

free-hand stitching — needlelace

A free-hand open-work technique created by filler stitches.

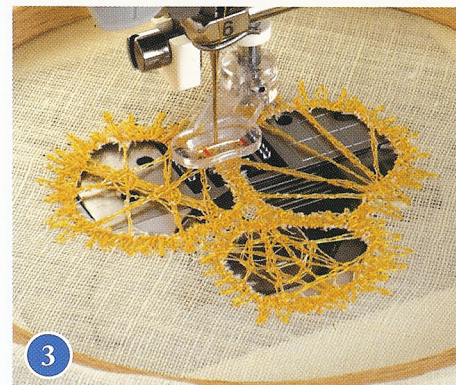
1. Trace your design directly on the right side of the fabric or on the water-soluble stabilizer. Fuse a lightweight stabilizer to the wrong side of the fabric. Place all the layers together into the embroidery hoop. Using a straight stitch, follow the outline, stitching three times. (#1)



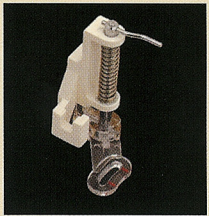
2. Cut away and stitch one section at a time to prevent the fabric from stretching. Stitch across the open area making veins, spider webs, or designs as desired. (#2)



3. After sewing the filler stitches, free-motion stitch along the edges creating a sunburst effect. Remove the water-soluble stabilizer if used. (#3)



Free-motion Quilting Foot



Stitch: Straight

Width: 0

Length: 0

Feed Dogs: Lowered

Tension: 7.0-9.0 upper tension;
loosen bobbin tension

Fabric, needles, notions required:

Firm fabrics of choice; embroidery needle, size 75/11 or 90/14; rayon or cotton embroidery thread for the needle and the bobbin; water-soluble and fusible stabilizer; embroidery hoop; water- or air-soluble marking pen

TIP

Experiment with your hand motion and the tension on the bobbin thread to achieve the result you desire — there really is no right or wrong, just what appeals to you! Move the hoop in a clockwise or counter-clockwise motion depending which is more comfortable for you.

Remember to move the hoop at a consistent, even speed to keep the stitches from piling up on each other. Your machine speed will actually be faster than your hand movement unlike other free-hand techniques.