



**Bouclé Lacé Fabric
May 10, 2016**

Questions and Answers
from the Sulky Webinar

Hi Sewing Friends!

Thank you so much for joining the Bouclé Lace Fabric webinar or watching the recording. If you joined us live, we hope you enjoyed the webinar as much as we enjoy presenting these programs to you. This month Jim Suzio was our special guest. He inspired you with Bouclé Lace Fabric and Fringe. He also shared with us a tutorial on how to use his special digitized embroidery technique to create a beautiful clutch with minimal regular sewing. Throughout the webinar Jim inspired us all with just some of the possibilities of what you can do when you make your own Bouclé Lace Fabric.

We certainly enjoy bringing programs like this to you and your support is a way of letting us know how much you like them. If you cannot schedule the webinar into your day, please consider registering anyway. We want to include you in our limited-time special promotions and give you access to the instructions, patterns, etc., immediately following the webinar. You will be able to watch a recording of the “live” event.

Bouclé Lace Fabric Technique

The first technique Jim showed us used a regular sewing machine, Sulky Fabri-Solvy™ Stabilizer, and lots of Sulky Cotton Thread to create a beautiful lace fabric. Jim used a stipple or meandering stitch from his machine's built-in decorative stitches. You can use a similar stitch, depending on what your machine has built-in. For this demonstration, Jim used an older Pfaff sewing machine, so you don't need a brand new top-of-the-line machine to make your own fabric.

Helpful Information about thread and needles.

Jim threaded his sewing machine with 12 wt. Cotton Blendables® Thread and wound his bobbin with 30 wt. Cotton Blendables® Thread. If you thread your sewing machine with 12 wt. Cotton Blendables Thread, insert a 100/16 Jeans needle in your machine. Use 90/14 Topstitch needle with 30 wt. thread. Some machines may be fickle, so you will need to test to find out if your machine likes to sew with the 12 wt., heavier weight thread, in the top. If you have problems, just use the 12 wt. thread in the bobbin. Some machines are not happy using 12 wt. thread in both the top and bobbin at the same time. You will have to experiment to find out what works best for you. You may need to lower your top tension setting when working with both of 30 wt. and 12 wt. Cotton Thread.

Did you use two different thread colors in the top?

A: No. Jim used Sulky Cotton Blendables® Thread for this project. Cotton Blendables® Thread has random, subtle color changes every 2-½" to 5". Jim also used a different color Cotton Blendables® Thread in the bobbin, so when reversed he had a whole new look. When using a different color thread in the top and bobbin, it is normal to see a little bit of the needle thread mixed in with the bobbin thread. Jim refers to this as the "poppy seed" look. This truly gives the other side of the fabric a unique look.

Why doesn't the thread come apart after the stabilizer is washed away?

A: With this technique you are essentially "weaving" your own fabric by overlapping rows of sewn stitches. After you sew the first layer of stitches, you turn the stabilizer 1/4 turn and sew a second

layer of overlapping stitches. So, this second layer is sewn perpendicular to the first layer. Continue sewing layers by turning the stabilizer 1/4 turn and sewing overlapping rows of stitches. You want to repeat this process as many times as needed to fill-in any holes and to make the fabric to your desired weight for your own project. Jim showed us how to finish the “raw” edge to give it a beautiful finished look. This process allows the threads to stay together when the stabilizer is rinsed away.

What if my machine does not have a 'stipple' stitch? What stitch do I use?

A: You can use another built-in decorative stitch such as honeycomb or something that has an open pattern. It's always a good idea to do a test swatch of your stitch selection.

Should you use a hoop?

A: You do not have to use a hoop when doing this technique with a regular sewing machine.

Where can I find the pattern for the purse?

A: This webinar contains several handouts, one of which is the instructions to create your own pattern to make a Bouclé Purse. Jim's project was featured in the Sulky book “Fun with Sulky Blendables and Solid Color Cotton Threads”.

If I cut a pattern piece from boucle fabric that I make, should I use the loopy stitch on the outer edge to give it a clean finish?

A: Using the outer edge stitch would give you a more secure, finished ideal edge. However, you can cut the fabric with minimal fray (depending on the stitch selected and how it was sewn out). For security, I would re-stitch the edge with the "loopy" finish stitch. If you already rinsed out the Fabri-Solvy, simply add a double layer under the edge you want to secure, and stitch as you did previously. Rinse and dry, and you're ready to complete your project.

I thought he made a three inch square? This one is four?

A: In the picture, the test square is lined up on the left at the 1” mark (not at 0) and ends at the 4” line, making it a 3” test square.

About Testing and “Relaxation” of the Threads.

When the stabilizer is removed, the threads lose the medium that supported them, allowing the threads to return to their “happy place” or natural state. Note that the threads did not shrink, rather they relaxed. It is important to sew a test patch to determine how much relaxation will occur once the stabilizer is removed. That way, when you make your own larger pieces of lace fabric or pattern pieces, you can take relaxation into consideration. The test patch also allows you to gauge how many sewn layers you need to have a nice filled area.

Boucle Fringe

After showing us how to make Bouclé Lace Fabric, Jim shared his technique for creating Bouclé Fringe. Jim showed us a picture of a scarf he made using Sulky 40 wt. Rayon Thread. He finished the ends of the scarf by adding a lovely Bouclé Fringe. The underside of the scarf was one color, and Jim used multiple colors for each “square” on the top side of the scarf, giving it a beautiful ombré appearance.

About the Technique:

This technique is very similar to the Bouclé Lace Fabric. Jim used two layers of Sulky Fabri-Solvy™ Stabilizer. After he drew a test pattern for the fringe, he sewed the across the header of the fringe and back to the starting point, right over top of the original line of stitching. Then he raised the presser foot, pivoted, and sewed along the first line for the fringe and back over it until he reached the header. At the header, he raised the presser foot and pivoted, and sewed along the header until he came to the second line for the fringe. Then, he sewed along the second line of fringe and back. Once Jim had sewn all of the rows of fringe, he changed to a loopy stitch to edge stitch around all of the “raw” edges of the fringe, and he went around twice. The loopy edge stitch give the fringe (and Bouclé Lace Fabric) a nice, even finished edge.

Embroidered Bouclé Clutch

After Jim wowed us with his machine-fed version of Boucle Lace Fabric and Fringe, he knocked-our-socks-off with a tutorial on how to make his digitized version of a Bouclé machine embroidered clutch. Jim digitized the clutch using a clever technique to construct the clutch in-the-hoop!

The digitized embroidery design is available for purchase at www.JimSuzio.com. It is available for all formats, except for Bernina. Jim has taken the time to digitize the clutch in a way that allows you to truly create something that is “one-of-a-kind”.

First, you need to decide if you want to embroider the clutch in a solid color, or select the design that has color stops so you can sew each layer of Bouclé lace using a different color thread. There are four color stops, so you can use up to 4 different thread colors. And, what you decide to put in the bobbin it totally up to you. You can use one color in the bobbin, 4 colors to match the top thread, or be bold and courageous and use four totally different colors that will allow you to create the most customized clutch in the universe.

The really nice thing about this embroidered clutch design is that it can be made with just about every embroidery machine on the market, except Jim’s designs are not compatible with Bernina embroidery machines. Jim digitized the clutch so that it can be embroidered with embroidery machines that have only a 4” hoop. If you have at least a 6” x 10” hoop or larger hoops, then you can embroider the design in just three sections. If you have 9” x 15” hoop, you can embroider the entire clutch in just one hooping! Jim provides you with step-by-step instructions that guide you how to “seam” the clutch together in-the-hoop! No need to use embroidery software for this project.

If you were to make this clutch in a solid color with the same colored thread on the top and bobbin, you would need two King Spools of 30 wt. Sulky Cotton Blendables® Thread. There are 500 yards of thread on a King-sized spool. You will also need three King Spools of the heavier 12 wt. Sulky Cotton Blendables®

Thread. There are 330 yards of thread on this spool. There are cones available if you become obsessed! :)

Are the pieces all laid out with the same color side facing up?

A: Yes. That is particularly important when you are using a different color in the top and bobbin. The side facing up is the “right” side of the clutch. This clutch is beautiful on both sides, so it is reversible too!

Can this be done using an industrial embroidery machine?

A: The designs are readily available in many formats (several commercial), and are ready to be stitched out on most any embroidery machine. You're only limited by your machine capabilities (adjusting tensions for twelve or thirty weight threads) and it's hoop size.

Hint: If you need to adjust the bobbin case tension on a commercial, or any embroidery machine to achieve the balanced stitch tension this techniques suggests, it would be wise to purchase a second bobbin case and adjust that one (and mark it "decorative threads") to accept the weight of these threads. Adjusting bobbin case tensions can be daunting and scary for some of us. So, having a second one available would be a great time saver.

What is the size of the finished clutch?

A: The finished embroidered clutch measures approximately 4" x 8".

Do you still have to use the Cotton Thread with this embroidery design?

A: Cotton thread is the best selection because it's a heavier weight thread. The end result is a clutch that looks as nice as it feels. Lighter weight thread such as 40 wt. Rayon or 40 wt. Poly Deco™ will yield a much softer, flimsier clutch.

How much give or stretch is there when objects are placed in the clutch?

A: None that I have ever noticed. It's amazingly stable.

So the Fabri-Solvy™ is not rinsed out until the clutch is complete and sides have been sewn together?

A: That is correct. When the Fabri-Solvy™ is rinsed out, the button hole even opens!

I was wondering, is it possible to make a scarf using the first two embroidery designs (“1FrontPurse” and “2BodyPurse”)?

A: No. This is a custom digitized design for this project and you cannot use this design “as is” to make a scarf. If you try to seam the edges together, the seams will be heavier than the whole body of the work. Likewise, you'll often have one or more "raw" edges to deal with. The "Bouclé Lace Scarf" designs are already digitized to allow for near flawless seaming within the hoop. This design pack also includes the files to create Bouclé Lace Fabric with seaming on ALL sides within the hoop so you can create fabric for sleeves, bodices, insertions, shawls, etc.

Are we hooping with a top hoop?

A: Yes.

Did I miss how the covered the button was made?

A: No you did not miss instructions about the covered buttons. They are really easy to make, and the manufacturer will provide you with their instructions. Jim talked about the covered buttons to let you know that since the clutch is reversible, you can make two different covered buttons, one for each side.

Does this require a shank type button or could you use a button with holes?

A: A shank button will work better because of the heaviness of the of the fabric, but it could be made to work if you make a thread shank with a non-shank button.

Where can you get quilting stitches. I don't have any on my embroidery machine.

A: This is a digitized embroidery design. If you buy the digitized design from Jim you don't need the quilting stitches.

Do we rinse the Fabri-Solvy™ out of the "1FrontPurse" before attaching to the 2nd piece or cut the edges of the Fabri-Solvy™?

A: No. You can cut away some of the excess Fabri-Solvy™. You don't rinse out the Fabri-Solvy™ until after the sides of the clutch have been sewn together.

If we are using a 5x7 hoop are we doing two hoopings? Won't the lace be scrunched in the hoop for the last hooping?

A: The designs will fit in a 4" square hoop, a 6" x 10" or a 9" x 15" hoop. Jim shared his unique digitized technique that allows you to seam the sections of the clutch together "in-the-hoop" by overlapping and pinning the previously stitched section to the piece that is in the process of being stitched.

How do we get the computerized embroidery design?

A: The Bouclé Purse embroidery design is for sale at www.JimSuzio.com

Is the computerized design in the CD in the book

A: No, it's available to buy at www.JimSuzio.com. The book includes the instructions to make the machine-fed version of the Bouclé lace and how to make a pattern.

Free Embroidery Design

Where can I find the rose design that Jim is giving us?

A: Click [here](#) to get the free Bouclé Rose embroidery design from Jim and all of the other goodies that come with the webinar.

General Questions

What is "balanced tension"?

A: Balanced tension is the automatic setting on your machine. Where the same tension is on the top and bobbin. We change that frequently for different techniques.

A: When the tension is balanced, it means that the loop that is formed when the stitch is made is equal on both the top and

bobbin, giving you a perfect stitch. Do you recall ever having stitches that are loopy on either side of the fabric, that is a prime example of unbalanced stitches.

Did he use a particular brand of liquid detergent?

A: I'd suggest using your favorite type of liquid laundry detergent, or original Dawn dish washing detergent. I've used both with excellent results. Again, how much or how long you need to wash the stabilizer out depends on your water conditions.

Will the ink bleed into the thread when it is washed out.

A: For demonstration purposes, Jim used a black permanent marker, but he suggests using a water soluble marker to be safe.

I thought we were not supposed to use KK 2000™ Temporary Spray Adhesive with wash-away stabilizers because it is not water soluble?

A: Good observation, and you are correct, but it can be used lightly as it dissipates fairly quickly through the Fabri-Solvay™.

How much thread does it take to make a beret?

A: That depends on the size of the finished beret, as well as the density of the stitching. The samples shown on the models took under four spools of 40 wt. Rayon thread. Keep in mind if you select a heavier weight thread such as Cotton Blendables® Thread, it would use less thread.

How did he make the peace sign pattern in the fabric lace?

A: That is digitized and part of the embroidery design. But, with all that you have learned during this webinar, you can do it if you do not have an embroidery machine.

Can you also use chiffon fabric with the stabilizer?

A: There is no need too as the design and technique are stable "as is," and do not require any permanent stabilization. However, if you want to create a "lighter" look design, you could stitch over a chiffon fabric with less stitching to create a totally unique (and much lighter) look. Fabric in a contrasting color to the threads used would be one unique look!

I only have 40 wt. Rayon thread, can I use it?

A: If you really want to use 40 wt. Rayon to make the clutch be mindful that it would produce a lightweight hand to the fabric and the design. You could try using a larger embroidery needle in the machine and thread it with two strands of 40 wt. Rayon thread in the needle. That way you would get a heavier weight to your clutch, and may create another unique look, especially, if you chose two different colors or shades of thread in the needle.

Thread one needle at a time. If you have 2 sides to your tension disk you will use the right side for the right needle and the left side for the left needle. The right needle is threaded through the thread guide above the needle and the left by-passes it. This will help keep the thread from twisting at this junction.

Can you use polyester thread?

A: Sulky 40 wt. PolyDeco™ is also lighter weight thread than 30 wt. and 12 wt. cotton thread. And, Sulky PolyLite 60 wt. Thread, is even much lighter than that. I would not recommend trying this with 60 wt. thread. You would definitely want to test first to see if you will get the finished feel you want.

Is the Bouclé lace fabric washable?

A: Absolutely, it's just cotton thread. I would suggest washing it by hand in cool water and letting it lay flat to dry.

Some of us can NOT use the spray. Allergies

A: You can certainly use pins to secure the pieces of the clutch together. However, some of our Sulky National Educators are asthmatic and extremely allergic to sprays and fumes. They attest that they can safely use KK 2000™ in an open or well-ventilated area. Only a little spray of KK 2000™ is needed to hold your projects together. KK 2000™ is non-flammable and specially formulated to be lighter than air. That means it falls to the ground when sprayed and does not float around in the room, therefore, eliminating wasteful over-spray. The can's nozzle has been specially engineered to produce a low pressure spray and a

precise spray pattern too. So, where you point is exactly where the KK 2000™ will go. All of these benefits gives KK 2000™ 70% more usable product in the can. It is highly concentrated so you use less of it. The smaller can contains just as much adhesive as other brands of temporary spray adhesive in larger cans. You can feel confident when using KK 2000™ because it does not contain any gas propellants, making it ozone safe and eco-friendly

To purchase the Bouclé Purse embroidery design and see all of Jim's other beautiful machine embroidery designs, visit him at www.JimSuzio.com or send him an email at JimSuzioDesigns@aol.com.