



All Wrapped Up

by Susan Fears

Create a comfortable and stylish fleece wrap adorned with large floral designs. The wrap is simple to stitch and great for chilly winter nights.



SHOPPING LIST

- 1 yard of fleece
- stabilizer: heavyweight mesh cut-away & lightweight tear-away
- water-soluble topper
- thread: all-purpose, bobbin & embroidery
- temporary spray adhesive
- removable fabric marker
- needles: 75/11 embroidery & 90/14 universal
- twelve 7/8"-diameter buttons
- machine feet: automatic buttonhole, button & piping
- expandable measuring gauge (optional; see "Source.")
- embroidery software with digitizing capabilities (optional)
- floral embroidery designs

- Change the thread color and sequence or group the colors to minimize thread color changes. The featured wrap showcases three thread colors: purple, black and white. Always preview the design stitchout on the machine screen to make sure the stitching sequence is correct.
- Test-stitch the chosen design on scrap fabric to ensure the stabilizer, fabric and design work well collectively. If some design elements have a large fill stitch area and are too dense for the fleece, remove the fill stitches using embroidery software to create an outline.
- Automatically split the design in embroidery software for multiple hoopings, or manually split the design in inconspicuous areas. Use the largest hoop available. Save the design in the appropriate machine format. Print a template of the entire design, taping together the templates as needed. Repeat to create the wrap back design **(B)**.

Cut

- From the fleece, cut two 30"x32" rectangles. Designate one rectangle as the wrap front and one as the wrap back. Designate one wrap-front and wrap-back corner each as the upper corner.

Digitize

- Choose large-scale designs that aren't overly dense to retain the soft fabric hand. Open a new page in the software program. Draw a 30"x32" rectangle onto the page, and then rotate the rectangle 45°. Place the chosen designs into the rectangle, and then enlarge, rotate and mirror-image the chosen designs as desired **(A)**.



A wrap front design layout



B wrap back design layout

- Instead of using embroidery software, enlarge, rotate and mirror-image each design on the machine screen. Print a template of each design.

Tip

Unlike enlarging designs on the machine screen, embroidery software automatically adjusts the design density after enlarging. Consult your machine manual for design resizing limitations.

Embroider

- Pin the template to the wrap front, referring to the photo on page 30 for placement inspiration. Mark the largest design center using a removable fabric marker. If using individual design templates, audition them along the wrap front. Once satisfied with the placement, mark each design center using a removable fabric marker.
- Insert a new embroidery needle and thread the needle with embroidery thread and the bobbin with bobbin thread. Load the design into the machine. Hoop a piece of cut-away stabilizer. Position the wrap front over the

stabilizer, using temporary spray adhesive to secure and centering the mark within the hoop.

- Place the hoop onto the machine, aligning the needle with the cross marks. Float a piece of water-soluble topper over the wrap front. Use the perimeter basting function, if applicable, to baste the wrap and topper in the hoop. Embroider the first design.
- Once the embroidery is complete, remove the hoop from the machine and the fabric from the hoop. Trim away the stabilizer beyond the design perimeter, but don't remove the topper (C). Repeat to embroider the remaining designs, using the embroidery machine advance feature to only perimeter baste the unstitched areas.
- Once the embroidery is complete, remove the hoop from the machine and the fabric from the hoop. Trim away the stabilizer beyond the design perimeter and clip any jump threads. Don't remove the topper.
- Repeat to embroider the wrap back.

Construct

- Install a universal needle and thread the machine with all-purpose thread. Select a 6mm-wide and 3.5mm-long stretch overlock stitch and install a piping foot.
- Fold one wrap-front long edge $\frac{1}{4}$ " toward the wrong side; pin.

Stitch the folded edge, guiding the fold through the foot groove and making sure the needle encases the fold without penetrating the folded edge (D). If the hem becomes wavy, decrease the presser foot pressure.

- Repeat to hem the wrap-front and wrap-back raw edges. Remove the topper, following the manufacturer's instructions.
- Measure 8" below the wrap-back upper corner along the short edge; mark $\frac{3}{4}$ " from the edge using a removable fabric marker. Repeat to mark five additional buttonholes along the short edge, spacing them $2\frac{5}{8}$ " apart (E). Use an expandable measuring gauge to aid in placement, if desired. Mark the corresponding button placement on the wrap-front short edge.
- Measure 10" below the wrap-back upper corner along the long edge; mark $\frac{3}{4}$ " from the edge. Repeat to mark five additional buttonholes along the long edge, spacing them $2\frac{5}{8}$ " apart. Use an expandable measuring gauge to aid in placement, if desired. Mark the corresponding button placements on the wrap-front long edge.
- Install an automatic buttonhole foot on the machine and select a stretch buttonhole stitch, widening the slit width to accommodate the fabric bulk, if applicable. Center two lightweight tear-away stabilizer layers over the first



C Trim stabilizer.



D Stitch along folded edge.



E Mark buttonholes.

buttonhole mark on the wrap wrong side. Float a piece of water-soluble topper over the buttonhole mark on the wrap right side. Stitch the buttonhole.

- Repeat to stitch the remaining buttonholes. Carefully tear away the stabilizer beyond each buttonhole perimeter and remove the topper. Cut open the buttonholes.

- Install a button foot on the machine and select a button stitch. Center two heavyweight cut-away stabilizer layers over the first button mark on the wrap-front wrong side. Stitch the button along the mark on the wrap right side. Trim the stabilizer to a $\frac{1}{2}$ " square. Repeat to stitch the remaining buttons to the wrap front. ■

DESIGNS

Circles, florals, leaves, paisleys and scrolls: OESD, #12297, Flourish Fashion, Fashion Circles (FQ967_48), Fashion Circles Curve (FQ968_48), Fashion Flourish 1 (FQ970_48), Fashion Flourish 3 (FQ972_48), Fashion Leaves Flourish 1 (FQ958_48), Fashion Leaves Flourish 3 (FQ960_48), Fashion Leaves Flourish 4 (FQ971_48), Fashion Paisley (FQ976_48), Fashion Paisley 2 (FQ977_48), Floral Fashion (FQ980_48), Large Floral Fashion (FQ982_48); embroideryonline.com

SOURCE

Nancy's Notions carries the Simflex expanding gauge: (800) 833-0690, nancynotions.com.