JOYCE JAGGER

THE EMBROIDERY COACH

Process For Embroidery On Lined Woven Fabric Face Mask

Option #1 – Using a standard 12-centimeter round tubular hoop.

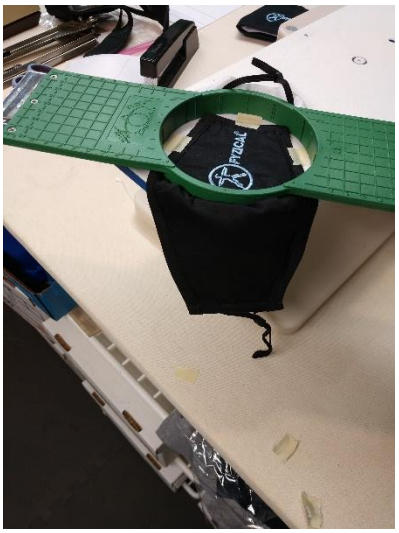
I hooped this example on the corner of the freestyle base of my Hoop master. You could also use the corner of any table to do this. By using the corner, I was able to keep the two layers from shifting or separating too much because I did not need to try to keep the entire mask flat to hoop it.

I was able to keep the curved shape. Hoop master also makes a special cap back addition to the freestyle base that would work very well for this application. It will hold the backing in place without having to tape the backing around the outside ring of the hoop. It has a circular end designed to fit curved hat backs which makes hooping the curved mask easier.

This logo was just over 2.75 inches long. I think it is a bit long for the side of a mask but as you will see there was plenty of room to fit it on.

I first attached 2 pieces of 1.5-ounce tearaway to the outside ring of the by folding the corners over and taping them down. This keeps the backing from sliding out of the way while shifting the mask around to fit inside the outside piece of the frame. You could also use 1 layer of 3-ounce tearaway but I would not use anything lighter than that.

I turned the hoop and backing over and positioned the mask to fit inside the outer ring of the frame. I then pushed the inside of the frame down in.



To keep the mask straight across the frame, I lined up the straight side seam and two corners of the mask with the top edge of the arms of the frame.

I applied tape to the edges of the top, bottom, and side seams to minimize the amount the fabric would pull up when embroidered.

I loaded this into the embroidery machine upside down and ran it with a rotation of 270 degrees. That way the remainder of the mask is hanging over the front of the machine. Make sure you keep an eye on the strap, so it does not slide under the hoop when you load it in.

Option # 2 – 270-degree cap frame.

I tried this option two different ways. With both ways, I pre-adjusted the length of the strap to be as short as possible and then added a piece of cap foam between the strap and the edge of the mask to hold the mask tighter to the frame.

Here is a picture of the finished side of the mask after it was embroidered. By using this method, I could have done a logo that was longer in length but I could not get as close to the edge of the side seam of the mask as I could using the 12 centimeter round hoop.

I used a thin cut piece of embroidery foam between the edge of the side seam of the mask and the strap of the cap frame. The piece of foam added enough grip to hold the edge of the mask in place. I also added a strip of masking tape to secure each side from moving.

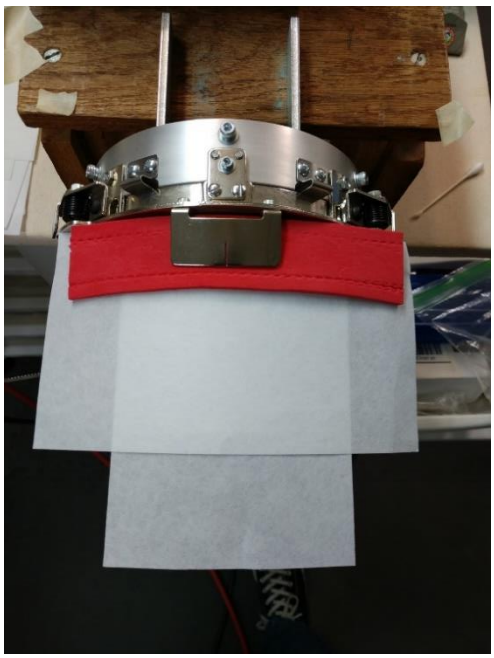
My original thought with this one was to put the thin strip of foam in the front groove that the cap seam fits down into. However, when I did that it held the mask up higher off the needle plate than I wanted which could cause the logo to distort when it stitched close to the holding strap. If the logo had been shorter than the 2 and 3/4 it was and further from the strap, it would have worked fine.

For both examples of option #2, I started with 2 pieces of 3-ounce cap backing. I folded the edge of the first piece, placed it in lengthwise, and placed the second piece in widthwise.

The reason I went in both directions was because I was using pre-cut cap backing that was 4 inches deep and 7 inches wide. I needed extra depth to cover the 2.75-inch length of the logo and extra width to tape the sides down to.

If the pre-cut backing had been 5 inches deep, one direction would have been fine. The reason I used 2 pieces of 3-ounce cap backing was to give the thin material some extra body and to help fill the gap in the front of the frame (in the area pointed out by the red arrow) where a much heavier cap seam normally fits.

Here are pictures of the second example of option # 2. The only difference between the two different options was the width of the piece of foam holding the edge down.



After placing the backing down on example two, I slid a piece of foam under the visor bracket that was wide enough to stick out past the edge of the bracket up to the very front of the frame and grip the side seam of the mask. I then slid the ear loop and the side seam of the mask under the foam up to the edge of the bracket, brought the holding strap around to hold it

in place and put a strip of masking tape on each side to secure each side from moving. Both of these examples embroidered well, but I found the second example with the wider piece of foam a little quicker to do because I did not have to hold the thin piece of foam and the mask in place at the same time while I brought the holding strap around.

Keep in mind, there are other options for doing the sides of masks. Fast frames, embroidery clamps, hat back clamps, glove clamps, and other specialty frames will also work as well, but they need to be purchased separately at an additional cost. If I were continually doing numerous face masks, I would probably invest in some of these other options because they would ultimately be quicker. The reason I chose to work with these two is because almost all machines come standard with a 12 cm round hoop and a cap frame.