The Brother FREE design for this month is a Cheerleader Megaphone. We used the design to make an identification tag and attached it to a stadium blanket. Your ID tag can be customized with a name, phone number, or e-mail address. We customized the coordinating blanket using two color Athletic Style letters from the Brother BES2 Lettering program. To complete the set we added a special strap to wrap and carry the blanket. This sport set is a great item to produce for resale, fundraisers, etc. Be prepared to take orders!

Materials and Supplies

- Brother Sewing and Embroidery Machine with 4-inch by 4-inch hoop and Edit mode capability for the ID tag. A 5-inch by 7-inch hoop is featured for the lettering on the blanket.
  *Please see Important Note below regarding embroidering the tag without Edit Mode.
- Brother Embroidery Thread
- Brother Bobbin Thread for Embroidery
- SA5810 Brother Medium Weight Tear-Away Stabilizer.
- SA520 Brother Clear Water Soluble Stabilizer
- Temporary adhesive spray made for embroidery to use for securing tear-away to blanket. **NOTE:** Follow specific instructions for using the spray.
- Brother FREE Cheerleader Megaphone embroidery design.
- Options for lettering on blanket: Brother Software Program such as BES® Lettering2 as featured in this example, PE Design® Next, PE Design® Plus, or another one of the Brother Lettering and Monogramming software programs. You can also choose to use lettering built-in to your machine.

Front of ID Tag

Back of ID Tag

Additional Materials, Supplies, Fabrics, and Notions:

- Firm, woven cotton duck cloth fabric for the tag. Cut two pieces measuring 8-inches square.
- Pre-purchased fleece blanket measuring approximately 50-inches wide by 60-inches long.
- Black polypropylene webbing measuring 1-inch wide, two pieces measuring 20-inches long and one piece measuring 12-inches long.
- Black parachute buckles made specifically for luggage, sporting equipment and tote bags, two buckles sized for 1-inch straps. *See Example A.
- Black gross grain ribbon, one piece measuring 5/8-inch wide by 14-inches long for attaching tag to strap.
- Basic sewing notions, including seam sealant to treat the cut ends of webbing.
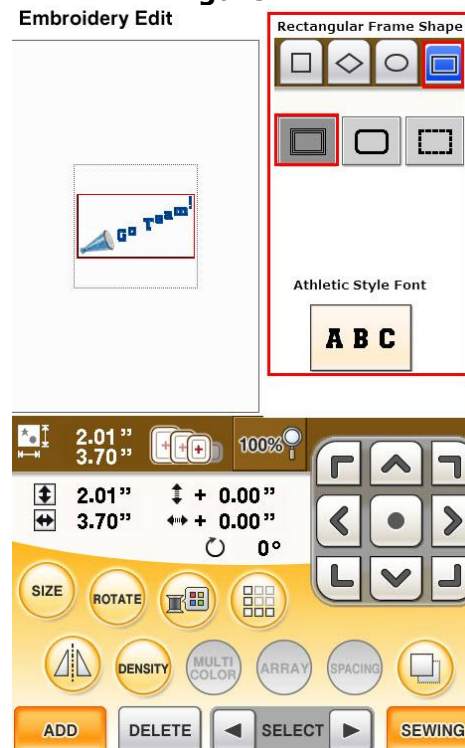
Example A – Parachute Buckle

*Important Note: Our instructions are written for a machine with Edit mode capability. This includes the ability to add more than one pattern at a time to the layout screen of the embroidery machine. If you do not have this option you can create the project using one of the following options:

- Stitch the free design first. Next, return to the selection screen, choose a built in font style and add embroider the added lettering. Use the machine's trial feature for proper placement of the added lettering.
- Import or merge the design into a Brother software program such as one of the Brother programs listed with the supplies. Create the entire design layout in the software and then transfer the appropriate .pes file to your machine to stitch.
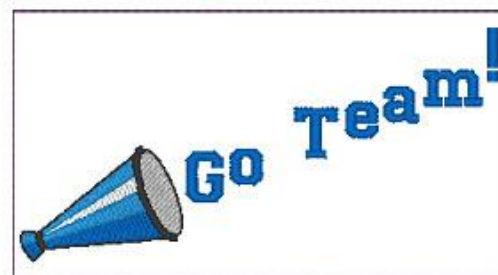
Instructions for ID Tag

1. Transfer the Free Brother design to the machine using your chosen method. Working in the Edit mode of the machine, choose the rectangular shaped frame from the built in frame patterns. Select the triple straight stitch option for the frame pattern. Size the frame to equal approximately 2.01 High X 3.70 Wide. Add the free design. Rotate the design to place it slightly on an angle. Move the design to the lower left corner of the rectangle. Next, add small size lettering from the built in fonts. We chose the athletic style font, and then changed the array <u>and</u> the angle of the array using the options built into the machine. Consider changing your colors to reflect the team you want to represent. *See **Figure #1**.
2. Hoop one piece of duck cloth having the tear away stabilizer underneath the hoop. Embroider side one of the tag. *See **Figure #2**.
3. To create the opposite side of the tag use a process similar to the one used for first side, using the same size rectangular frame and programming lettering for a name, phone number, e-mail address, etc. Begin with a readable font style in a small size. Re-size the font as needed to fit the rectangle. If the blanket is lost or misplaced the ID tag will help you recover it. See our light hearted example seen in **Figure #3**.

Figure #1

Figure #2

Figure #3

4. When you have finished embroidering both tags, trim each piece leaving a 1-inch seam allowance outside the rectangular frame. Turn under the raw edges on each tag, pressing ½-inch to the wrong side and mitering the corners. Trim excess fabric at the corners to eliminate bulk. *See **Figure #4**. Place the two sides of the tag wrong sides together. Select the gross grain ribbon piece. Fold the ribbon in half and insert it into one of the short ends. To finish the tag, topstitch close to the folded edges. Set aside for later use.

Instructions for Stadium Blanket

1. Create lettering to add to the purchased fleece blanket. You can use lettering built in to your machine or use the BES® Lettering program as we did in this example. Create two color athletic style lettering as follows:

- Open the Lettering program. Click on the drop down arrow below the Hoop icon. Choose the 5-inch by 7-inch, (130mm X 180mm) hoop. Select the 90 degree rotation for a horizontal layout. Click OK. *See **Figure #5**.

- Click on the Grid icon to add or take away the grid. Click on the background icon and then click on the dropdown arrow to bring up a menu of options. Click on Select color. Choose a color similar to your blanket so you can preview the color combination prior to stitching. Notice that you can choose a fabric option in place of a color. *See **Figure #6**.

- From the Home tab select Normal text. Click once within the hoop in the workspace. Notice the flashing curser. Click on the drop down arrow in the Properties box and scroll to select the 2CL TEAM MD font style. Once you have selected the font, observe how you can <u>hover</u> over the font with the mouse curser to see the recommended size and available keystrokes for the font. *See **Figure #7**.

- You can type your lettering in the Properties box. To begin, click in the text field of the Properties box and then type the lettering. We used the following lettering for our blanket: #1 (space) FAN. **NOTE**: This font requires upper case letters, you will need to select Caps Lock on your keyboard when typing the letters. Click Apply. Click the Arrange tab and center the lettering. To maximize the lettering for the specific hoop, click on Hoop>Fit Hoop from the Home tab.

- To change colors, select the lettering and then click on your first color in the color bar. Proceed to change color 1 and 2. *See **Figure #8**.
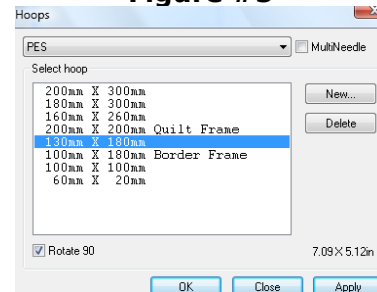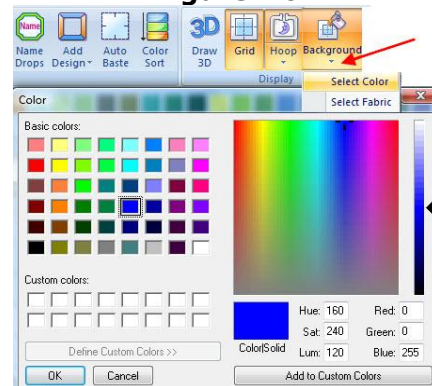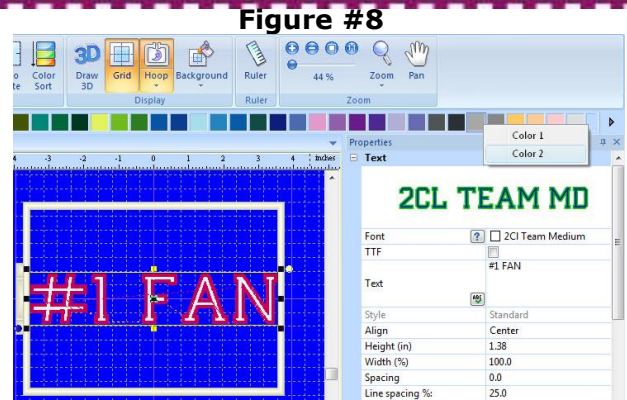
Figure #4

Figure #5

Figure #6

Figure #7

2. Use the adhesive spray to secure tear away stabilizer to the wrong side of the blanket. Hoop the blanket, placing a layer of water soluble stabilizer over the right side. Embroider the lettering in the center of the blanket approximately 4-6 inches from the lower edge. Remove all stabilizer when finished.
3. To construct the strapping for the blanket, select one of the 20-inch pieces of webbing. Attach each end to the corresponding part of a buckle, following the package instructions. Repeat for the second 20-inch piece and the remaining buckle. Mark the center of each finished 20-inch strap. Next, select the 12-inch piece of webbing and sew it to the center mark on each finished strap, wrapping it around the piece and forming an "H" shape in the process. *See **Figure #9**.
4. To complete the set, fold blanket into thirds lengthwise and then fold it in half. To form a roll, begin at the folded end and loosely roll the blanket to the embroidered edge. Place the strapping over the roll and secure it with the buckles. Tie the ID tag to the strap. As an option, you can sew a portion of the strapping directly to the blanket to keep the two from separating. *See **Figure #10**.

Options and Ideas:

- Purchase fleece yardage to make your own blanket. Use your serger for an easy way to finish the blanket edges.
- Create a single ID tag in the form of a label and sew it directly to one corner of the blanket.
- Customize the blanket with a name, monogram, or initials.

Figure #8

Figure #9

Figure #10

Attach strapping to blanket from here to here on both sides.