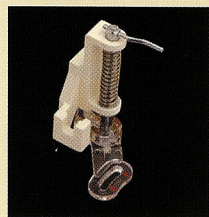# free-hand stitching — monogramming

*A free-hand technique used to duplicate "writing" with a needle.*



**Free-motion Quilting Foot**

**or no foot required**

**Stitch:** *Zigzag and straight*

**Width:** *Pre-set or as desired*

**Length:** *0*

**Feed Dogs:** *Lowered*
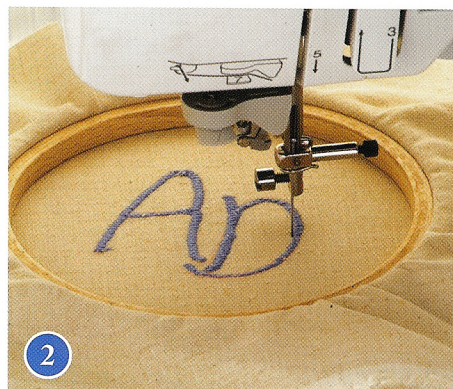
**Tension:** *7.0-9.0*

**Fabric, needles, notions required:**
*Firm fabrics of choice; embroidery needle, size 75/11 or 90/14; rayon, cotton, or embroidery thread of choice for the needle and bobbinfil for the bobbin; water-soluble and tear-away stabilizer and/or fusible interfacing; embroidery hoop; water-soluble marking pen*

1. Trace your monogram on water-soluble stabilizer or directly on the right side of your fabric with a water-soluble marking pen. Stabilize your fabric with a fusible interfacing if necessary. Stretch the fabric in the hoop and place a piece of tear-away stabilizer under the design. (On a scrap of fabric test the tension setting to achieve the result desired. The needle thread should be pulled to the wrong side rounding the embroidery edge.)
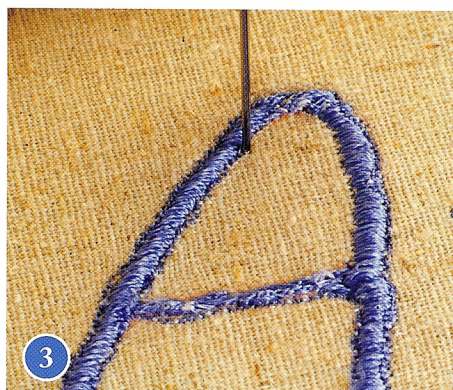
   Lower the feed dogs and bring the bobbin thread to the top and lock-stitch the threads. Trim the thread tails before stitching. (#1)

2. Keeping your hoop movement right to left or forward and backward, begin to fill in the design with stitches. Lockstitch the threads at the end of each section or when changing thread colors. Stitch over the monogram twice with a slightly wider stitch width to even out the stitches if necessary. (#2)

3. After completing the monogram, set the machine for a straight stitch and carefully define each letter with outline stitching. Again, remember to move the hoop in a right to left or forward to backward movement running the machine quickly but moving the hoop steadily and slowly without thread build-up. (#3)







**TIP**

*The trick with sewing free-hand monograms is to keep the stitching even and close together without overlapping stitches. It pays to practice first to "warm up" before stitching on the final project. Relax your shoulders and rest both arms on the table. Position your hands on each side of the hoop spreading your fingers to hold the hoop securely. When sewing side-to side, move the hoop faster to prevent extra thread build-up.*