EMBROIDERY MACHINE STABILIZER GUIDE

General Rules

- Use cut-away stabilizer for stretchy/knit fabrics. Use tear-away for stable, woven fabrics.
- For light-colored fabrics needing cut-away, use no-show mesh to decrease show-through.
- Small and hard-to-hoop items like socks, hats, and collars do well with self-adhesive stabilizer.
- Fabrics with texture on the top need topping. Choose between water-soluble or heat-soluble topping.
- Light, sheer fabrics do well with wash-away stabilizer.

Material	Stabilizer Backing	Topping?
Baseball Caps	Sticky tear-away	No
Broadcloth	Tear-away	No
Burlap	Cut-away or no-show mesh	Yes
Canvas	Tear-away	No
Cardstock	Cut-away or no-show mesh	No
Chiffon	Wash-away	No
Corduroy	Tear-away	Yes
Cotton	Tear-away	No
Denim	Cut-away or tear-away	No
Flannel	Tear-away	Yes
Fleece	Cut-away	Yes
Faux Fur	Tear-away	Yes
Free-standing Lace	Wash-away	No
Knit/Stretch Fabric	Cut-away or no-show mesh	Yes
Leather	Cut-away or tear-away	No
Linen	Tear-away	No
Satin	Tear-away	No
Silk	Tear-away or wash-away	No
Sweaters	Cut-away or no-show mesh	Yes
Sweatshirts	Cut-away or no-show mesh	Yes
Tea Towels	No-show mesh	No
Terry Cloth Towels	Tear-away	Yes
T-shirts and Onesies	Cut-away or no-show mesh	Yes
Tulle	Wash-away	No
Velvet	Cut-away	Yes
Vinyl	Sticky tear-away	No

DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS (Very Important to Think About)

- Use a heavier weight stabilizer for designs with high stitch count or density.

- Tear-away does not work as well for very densely stitched designs or designs with bold outlines.

OTHER TIPS

- There are many weights to choose from. You can use more than one layer of stabilizer or even more than one type.

- You can use temporary fabric adhesive spray (like Odif 505) to adhere stabilizer to fabric.

- Some stabilizers are fusible and can be ironed on prior to hooping.

- Iron backing (like Sulky Tender Touch) on to baby clothes and other items where stitches may rub skin.

Disclaimer: Opinions differ, and choosing the best stabilizer takes trial and error. This guide is meant to serve as a starting point rather than an absolute authority! Always test your design and stabilizer combo on a scrap piece of fabric first :)