



Basting in the hoop has many benefits:

- It's a great way to handle hard-to-hoop items.
- It eliminates hoop marks on delicate fabrics.
- You can achieve perfect placement on your fabric, garment or project without using templates.
- It's the **best** way to stitch designs that have been split for multiple hoopings. It allows you to match your alignment stitches without the need for precise hooping and without ever using templates.

My basting stitches were designed over 10 years ago with the idea that by marking my fabric and coordinating that mark with the basting stitches, I could place my designs exactly where I wanted them to be on the fabric without the guess work. This method works so well that I rarely ever hoop. Most of my projects are done by basting in the hoop.

I'm pleased to share my baste-in-the-hoop files with you along with my technique for using the files:

- 1: Determine where you want the center of your hooping to be on your fabric and place a large cross using a removable fabric marking pen or tailors chalk. The center of the cross should be the exact center of the hooping.
- 2: Hoop your stabilizer and attach the hoop to your machine.
- 3: Lay your fabric over the hoop so that the center of the cross is directly under the needle.
- 4: Program the baste file into the machine. (download files above)
- 5: Drop the needle into that center mark and begin stitching. These Baste-in-the-hoop files begin by stitching a large cross. This cross starts stitching at the center point and stitches upward. It then goes back to the center and stitches to the right, back to the center etc. So, when you drop your needle into the center mark on your fabric and begin sewing, it should stitch on the cross that you marked on your fabric. This assures you that your placement is correct and your fabric is straight. If your baste stitches aren't exactly on top of your markings, stop the machine, pull out the stitches and start over. It helps to stitch the cross slowly.

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