really attempted embroidery but have an image you'd love to transfer to a favourite item, here is a simple way of transferring any image or design for hand embroidery to get you started. I've thrown in a few tips along the way to make your embroidery easy and lasting as well.

Step 1 — Choose your design



I really like this Marimekko pattern called Bottna on one of my mugs, and decided I wanted to wear it. Choose anything you like - if it can be traced on paper and fits onto your chosen garment or fabric, it'll work!

Step 2 — Fix the pattern paper over the design



I secured the paper in place with a few pieces of tape.

Step 3 — Trace the design



I used a felt tip pen which works best on the thin pattern paper. If you are tracing from a piece of fabric, ensure the ink doesn't stain the fabric underneath. A soft pencil may be better in that case.

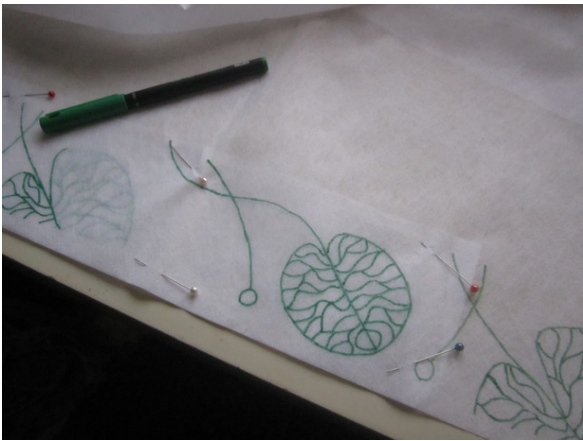
Step 4 — The template is ready



And here is the transfer from my mug.

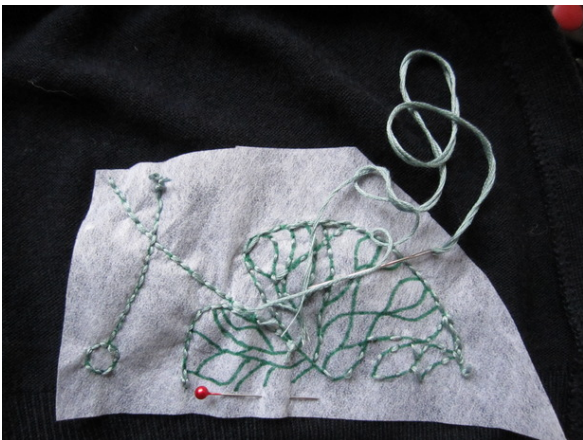
Step 2 — Fix the pattern paper over the design

Step 5 — Copy the design onto Stitch 'n Tear



The next step is to copy your design onto Stitch 'n Tear. This will guide your stitches, but you also need the Stitch 'n Tear as a stabiliser for your fabric. It stops your work from puckering and stabilises the fabric itself. I copied my design onto Stitch 'n Tear several times, including a mirror image as I was going to repeat it on the same garment several times. Remember, your design will come out as the mirror image on the right side of the fabric! So if you are embroidering letters, for example, you will work on them from the mirror image on the inside of your project.

Step 6 — Embroider the design



Cut out the design and pin it into place on the **INSIDE** of your garment or fabric. Check a few times that it will be showing in the right place, that it's straight etc. before starting the work. For the fine knit I was working on I chose a fairly thick needle with a blunt-ish tip. I used cotton DMC embroidery thread and used the entire strand to get the fullness I wanted on my knit, therefore I needed a fairly thick needle. To stop the knit from snagging the needle had to be blunter than a normal needle, but sharper than a needle used for sewing up hand knitted garments.

Step 7 — Check along the way



Do check often while working that you're happy with the result. Especially when you first start on a new project you'll want to ensure your tension is right and figure out the best size of your stitches for your design, etc.

Step 8 — The end result



Here's the finished look!

Step 9 — Fix and finish the work



You'll want to ensure your embroidery doesn't come undone in the washing. So check all your knots are secure and there are no loose snags anywhere. I used a tiny dab of clear nail polish to secure some of the knots. Make sure not to spill any of course! This job can be redone any time anyway.

Step 10 — Cut or tear away excess stabiliser



This is what the work looks like from the inside of the garment. You can now carefully tear away the excess stabiliser. I prefer to cut when I am working on a fabric which can be pulled out of shape, because the remaining Stitch 'n Tear usually comes out in the wash anyway.

Step 11 — Enjoy!



Here is my finished project - more pictures can be found in my studio.

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