



# **Creative Fabrica**

**Embroidery Design  
Sewing Information**

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# Hail Mary Mini Zipper Bag

*This bag is done completely in the hoop. The only part that will need stitched (or fused closed with seam tape) is the opening in the lining where you turn the bag right side out.*

*These smallest zipper bags are a bit trickier than the larger ones, so I suggest that you read my important notes at the beginning of the pattern, as well as throughout the pattern. Take your time, and always check to make sure the fabric under your hoop remains where it is supposed to be.*

*I will show you where the tricky parts are, and how to avoid the mistakes I have already made for you.*



Thank you for your purchase, and feel free to email me with any questions or comments. I also love to see pictures of the finished projects! [sheryl@sherscreativespace.com](mailto:sheryl@sherscreativespace.com)

**If you change the size or density of the original design, you could alter the final result.**



Your bag does not contain applique, it only contains filled stitches.

**PLEASE READ THESE IMPORTANT NOTES FIRST**

- Keep pins away from the stitching lines. It is also important that the points come back up through the top, and do not pin from the back. Any metal on the underside of the hoop can scratch your machine.

- Jump stitches can be trimmed whenever you want. I like to trim them during stitching breaks, especially if they will be in the way of future stitching.

- You will notice on my photos that I use a longer zipper. This is only because I like to order them in bulk, so I always have a full stock of nine and fourteen inch zippers. Using a longer zipper is fine. You will cut it down anyway.

- Your placement stitches can be any color because they won't show. The thread for your final two stitchings, and the stitchings that secures the zipper in place, should match the color of your bag fabric. As for the bobbin thread, I use either white or black, depending on how light or dark the fabric is.

- Place tape so you won't be stitching through it. It can gum up your needle and break the thread during stitching.

• All my zipper bags are made the same way, so the applique or embroidery design on these images may not match yours, but the steps are exactly the same. Don't worry because I give you step by step instructions for the applique or embroidery design you have chosen.

- **SUPER IMPORTANT:** You will not remove the project from the hoop until you are completely finished with the stitching. You will remove the hoop from the machine several times, but the fabric and stabilizer remain in the hoop.

**DESIGN SIZE & INFO**

**Stitches:** 5538

**Height:** 3.81 in

**Width:** 3.82 in

**Colors:** 4

**Stops:** 10

**FINISHED PROJECT SIZE:**

3 1/2 X 3 1/2 inches

**HELPFUL PHOTO ILLUSTRATIONS**

Your bag might (or most likely) have a different applique or embroidery design than shown in these illustrations.



See how close I cut to the stitching.

**This step will not be necessary if your bag has only filled stitches because you have no appliques to trim.**



When doing the decorative stitching, constantly check to make sure the lining fabric stays away from your stitching. It should be flipped up and out of the way.

## Supplies for the zipper bag:

Exterior bag fabric, one each:

- 6 x 6 inches
- 6 x 4 inches
- 6 x 3 inches

Lining fabric, one each:

- 6 x 6 inches
- 6 x 4 inches
- 6 x 3 inches

100% cotton batting, one each:

- 6 x 6 inches
- 5 x 3 inches
- 5 x 2 inches

Small fabric scraps for appliques

*Not needed if your bag has only filled stitches*

**Note about batting:** 100% cotton batting was used in the sample, but you could substitute a light color of felt, or sew-in fleece.

**Note about tape:** I used painter's tape so it will be easier for you to see, though I prefer scotch tape. It doesn't tend to get stuck on the machine like the painter's tape does.

**Embroidery machine with a 4 inch hoop**

Stabilizer (see notes below)

7 inch or larger nylon zipper (**NOT METAL**)

Polyester embroidery thread

Size 11 embroidery needle

3 inch piece of ribbon (5/8 or 3/4 inch wide), optional

Tear away stabilizer, optional, see note below

Scotch tape

General sewing and embroidery supplies such as scissors, pins, ruler

**Note about stabilizers:** I like the Sulky Cut Away, while others like using a Water Soluble Stabilizer (fabric type, not the plastic film type). This type makes it easier to get the stabilizer from the zipper when you get to the end of the project. You will want something with a soft feel because it will make turning the bag right side out much easier.

**As for the optional tear away stabilizer,** this only if you are using a polyester batting instead of cotton batting, felt, or sew-in fleece. *Do not use it for the foundation of this project.*

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## Instructions for making the bag:

### STEP 1:

- Place the cut away or WSS stabilizer in your hoop.
- Take the hoop to the machine and stitch out the first step, which is the placement stitches for your zipper.
- Remove hoop from machine and center zipper between those two lines. The zipper will be right side facing up, and the pull at the left. Tape the upper edge to secure.
- See red notes at the right.



## STEP 2:

- Take the 6 x 4 inch piece of exterior bag fabric, and place it along the bottom long edge of the zipper, and secure with tape. Right side facing down.
- Carefully flip the hoop over and repeat this step on the back of the hoop using the 6 x 4 inch piece of lining fabric. You may not be able to see the zipper on the back, so you will line it up with the bottom line of stitching.
- Take the hoop back to the machine and stitch the second step, which is the line that will stitch one edge of the zipper to the fabrics.



- Remove the hoop from the machine, and remove the tape you used to hold the fabric down. Make sure the lining fabric on the back is up and out of the way.
- Take the 5 x 3 inch piece of batting and lay it so one of the long edges lines up against the line of stitching you just did.



- Pull the exterior bag fabric down over the batting nice and taut, not tight. Smooth down. Pin in place, keeping the pins far away from the stitching area. This smaller hoop doesn't give you as much space for pins, but if you keep them right up against the inside edges of the hoop, you will be fine during the decorative stitching.

Remember to keep that lining fabric up and away from the stitching area. You can tape it to the hoop if you are worried about it getting in the way.



## STEP 3:

Now the fun begins! You can start the decorative stitching at the bottom part of your bag! Follow the color map on the last page(s). These are my color choices, feel free to substitute fabric and thread colors of your choice. **BE SURE TO STOP STITCHING WHEN YOU GET TO THE STRAIGHT LINE.** This is where you will remove the hoop from the machine, and move onto the next step.

Now that the decorative stitching is complete on the lower part of the bag, continue on:

#### STEP 4:

Remove the hoop from the machine. Flip the hoop over so you are looking at the backside. Pull the bottom part of the lining down and pin or tape in place to keep it from moving. Pinning will secure it better, but be sure to insert your pins on the other side so you don't scratch your machine during stitching.



#### STEP 5:

- Flip the hoop back over so you are looking at the front. Remove the tape holding the zipper down. Place the 6 x 3 inch piece of fabric along the upper edge of the zipper. Tape in place. Flip the hoop over and repeat this step on the other side, using the 6 x 3 inch lining fabric. Since you can't see the zipper, you will line the fabric up along the remaining (upper) line of stitching. Both fabrics will have the right side facing down, and facing the lower part of the bag fabrics. Return hoop to the machine and stitch the line.



#### STEP 6:

- Remove the hoop from your machine. Remove tape from both sides. Fold the lining fabric that you just stitched, down and out of the way. Tape in place so it doesn't move. In this step, you will only be stitching through the exterior fabric and the batting. Place the 5 x 2 inch piece of batting along that upper part just like you did for the lower front of the bag. The batting will be placed at the stitching line, then fold the fabric at the front of the bag up, and over the batting. Pin to secure. Go back to the machine and stitch the words or design that will be on the top. Remove the hoop from machine.



#### STEP 7:

Open zipper about 2/3rds of the way. **DO NOT FORGET THIS STEP!** Make sure the zipper pull is not too close to the stitching line. Fold the 3 inch piece of ribbon in half, place on the zipper, at the left side. The raw edges of the ribbon should be about 1/2 inch away from the raw edge of the fabric, while the fold of the ribbon should be toward the center of the bag. Tape to secure.

**NOTE: If you want to add a permanent swivel hook or key ring to the ribbon, you will do that now by placing it through the ribbon before taping down. You can always add a spring loaded or screw together clip later if you want. (refer to main photo)**



### STEP 8:

Remove pins and tape. Lay the 6 x 6 inch piece of exterior bag fabric on the front of the hoop with the right side facing down. Place the remaining piece of batting on top of that. Pin as close to the upper and lower edges of the hoop as you can. Make sure that the lining fabric that is at the back of the hoop is positioned the same as the front of the hoop. The upper portion should be pulled up, and the lower portion should be pulled down.

- Take to the machine and stitch the next stitch.



**IMPORTANT NOTE:** This is what the back will look like after stitching. Sometimes with the smaller bags, the edges of the fabric get caught up in the stitching line. To prevent this from happening, you can tape them down as shown in the illustration at right. However, if this does happen to you, **ALL IS NOT LOST**, this is an **EASY FIX!** Look at all the work you've already put into it, you can save it! Just remove all the stitches that were affected, flatten the fabric back down, and tape it in place (as shown on the right). Then go back to your machine and re-stitch that area that was messed up.



### STEP 9:

Flip hoop over so you are looking at the backside. Place the 6 x 6 inch piece of lining fabric, right side facing down, over the back. Again, making sure that you are covering the stitching. Secure in place with tape. Go back to the machine and stitch out your last step, This will stitch around the bag, leaving an opening to turn right side out.



## STEP 10:

Now you can remove the project from the hoop!

- Cut all the way around the bag 1/4 inch away from the stitching. Turn right side out through the hole in the lining, and push out corners. Hand stitch or fuse the opening closed. See note below.
- Now cut away the strip of stabilizer that is over the zipper. Be very, very careful so you don't cut through your fabric. I find that the easiest way is to **carefully** glide a seam ripper along the edges.
- If you used WSS instead of cut away stabilizer, take a wet q-tip and dissolve the stabilizer that is covering the zipper.
- Once the stabilizer is removed, you can open the zipper the rest of the way and turn right side out through the zipper opening.

### Please Note:

These smaller bags can be very stubborn when you are turning them right side out through the lining opening. Just be patient and stick with it because it will be worth it. They turn out so cute and they are such a handy size for the small things that get lost in the bottom of your purse or tote bag. Such as:

- flashdrives
- spare cellphone battery
- coins and dollar bills
- mints and gum
- headphones (perfect size for those)

They also make a cute presentation when giving a gift such as jewelry or one of the above items! The list of uses is endless!

Once you've made your first one or two zipper bags, you'll be whipping these things together in no time!

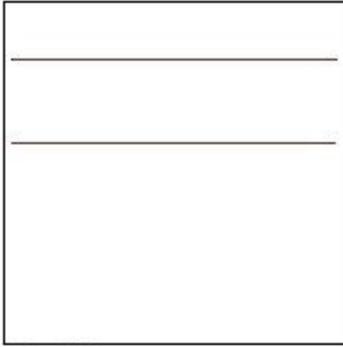
For more fun embroidery designs and patterns visit:

[In the Hoop by Sher](#)

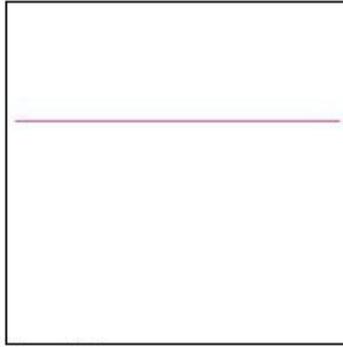


- Remove any remaining jump stitches and straggles, give the bag a quick press and enjoy!





Stop #: 1  
 Element:  
 Code: 229  
 Name: Coffee Brown  
 Chart: Hatch  
 Stitches: 124  
 Thread used: 1.82ft



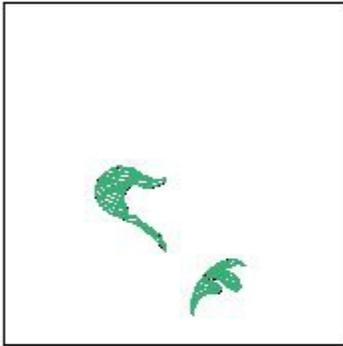
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 Element:  
 Code: 217  
 Name: Raspberry  
 Chart: Hatch  
 Stitches: 173  
 Thread used: 2.74ft

**DECORATIVE STITCHING  
 STARTS HERE - STEP 3**

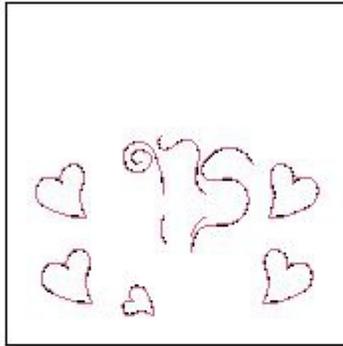


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 Element:  
 Code: 201  
 Name: Blue - Med.  
 Chart: Hatch  
 Stitches: 461  
 Thread used: 6.90ft

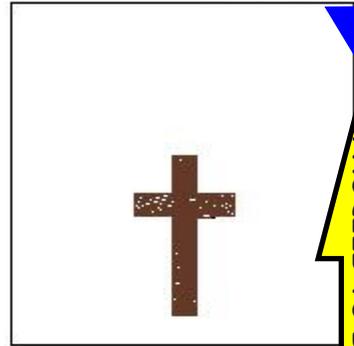
**STOP HERE**



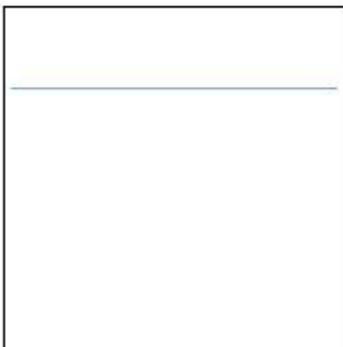
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 Element:  
 Code: 202  
 Name: Green  
 Chart: Hatch  
 Stitches: 461  
 Thread used: 6.71ft



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 Element:  
 Code: 217  
 Name: Raspberry  
 Chart: Hatch  
 Stitches: 1,124  
 Thread used: 13.36ft



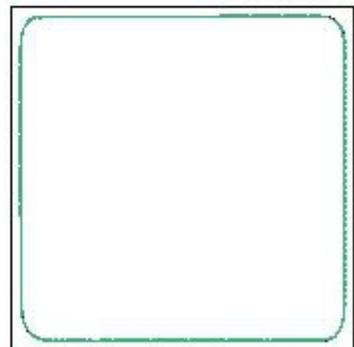
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 Code: 229  
 Name: Coffee Brown  
 Chart: Hatch  
 Stitches: 593  
 Thread used: 9.68ft



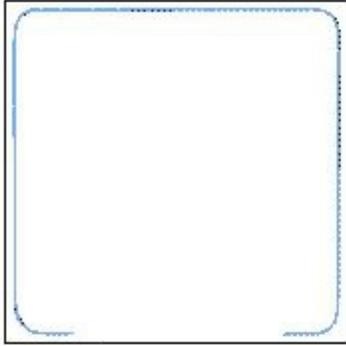
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 Element:  
 Code: 201  
 Name: Blue - Med.  
 Chart: Hatch  
 Stitches: 169  
 Thread used: 2.71ft



Stop #: 8  
 Element:  
 Code: 217  
 Name: Raspberry  
 Chart: Hatch  
 Stitches: 1,275  
 Thread used: 15.35ft



Stop #: 9  
 Element:  
 Code: 202  
 Name: Green  
 Chart: Hatch  
 Stitches: 636  
 Thread used: 10.16ft



Stop #: 10  
Element:  
Code: 201  
Name: Blue - Med.  
Chart: Hatch  
Stitches: 522  
Thread used: 8.40ft