

Are you
ready?



Brought to you by Joanne Banko

www.letsgo sew.com

Tip Sheet for Stabilizing with Liquid Style Stabilizers

This tip sheet covers two of my favorite "specialty stabilizers."



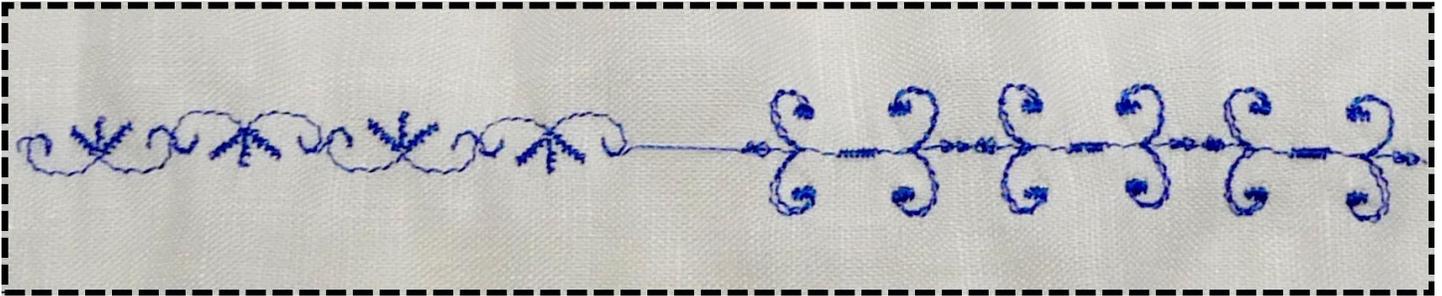
Ask for one of these products at your local sewing machine shop. Both of these are liquid, fabric-stiffening stabilizers suitable for decorative stitching and some types of machine embroidery. You must be certain that the finished decorative work on your fabric can be thoroughly laundered. Each of these have one distinct thing in common, they stiffen fabric so it feels almost paper like. This allows for decorative stitching without added stabilizers that need removal by tearing or cutting. Once treated, woven fabric stays smooth and knit fabric becomes firm with virtually no stretch factor. When you are finished the residue simply washes away with no trace left behind. Be sure to follow directions on the product label and always test a scrap of fabric first. I like to transfer some to a small bottle to make it easier to dispense on my fabric.

One is called [Perfect Sew™](#) I understand there is a new, thicker formula available now but I haven't tried it. However, the original version is a staple I've had in my stabilizer stash for many years. It's perfect (no pun intended) for decorative stitching on soft fine fabrics when you need stability for the stitches to form, but you don't want to change the character of the fabric. You can use it instead of multiple applications of spray starch, which is typically used in heirloom sewing.

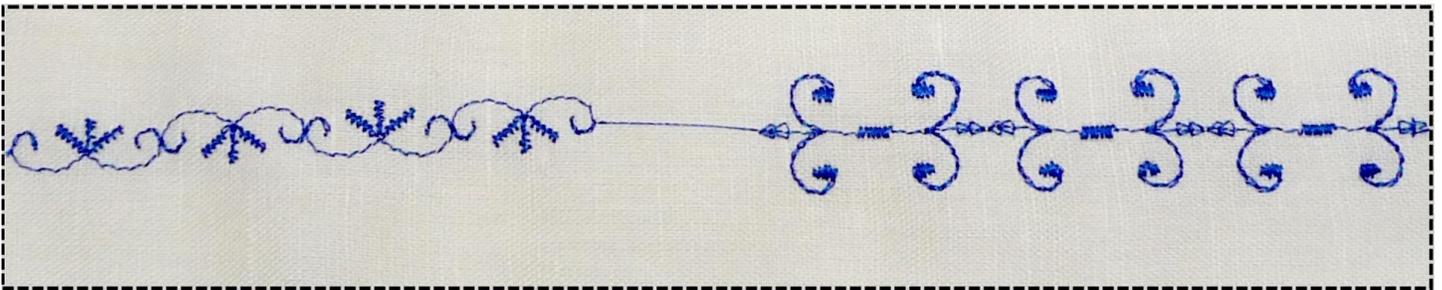
Then there's the relatively new liquid stabilizer from Terial Arts called [Terial Magic™](#) spray. You will find this works well for many fabric types. I particularly like it for decorative stitching or machine embroidery (light-weight designs only) on T-shirt knits. This type of liquid stabilizer is great for cutwork designs too!

Below you will find some examples of fabric stitched with and without the stabilizer.

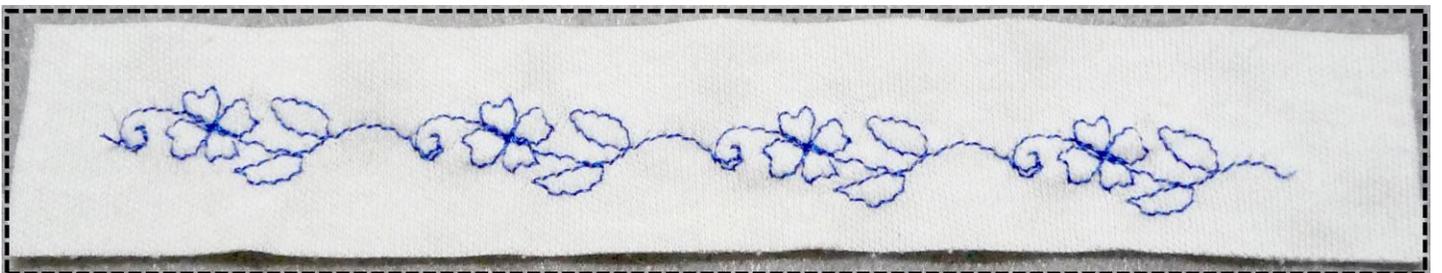
Linen/cotton blend batiste without stabilizer – The fabric is quite puckered and the larger decorative stitches are inconsistent.



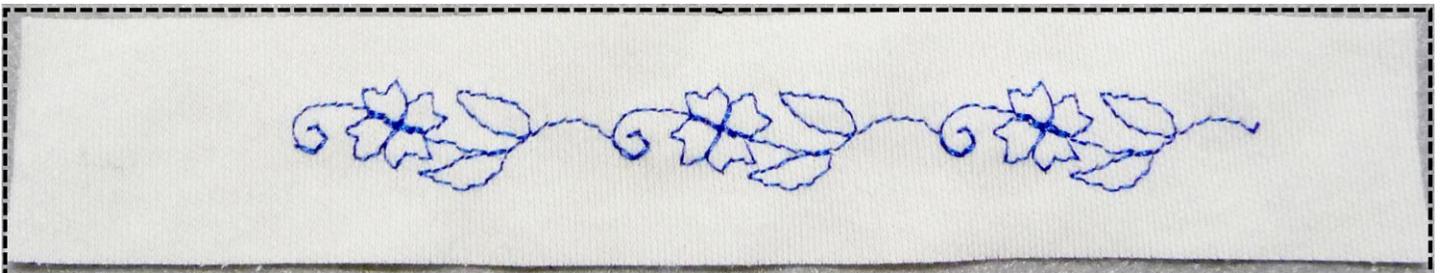
Linen/cotton blend batiste treated with [Perfect Sew™](#) – The fabric is smooth and the stitches are even.



Interlock knit stitched without stabilizer – The fabric is slightly puckered, and the decorative stitches are slightly smaller and misaligned in some areas.



Interlock knit treated with [Terial Magic™](#) spray stabilizer – The fabric is smooth and the stitches are evenly formed.



Interlock knit on the left embroidered without stabilizer.
Interlock on the right treated with [Terrial Magic™](#) prior to embroidering.



Treated interlock washed and dried - Note how the embroidery is still nice and smooth.

