

Embroidered Cat Ear Party Headbands

(by Gayle Schliemann)

Supplies:

Cat Ear Headband – available from Amazon:

https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B077TPQG2X/ref=ppx_yo_dt_b_asin_image_o06_s00?ie=UTF8&psc=1

Aqua Mesh – Water-soluble stabilizer: <https://www.brewersewing.com/p-250333-aquamesh-12oz-20x10yd.aspx>

Isacord Thread in the color of your choice

Machine: B 770 QE with large hoop

Software: BERNINA Embroidery Software 8

Embroidery Design: Lace Doily 12794-03:

<https://www.embroideryonline.com/products/designs/brand/oed/Lace-Doily-Section-1/>

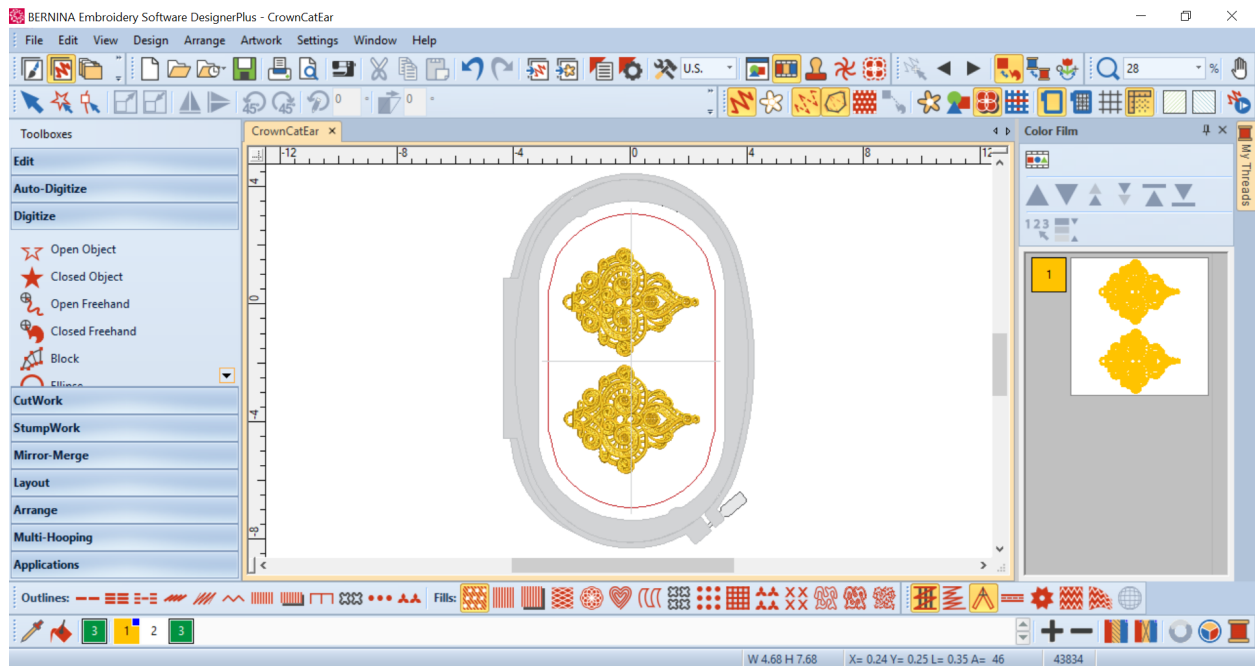


For the past twenty years, I have been making quilty-like projects, but recently my theatrical roots have surfaced. It seems I've been attending a lot of costume themed events from comic cons and masquerade balls to my other hobby, flying trapeze performances. Sometimes I need to create costumes in a short amount of time. I love to sew, I love my fancy BERNINA machines and I love any excuse to dress in costume... Therefore, I designed a project to satisfy my crafty desires. This easy freestanding lace head band is super easy to make and can be altered to represent any animal using different freestanding lace designs.



To start, you will need three simple supplies: [Aquamesh Stabilizer](#), [Isacord Thread](#) in the color of your choice and [party headbands](#) (cat style purchased in bulk from Amazon.com). Additionally you will need a freestanding lace embroidery design to use as an ear (Yes, you will actually be making two). I went to [www.embroideryonline.com](#) to look for some in a triangle shape because I wanted to make cat ears. Of course, if you are looking to make mouse ears or something else, just look for round designs and things like that – there are no rules here! I settled on a design from the [Buildable Freestanding Lace Doilies](#) called [Lace Doily Section 1](#).

Fun tip: If you own embroidery software (I use [BERNINA Embroidery Software version 8](#)), you can enlarge and reduce your designs to a size that suits you, skew them, remove stitches you don't want to use and place multiple designs in the hoop. Since I am only going to be making one set of ears, I will only need to place two designs in my large hoop. Once everything is to your liking, send the designs to your embroidery machine with your favorite design transfer method.



Hoop two layers of Aquamesh in your hoop and attach it to your machine. Select the design on your machine, following the prompts. Wind a bobbin with the Isacord thread and load it into the machine. Thread the needle with the spool of Isacord. Select the design which you adjusted using your software.



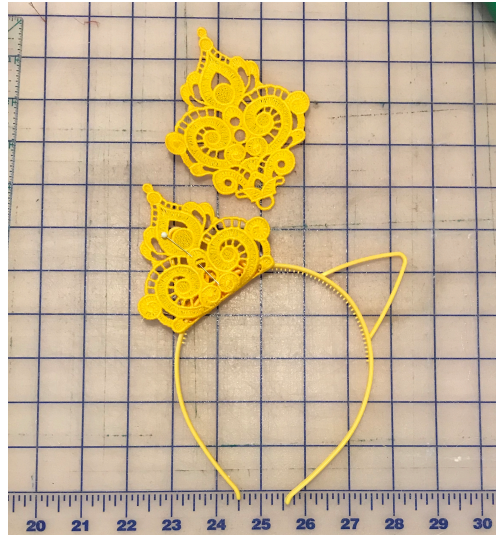
Fun tip: You can also duplicate a single design in most Embroidery Machines. I am sewing on the BERNINA 770 QE E, which allows me to duplicate the design in the machine without the use of software. A B 790 Plus, B 880 Plus or BERNINA Embroidery Software may be necessary if you want to combine designs, add lettering or edit in more sophisticated ways.

Stitch out the design. I like to fix a hot cup of coffee or a cocktail and enjoy an episode of *Game of Thrones*, *Northern Exposure* or *The Handmaid's Tale* while I wait for the design to stitch out. How many episodes you can watch depends on the stitching time of your machine.

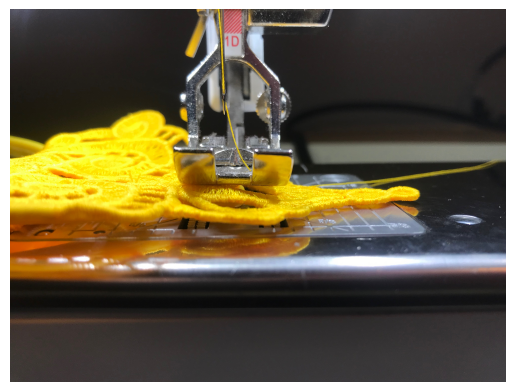
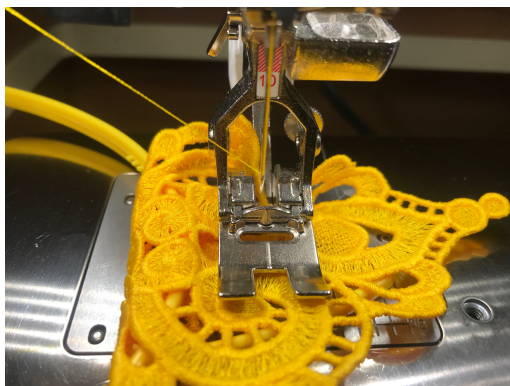
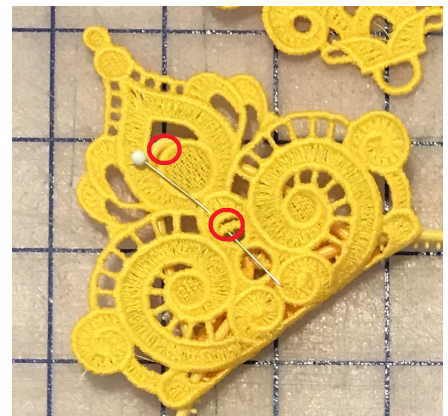


Once the stitch-out is complete, remove the work from the hoop and trim the Aquamesh away from the designs, close to the stitching. Dissolve in water and let dry completely.

There are two options to attach the freestanding lace ear pieces on to the headband; the scary way and the safe way.



Scary way: Convert your embroidery machine to sewing mode or use a separate sewing machine. I used the reverse pattern foot #1 on my BERNINA 770 QE and button sew-on stitch #60. Some of you may be scratching your head and wondering why I didn't use a button sew-on foot #18, the reason is I need the support of the foot behind and in front of the needle to keep it secure. If your machine does not have these stitches, please use a zigzag stitch with a width of 3mm and a length at 0 (alternatively, you could lower the feed dogs). Stitch the ear pieces to the cat ear headband in the three marked places on each ear.



Safe way: Hand sew the ear pieces to the cat ear headband using a whip stitch. You can see where this method might be a little boring.

Your super cute cat ears are complete.



If you're interested in additional party headbands, check out <https://weallsew.com/unicorn-headband/>

By the way, my model is my little English bulldog, Camilla. She loves attention and you can follow her adventures @camillabarkerbowles on Instagram.