If you are anything like me and can't bring yourself to throw out those beautiful colored ribbons that adorn your Christmas packages every year.   Here is a special way to use those extra left over ribbons and create a memory that you will cherish each Christmas. This stocking makes a perfect gift for young and old.

Materials and Supplies

- Brother Sewing/Embroidery Machine
- PE Design Next
- Brother Embroidery thread
- Ribbon- ½ yard of 1 ½" Holiday theme
- Ribbon- ½ yard of ¾" Holiday theme
- Ribbon/cording-assorted colors and lengths (whatever is in your ribbon stash will do)
- Fabric- ½ yard (choose a color to coordinate with colors in your picture
- A favorite picture
- Lining- ½ yard
- Piping- 2 ¼ yards (contrast color for edging)
- Cut away stabilizer-14" x 18"
- Clear monofilament thread
- 1" grid paper or pattern paper (approx. size 16" x 18")
- Water soluble pen

Creating a Photo Stitch

1. Start up PE Design.
2. From the home tab, click on the "Design Page Settings" box. Choose the hoop size from the pop up window. Choose the 5 1/8" x 7 1/8" size hoop for this particular project. Figure 1.
3. From the home tab, click on Photo Stitch 1. From the drop down menu, click on color.
4. A pop up window will appear which reads "Open an image file. Click on the file to retrieve the image from your computer, click open.
5. The "Select Mask" window will appear. In this window, you are able to crop your image, as well as fine tune your picture by clicking on the "Image Tune" in the lower right corner of the page. When you are satisfied with fine tuning your image, click OK. Then click next. Figure 2.
6. The "Check Mask Shape/ Modify Image" window will appear. In the lower left corner you can resize the image. Drag one of the four corners until you reach the desired size, or choose "Fit to

Figure 1

Figure 2

Page". We want an approximate size 5" x 7". Click fit to page. Click next.

7. In most cases, your software has already done an excellent job of choosing the right colors for your picture just by using the "Auto Select" option on the "Photo Stitch 1 Parameters" page.

8. To make your image just a little more realistic, choose the "Fine" setting in the "Sewing Option" in the top left corner of the page. Change the "Run Pitch" to 0.08 inch. Click finish.

9. Your photo stitch is completed and ready to embroider. Save your pes file to a removable storage devise or send it to your machine directly from your computer.

Figure 3

Creating the stocking pattern:

1. The stocking measures 11 ½" x 16 ½" at its widest and longest point. Start by cutting a rectangle to those measurements from the grid paper.

2. Using the diagram on the right, count the blocks and transfer the number of blocks outlined in red to the 1" grid paper. Figure 4.

3. When you have completed transferring all the blocks, cut out the paper pattern.

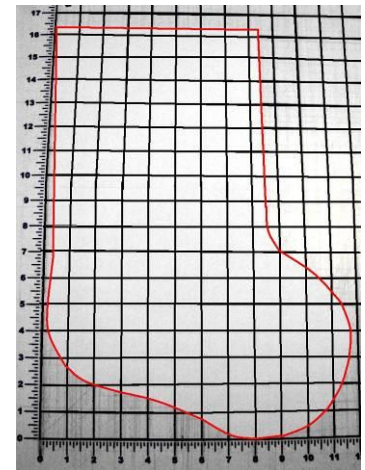If you prefer, purchase a readymade pattern of similar size.

Figure 4

Fabric Preparation:

1. Using the pattern, you've created, cut front and back from the main fabric chosen.

2. Cut front and back from the lining. Set aside for now.

3. Measure 2 ½" from the top edge of the stocking front and draw a straight line from one side to the other using the water soluble marking pen. Draw another line 7" down from the first. Remember this is only a guide line for placing your embroidery in the center top of the stocking.

4. Measure and draw a line on both sides of the stocking front 2" from the raw edge. Figure 5.

5. From the cutaway stabilizer, cut a rectangle approximately 12" x 17".

6. Place the front of the stocking fabric on the top of the stabilizer. Use a basting stitch or pins to secure in place. The stabilizer will remain and will be trimmed away after the stocking front is completely embellished.
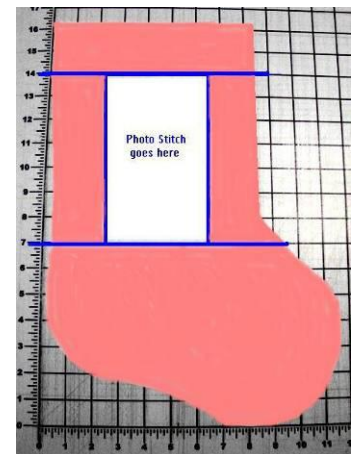

Figure 5

Embroider the design:

1. Set your machine up to embroider.
2. Turn on your machine and install the photo stitch design file.
3. Thread the machine with the first color selection.
4. Hoop the stabilizer and fabric centering the square for photo stitch placement. Figure 6.
5. Install the hoop onto the machine and stitch out the design.
6. When the design is completely finished, remove the hoop from the machine.
7. Remove the fabric from the hoop.
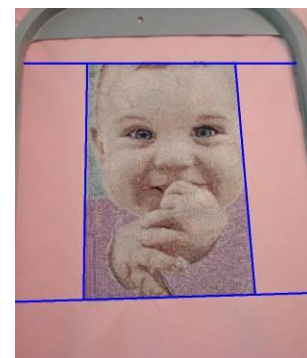8. Trim off the excess stabilizer from around the stocking front.

Embellishing the stocking front:

9. Set your machine to sewing mode.
10. Thread the machine with clear monofilament threat.
11. Trim both sides of the photo stitch using the ¾" Holiday ribbon. Leave the side open closest to the raw edge to insert additional ribbon trim. Figure 7.
12. Trim both the top and bottom of the photo stitch with the 1 ½" Holiday ribbon trim. Leave open the bottom half of the wide ribbon under the photo stitch for additional ribbon trim embellishment.
13. Cut and place the ribbon trim on a slight angle on the toe and heal, encasing raw edges under the wider ribbon trim. Continue to add ribbon until you fill the bottom of the stocking front leaving a space approximately ½" between each ribbon row. Figure 8.
14. Continue to add ribbons in the opposite direction until you have filled the area weaving in and out creating plaid fabric. Figure 9.
15. Using a straight stitch, sew completely around the toe and heal at the edge of the fabric tacking down the ribbon ends. When all ends are secure, remove the pins.
16. Add a colorful ric rac trim to further embellish the edge of the large ribbon accents.
17. To embellish the sides of the photo stitch center, cut ribbon to 2" lengths. You will need 5 for each side of a 5" x 7"
18. Fold the ribbons in half. Evenly space the ribbon folds and place raw edges under the lengthwise ribbon embellishment and pin in place.
19. When all folds are in position, stitch down and secure in place. Remove the pins.
20. Using cording or ribbon accent, lace the sides of the stocking front on both sides and pin in place. Figure 10.
21. Using a straight stitch, sew down the cording/ribbon on the sides of the stocking. Remove the pins.
22. Attach the adjustable zipper and piping foot (SA161) onto your machine.
23. Sew the contrasting piping completely around the stocking

Figure 6

Figure 7

Figure 8

Figure 9

starting at the top right corner of the stocking front.

24. Sew a strip of piping to the top of the stocking front and also to the top of the back of the stocking. Figure 11
25. Cut a piece of ribbon 3 inches, fold in half. Place in the top left corner of the stocking front. Stitch to secure in place Figure 12.

Assembling the stocking:

26. Sew the lining to the stocking front and back at the top of the stocking pieces. Figure 13.
27. With right sides together (stocking front to stocking back, lining front to lining back) pin to secure while sewing.
28. Using a straight stitch, sew around the stocking and lining. Leave a 5 inch opening for turning in the lining area of the stocking.
29. Turn right sides out and stitch the opening closed. Figure 14.
30. Tuck the lining to the inside of the stocking and it is ready for hanging.

Suggestions:

• You can embellish as much or as little as you like. This is only a guide line to your own personal creativity.
• Before you have embellished the front completely, you may Want to leave a space to insert a child's name. Set up your machine for embroidery again and embroider the child's name before assembling the stocking.
• For a more generic looking stocking, select a child's favorite Christmas card with Santa's face on it for the photo stitch portion of the project or draw one of your own.   Figure 15

Figure 10

Figure 11

Figure 12

Figure 13

Figure 14

Figure 15