

Short Cut

by Diane Kron, courtesy of Designer's Gallery

Create a cute cutwork design to embellish a pair of fashionable capris that are perfect to wear to casual lunches, shopping trips or lounging around the house.



SHOPPING LIST

- ready-made capris
- embroidery software (with digitizing capabilities)
- water-soluble mesh stabilizer
- thread: all-purpose, bobbin & embroidery

Prepare

Using a seam ripper, remove the inner seam of each capri leg.

Digitize

- Open a new page in the embroidery software program. Draw a $\frac{1}{2}$ "x $5\frac{1}{2}$ " rectangle on the page. Select the rectangle, copy it and paste it onto the page. Position the duplicated rectangle over the original rectangle.
- Draw a zigzag stitch inside the rectangle, beginning the line at the rectangle upper left corner and ending the line at the rectangle lower right corner **(A)**.
- Select the zigzag, copy it and paste it onto the page. Select the duplicated line and rotate it 180°. Position the duplicated line inside the rectangle, aligning the line upper edge with the rectangle upper right corner and the line lower edge with the rectangle lower left corner **(B)**.

- Choose a bean stitch and adjust the stitch length to 2.0mm. Apply the bean stitch to the original rectangle outline. Color the bean stitches blue.
- Choose a satin stitch and adjust the stitch width to 2.0mm and the density to .03mm. Apply the satin stitch to each zigzag line, and then to the duplicated rectangle outline.

A Draw zigzag stitch beginning at rectangle upper left corner and ending at lower right corner.



B Position duplicated line inside rectangle.



Embroidery Software 101

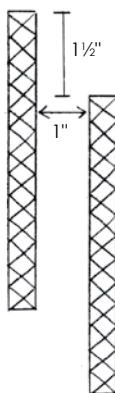
Deciding which software to purchase is often intimidating. With all of the options to choose from, how do you know which one is best? Before making any decisions, make sure the software you choose has these common basic features:

- 1. Automatic Digitizing.** This feature takes out the guesswork of digitizing and digitizes designs with a simple click of a button.
- 2. Monogramming.** Opt for software programs with monogramming features, which instantly create monograms to personalize projects.
- 3. Stitch Variety.** Choose a software program that has a variety of stitches, such as fill, satin, triple and bean stitches.
- 4. Font Variety.** Select a software program that has multiple fonts so you can choose the font style that best suits your project.
- 5. Editing.** Opt for software that has basic editing features, such as the ability to change the stitch length and width and design density and instantly rotate designs horizontally and vertically.
- 6. Graphic/Border Selection.** Select software that has a variety of shapes, symbols, graphics, motifs and borders to personalize designs.

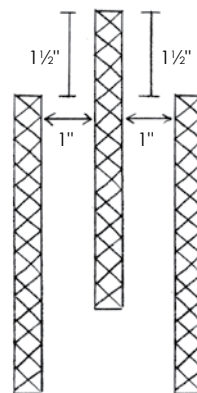
- Select the design, copy it, and then paste it onto the page. Position the duplicated design approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ " below and 1" to the right of the original design (C).



- Paste the original design onto the page again. Position the duplicated design approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ " below and 1" to the left of the first design (D).
- Print a template of the design. Save the design in the appropriate machine format.



C Position duplicated design $1\frac{1}{2}$ " below and 1" to right of original design.



D Position duplicated design $1\frac{1}{2}$ " below and 1" to left of original design.

Embroider

- Position the design template approximately 3" from one capri leg lower edge, centering the template along the leg right side.
- Hoop a piece of water-soluble stabilizer and the fabric, centering the template within the hoop. Place the hoop on the machine and remove the template.
- Beginning with the center rectangle, embroider the original rectangle outline. Once the embroidery is complete, remove the hoop from the machine, but don't remove the fabric from the hoop. Using a pair of sharp embroidery scissors, cut away the fabric inside the rectangle close to the stitching. Don't cut the stabilizer.
- Place the hoop back on the machine and embroider each zigzag. Once the stitching is complete, embroider the duplicated rectangle outline. Repeat to embroider the remaining rectangles.

Cutwork Embroidery Designs

Embroidery designs specially digitized for cutwork are widely available. Achieve embroidery success with a few tips:

- Use water-soluble or heat-removable stabilizer to prevent any stabilizer show through. Choose the stabilizer that best corresponds to the chosen fabric.
- Secure the fabric to the stabilizer using temporary spray adhesive or baste the fabric in the hoop.
- Use an awl to gently pull the fabric apart from the stabilizer once the cutwork stitches are complete.
- Don't use sewing shears or regular scissors to trim away the fabric, as they won't trim the fabric close to the stitching. Use sharp embroidery scissors instead.



- Once the embroidery is complete, remove the hoop from the machine and the fabric from the hoop. Wash away the stabilizer, following the manufacturer's instructions.
- Repeat to embroider the remaining leg.

Construct

With right sides together, stitch each inner leg seam using a sewing machine or serger and coordinating all-purpose thread. ■

DESIGN

Cutwork: Design created using MasterWorks II; designersgallerysoftware.com.

SOURCE

Baby Lock provided the Ellisimo sewing and embroidery machine and Dissolve-Away Mesh stabilizer: babylock.com.