

Projects > Embroidered Sundress

Our FREE Brother design download this month is a lacy paisley design. This is one of many beautiful lace designs available for purchase through ibroidery.com, the Brother Design Download site. We used this pretty paisley motif as an allover design on a printed fabric, and then used our newly embellished fabric to make a pretty summer sundress. This project proves that embroidery doesn't always have to be stitched on plain fabric. You can use Brother lace designs in a variety of different ways for many different projects.

Materials and Supplies

- [Brother](#) Combination Machine or a Brother Embroidery Machine with 4-inch or larger hoop capability, and a Brother Sewing Machine for garment construction.
- [Brother Embroidery Thread](#): It is a good idea to choose one prominent color in your fabric for your thread choice.
- [Embroidery Needle](#)
- [SA541](#) Brother Pacesetter® Lightweight Water Soluble Stabilizer
- [Brother FREE Design of the Month](#), Paisleylace.pes
- Basic sewing notions. Low tack tape for securing templates.
- Commercial pattern for sundress with fabric and notions as per the pattern envelope.

Important notes about the pattern and the fabric:

Please read all of the instructions before beginning. For this project you will want to select a simply styled dress pattern with minimal seams. Our pattern featured standard side seams with seams down the center front and back. We opted for the short version of this dress. *See **Figure #1**. Note that we also made a few minor pattern changes, adding a small bow at the center front neckline and changing the drawstring to tie at the shoulders. We used dress weight cotton fabric for our sundress. If you are using another fabric you will need to test the embroidery design to see if it is compatible with your fabric selection.

We suggest purchasing a small amount of additional yardage for the embroidery method described in step one. You may want to do a trial layout of your pattern pieces and then measure the area for your approximate yardage amount. Launder and press your fabric before beginning this project.

Creating the Embroidered Sundress

1. Determine areas on your dress pattern that you want to accent. You could use an allover theme like we did, or consider adding designs to just the bodice or hem area. Embroider only the front as we did, or continue the motifs on the back of the dress. If you are embroidering just a few motifs on the garment it may be possible to completely construct the garment and then add the embroidery when you're finished. We embroidered multiple motifs on both front dress pieces, requiring a margin of excess fabric to allow for hooping the fabric. Follow the steps below to use our method:



Figure #1



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- Select the pieces you want to embroider. We chose piece number 1, the front pattern piece. *See **Figure #2**.
- Lay the pattern piece on the fabric and then roughly trace the cutting line of the pattern onto the fabric. When selecting the front piece pattern piece it is important to flip the pattern in order to trace one left front and one right front. Cut each piece leaving a margin of several inches around the traced lines. *See our example in **Figure #3**.
- Remove the pattern and embroider your motifs on each large section of fabric. Please see our embroidery tips below.
- When embroidery is complete, place the pattern back on the fabric, taking care to layout the pieces following the grain-line on the fabric. Cut all remaining pattern pieces.
- Finally, construct the garment according to pattern instructions. **Note:** If you find it necessary to wash out the stabilizer before cutting and sewing the dress you may want to mark the traced pattern lines with hand worked basting stitches. By doing this your lines will remain visible after the fabric has been laundered. We simply trimmed away the excess stabilizer and dissolved the remaining stabilizer after completing the dress. If you are only adding a few motifs in select locations it may be possible to construct the garment first and then embroider the motifs.

Embroidery Tips:

- For placement of the motifs we recommend using templates printed from one of the Brother software programs. Use low tack tape to secure templates to fabric. *See **Figure #4a** and **#4b**. Visit the Tutorials and Techniques section of brothersews.com for a helpful tutorial on using printed templates to position embroidery motifs. This tutorial is titled Using Embroidery Design Templates. To stitch these motifs without software you will need to carefully measure and mark your fabric for positioning. Be sure to use your mirror image and rotation functions to vary the look of each motif.
- To finish with embroidery that is soft and pliable we recommend using fibrous water soluble stabilizer. This stabilizer completely disappears when you are finished and it's ideal for a light and lacy design such as the one featured in this project. Hoop the fabric with one layer of stabilizer against the wrong side of the fabric for each motif. Trim excess from around the motif when finished and then wash out the remaining stabilizer as directed on the package instructions. Note that there is also an adhesive backed version of this stabilizer, [SA5906](#) Pacesetter® Lightweight Adhesive-Backed Water Soluble. This type is particularly helpful when you cannot hoop the full piece of fabric such as areas close to a neck edge or hem.

Figure #2



Figure #3

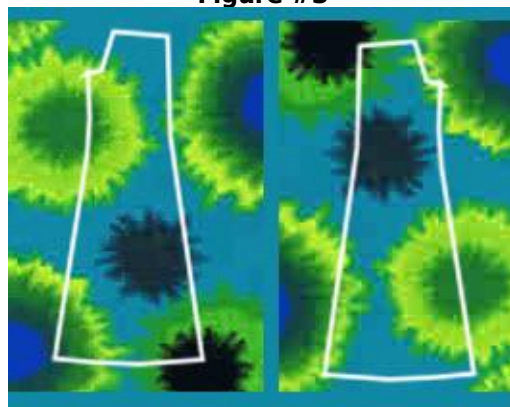


Figure #4a

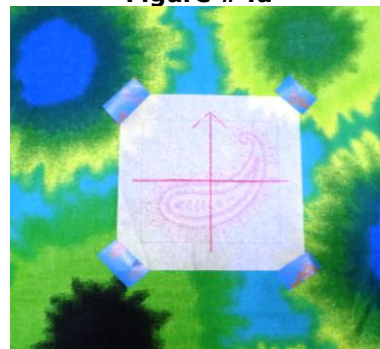


Figure #4b

