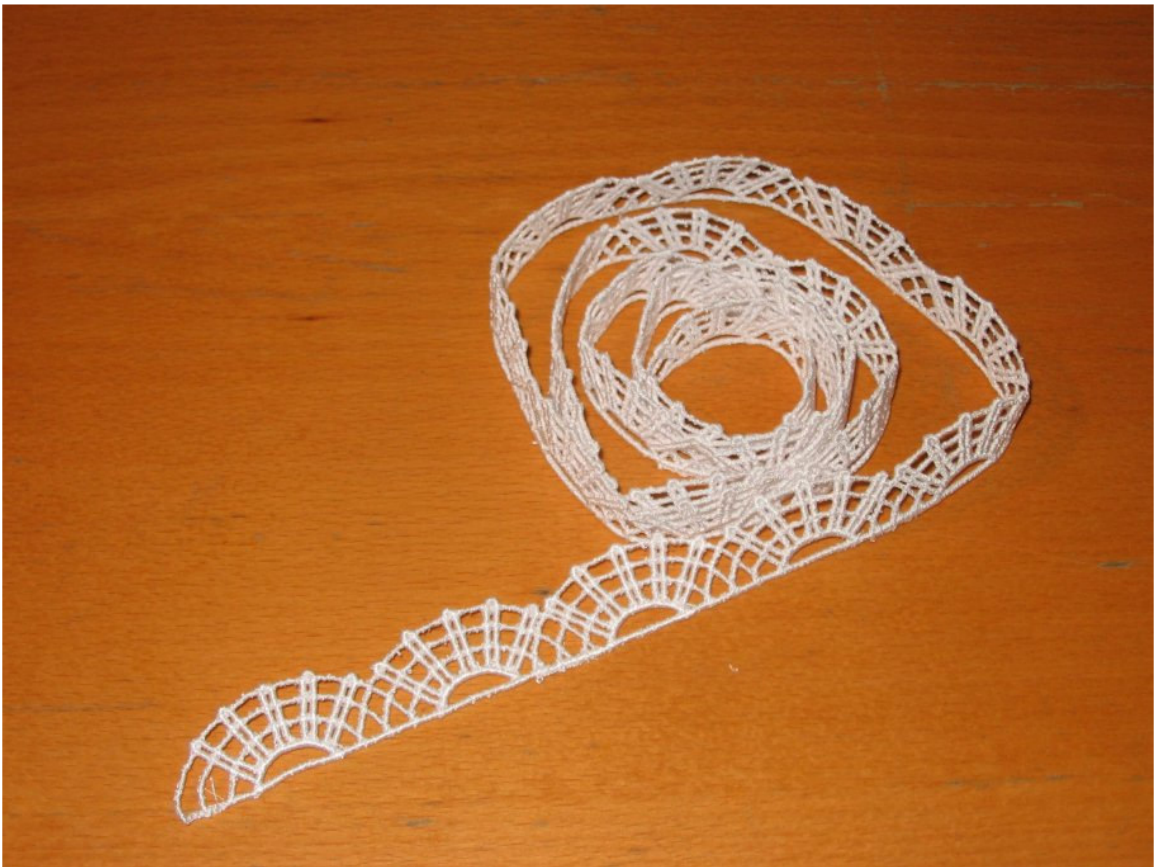


# **HOW TO USE YOUR ENDLESS/CONTINUOUS BORDER HOOP**

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#### MATERIALS USED FOR TESTING OF THESE DESIGNS:

- Embroidery Thread: Floriani Poly 40 weight  
White: PF801 – Off White: PF850 – Light Bronze: PF421
- Bobbin Thread: If you wish your lace to look the same on both sides, use the same thread in the bobbin as on top.
- Water Soluble Stabilizer: Wet N Gone water soluble stabilizer (1 layer)
- Needle: Size 90/14
- Rubber Grip (rubber shelf lining)

## **Introduction:**

Using our continuous border hoop or endless hoop is often something we are excited about and can't wait to try when we get it back home. When we actually do get it back home, we are often surprised to realize that it kind of intimidates us.

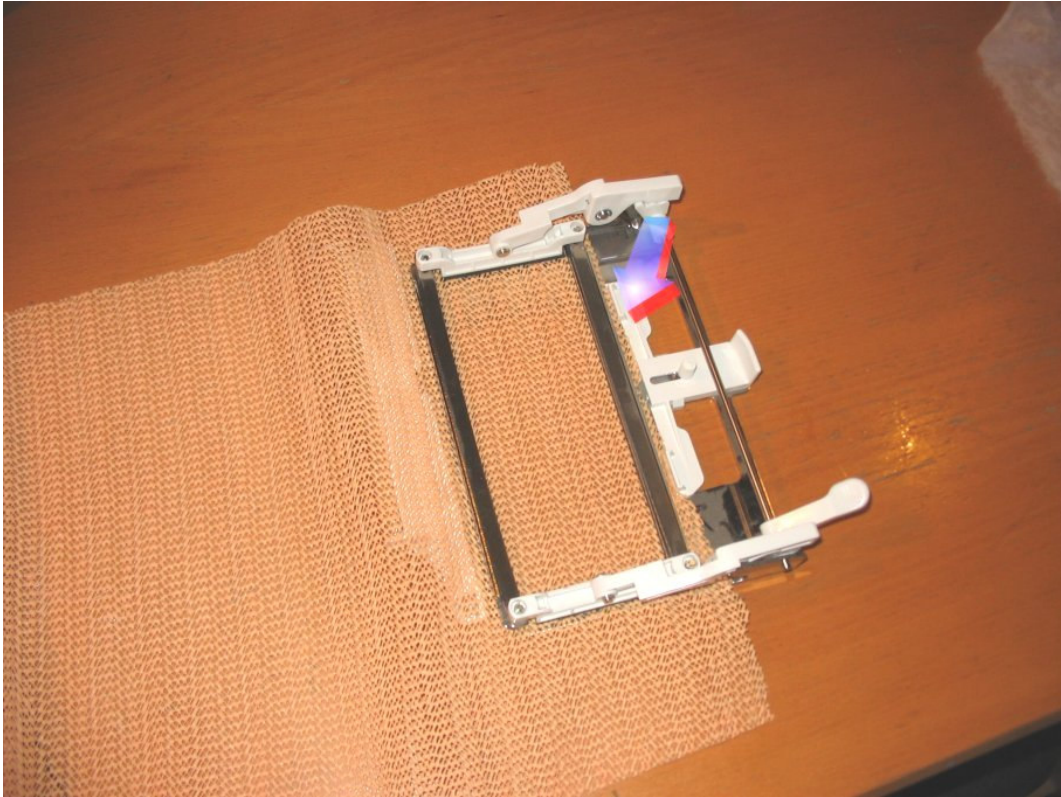
Recently a good friend of mine asked me if I could try to figure out a way to use this hoop with the freestanding lace edgings that I do that will eliminate all the assembling when doing long strips of edgings.

Now you have to understand that almost every design that is not too big for this endless hoop will work with it. There are no problems there. You will simply need a template for your alignments, as you would with your regular hoop, but without having the hoop, rehoop headaches.

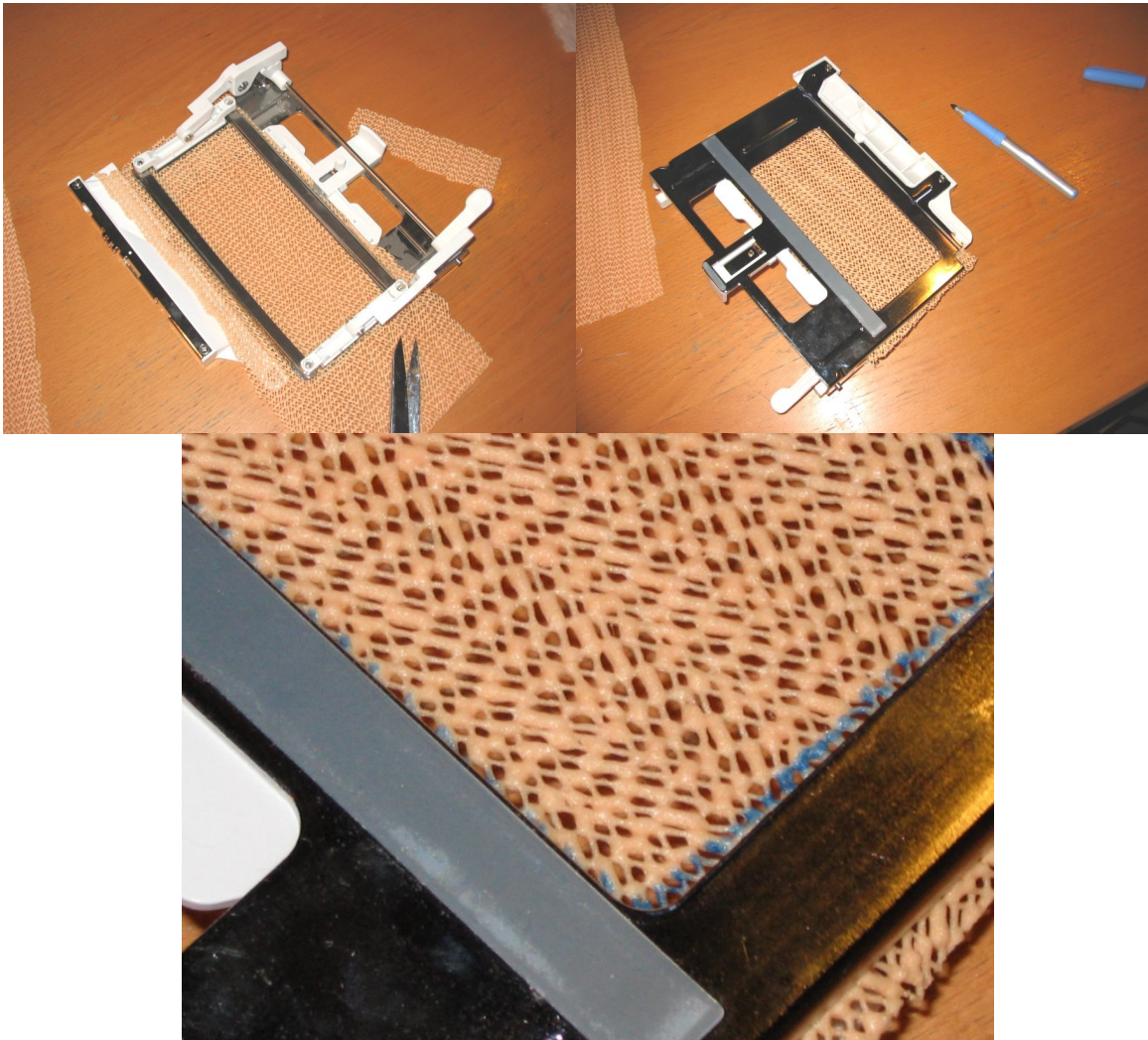
A design that is digitized for the endless hoop normally means that the last stitch of the design lies exactly where the first stitch of the next design will land. It is the hoop, and how it is made, that becomes your alignment tool. You normally don't need any other markings; although in some situations when embroidering a continuous design on fabric, it might make things simpler to mark your fabric to eliminate all the fuss in placing the fabric in the hoop.

For freestanding lace, you will not need to make any kinds of markings. The only preparation that will be necessary will be to make sure your stabilizer is tight enough in the hoop and won't come loose while embroidering. Often enough, that is the hardest part of trying to do freestanding lace edgings with your endless hoop. To help you with that, I have included below how I prepare my hoop before I start embroidering so that you can see for yourself how very easy it is to use this wonderful tool.

1. Place your endless hoop on the table. Notice the white part to which the arrow is pointing. This is the guide against which you always align your fabric and will guarantee that you are keeping in a straight line. It is normally adjustable so that you can decide how close or how far from the edge you want to be embroidering. Do as I did and slip your rubber grip in the hoop all the way to the guide. Then make sure the rubber is smooth and tight and clamp down the hoop so that it is caught there.



2. Cut the excess rubber around the hoop so that it will not be in your way when you stitch later on. With a marker, on the back of the hoop, trace the opening of the hoop on the rubber grip and cut out that window. Using temporary adhesive or two sided tape like I did, stick your rubber to the bottom part of the hoop to make sure you will not have to bother with it moving when you are trying to slip your stabilizer in it.



3. You are now ready to start embroidering. First you need to decide how long an edging you would like to do. Then cut a strip of water-soluble stabilizer the length that you require and an inch or 2 wider than what you need to fit in the hoop. This is so that you will be able to pull on it a bit to eliminate ripples if you need to do that. Slip your stabilizer into the hoop while being careful to align yourself with the guide to which you go rest against to always be at the same distance from the edge when embroidering. Go rest right against it but don't go over at all and stitch your first repetition of the design.

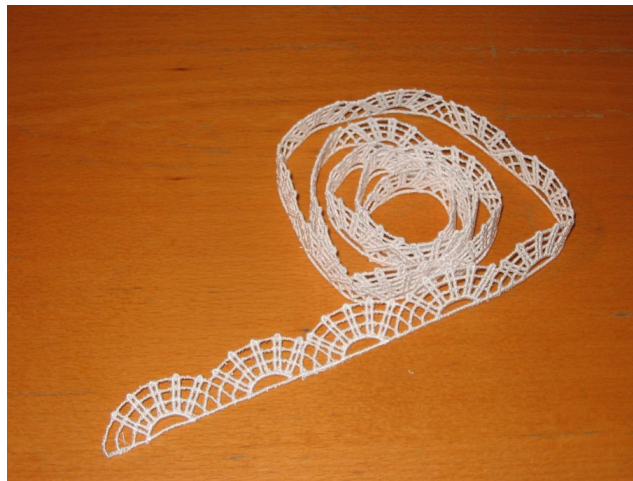
Once you are finished with the first repetition, get ready to start the second repetition. Advance your needle to the first stitch position, which will be in the same place as the last stitch from the previous repetition. Now slide your stabilizer so that you will be perfectly aligned with your guide for the width and slide until you are sure that where your last stitch was stitched is right under the needle. To make sure, lower the needle into the work to make sure that it is at the correct position. Once you are sure, raise the needle again, clamp your hoop and smooth the stabilizer making sure you do not move it in the hoop. See pictures below.



4. Once you have finished stitching the second one, you will repeat step 3 to keep on stitching the design over and over again until you have embroidered your desired length.



5. Remove the stabilizer by rinsing it a lot. For a really soft effect, wash the edging and then let it soak overnight with fabric softener, following the directions of the fabric softener manufacturer for proportions of water to fabric softener. You will have a beautiful continuous lace edging.



Happy Stitching. Thank You

Marie-Josée Mailloux

Website: [www.myembroideryhaven.com](http://www.myembroideryhaven.com)

Group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MyEmbroideryHaven>

Email: [marie@myembroideryhaven.com](mailto:marie@myembroideryhaven.com)