



Creative Fabrica

**Embroidery Design
Sewing Information**

www.creativefabrica.com/embroidery/

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Mylar FSL Charming Little Snowflakes

This set has 6 Free Standing Lace (FSL) snowflakes with charming little faces. We sewed our samples with a layer of Mylar for extra sparkle. These can be sewn with or without Mylar.

The designs are available in two sizes (4x4 or 5x7).



Special Note:

All of these designs have been created to allow you some freedom in how you use them:

- You can use them in full and you will have a snowflake with a ring at the top and a face in the center.
- You can skip the second white color stop on the color sheet to leave off the ring if you want to sew these on a garment or project instead of making a hanging decoration.
- You can stop after the ring at the top is sewn if you want a snowflake without a face that you can hang.
- You can stop after just the snowflake is sewn if you want a snowflake without a face or ring. These would be great on a garment (like an Elsa Cape!)

Supplies

Fabric: These designs are free standing lace so you do not need to use any fabric with these.

Thread: The snowflake portions of these designs are all done in one color. The faces use white and black (and on two designs, there is pink).

Stabilizer: In order to make these a free standing hanging ornament, you need to use a wash away stabilizer in the hoop. We used one layer of Badgemaster for our sewouts. This is a very heavy plastic film type of wash away stabilizer

Mylar: We used opal iridescent Mylar for all of our samples.

We recommend using the Mylar that is made for embroidery and can withstand washing and a pressing with a press cloth. This can be purchased here:

<http://www.heirloomsbysharon.com/>

Embroidery Steps

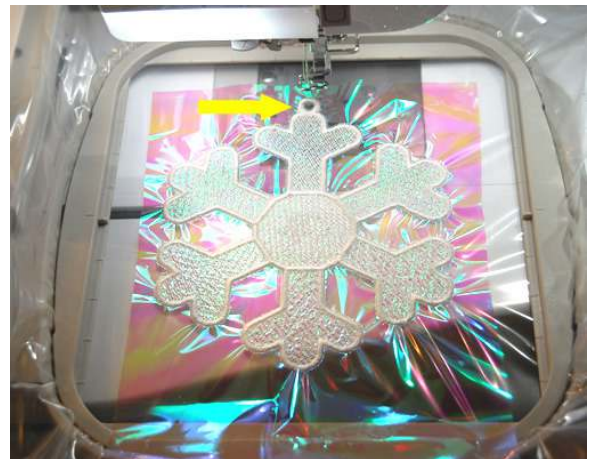
- Hoop your wash away stabilizer. You won't need to use any fabric for these designs.
- Sew out the first color. This is a placement line for the Mylar. We recommend using white thread despite what the color sheet shows.

Special Note: Unlike our other Mylar designs, there will NOT be a tack down stitch for these snowflakes. This eliminates an extra starting point with stray stitches on the back of the design.



- Cover the placement line with a piece of Mylar. Continue using white to sew out the rest of the snowflake.

- The next color stop may appear as a totally different color depending on the brand of machine you use. On the color sheet it appears as white. This color stop is for the ring at the top of the design. If you want a hanging decoration, continue on with white. If you don't want a hanging decoration, use the function on your machine to skip this color stop.



- The next color stop(s) will be for the face on your snowflake. If you don't want a face, skip these stops.

- After the color stop for the ring at the top, designs #2, #3 and #4 have one more color stop for white. This is for the white part of the eyes.

- When your design is finished sewing, remove the hoop from the machine. We find it easier to remove the Mylar if you leave the design hooped for this step. This helps to keep your lace from being stretched or skewed.
- Tear off the excess Mylar around the snowflake.



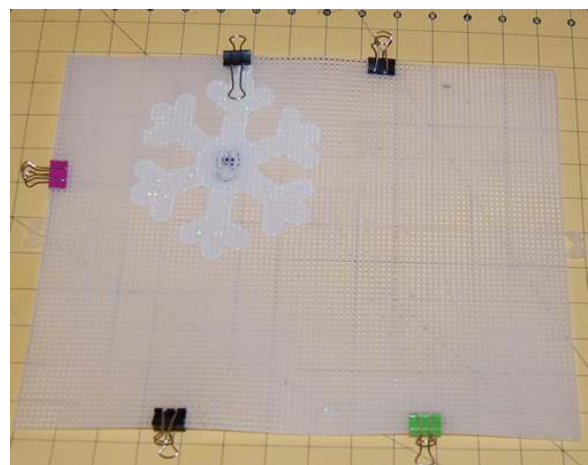
- This is also a good time to turn the hoop over and trim any excess threads from the back of the design.

- Remove the snowflake from the hoop.
- Use scissors to “rough cut” the extra wash-away stabilizer from around the design. Don’t cut too close to the stitches; the remaining stabilizer will be washed away anyway. This will save you some time on the next step.



- Follow the directions on your brand of stabilizer to wash away the remainder of the stabilizer. I usually rinse mine under running water that is very warm.
- Tip: don’t rinse all of the stabilizer out. When it becomes wet, it is very sticky (like a good starch). If you leave some of this in your design, it will stiffen as it dries!
- Handle the snowflakes carefully while they are wet to avoid stretching or skewing them out of shape.

- You need these to dry flat. Two pieces of plastic canvas will hold your designs flat and yet allow circulation so that they will dry quickly.
- I put binder clips along the edge to hold the two pieces of plastic canvas together.



FAQ's about Mylar

What is Mylar?

Mylar is actually the trademarked name for a particular brand of polyester film from DuPont. It has been adapted for a variety of uses. Like some other words in the English language, the trademarked name has come to mean something a little more generic. It now refers to several types of plastic - including the kind used to wrap food - and in cellophane gift wrapping. Cellophane or Mylar gift wrap is not paper, but a coated polymer film such as polypropylene.

Why use it in embroidery?

If an embroidery design has been digitized for use with Mylar, the addition of Mylar will make the design sparkle almost as if it has been sewn with metallic thread (but without any of the headaches!).

How do you use it?

Each digitizer can make Mylar designs the way they want to. At Charming Station we try to make it easy for you. In most of our designs, the first color in your design will be an outline of an area where the Mylar will go. After you sew the first color, you will lay a piece of Mylar on top of your hoop, making sure that it covers the outline completely. You can hold this in place with small pieces of tape if you like. The second color will tack the Mylar down for you. This process is exactly the same as an applique except that you use Mylar instead of fabric. Having these extra steps means that you will be sure to cover the area that needs Mylar and you won't have to waste extra Mylar covering areas that don't need it (or cutting it so large that it fits the hoop).

For Charming Station designs, I recommend that you wait until all of the colors have finished sewing out before you trim the excess Mylar from the designs. This way there is no risk of tearing the underlying layer of Mylar in the design. To remove the excess, just tear it gently back from the sewing line. If there are tiny remnants left, you can remove those with tweezers.

Will the background fabric show through?

Yes, unless you use something to block the fabric. You can use a product called "Hide It" to block the background color from bleeding through the design. This can be purchased from a number of stores and online vendors.

We have recently tested a new product, White Mylar, that makes it possible to use prints and colored backgrounds without a lot of extra work. We highly recommend the White Mylar for use with printed fabrics!

How do I know if a design is made for Mylar?

Most digitizers will include the word "Mylar" in the title or the description of the item. We also recommend that you look for photographs of the finished design rather than just the output from software which does NOT show you a true picture of what your design will look like. Software pictures are computer simulations. Photos of the sewn out design are much more realistic and show you that the digitizer has actually tested the designs.

Can I use Mylar with any design?

No, most designs are too dense. Density in embroidery means how close together the rows of thread sew out. In most designs, you want the rows to be close enough together so that the fabric underneath doesn't show through. In order to see the "sparkle" in a Mylar design however, the rows in the design have to be a little farther apart. That allows light to reflect off of the Mylar behind the stitches which is what causes the sparkle.

Can I just use any FSL design with Mylar?

Maybe. Free standing lace (FSL) is usually made with several layers of thread building enough structure to hold the design and the shape without any fabric as a base. This may mean that the layers provide too much density for the Mylar to show through. Regular FSL may also have spaces that are too big to hold the Mylar in place without tearing which means that the design will not last the way it should. If your design has even stitching fairly close together across the whole surface of the design, it will probably work well and the Mylar will add lovely sparkle to your sew-out. You can experiment and see how it looks.

Can I use any applique design and replace the fabric with Mylar?

Probably not. Most applique designs have large open areas where fabric used as the applique takes the place of embroidery stitches. These large open areas do not have additional stitching over the applique fabric; they just use a satin stitch to hold the fabric in place. Mylar does not need a thick satin stitch to hold it in place (it may be a design element, but it isn't required). In addition, if there is a large open space, the Mylar could tear and come off, ruining the sparkly look of the design. Mylar designs rely on slightly open but fairly consistent stitching across the surface of the design to hold everything in place.

How long does it take a Mylar design to sew out?

This is one of the most fun parts of this new technique. Because the rows of stitches are farther apart, there are fewer stitches in each design. That means Mylar designs use less thread and sew out much more quickly than a traditional filled design. A design that fits the full 4x4 hoop can sew out in 10 to 12 minutes.

Where can I get this Mylar?

This is the most tricky question. If you are using the design on a craft item that will not be machine washed and dried in a dryer (or ironed!), you may be satisfied with the kind of gift wrap that you can get at a dollar store. This kind will not stand up to heat like from the dryer or from an iron.

There is, however, a type of Mylar that is washable and can be dried in the dryer. You can buy in packs of 5, 10, 20, 50, 100 or 200 sheets or try out sample packs of various colors and sizes.

US customers: <http://www.heirloomsbysharon.com/> (Sharon)

UK and Europe: <http://www.lucysMylarandcrafts.co.uk> (Lucy)

Either of these sites would be happy to answer any questions you might have! Sharon ships to other countries (including Australia).

What "color" Mylar should I buy?

We used "Opal Iridescent" on almost all of our sample sew-outs. This is actually almost transparent and it simply reflects back the color of the thread that is used. That means you can use one piece under an entire design and see all of your thread colors (as long as your background fabric is white). If your background fabric is not white, we recommend that you purchase White Mylar so that the background colors or prints don't show through your embroidery. To see an example of a use for a colored Mylar, look at the picture for the Autumn Fancy set or the Mylar Christmas Ornaments set. We used a bright metallic Mylar in some of these designs.

What does it look like without the Mylar?

Because the rows of stitching are farther apart, your background fabric will show through much more than a regular design. The finished design will not look as bright or colorful as a regular filled design.

You can sew the design that has been optimized for Mylar without using Mylar but you may not like the results. Be sure to scroll down to see all of the pictures and the explanations.



This leaf is a regular filled design.

We put a piece of Mylar behind it but you can see that the rows of stitching are too close together to let you see any sparkle in the design.

Notice that the leaf is orange and the stem is brown.



This is the same leaf optimized for Mylar. You can see that the rows of stitching are much farther apart.

We did NOT use any Mylar with this sew out.

Notice that you can see the background fabric through the stitching.

The design looks very "flat" because the threads are not close enough together to give it a nice filled color.

This one was sewn with the same orange and brown threads as the first one.



This is the same leaf as in the sample above but with a sheet of Opal Iridescent Mylar behind it.

Light hits the Mylar between the rows of stitching and you see sparkle instead of background fabric.

Opal Iridescent Mylar provides the shine but the color comes from the thread that you use.

We used the same orange and brown thread on this sew out.

This photo has not been retouched or enhanced in any way.



This is the same leaf as the one above but this time we used metallic Mylar behind the leaf.

These bright colors of Mylar completely block the background fabric and they dominate the color of the finished design.

If you look closely, the leaf and stem are done with the same orange and brown threads as the previous design but you really don't see that. You see the color of the Mylar rather than the color of the thread.

This can give you spectacular results for some designs but you would not really want to have a single color of metallic Mylar under an entire design unless it is like this leaf - all one color.

Mylar FSL Charming Little Snowflakes (4x4 hoop)

These are rotated in the hoop to give you the largest possible finished snowflake.

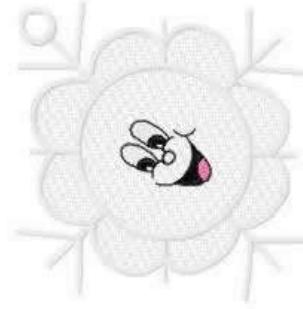
- 1 Palest Ivory
- 2 Snow White
- 3 Paper White
- 4 Snow White
- 5 Black



File: snowflake01.pes
Stitches: 10235
Size: 3.73x3.81 "
Size: 94.8x96.7 mm

Colors: 4/5
Stops: 4
Stops: 4

- 1 Palest Ivory
- 2 Snow White
- 3 Paper White
- 4 Snow White
- 5 Wild Pink
- 6 Black



File: snowflake02.pes
Stitches: 10473
Size: 3.84x3.90 "
Size: 97.5x99.0 mm

Colors: 5/6
Stops: 5
Stops: 5

- 1 Palest Ivory
- 2 Snow White
- 3 Paper White
- 4 Black



File: snowflake03.pes
Stitches: 9901
Size: 3.59x3.82 "
Size: 91.1x97.0 mm

Colors: 4/4
Stops: 3
Stops: 3

- 1 Palest Ivory
- 2 Snow White
- 3 Paper White
- 4 Snow White
- 5 Wild Pink
- 6 Black



File: snowflake04.pes
Stitches: 13485
Size: 3.89x3.88 "
Size: 98.7x98.6 mm

Colors: 5/6
Stops: 5
Stops: 5

- 1 Palest Ivory
- 2 Snow White
- 3 Paper White
- 4 Black



File: snowflake05.pes
Stitches: 11365
Size: 3.90x3.89 "
Size: 99.1x98.7 mm

Colors: 4/4
Stops: 3
Stops: 3

- 1 Palest Ivory
- 2 Snow White
- 3 Paper White
- 4 Black



File: snowflake06.pes
Stitches: 11295
Size: 3.89x3.87 "
Size: 98.8x98.2 mm

Colors: 4/4
Stops: 3
Stops: 3

Mylar FSL Charming Little Snowflakes (5x7 hoop)

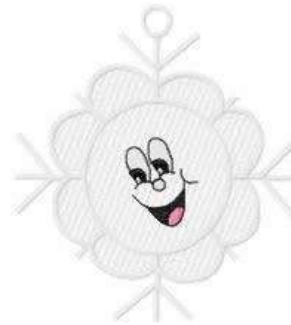
- 1 Palest Ivory
- 2 Snow White
- 3 Paper White
- 4 Snow White
- 5 Black



File: snowflake01.pes
Stitches: 15376
Size: 4.94x5.85 "
Size: 125.6x148.7 mm

Colors: 4/5
Stops: 4
Stops: 4

- 1 Palest Ivory
- 2 Snow White
- 3 Paper White
- 4 Snow White
- 5 Wild Pink
- 6 Black



File: snowflake02.pes
Stitches: 12668
Size: 4.98x5.58 "
Size: 126.6x141.7 mm

Colors: 5/6
Stops: 5
Stops: 5

- 1 Palest Ivory
- 2 Snow White
- 3 Paper White
- 4 Black



File: snowflake03.pes
Stitches: 15872
Size: 4.96x5.95 "
Size: 126.1x151.2 mm

Colors: 4/4
Stops: 3
Stops: 3

- 1 Palest Ivory
- 2 Snow White
- 3 Paper White
- 4 Snow White
- 5 Wild Pink
- 6 Black



File: snowflake04.pes
Stitches: 18464
Size: 4.86x5.88 "
Size: 123.4x149.3 mm

Colors: 5/6
Stops: 5
Stops: 5

- 1 Palest Ivory
- 2 Snow White
- 3 Paper White
- 4 Black



File: Snowflake05.pes
Stitches: 16155
Size: 4.85x5.87 "
Size: 123.3x149.1 mm

Colors: 4/4
Stops: 3
Stops: 3

- 1 Palest Ivory
- 2 Snow White
- 3 Paper White
- 4 Black



File: snowflake06.pes
Stitches: 16530
Size: 4.88x5.81 "
Size: 123.9x147.5 mm

Colors: 4/4
Stops: 3
Stops: 3