

Designs by Babymoon Stabilizer Cheat Sheet



There are THREE main types of stabilizer to use as a backing of your embroidery projects, and THREE kinds of toppers. Manufacturers and creators of embroidery designs are always experimenting with new products all the time so this information is provided for you as a starting point and is always subject to new technology. Be sure to consult the embroidery project instructions or tutorial and choose materials that correspond for best results.

Cutaway

Cutaway Stabilizer adds strength to the fabric, comes in light, medium, and heavy weights. The weight of the stabilizer affects the final feel of the garment or embroidered project. Use a cutaway for any project that needs to be supported while embroidering and will need to have the embroidery supported for the duration of the item that is embroidered upon due to frequent use or laundering.

Type of Cutaway Stabilizer	Density of Stitching	Types of Fabrics or Projects	Also use for	Additional Notes
Heavy Cutaway	Dense Fill Solid Satins	Denim, Twill or Canvas, Burlap, Wall Hangings, Ball Caps, Utility Fabrics, Jackets, Wool, totes, backpacks	Embroidery on Upholstery Vinyl Patches	
Medium Cutaway	Most embroidery, fill stitches, satin stitches, combination stitches with decorative "fills"	Most commonly used - can be used on most embroidery projects as all-purpose stabilizer, Anything unstable that needs to become stable so it can be embroidered.	Embroidery on Cork Fabric, "In The Hoop" projects like luggage tags, larger monograms or lettering projects	Try a double layer for places you might need a heavyweight cutaway and you don't have it available.
Light Cutaway	Light to medium and applique embroidery, sketch style	Light all purpose embroidery stabilizer for garment and home dec items with light to medium stitch density	Quilt blocks, personalization with lettering, small monogram projects	

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	embroidery, bean stitch or raw edge applique			
Polymesh Cutaway	Light to medium and applique embroidery	Slinky knits, athletic wear, left chest logos, minky, t-shirts	Applique Projects, blankets and quilt blocks, quilt labels, in the hoop fabric zipper bags	May need to be treated with heat to pre-shrink
Sheer Nylon Cutaway (aka - no-show mesh)	Light to Medium or applique embroidery	Light colored fabrics, children and infant garments, pique knits, silk, satin	Use fusible version to stabilize knit fabrics to prepare them for embroidery	May need to be treated with heat to pre-shrink
Woven Fusible Cutaway	Medium or Heavy embroidery	Knit fabrics that need the embroidery completely stabilized	Minky, quilt blocks, quilt labels, home decor projects, totes, bags	Fuse to fabric to stabilize the fabric, and combine with another stabilizer in the hoop to best support the embroidery

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Tearaway

Tearaway stabilizer is wonderful to use when your project doesn't need the extra material support because the fabric or background is stable on it's own. Many times tearaway stabilizer will feel "crunchy" so you will want to tear it away from your project. Just a note, just because you CAN tear it away, you still need to be careful not to pull on the stitches too much and distort them. Gently tear away any stabilizer that is listed as tearaway.

Type of Tearaway Stabilizer	Density of Stitching	Types of Fabrics or Projects	Also use for	Additional Notes
Medium Tearaway	Most embroidery, fill stitches, satin stitches, combination stitches with decorative "fills"	Most commonly used - can be used on most embroidery projects as all-purpose stabilizer, Anything unstable that needs to become stable so it can be embroidered.	Embroidery on Cork Fabric, "In The Hoop" projects like luggage tags, larger monograms or lettering projects	Try a double layer for places you might need a heavyweight cutaway and you don't have it available.
Soft Tearaway	Light to medium and applique embroidery, sketch style embroidery, bean stitch or raw edge applique	Kitchen towels, potholders, density	Stuffed toys, soft zipper bags, pillowcases and sheets	

Washaway

Washaway stabilizer can be used in many different ways, and different kinds of washaways all have a different purpose. Any washaway stabilizers, including the toppers, should be stored in a sealed container or zipper bag so that they will not be affected by moisture and humidity.

Type of Washaway Stabilizer	Density of Stitching	Types of Fabrics or Projects	Also use for	Additional Notes
Mesh-Type Washaway	Any	Handkerchief linen, formal table linens, heirloom cotton batiste, Freestanding Lace, Patches	Cutwork or openworkBridal tulle, organza, or other sheer projects where you need the	Some washaway stabilizers wash away more completely with

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			fabric to remain sheer.	hotter water. Others will dissolve fully in cold water.
Tearaway/Wash away	Light to medium and applique embroidery, sketch style embroidery, bean stitch or raw edge applique	Kitchen towels, potholders	Stuffed toys, soft zipper bags, pillowcases and sheets	Light to medium and applique embroidery, sketch style embroidery, bean stitch or raw edge applique
Film Type Heavy Washaway	Medium to Heavy densities	Patches, Freestanding Lace	Cutwork or openwork	

Toppers

Topper stabilizers are used on TOP of the embroidery fabric and help prevent stitching from sinking into the fibers of the material, usually plush fabrics, or other fabrics with a nap. Remember that when removing any of the excess toppers to remove them as gently as possible so that your embroidery is not compromised by the removal process.

Type of Topper	Density of Stitching	Types of Fabrics or Projects	Also use for	Additional Notes
Film type washaway topper(light)	Light to medium		Knitted fabrics	
Film type washaway topper(medium)	Medium to heavy	Waffle weave, minky, terry, velour, velvet		
Heat Away	Medium to	Minky, terry cloth, plush, velour,		This remains in the project

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	Heavy density	velvet, corduroy		even after repeated washing.
Cover Stitch Topper	Medium to heavy densities.	Use when you need to prevent the background fabric from showing through the embroidery.	Can also be used in the same way as film type washaway or heat away toppers on high pile fabrics	This material will remain under the stitching but will tearaway from the outer edges of the stitching,

Remember - it is OK to experiment with your supplies! There are NO embroidery police, and you aren't going to get in trouble by choosing an unorthodox stabilizer. The best way to practice is to follow the instructions that come with your embroidery pattern or project. If there are no instructions or specific materials suggested, then consult the charts above to determine which stabilizer might be a good place to start.

During the course of your embroidery journey, you will find uses for all kinds of embroidery stabilizers. I recommend having all kinds of stabilizers in your collection so that you are ready to tackle any kind of embroidery project when the mood strikes.

The number one thing to consider is the final feel of the item after stitching as well as how the stitches are supported. You are always in charge of the materials that you choose!

