

# Dakota Collectibles Lace Designs • General Guidelines

## Please follow these instructions

### Designs as Free-Standing Pieces such as Lace

Many lace designs can be embroidered onto a water-soluble product, where, when the product is dissolved, the embroidery serves as a “free-standing” embroidery piece.

An alternative to embroidering the design on water-soluble product would be to embroider it on bridal tulle, a fine netting fabric, or sheer fabric, such as organza. To accomplish the embroidery, hoop the fabric by sandwiching it between layers of water-soluble product. After embroidery, pull the water-soluble product away and trim the fabric to within about an inch of the design. Dissolve away any remaining water-soluble product by placing the embroidered piece in a plate filled with warm water. After the stabilizer has melted, gently pour off the water and let the piece dry in the plate. After the piece has dried, iron flat if necessary. Next, run a bead of fray stopping product around the edge. Allow the product to dry. Trim the fabric away up to the edge of the design.

### Most Importantly

ALWAYS make a test stitch-out of the design. This helps you to correctly select the threads, needles, stabilizers and settings for your machine.

### Stabilizers

We embroidered all of our lace designs on a fibrous dissolvable stabilizer. We do not recommend film-like water-soluble stabilizers.

### Threads

We recommend using 40-weight rayon when stitching our lace designs. To get 2-sided embroidery you should use the same thread for the needle thread and bobbin thread.

### Needles

We use size 75/11 embroidery needles. The needles should be sharp, so try to change them after every project.

### Thread Tension

Lace designs look best when the needle and bobbin threads meet halfway. Stitch a sample, and adjust the tension if needed. We adjusted the tension down (less) when we did our test sew outs. Consult your machine’s manual and/or dealer on how to do this.

### Hooping

We recommend using 2-3 layers of a fibrous water-soluble product. It’s very important to hoop the stabilizer VERY tightly, like a drum skin. If your hoop does not hold the stabilizer well (this often happens if the stabilizer is very thin), we recommend wrapping some type of tape strips around the long sides of your hoop’s upper frame.

### Important Note

It’s very important to use as small a hoop as possible. If your design is for a small hoop, use the small hoop, not the large one; if your design is for a large hoop, use large, and so on. The smaller the hoop, the more stable it is. **DO NOT** try to embroider several lace designs in one hoop. Water-soluble stabilizers have a tendency to stretch and in a larger hoop it will stretch more than in a smaller one. This can lead to misplaced stitches and the design might fall apart after the stabilizer is dissolved. It’s always better to embroider one part at a time.

It is very important that you read and follow all of the instructions for sewing our lace designs. Altering any of the instructions may cause stitching problems and alter the appearance of the designs.