

Cutwork Scarf

by Jenny K. Lyon

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Susan Brubaker Knapp and Jenny K. Lyon

Materials

- 2 (14" x 72") pieces of soft fabric, such as rayon batik or lightweight quilting cotton
- 1 (14" x 72") piece of lightweight two-sided fusible that does not alter the hand of the fabric (I use Mistyfuse®.)
- Spray-on fabric stabilizer (I use Terial Magic™.)
- Fabric-safe removable marking pen or chalk
- Doodle paper and pencil
- Sturdy, sharp scissors, 5½" long
- Pressing cloth

• Cutwork is a forgiving and fun project for quilters who want to build their free-motion quilting skills. Each line is stitched at least twice, giving you many chances to hit it. While improving your free motion quilting skills you'll create this adorable scarf. Win/win!

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Following the manufacturer's directions, stiffen both pieces of fabric by spraying with the stabilizer and pressing. After pressing, the fabric will be quite stiff.
- **Tip:** I put the fabric into a small plastic tub when spraying to minimize the mess.
2. Fuse the 2 pieces of fabric wrong side together, following the manufacturer's directions.
3. Mark a line 2" in from the edge on all 4 edges on 1 side of the fabric.
4. Create the perimeter edge of the scarf by edge stitching bubbles about the size of a nickel down the center

of the marked line, all around the scarf edges. (See diagram)

Tip: The first line of edge stitching will result in 2 lines of stitch on 1 side of each bubble and only 1 line of stitch on the other. After completing 1 scarf length of stitching, make a second pass along the single line of stitching only—in red on the diagram.

5. Doodle a design on paper using daisies and bubbles. Leave open space here and there. Try to make it a continuous line, as you would if you were stitching.

Tip: This works best on paper larger than 11" x 17". I use the packing paper used by moving companies.

6. On the fabric, loosely mark the daisies and leave open space between them—about ½"–2". A few can butt into each other—think how daisies look in a field. Make some partial daisies to give the impression that they have fallen off the edge. The daisies will vary in size, about 3"–4½" across.

7. Free-motion stitch the daisies and complement them with bubbles. To begin, stitch just a portion of the design—about 6"–8" of the scarf. Try to stitch a continuous line but don't worry if you have to break the thread and begin in another spot.
8. Each daisy and bubble needs to be stitched at least twice to protect the fabric once the spaces are cut out. It's okay if you triple stitch!
9. Go back in between the motifs and cut out the negative space with smaller-size scissors. Start at a negative space and taking a snip in the middle. Slide the blade into the snip and cut the space out. Leave a few threads in between the cut and the stitching. Cutting too closely could jeopardize the stitching line.

Tip: *Cut by keeping your non-dominant hand steady while your dominant hand moves the fabric. It's much easier on your hands and faster this way.*

10. Once you have removed all the negative space in that section, you will have learned a few things. Perhaps you over- or under-filled your space. You may have cut too close in a few areas. You will have learned to control your scissors well.

11. Go ahead and do another larger section, about 12". Go back and cut out the negative space. You will have refined your process at this point.
12. Finish stitching and cutting the interior of the scarf.
13. To finish the edges, cut off the outside portion along the bubbles. Wash out the stabilizer following the manufacturer's directions and let it dry. Press with a translucent pressing cloth such as a piece of silk organza. The pressing cloth will protect the fabric and keep the iron from flipping some of the cut pieces to the back and folding.

Jenny's tips for success

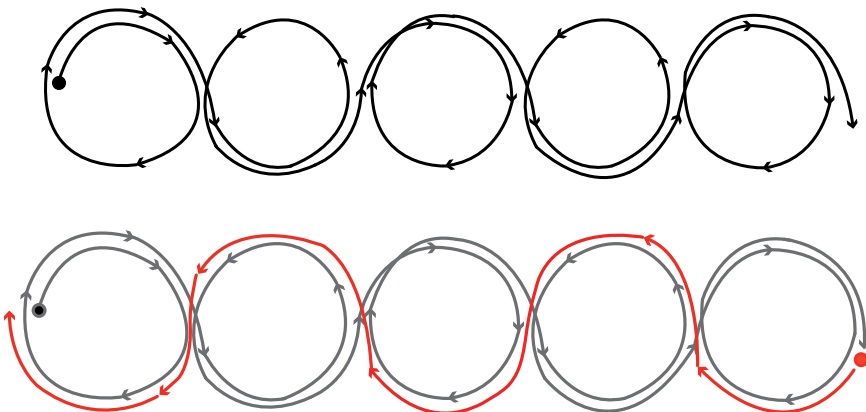
- This is a whimsical, Bohemian-style project, so perfection is not necessary! My daisy petals are not all the same size—on purpose. Pretend you are in kindergarten!
- The most important part of this design is the negative space between motifs. If the spaces are overfilled, the result will be a blob of fabric with no discernible design and the scarf will be too stiff. It's tempting to snuggle all the bubbles next to each other but resist!



Examples of Jenny's cutwork

- I try to keep the size of my open spaces between 1–3 fingers width. Anything smaller will result in a blob of undefined space. If the space is too large, the structural integrity of the scarf could be affected.
- It's the open space that defines this design. 🍌

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