

# **Creative Fabrica**

**Embroidery Design  
Sewing Information**

**[www.creativefabrica.com/embroidery/](http://www.creativefabrica.com/embroidery/)**

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## Mylar Tu Tu Cute

This set has 12 designs for a little ballerina. These designs are all optimized for Mylar to give your project extra sparkle without all of the fuss of using metallic thread.

There are 6 little ballerinas and 6 text designs for little dancers. We used our samples for a small lap quilt.



### Supplies

**Fabric:** You can choose any garment or fabric that you like for these designs. I used white for the background fabric of the embroidery for my quilt blocks.

**Stabilizer:** These designs are light enough to use most any stabilizer. I prefer a light poly- mesh stabilizer for the embroidery for a project like this and sew it into the project seams along with the fabric.

**Thread:** You can alter the thread suggested colors to match your fabrics. There is a color sheet at the end of these instructions with suggested colors. Please use this color sheet as a guide rather than the colors that may appear on your machine - especially if you use the PES format.

**Mylar:** We used Opal Mylar for our designs. We recommend using the Mylar that is made for embroidery and can withstand machine washing, drying and pressing with a press cloth. For more information on Mylar and what the differences are, please visit this website:

<http://www.heirloombysharon.com/>

This site has some very interesting background on Mylar and how it is made and sells the kind of Mylar that can be washed safely.

## Tip for sewing on dark fabric

Because Mylar designs have less density (the rows of stitching are farther apart to allow the Mylar to sparkle through), if you use a dark fabric or garment for the background, that color will show through when your design is finished. If you don't want that to happen, you can create a "color blocker" to place on your fabric before you embroider the design.

Use one of these methods:

1. Try White Mylar, available from <http://www.heirloombysharon.com/> We have a sample with photos of how this works here: <http://www.charmingstation.com/WhiteMylar.html>
2. Use a piece of "Hide It" that is the same color as your main design. If you don't have this product, you can use stabilizer with one of the techniques below.
3. If you have software that will print out a template of the design in it's actual size, print out the design and use this as a template to cut out the shape from a medium weight cutaway stabilizer.

Or

4. Hoop a piece of medium cutaway stabilizer and sew out the first color of the design you plan to use. Remove this from the machine and trim just to the inside of the stitching all the way around.

This piece of stabilizer will be your "color blocker" for use in the steps below.

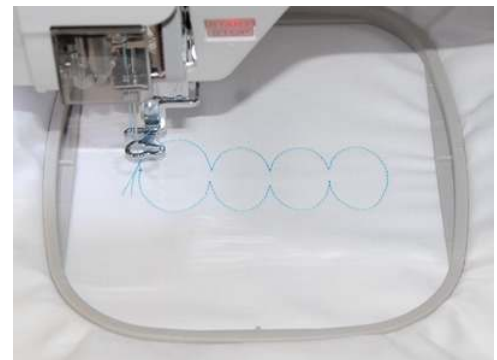
## Embroidery Steps

Since these designs were created for Mylar, please take a minute to read through these steps, even if you have used Mylar designs in the past.

**These directions apply to designs: 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 07, 09 and 11. Additional information about the remaining designs follows these instructions.**

**Note:** The first two colors in each the design listed above are the outline and tack down stitches for your Mylar. To save color changes, you can use the same light colored thread for each of these steps as color #3. Then follow the steps below to avoid having to change colors:

- Hoop your fabric/stabilizer
- The first color will sew out an outline for the Mylar. Use the brown color which appears as color #3 on each chart. This eliminates the need to change thread colors for the first three color stops.



- If you are using a dark or printed background, lay your "color blocker" or "Hide It" on the outline you just sewed. If your background is light or white, just skip this step.

- Place a piece of Mylar on top of the hoop, making sure that it covers the entire outline sewn in the previous step (and your “color blocker” if you want to use one).
- You can use small pieces of tape to hold this in place if you want.
- Sew the second color (use the same color as in step 1). This will tack down the Mylar for you and hold it while you sew the filler parts of the design.
- Do NOT try to trim at this point. There is a much higher rate of tearing the Mylar that will be under the design at this step. For these designs, we suggest you trim after the design is sewn.
- Sew out the remaining colors.
- Remove the hoop from the machine.
- Remove the excess Mylar by gently pulling it back toward the stitching. The needle has perforated the Mylar for you so it will be very easy to remove. If you have any little pieces sticking out you can remove those with tweezers.



For the other designs:



For designs 6 and 8, cut your Mylar so that it only covers the outline sewn out by the first color stop. You don't want Mylar under the lettering as it is too hard to remove and won't show up anyway.



Design #10 does not use any Mylar at all.



In Design #12, the lettering will sew out first. Then the outline for the barre will sew out to show you where to place the Mylar.

## Our Bridget

How it started:



How it's going now:



We combined one of the little ballerina designs with our Bridget's name to embroider on her dance bag.





## FAQ's about Mylar

### What is Mylar?

Mylar is actually the trademarked name for a particular brand of polyester film from DuPont. It has been adapted for a variety of uses. Like some other words in the English language, the trademarked name has come to mean something a little more generic. It now refers to several types of plastic - including the kind used to wrap food - and in cellophane gift wrapping. Cellophane or Mylar gift wrap is not paper, but a coated polymer film such as polypropylene.

### Why use it in embroidery?

If an embroidery design has been digitized for use with Mylar, the addition of Mylar will make the design sparkle almost as if it has been sewn with metallic thread (but without any of the headaches!).

### How do you use it?

Each digitizer can make Mylar designs the way they want to. At Charming Station we try to make it easy for you. In most of our designs, the first color in your design will be an outline of an area where the Mylar will go. After you sew the first color, you will lay a piece of Mylar on top of your hoop, making sure that it covers the outline completely. You can hold this in place with small pieces of tape if you like. The second color will tack the Mylar down for you. This process is exactly the same as an applique except that you use Mylar instead of fabric. Having these extra steps means that you will be sure to cover the area that needs Mylar and you won't have to waste extra Mylar covering areas that don't need it (or cutting it so large that it fits the hoop).

For Charming Station designs, I recommend that you wait until all of the colors have finished sewing out before you trim the excess Mylar from the designs. This way there is no risk of tearing the underlying layer of Mylar in the design. To remove the excess, just tear it gently back from the sewing line. If there are tiny remnants left, you can remove those with tweezers.

### Will the background fabric show through?

Yes, unless you use something to block the fabric. You can use a product called "Hide It" to block the background color from bleeding through the design. This can be purchased from a number of stores and online vendors.

We have recently tested a new product, White Mylar, that makes it possible to use prints and colored backgrounds without a lot of extra work. We highly recommend the White Mylar for use with printed fabrics!

### How do I know if a design is made for Mylar?

Most digitizers will include the word "Mylar" in the title or the description of the item. We also recommend that you look for photographs of the finished design rather than just the output from software which does NOT show you a true picture of what your design will look like. Software pictures are computer simulations. Photos of the sewn out design are much more realistic and show you that the digitizer has actually tested the designs.

### Can I use Mylar with any design?

No, most designs are too dense. Density in embroidery means how close together the rows of thread sew out. In most designs, you want the rows to be close enough together so that the fabric underneath doesn't show through. In order to see the "sparkle" in a Mylar design however, the rows in the design have to be a little farther apart. That allows light to reflect off of the Mylar behind the stitches which is what causes the sparkle.

### Can I just use any FSL design with Mylar?

Maybe. Free standing lace (FSL) is usually made with several layers of thread building enough structure to hold the design and the shape without any fabric as a base. This may mean that the layers provide too much density for the Mylar to show through. Regular FSL may also have spaces that are too big to hold the Mylar in place without tearing which means that the design will not last the way it should. If your design has even stitching fairly close together across the whole surface of the design, it will probably work well and the Mylar will add lovely sparkle to your sew-out. You can experiment and see how it looks.

### Can I use any applique design and replace the fabric with Mylar?

Probably not. Most applique designs have large open areas where fabric used as the applique takes the place of embroidery stitches. These large open areas do not have additional stitching over the applique fabric; they just use a satin stitch to hold the fabric in place. Mylar does not need a thick satin stitch to hold it in place (it may be a design element, but it isn't required). In addition, if there is a large open space, the Mylar could tear and come off, ruining the sparkly look of the design. Mylar designs rely on slightly open but fairly consistent stitching across the surface of the design to hold everything in place.

### How long does it take a Mylar design to sew out?

This is one of the most fun parts of this new technique. Because the rows of stitches are farther apart, there are fewer stitches in each design. That means Mylar designs use less thread and sew out much more quickly than a traditional filled design. A design that fits the full 4x4 hoop can sew out in 10 to 12 minutes.

### Where can I get this Mylar?

This is the most tricky question. If you are using the design on a craft item that will not be machine washed and dried in a dryer (or ironed!), you may be satisfied with the kind of gift wrap that you can get at a dollar store. This kind will not stand up to heat like from the dryer or from an iron.

There is, however, a type of Mylar that is washable and can be dried in the dryer. You can buy in packs of 5, 10, 20, 50, 100 or 200 sheets or try out sample packs of various colors and sizes.

US customers: <http://www.heirloomsbysharon.com/> (Sharon)

UK and Europe: <http://www.lucysMylarandcrafts.co.uk>

Either of these sites would be happy to answer any questions you might have! Sharon ships to other countries (including Australia).

### What "color" Mylar should I buy?

We used "Opal Iridescent" on almost all of our sample sew-outs. This is actually almost transparent and it simply reflects back the color of the thread that is used. That means you can use one piece under an entire design and see all of your thread colors (as long as your background fabric is white). If your background fabric is not white, we recommend that you purchase White Mylar so that the background colors or prints don't show through your embroidery. To see an example of a use for a colored Mylar, look at the picture for the Autumn Fancy set or the Mylar Christmas Ornaments set. We used a bright metallic Mylar in some of these designs.

## What does it look like without the Mylar?

Because the rows of stitching are farther apart, your background fabric will show through much more than a regular design. The finished design will not look as bright or colorful as a regular filled design.

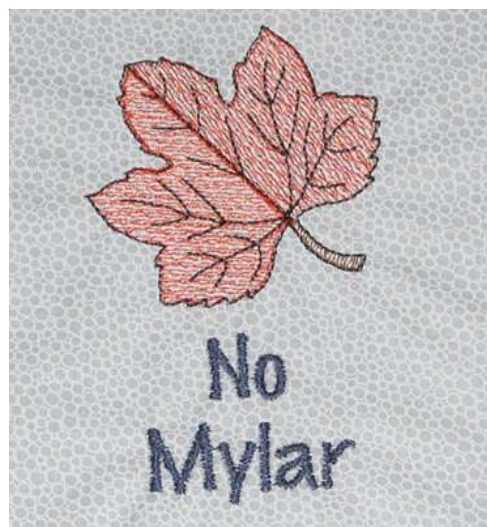
You can sew the design that has been optimized for Mylar without using Mylar but you may not like the results. Be sure to scroll down to see all of the pictures and the explanations.



This leaf is a regular filled design.

We put a piece of Mylar behind it but you can see that the rows of stitching are too close together to let you see any sparkle in the design.

Notice that the leaf is orange and the stem is brown.



This is the same leaf optimized for Mylar. You can see that the rows of stitching are much farther apart.

We did NOT use any Mylar with this sew out.

Notice that you can see the background fabric through the stitching.

The design looks very "flat" because the threads are not close enough together to give it a nice filled color.

This one was sewn with the same orange and brown threads as the first one.





This is the same leaf as in the sample above but with a sheet of Opal Iridescent Mylar behind it.

Light hits the Mylar between the rows of stitching and you see sparkle instead of background fabric.

Opal Iridescent Mylar provides the shine but the color comes from the thread that you use.

We used the same orange and brown thread on this sew out.

This photo has not been retouched or enhanced in any way.



This is the same leaf as the one above but this time we used metallic Mylar behind the leaf.

These bright colors of Mylar completely block the background fabric and they dominate the color of the finished design.

If you look closely, the leaf and stem are done with the same orange and brown threads as the previous design but you really don't see that. You see the color of the Mylar rather than the color of the thread.

This can give you spectacular results for some designs but you would not really want to have a single color of metallic Mylar under an entire design unless it is like this leaf - all one color.

## Mylar Tu Tu Cute (4x4 Hoop)

- 1 1 (1/2) Cream Br
- 2 Warm Gray
- 3 1 (2/2) Cream Br
- 4 Leaf Green
- 5 Lilac
- 6 Light Lilac
- 7 Harvest Gold
- 8 Khaki
- 9 Black
- 10 Moss Green



File: Ballet01.pes  
Stitches: 4883  
Size: 2.35x3.91 "  
Size: 59.8x99.4 mm

Colors: 9/10  
Stops: 9  
Stops: 9

- 1 1 (1/2) White
- 2 1 (2/2) Warm Gra
- 3 1 (2/2) White
- 4 Light Lilac
- 5 2 (2/2) Warm Gra
- 6 Light Lilac
- 7 Moss Green
- 8 Cream Brown
- 9 Deep Rose
- 10 Black



File: Ballet02.pes  
Stitches: 6055  
Size: 3.45x3.91 "  
Size: 87.6x99.4 mm

Colors: 8/10  
Stops: 9  
Stops: 9

- 1 1 (1/2) Cream Br
- 2 Warm Gray
- 3 1 (2/2) Cream Br
- 4 Leaf Green
- 5 Khaki
- 6 Harvest Gold
- 7 Light Lilac
- 8 Lilac
- 9 Black
- 10 Moss Green



File: Ballet03.pes  
Stitches: 4798  
Size: 2.33x3.91 "  
Size: 59.1x99.4 mm

Colors: 9/10  
Stops: 9  
Stops: 9

- 1 1 (1/2) White
- 2 1 (2/2) Warm Gra
- 3 1 (2/2) White
- 4 Light Lilac
- 5 2 (2/2) Warm Gra
- 6 Light Lilac
- 7 Moss Green
- 8 Deep Rose
- 9 Black



File: Ballet04.pes  
Stitches: 6197  
Size: 3.43x3.91 "  
Size: 87.2x99.2 mm

Colors: 7/9  
Stops: 8  
Stops: 8

- 1 1 (1/2) Cream Br
- 2 Warm Gray
- 3 1 (2/2) Cream Br
- 4 Light Lilac
- 5 White
- 6 Light Lilac
- 7 Pumpkin
- 8 Dark Brown
- 9 Black
- 10 Moss Green



File: Ballet05.pes  
Stitches: 5161  
Size: 3.17x3.91 "  
Size: 80.6x99.2 mm

Colors: 9/10  
Stops: 9  
Stops: 9

- 1 1 (1/2) Light Lilac
- 2 Warm Gray
- 3 1 (2/2) Light Lilac
- 4 Lilac
- 5 Light Lilac
- 6 Black



File: Ballet06.pes  
Stitches: 2810  
Size: 3.84x2.38 "  
Size: 97.6x60.4 mm

Colors: 5/6  
Stops: 5  
Stops: 5

- 1 1 (1/2) Cream Br
- 2 Warm Gray
- 3 1 (2/2) Cream Br
- 4 Light Lilac
- 5 White
- 6 Light Lilac
- 7 Light Brown
- 8 Black
- 9 Moss Green



File: Ballet07.pes  
Stitches: 4420  
Size: 2.06x3.91 "  
Size: 52.4x99.2 mm

Colors: 8/9  
Stops: 8  
Stops: 8

- 1 1 (1/2) Light Lilac
- 2 Warm Gray
- 3 1 (2/2) Light Lilac
- 4 Cream Brown
- 5 Deep Rose
- 6 Black



File: Ballet08.pes  
Stitches: 4445  
Size: 3.65x3.20 "  
Size: 92.6x81.2 mm

Colors: 5/6  
Stops: 5  
Stops: 5

- 1 1 (1/2) Cream Br
- 2 Warm Gray
- 3 1 (2/2) Cream Br
- 4 Light Lilac
- 5 Lilac
- 6 Khaki
- 7 Leaf Green
- 8 Light Brown
- 9 Harvest Gold
- 10 Black
- 11 Moss Green



File: Ballet09.pes  
Stitches: 5241  
Size: 2.41x3.91 "  
Size: 61.1x99.4 mm

Colors: 10/11  
Stops: 10  
Stops: 10

- 1 Harvest Gold
- 2 Light Lilac
- 3 Light Lilac



File: Ballet10.pes  
Stitches: 3437  
Size: 3.89x3.35 "  
Size: 98.7x85.1 mm

Colors: 3/3  
Stops: 2  
Stops: 2

- 1 1 (1/2) Cream Br
- 2 Warm Gray
- 3 1 (2/2) Cream Br
- 4 Lilac
- 5 Light Lilac
- 6 Light Lilac
- 7 Cream Yellow
- 8 Black
- 9 Moss Green



File: Ballet11.pes  
Stitches: 3877  
Size: 2.49x3.92 "  
Size: 63.2x99.5 mm

Colors: 8/9  
Stops: 8  
Stops: 8

- 1 Light Lilac
- 2 1 (1/2) Warm Gra
- 3 White
- 4 2 (2/2) Warm Gra
- 5 Peacock Blue
- 6 Black



File: Ballet12.pes  
Stitches: 4862  
Size: 3.90x3.20 "  
Size: 99.0x81.4 mm

Colors: 5/6  
Stops: 5  
Stops: 5



## Mylar Tu Tu Cute (5x7 Hoop)

- 1 1 (1/2) Linen
- 2 Warm Gray
- 3 1 (2/2) Linen
- 4 Mint Green
- 5 Deep Rose
- 6 Salmon Pink
- 7 Yellow
- 8 Light Brown
- 9 Black
- 10 Black



File: Ballet01.pes  
Stitches: 7868  
Size: 3.63x6.02 "

Colors: 9/10  
Stops: 9  
Stops: 9

- 1 1 (1/2) White
- 2 1 (2/2) Warm Gra
- 3 1 (2/2) White
- 4 Salmon Pink
- 5 2 (2/2) Warm Gra
- 6 Pink
- 7 Moss Green
- 8 Cream Brown
- 9 Deep Rose
- 10 Black



File: Ballet02.pes  
Stitches: 11116  
Size: 5.01x5.69 "

Colors: 8/10  
Stops: 9  
Stops: 9

- 1 1 (1/2) Linen
- 2 Warm Gray
- 3 1 (2/2) Linen
- 4 Mint Green
- 5 Light Brown
- 6 Yellow
- 7 Salmon Pink
- 8 Deep Rose
- 9 Black
- 10 Black



File: Ballet03.pes  
Stitches: 7683  
Size: 3.58x6.02 "

Colors: 9/10  
Stops: 9  
Stops: 9

- 1 1 (1/2) White
- 2 1 (2/2) Warm Gra
- 3 1 (2/2) White
- 4 Salmon Pink
- 5 2 (2/2) Warm Gra
- 6 Pink
- 7 Moss Green
- 8 Deep Rose
- 9 Black



File: Ballet04.pes  
Stitches: 10796  
Size: 5.00x5.69 "

Colors: 7/9  
Stops: 8  
Stops: 8

- 1 1 (1/2) Linen
- 2 Warm Gray
- 3 1 (2/2) Linen
- 4 Salmon Pink
- 5 White
- 6 Pink
- 7 Orange
- 8 Clay Brown
- 9 Black
- 10 Black



File: Ballet05.pes  
Stitches: 8185  
Size: 4.89x6.01 "

Colors: 9/10  
Stops: 9  
Stops: 9

- 1 1 (1/2) Salmon Pi
- 2 Warm Gray
- 3 1 (2/2) Salmon Pi
- 4 Deep Rose
- 5 Pink
- 6 Black



File: Ballet06.pes  
Stitches: 3481  
Size: 5.00x3.09 "

Colors: 5/6  
Stops: 5  
Stops: 5

- 1 1 (1/2) Linen
- 2 Warm Gray
- 3 1 (2/2) Linen
- 4 Salmon Pink
- 5 White
- 6 Pink
- 7 Orange
- 8 Black
- 9 Black



File: Ballet07.pes  
Stitches: 7009  
Size: 3.18x6.01 "

Colors: 8/9  
Stops: 8  
Stops: 8

- 1 1 (1/2) Pink
- 2 Warm Gray
- 3 1 (2/2) Pink
- 4 Cream Brown
- 5 Deep Rose
- 6 Black



File: Ballet08.pes  
Stitches: 6276  
Size: 5.01x4.39 "

Colors: 5/6  
Stops: 5  
Stops: 5

- 1 1 (1/2) Linen
- 2 Warm Gray
- 3 1 (2/2) Linen
- 4 Salmon Pink
- 5 Deep Rose
- 6 Reddish Brown
- 7 Mint Green
- 8 Brass
- 9 Yellow
- 10 Black
- 11 Black



File: Ballet09.pes  
Stitches: 8345  
Size: 3.70x6.01 "

Colors: 10/11  
Stops: 10  
Stops: 10

- 1 Yellow
- 2 Pink
- 3 Salmon Pink



File: Ballet10.pes  
Stitches: 4331  
Size: 4.99x4.30 "

Colors: 3/3  
Stops: 2  
Stops: 2

- 1 1 (1/2) Linen
- 2 Warm Gray
- 3 1 (2/2) Linen
- 4 Deep Rose
- 5 Pink
- 6 Salmon Pink
- 7 Light Brown
- 8 Black
- 9 Black



File: Ballet11.pes  
Stitches: 6444  
Size: 3.82x6.01 "

Colors: 8/9  
Stops: 8  
Stops: 8

- 1 Pink
- 2 1 (2/2) Warm Gra
- 3 White
- 4 2 (2/2) Warm Gra
- 5 Pewter
- 6 Black



File: Ballet12.pes  
Stitches: 5806  
Size: 5.00x4.11 "

Colors: 5/6  
Stops: 5  
Stops: 5