

Freestanding lace; Any embroidery Lace design can be used as Freestanding lace

Materials used to make the headband with lace trim;

1. Embroidery machine with an embroidery hoop.
2. A small lace design. The designs used were purchased from www.ibroidery.com Most lace designs will work. This does NOT require a free standing lace design.
3. One Hard plastic headband
4. Water soluble stabilizer of choice. There are many brands available at your machine dealer shop or fabric store.
5. About ¼ yard of organza, polyester organza was used for this project.
6. Thread and bobbin thread –use the same thread on top and in the bobbin.
7. Small, sharp curved scissors were easiest to use for the rounded designs chosen.
8. Quick set glue of choice. Hot glue was used for this project, but other glues will work.
9. Chop stick, pencil or tweezers to press the design into the hot glue.



It is recommended that you read all the directions prior to beginning the project.

Freestanding lace designs are more expensive than regular lace designs because they require special care in digitizing. A friend used a beautiful freestanding lace design to make snowflakes for a Christmas tree. When she rinsed away the stabilizer the designs fell apart and she had a sink full of thread. This technique was created so she could stitch without worrying that her design might fall apart!

This technique is an easy way to use any lace design as a Free Standing one.

1. Use a water soluble stabilizer. Use organza as the fabric. Nylon net or tulle may also be used.
2. Hoop the water soluble stabilizer and organza together with the water soluble stabilizer on the bottom.
3. Choose a design, copy several of the designs into the hoop to take advantage of the entire hoop. They can be close together but they cannot touch. The headband shown used 10 single leaves and 2 of double leaves.
4. Thread the machine with embroidery thread and use a bobbin with a matching thread color.
5. Stitch the designs
6. Remove the fabric from the hoop.
7. Trim the individual designs, (it isn't critical to trim too closely). If you trim a little too close and it begins to unravel, apply one of the fabric/seam sealing products to stop the unraveling. There are many brands on the market.
8. Rinse the pieces gently in warm water. Do not soak them, we are only removing a part of the stabilizer while leaving enough in so the design piece will have some body. It can be easily shaped while it is still wet. For this project the leaves were just laid out on a towel to dry.
9. Select a hard plastic head band and place a dot of hot glue on the band. Gently touch the tip of the leaf to the glue on the band. Press into place with a chopstick, pencil or tweezers.
10. The look will be more pleasing if designs are placed in a random manner, and the edges of the leaves are left loose.



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11. To use a stretch head band it is best to stitch the leaves to the band with a couple of stitches by hand or machine. The sewing on a button stitch was used for this task. It is available on many Brother machine models and appears on the buttonhole tab. Crystals or silk flowers may be added for additional embellishment.

Here are some additional ideas;

12. The lace leaves or designs may also be stitched around a bridal veil.
13. Glue or stitch to ribbon for an ornament for a tree or a book mark.
14. These are very durable and may be used on garments too.
15. I saw some attached to the outside of a clear plastic purse the other day.

Let your imagination run with this technique!