

Threads n Scissors

Heirloom Stretchy Smocking

Use our Heirloom Smocking Designs and stitch out a length of fabric. For a top I work on about 1 and 1/2 times the length needed. And I always add on extra fabric for the sides. Eg. If you need 50 cm in length, then you will measure $75 \text{ cm} + 10 \text{ cm}$ (5 for each end) = 85cm in total. You will then cut an 85 cm strip of fabric. Our designs are for the 4" x 4" hoop so you will be stitching out about 80 cm of design. This will make a nice strip. If you need the strip to be wider than what the design is, you can "build" onto the base design by stitching other of Heirloom Smocking Designs either above or below or both from the base design. This will give you a wider strip of smocking design to work with. Use our Heirloom Smocking Designs to create a variety of patterns—Let Your Inspiration Guide You!

Use our Continuous Embroidery Design Placement Lesson to create the width and length fabric you need. Leave the water soluble stabilizer in.

Materials

Stitched Heirloom Smocking design with water soluble stabilizer left in (Please use the Continuous Embroidery Design Placement lesson to create a good length of fabric to be smocked)

Good quality elastic thread

Here is an example of a stitched strip. I have combined two of our Heirloom Smocking designs to create a larger design.



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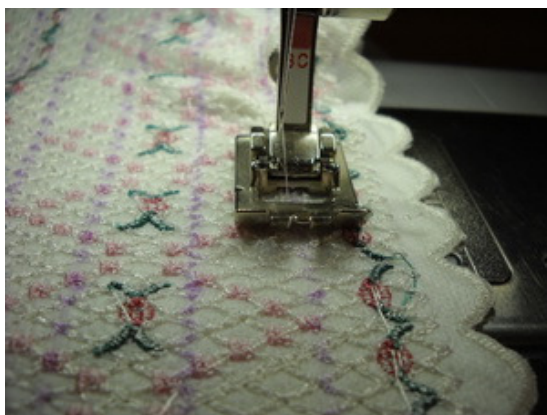
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Prepare your stitched fabric by marking lines 1.5 cm apart using a fabric marker on the **wrong side** of the embroidered strip.



If your machine has a foot used for shirring elastic, please check your machine manual how to use it. If you don't then you will use a normal zig-zag stitch or a broken zig-zag stitch.. The broken zig-zag stitch has a more hidden effect.

Use matching thread for the bobbin and upper thread to match the fabric. This blends in the stitching. Cut lengths of Shirring Elastic approximately 10 cm longer than the embroidered fabric. Place the elastic under the foot of your machine and stitch over the elastic being careful not to stitch into the elastic. Use the 1.5 cm markings on the fabric as a guide.



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Stitch elastic onto each of the lines. When done, carefully pull the elastic in to get the required length of fabric. You can use your machine to stitch over the ends of the elastic to hold them firmly in place.



TIP: If you want a decorative edge, use a decorative scollop stitch on your machine to edge the fabric before putting in the elastic.

Enjoy Your Inspiration!!!