



Lace

COUTURE GARMENTS OFTEN FEATURE THE FINEST, MOST ELABORATE FABRICS. Unfortunately, most of us don't have easy access or the resources to purchase these wonderful textiles. Don't let this stop you from creating your own gorgeous fabric for couture-inspired garments. Perfect for an evening out, this chic skirt features a single-color floral embroidery design repeating across an elegant black lace overlay.

MATERIALS

- Skirt pattern designed for a border print, such as Butterick 4686
- Washable crepe and lace fabrics in amounts according to the pattern envelope
- Interfacing in amount according to the pattern envelope
- Matching all-purpose thread
- 7" invisible zipper
- Invisible zipper foot
- Mediumweight water-soluble stabilizer, such as Baby Lock Dissolve Away Mesh
- Lightweight water-soluble stabilizer, such as Baby Lock Aqua Melt Topping
- Temporary spray adhesive
- Contrasting embroidery thread
- Mild laundry detergent
- 2 yards of 1"-wide satin ribbon to match embroidery thread (optional)
- Personal computer with printer (optional)
- Design software, such as Designer's Gallery Studio Plus (optional)

Design Preparation

Select an embroidery design. For best results when embroidering on lace, choose a design that's not high in fill patterns or density (1). A design with a high stitch count and density may result in poor stitch quality, fabric or design puckering, fabric perforation or loss of fabric drape. A simple outline, redwork or a quilting pattern design works best, because the design is balanced in weight with the lace.

Make a design template. If you have design software, transfer the design to your computer and print out an actual-sized template on paper. If you don't have design software, create a template by stitching the design on an extra fabric piece.

To determine the design placement on regular fabric, you typically use chalk to mark the design center. However, on lace, it's difficult to mark recognizable lines because of the open weave. Instead, place the stitched or printed

template on a flat work surface. Position a piece of lightweight water-soluble stabilizer over the template. Use a ballpoint pen to trace the design and its center axis onto the stabilizer (2). Make several design patterns (the featured skirt required 14 designs).

Embroidery

Following the pattern guidesheet, cut out the skirt pattern pieces from both the crepe and lace fabric. Set aside the crepe skirt pieces.

Position the lace front piece right side up on a flat work surface. Spray a light mist of adhesive on the stabilizer pattern's wrong side. Arrange half of the stabilizer patterns on the lace front piece, rotating and angling them across the lace as desired. Repeat on the lace back piece, using the remaining patterns.

Hoop one layer of mediumweight water-soluble stabilizer. Lightly mist with spray adhesive.

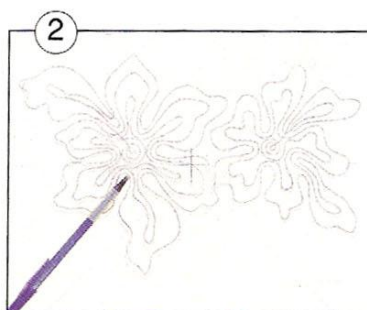
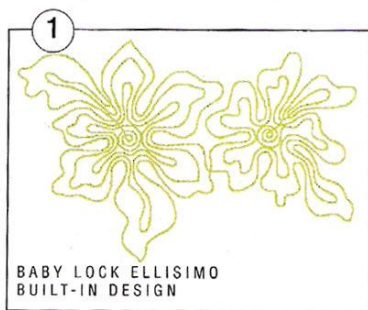
The Right Side

Is your fabric store limited in its selection of fabric colors and types? Consider turning to the "wrong side" for twice the options. Don't forget to turn fabrics over while you're browsing, as some have two useable sides. For example, crepe-backed satin can be used both on the shiny and matte sides. Many other fashion fabrics are also hard to distinguish "right" from "wrong," so use the side that works for you! The key to using the fabric wrong side successfully is consistency. Make sure to cut all the pattern pieces from the same fabric side.

Position and adhere the lace to the stabilizer in the hoop, using the grid and the marked lines to center the design. Match the axis points and rotation of the first design element according to the drawn lines on the topping stabilizer.

Embroider the design.

Remove the lace from the hoop. Remove any excess jump stitches or



Floating the lace over the hoop eliminates the risk of tearing the delicate fabric while positioning it between the hoop rings.

Add additional embellishment by threading a hand needle and stitching crystal beads or sequins to the lace designs.

stabilizer. Hoop another piece of mediumweight stabilizer and repeat the embroidery process, continuing until the designs have been tiled across the lace on both the front and back skirt pieces.

Soak the embroidered front and back pieces in warm water with a small amount of mild detergent for approximately 10 minutes, removing all the water-soluble stabilizer. Rinse the lace pieces thoroughly and hang them until completely dry.

Skirt Assembly

Baste the crepe and lace skirt pieces together at the waistline. Continue assembling the skirt as directed by the pattern guidesheet.

To insert the invisible zipper, follow the zipper manufacturer's directions and use an invisible zipper foot.

Thread the hand sewing needle. Hand stitch the hook and eye to the zipper opening upper edge.

If desired, loosely tie the matching ribbon around the skirt waist. ➤



Butterick 4686
(modified)



Kelly Laws has a degree in clothing and textiles from the University of Southern Mississippi. As Marketing Project Manager for Baby Lock, she leads the creation process of exciting sewn and embroidered samples for marketing materials, such as brochures, Web sites, consumer events and trade shows. Kelly also creates projects for babylock.com and totallystitchin.net. Her machine expertise is a valuable resource for the Baby Lock team.

resources

Turn to "The Source" on page 78 to find out about the Baby Lock products used to create this skirt.