

New!

# Digital Lace Shaping!

By Hope Yoder



When you think of lace shaping - maybe you picture Victorian wedding dresses with white thread on white linen. Well - Hope Yoder has “kicked it up a notch”. This project, in a hot lime green with blue covered buttons and lavender gingham accents isn’t your grandmother’s heirloom. Hope’s fun vest in sherbet colors uses machine embroidery to mimic traditional heirloom lace shaping. We’d also like to thank Hope for putting together a “free” pattern offer from Kwik Sew, along with a special offer for her embroidery CD.

## Embroidery Products

Heirloom Embellishments©  
Lace Shaping CD  
by Hope Yoder  
www.hopeyoder.com  
Heirloom Embellishments©  
Madeira Appliqué CD  
by Hope Yoder

## Materials

Sulky 40 wt rayon threads  
Aqua Magic water soluble stabilizer  
Light weight tear away stabilizer  
Kwik Sew #3178  
Linen fabric + additional  
1/2” yard  
1/4” yd. English cotton netting  
(www.hopeyoder.com)  
4 yd. Perle cotton size #12 (white)  
DMC floss  
45” heirloom insertion lace  
(5/8” wide)  
1 yd. heirloom lace edging  
(3/4” wide)  
Size 75 embroidery needle  
Size 120 wing needle  
Open toe foot  
Edge joining foot  
7 hole cording foot  
Piping foot  
KK2000 spray adhesive  
Mega Hoop

## Step 1. Preparation

Lightly spray starch on heirloom laces and lay flat to dry. Wash and dry linen fabrics and heavily starch. Cotton netting will shrink by 20% so IT IS IMPERATIVE that you preshrink and stabilize the netting before embroidering. Dip netting in a sink of hot water. You can use spray starch or liquid starch to stabilize the netting. For spray starch method: let netting air dry and while it is still damp, spray with starch and iron dry. Spray netting again and iron dry, repeating this process 5-7 times until netting is crisp. For liquid starch method: after dipping in sink of hot water, place in a mixture of half starch and half warm water. Gently squeeze out excess water and hang in shower to drip dry. Before netting is completely dry, iron flat.

*Note: Although cotton netting is expensive – a little goes a long way when it comes to lace shaping. I tried to embroider on the cheaper nylon netting - but it simply won’t support machine embroidery.*

## Step 2. Pattern

The vest front is divided into four front panels. Determine your size and the finished length and draw a line on the pattern to separate the upper and lower panels. For this lime green vest, I wanted the upper panels to be slightly longer than the lower panels. Cut the paper pattern along this line and add a 1/2” seam allowance to each piece by taping paper to each pattern piece. Label pattern “upper left” and “lower left”. Turn the pattern over for the upper right and lower right pieces.

## Step 3. Blocking Fabric

All of the embroidery and embellishments are created on a block of fabric and then cut out using the pattern pieces. Trace pattern pieces on linen, transferring darts and notches using a water soluble marker. Cut a block of fabric that is 3” larger than the traced pattern pieces. Label: Upper right, lower right, upper left, lower left.

## Step 4. Embroidery

For upper left panel load design “scallop” from the Lace Shaping CD. If you have a Husqvarna Viking mega hoop you can combine two scallop designs end to end using your software program. Print a clear template and mark the placement of the scallop design keeping it 1” away from the dart. Hoop linen fabric with one layer of Aqua Mesh on top. Spray netting with KK2000 and lay on top of hoop. Follow special technique instructions for embroidery:

- **Color # 1:** White, tackdown
- **Color #2:** STOP, take the hoop off the machine and trim away excess cotton netting that is outside of the lace shape. Place hoop back on machine.
- **Color # 3:** White, reinforced holding stitch.
- **Color # 4:** STOP, take the hoop off the machine and trim out the linen fabric from the underside that is INSIDE the lace shaping lines. This creates a peek-a-boo effect and should leave you with 1 layer of netting and water soluble stabilizer inside the lace shaping lines. Place the hoop back on the machine and lay a piece of Aqua Magic water soluble stabilizer underneath the hoop before continuing.

- **Color # 5:** White, satin stitch around lace shape.
- **Colors # 6-10:** coordinating colors.

For upper right and lower left panels load design “Bow” and “Heart”. Draw placement lines using a template. Follow same embroidery steps in upper left panel to embroider bow and heart lace shaped designs.

For lower right panel load design “Flower” from the Madeira Appliqué CD. Hoop one layer Aqua Magic with English cotton netting and embroider the design. Wash away the excess stabilizer and starch the netting. Load “Frame” design in a software program selecting a hoop size of 140 mm x 225 mm. Center the frame in the hoop and add two “bow” designs so it resembles the drawing. Use a template to mark the design on the fabric and hoop linen with one layer of Aqua Magic on top.



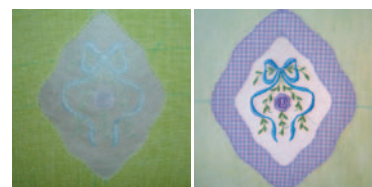
Special techniques for embroidering the “Frame” design are as follows:

*Note: Ensure you have combined the designs in a software program loading “Frame” designs first.*

- Color # 1, Lavender, placement line for embroidered “flowers”. When color one is complete, take the hoop off the machine and spray the back of the embroidered flower design with KK2000. Center the flowers in the middle of the frame shape and place the hoop back on the machine.



- Color # 2, Lavender, when color 2 is complete, take the hoop off the machine and trim away the excess netting fabric that is OUTSIDE the frame border. Now turn the hoop to the wrong side and trim away the linen fabric INSIDE the frame. This should leave you with one layer of netting and water soluble stabilizer.
- Color # 3, Lavender, attach the hoop to the machine and lay your overlay fabric (purple gingham in photo) on top of the



hoop before you stitch color 3. This is a zigzag tackdown stitch.

When color 3 is complete, take the hoop off the machine and trim away the excess overlay fabric INSIDE and OUTSIDE the frame border. This should give you a narrow band of fabric that frames the flowers.

- Color # 4, Lavender satin stitch

## Step 5. Corded Entredeux Stitches

The upper left and lower right panels have a row of decorative stitching that has been threaded with 6 strands of DMC floss. Use a ruler and water soluble marker to mark the stitching line. Place a 7 hole cording foot on machine and thread a 120 wing needle with 60 wt white cotton thread. Thread middle two holes in presser foot with #12 Perle cotton and select stitch D8, L= 3 mm, W= 3.5 mm. Place tear away stabilizer underneath fabric and hold cords behind foot as you start to sew. Use a needle to thread 6 strands of floss over two holes and under one.

## Step 6. Insertion Lace

Lace insertion is attached to upper right and lower left panels using a 120 wing needle, 60- wt cotton thread, open toe foot and stitch D7 (Entredeux stitch). Place tear away stabilizer underneath stitches. You can leave the fabric behind the lace or trim it away.

## Step 7. Construction Tips

Once all blocks are embellished, lay paper pattern on top of fabric blocks and cut out (do not go by drawn lines as fabric may have distorted during embellishment). Check to make sure darts are correct and stitch darts. Follow pattern instructions to complete vest.

Optional embellishments: Use a Fasturn tube to create loops from bias fabric instead of buttonholes for the fabric covered buttons. Insert piping and heirloom lace edging between the upper and lower panels.

