

Postcards (In-the-Hoop)

Fabric postcards are a unique way to send warm wishes all year 'round!

Choose your favorite colors, fabrics, and postcard designs to send a unique and personalized gift to friends and family members.

Read below for these free project instructions.

Supplies

Supplies Needed:

****Small pieces of fabric (we used craft felt and quilter's cotton)**

****Small piece of white or cream colored quilter's cotton (for back)**

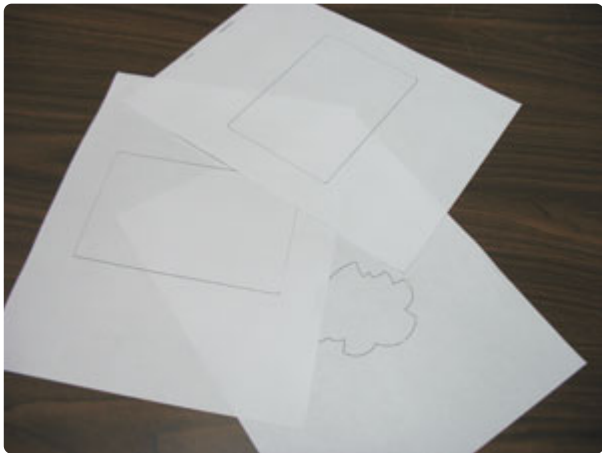
****Temporary spray adhesive**

****Cutaway stabilizer**

****Tear-away stabilizer**

****Fabric marker or**

Steps To Complete



When you download an in-the-hoop postcard design, you will find multiple files. Some are embroidery files, and the others are dieline files marked with the letters "DL". Dielines are used to cut the fabric to the correct shape and size. Open and print each dieline file using an embroidery software. If you do not have an embroidery software, take a look at our [helpful video](#) on using dielines.



If you do not have embroidery software, you can sew the dielines directly onto the fabric. Cut a piece of cutaway stabilizer and fabric. Both should be a bit larger than your hoop. Spray the stabilizer with adhesive and smooth the fabric on top



Hoop the fabric and stabilizer together.



Attach the hoop to the machine and load one of the dieline files. Embroider the dieline directly onto the fabric.



Then, cut out the shape.

Do this for the front piece, back piece and, if applicable, any front character pieces.



Or, if you do have embroidery software:

Spray a piece of cutaway stabilizer with adhesive...



...and smooth the fabric on top. Spray the back of the paper templates with a very small amount of adhesive, smooth it on top of the fabric, and cut out the shape.

Do this for the front piece, back piece, and any front character pieces. We are using a light quilter's cotton on the back so we can write a message on the postcard when it is completed.



A third option for cutting the fabric pieces is to sew the dielines directly onto paper. Hoop a piece of paper, embroider the dieline directly onto the paper, and cut out the shapes as described earlier. Now that the fabric pieces are cut and ready, it is time to embroider the postcard!



Hoop a piece of tear-away stabilizer.



Attach the hoop to the machine and load the embroidery file. Embroider the design - the first thing that sews is another dieline for fabric placement. After the dieline has sewn, stop the machine.



Spray the backside of the front fabric piece with adhesive.



Lay the fabric right inside the sewn dieline shape and continue with the design. A tack down stitch will sew next. This binds the fabric piece to the stabilizer for the remainder of the design.



Continue with the design - if your chosen postcard design has front character applique pieces, follow the color change sheet associated with your design, removing the hoop and placing fabric pieces where appropriate as the dielines are stitched. If your design does not have applique, simply follow the color change sheet and allow the inner details to finish stitching. Once the inner details have sewn, you can proceed onto the next step.



Before sewing the final tackdown or borders, remove the hoop from the machine but do not remove the stabilizer from the hoop. Spray the back side of the back fabric piece with adhesive and add it inside the shape on the backside of the embroidery.



Since both sides of the embroidery will be seen from this point on, we are winding a bobbin in the same color as the top thread for the remaining step.



Attach the hoop to the machine and continue with the design. The remaining border details will stitch next.



Unhoop the project and gently tear away the stabilizer. We found that it helps to fold the stabilizer at the edges of the postcard first before tearing it away - this helps to weaken the fibers and makes a clean tear.



Your postcard is now complete! You may write a message on the back of the postcard using a fabric marker or a permanent marker.



If you are mailing your postcards, we recommend using a 4 3/4 inch by 6 1/2 inch invitation-size envelope. This will protect the postcard and ensure that it makes it to its recipient safe and sound.



You can also use the postcards as decorations! Add a couple of grommets at the top corners, thread ribbon through each hole, and tie a knot at each end of the ribbon. Now you can hang the postcard on the tree, on the wall, or add it to your [Merry Mailbox!](#)



Oh what fun it is to see an idea, and make it better! Embroiderer Debb wrote, "I used a thin cotton batting under the bear and hat. It looks great! Made the card almost 3-D looking...and it was no different to sew. I used a scrap of warm and natural batting. But I think you could use any thin cotton batting that you might have scraps of."