

Christmas Banner

with letters cut on the Silhouette Cameo and stitched with an embroidery machine

Materials used:

Embroidery/Applique/SVG files (AP-7 Christmas Banner):- available on my website:

<http://www.quiltersniche.com/Embroidery/Applique-2.htm>

1 3/4 yard of red fabric for background

1 5/8 yard of backing fabric

1 yard of white fabric for letters

Light weight stabilizer

Matching thread

Removable marker (by air or water)

Hoop size: 210 x 400 mm (6" x 10" approx. - Bernina Maxi hoop) for the largest letters. A smaller hoop may be used for some of the letters

505 temporary adhesive spray or fabric glue stick

Rotary cutter

Cutting mat

Quilting ruler

Sewing/embroidery machine

Silhouette Cameo or similar cutter

Cutting

Cut the red (background) and the backing fabric into 14 --10" x 14" rectangles each. Put the backing rectangles aside for now.

On the red fabric mark the horizontal and vertical center lines, either with a removable marker or by finger pressing the folds.

Preparing the white fabric and cutting the letters.

To prepare the white fabric before cutting, immerse the whole piece in a liberal amount of liquid starch. Hang to dry and when it is still a bit damp iron the fabric. It should be quite stiff and feel like paper. Then with a rotary cutter cut into 14 rectangles measuring 8" x 9". (NOTE: You can save some fabric if you measure each letter, but to save time I cut all the pieces the same size with a rotary cutter, but there was some waste).

If the starched fabric feels like paper there is no need to apply adhesive web to the back. Just press a fabric rectangle to a sticky Silhouette mat. (Make a test cut first). Open an SVG file in the silhouette Cameo software and make sure the placement of the rectangle matches the placement of the file on the Silhouette screen. Cut the applique letter. For fabric I usually use a cut setting of 3 and a speed of 2, but it is a good idea to make a test cut first to see if adjustments are necessary. Cut all 14 letters.

Hooping and embroidery

Hoop stabilizer. Apply some adhesive spray to the back of a red rectangle (or use a water solvable glue stick) and place a red rectangle on the stabilizer, right side up. Match the marked center lines of the fabric with the center marks of the hoop. Make sure the fabric is smooth and centered.

Each letter is a separate file. Open the first one on your embroidery machine. Make sure that the registration marks line exactly up with the center lines of the background fabric and hoop. (See illustration on next page). Adjust position, if required. This will place all the letters on the same baseline with the descender (lower part) of the letter "y" a bit lower.

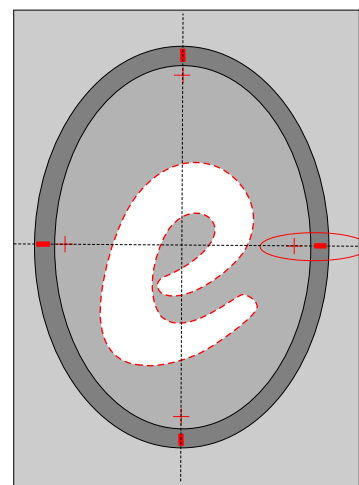
Stitch the placement line.

Spray the back of the matching letter with 505 adhesive spray or use a glue stick. Then place the precut shape precisely inside the stitched line. Next stitch the tack down and then the cover stitch. You can use the same color thread for all 3 lines. I used white to match the color of the applique letter.

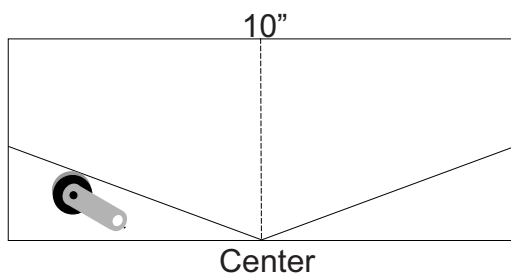
Repeat this for all 14 letters.

Finishing up

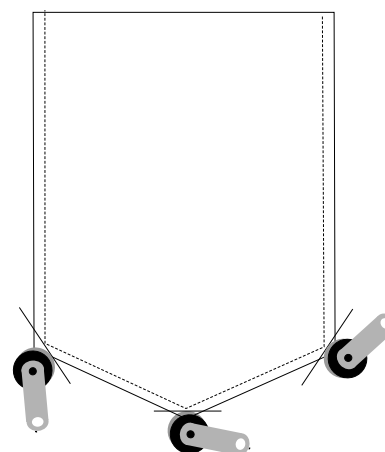
If the stabilizer is larger than the fabric rectangle, trim it to match the rectangle. Then place a background rectangle on the rectangle that was cut from the backing fabric, right side together. Make a paper template to cut the pointy bottom of each rectangle sandwich and use that as a guide to cut the point.



Match the registration marks with the center lines of the fabric and the hoop.



Stitch the sides and bottom of each sandwich. Leave the top open. Trim the corners. Turn inside out and push in the corners so they are nice and sharp. Press. Repeat for all 14 pieces. If necessary, trim the top of each one a bit to make them all even and the same size



From your leftover fabric cut enough 1" wide strips to make a band that is about 180" long. Stitch the short ends together. Fold in half along the length and press. Next press in a 1/4" on both long sides and press those also.

Arrange all your little flags with the letters in the right order. Leave some space between the two words. Stitch one of the sides of the band to the back of the flags as shown, using the 1/4" fold as a guide.



Fold the band up and then over the flags with the 1/4" seam folded to the inside. Before stitching, trim both ends to the desired length and fold a bit of fabric on each end to the inside. Then top stitch the whole length through all layers.

