

# The Butterfly Effect

by Sara Boughner

Tote all of your belongings in a bold, upbeat spring-themed bag. Infuse your personal style into the bag by adding an embroidered band and custom lace trim.

Ellen Medlock Studio,  
The Bon Vivant  
Bag Pattern



## SHOPPING LIST

- bag pattern (such as The Bon Vivant Bag Pattern)
- print cotton fabric (amount according to pattern envelope)
- ½ yard of coordinating solid cotton fabric
- notions (according to pattern envelope)
- stabilizer: tear-away & water-soluble
- size 80/12 embroidery needle
- water-soluble fabric marker
- thread: all-purpose, bobbin & embroidery
- ¼"-wide paper-backed fusible web
- spray starch
- fabric glue
- embroidery designs: butterfly Richelieu (approximately 5¾"-wide) & freestanding bobbin lace (no larger than ⅝"-wide)

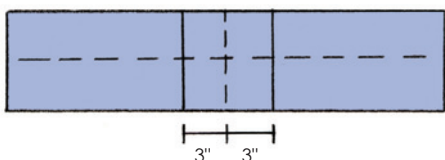
### Get Started

- From the coordinating fabric, cut one rectangle measuring 12"x the fabric width. Designate the rectangle as the band. Apply spray starch to the band for added stability; press.

### Embroider

*Note: The right portion of butterflies in the featured butterfly design were removed in embroidery software to make the design 5¾" wide.*

- Fold the band in half widthwise and lengthwise with right sides together; unfold. Mark the foldline intersection using a water-soluble fabric marker.
- Measure 3" from each side of the foldline intersection along the lengthwise foldline; mark, and then draw a line from each mark to each band long edge (**A**).



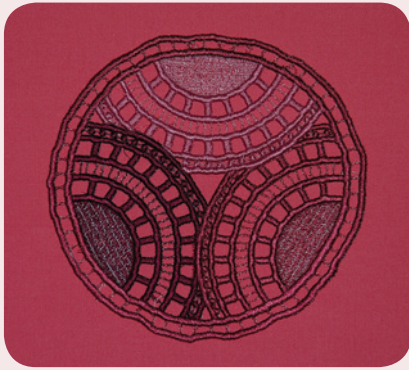
**A** Mark band.

- Print a template of the design. Position the template over the band, aligning the design lower edge with one drawn line. Mark the design center.
- Load the butterfly design into the machine and install a new size 80/12 embroidery needle onto the machine. Thread the machine with embroidery and bobbin thread. Hoop the band with a piece of tear-away stabilizer, aligning the design center within the hoop cross marks.
- Use the baste-in-the-hoop function, if applicable, to secure the band to the stabilizer for added stability. Embroider the design. Once the embroidery is complete, remove the hoop from the machine and the band from the hoop. Trim any jump threads, and then tear away the stabilizer beyond the design perimeter.
- Repeat to embroider the opposite band end, aligning the design lower edge with the opposite drawn line.
- Load the freestanding bobbin lace design into the machine. Hoop a piece of water-soluble stabilizer in the largest hoop possible. Thread the machine with embroidery thread. Place the hoop onto the machine. Continually embroider the design until the lace strip is 30" long, rehooping as needed.

*Tip*

The hotter the water, the more quickly water-soluble stabilizer dissolves, but follow the manufacturer's instructions for the correct water temperature.

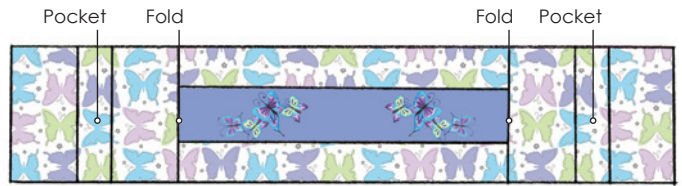
- Once the embroidery is complete, remove the hoop from the machine and the stabilizer from the hoop. Trim any jump stitches. Rinse to remove the stabilizer, following the manufacturer's instructions. Use a towel to remove as much water as possible from the strip. Let the strip dry flat overnight.



## Lovely in Lace

Lace designs are available in a variety of types and give a elegant touch to projects. Experiment with these gorgeous lace designs:

- **Bobbin:** Bobbin lace is traditionally made using linen, wool or cotton threads. When embroidered, the same thread is used in the needle and bobbin to create a soft, subtle and lightweight lace without the sheen of synthetic lace. Bobbin lace embroidery designs are available in various sizes and are relatively less dense, making them quick to stitch.
- **Medallion:** Medallion lace designs typically have a large, curvaceous motif. Some designs are digitized for stitching onto background fabric (above) while others are digitized as freestanding designs.
- **Richelieu:** Richelieu embroidery creates a lace effect with bars of stitching. Fabric is either cut away between the bars to resemble cutwork, or the fabric shows through the bars for a different look. To maintain the strength of this peek-a-boo style embroidery, Richelieu designs are typically very dense and take time to stitch. The featured butterfly design on page 28 has approximately 155,000 stitches.



**B** Center embroidered strip over bag exterior; topstitch.



## Construct

- Repeat to embroider a second 30"-long lace strip. For quicker embroidery, embroider the lace strips at the same time. Open the lace design in embroidery software. Copy the design, and then paste it next to the first strip within the hoop. Save the design in the appropriate machine format.
- Adhere a fusible web strip along each band long-edge wrong side, following the manufacturer's instructions. Remove the paper from each web strip. Fold each band long edge  $\frac{1}{4}$ " toward the wrong side; fuse. Repeat to fuse the band short edges.
- Place the assembled bag exterior right side up on a flat work surface. Center the band over the bag exterior between the folds; pin. Using coordinating thread, topstitch the band long edges (**B**).
- Finish constructing the bag, following the pattern instructions. Center each lace strip over the ribbon along each bag exterior side; secure using fabric glue. Note: The featured pattern directions state to space the handle ends 5" apart. If the embroidered center panel is larger than 5", audition placement of the handle ends on each side of the panel until satisfied with the look. The handle ends on the featured bag are spaced  $6\frac{1}{2}$ " apart. ■

### DESIGNS

Butterfly Richelieu: Pfaff, #392, Grand Dream Richelieu (sic), design #5; (800) 446-2333, [pfaffusa.com](http://pfaffusa.com)  
 Freestanding lace bobbin: Pfaff, #444, Endless Bobbin Lace, design #20; (800) 446-2333, [pfaffusa.com](http://pfaffusa.com)

### SOURCES

Ellen Medlock Studio provided the bag pattern, Flight Pattern fabric and bag closure: (918) 852-5697, [ellenmedlockstudio.com](http://ellenmedlockstudio.com)  
 Pfaff provided the Creative Endless Hoop, 5D embroidery software, Inspira Fast & Easy Tear-A-Way stabilizer, Inspira Aqua Magic and embroidery needles: (800) 446-2333, [pfaffusa.com](http://pfaffusa.com).  
 Robison Anton provided the embroidery thread: (800) 847-3235, [robison-anton.com](http://robison-anton.com).  
 The Warm Company provided the Steam-A-Seam 2 paper-backed fusible web: (425) 248-2424, [warmcompany.com](http://warmcompany.com).