



Mylar Butterfly Embroidery

Created by Jim Kassing for Embrilliance

How to stitch out the free standing mylar embroidered butterfly design available from the embrilliance.com project blog.

Materials

- Mylar Butterfly embroidery design from Embrilliance Project blog
- Embrilliance Essentials
- Wash-away stabilizer - we used the fibrous fabric type
- Mylar material available from your local dealer or Amazon
- 40 wt embroidery thread in various colors

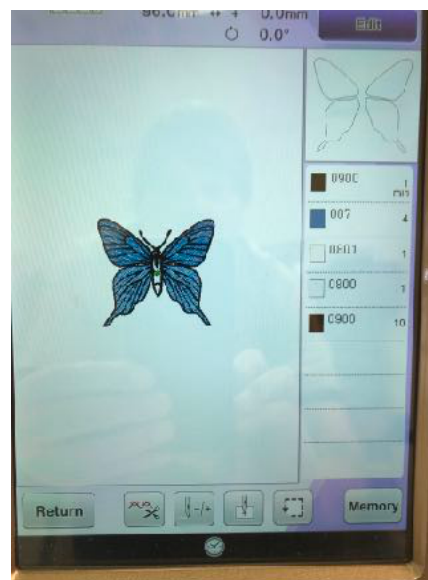
Instructions

1. Open the **MylarButterfly.BE** file into your Embrilliance Essentials software.
2. This design was digitized using StitchArtist and created for the 4x4 hoop. These instructions were created to do one design in a hoop at a time. For those who are new to machine embroidery or working with mylar embroidery designs, we recommend following these single instructions to gain experience.

Experienced embroider-ers may choose to resize or create multiples of the design in a larger hoop - be sure to check out the Essentials playlist on the [Embrilliance youtube channel](#) for information on using these program features!

3. Save the stitch file to your machine format (**File > Save Stitch File**) and open the design at the machine.

The design has multiple color breaks which allow for actual thread color changes AND so that the machine stops for placement and tackdown as in a traditional machine embroidery appliqué design. As with machine embroidery appliqué, the thread color used will depend on your project, and not necessarily match what the machine says to use.



4. Hoop a single layer of wash away stabilizer in the smallest hoop that will fit a 4x4 design.

The “rule of thumb” for embroidery is to always use the smallest hoop possible. This has a few benefits - no need to waste stabilizer AND we want the “canvas” to be stable to hold our stitching.



5. Stitch color #1 on the hooped stabilizer. This is our placement line showing where the mylar needs to be positioned (and cover all of the stitches of the placement line).

We used tape on the non-stitching areas to hold the mylar in place - safety first!

If using smaller pieces, this light positioning help ensures that the smaller pieces do not move out of place. Fingers should be kept away from the needle while it is moving.



6. Color #2 is a combination of the mylar tackdown stitch and light density fill that stitches on top of the mylar to allow the shine and sparkle to pass through in the finished design.

Color choice for this color can change the look of your design.

A similar color can create texture and let the mylar be the start of the show.

Contrasting color can add depth and dimension.

Variegated thread can give interesting effects and might be fun with multicolored printed mylar.

Once this color has finished stitching, you will want to carefully remove the hoop from the machine without moving the embroidery arm.



7. Carefully tear the excess mylar away.

Be Gentle.

Use a seam ripper to help “cut” away any tiny areas - you do not want to tear the mylar that is part of the design.

8. Carefully return the hoop to the machine and stitch color #3 which is the placement for the mylar of the butterfly body.

Stitch color #4 which is the tackdown and light density fill for the body.

Remove the hoop for the machine and follow the instructions in step 7 to remove the excess mylar.

9. Carefully return the hoop to the machine to stitch the final color which is the black “outlining” or “stained glass” stitching of the design.
10. Now that the stitching is complete, remove the hoop from the machine and cut away as much of the wash away stabilizer as possible.



11. You will find that the wings appear to be “joined” because we did not remove the TEENIE TINY bit of mylar while the design was in the hoop.

To separate the wings, carefully cut between them. See final photo at the end of these instructions!

THIS IS AN OPTIONAL STEP and is not necessary to achieve a beautiful butterfly!

If you accidentally nip the satin stitching, dab a bit of clean nail polish on the threads, mush them into place and let the nail polish dry before the next step.





12. CAREFULLY rinse away the stabilizer and BLOT dry

Do not rub as this can damage the mylar.



Enjoy your free standing embroidered mylar butterflies!

The butterfly on the left was NOT trimmed while the one on the right has the trimmed and separated wings. Use your creative and artistic judgment as to which technique works best for you!

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