

## [It's Sew Easy Series 1700](#)

### Show#1711-2 Creative Coasters

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***Let's stay in touch!*** I'd love to help you make the most of ***your*** sewing machine!

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Coasters are my “go to” gift for the person who has everything. They appeal to everyone and you can be sure they will get used. This show features two styles. One is stitched on the sewing side of the machine. It features crazy quilt style patchwork and makes use of decorative stitches on the machine. I finished the edge of my coasters using [Wonderfil® Specialty Threads](#). These thick threads are ideal for use in the upper and lower looper of a serger and they come in a variety of blends. The second coaster is created on the embroidery side of the machine. It's embroidered with a large monogram letter and stitched using an *in-the-hoop* technique. Featured machine for both of these is the [Brother XV8550D Dream Machine2](#) with [SAVRXVUGK2](#), the Premium Pack II Upgrade kit which includes large monogram letters. Below you'll find basic instructions for making your own coasters.

## **Monogrammed Coaster Materials and Supplies**

- Marine type vinyl, approximately 1mm in thickness – cut two 6-inch squares for each coaster.
- Medium weight cut-away stabilizer.
- Low tack tape for securing vinyl to stabilizer. I prefer 3M™ Transpore™ medical tape for this process.
- Embroidery threads and embroidery needle size 11.
- A rotary cutter and ruler are helpful for trimming.
- [SA448](#) Brother 6-inch square embroidery hoop.

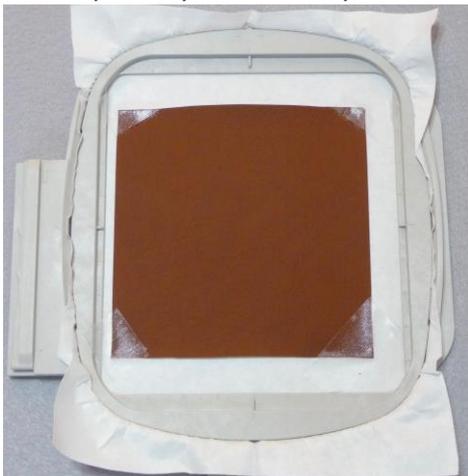
### **Steps for embroidering:**

1. Begin by creating a combination design as follows:
  - Select the straight stitch square frame shape from the built-in frame shape menu and re-size to approximately 5 ¾- inches square.
  - Add monogram letter. **Note:** This particular monogram comes in two sizes. Size large is featured in this example. Individual letters vary. You may need to edit and re-size or select a smaller letter for your coaster. You could also consider using a monogram from software such as [Brother BES Lettering Software](#)
  - Next, select the straight stitch octagon shape from the built-in frame shape menu. Re-size octagon so it fits within the square and surrounds the monogram letter.



In this example the square frame measures 5.76 X 5.76.

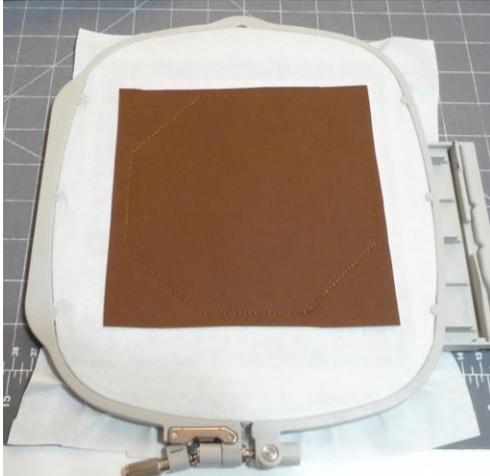
2. Hoop stabilizer. Embroider square on stabilizer to use as a general placement line for vinyl.
3. Place one piece of vinyl right side up in the hoop, centering it over the stitched square. Tape corners to temporarily secure vinyl.



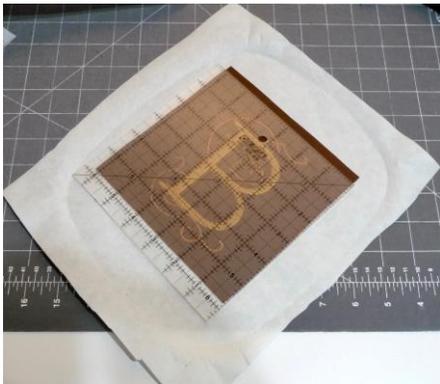
4. Embroider monogram letter.



5. Carefully remove hoop from machine, leaving everything intact. Turn hoop to back side and tape vinyl over square placement line. Be sure vinyl is securely taped to prevent it from moving.
6. Return hoop to machine and embroider octagon through all layers. Remove tape.



7. Remove piece from hoop and trim close to edge of octagon stitching using a rotary cutter and ruler. Finished coaster measures approximately 5 1/2-inches wide X 5 1/2-inches long.



**Options and ideas:**

Add a decorative frame prior to finishing with the octagon shape. Create coasters using squares and circles in place of octagon. Experiment with other available monogram letters. If you don't have options for large letters consider using a smaller letter, adding additional frame shapes to surround the letter. Scale down the size if you prefer coasters in a smaller size.

## **Crazy Quilt Coaster Materials and Supplies**

- Fabric glue stick.
- Threads for decorative stitching.
- Six coordinating pieces of fabric for crazy quilt patchwork.
- One 5-inch square piece of stabilizer, firm interfacing, or pattern tracing cloth to use as a base for your coaster.
- One 5-inch square piece of batting to add loft to your coaster.
- One 5-inch square piece of fabric for back of coaster.
- Optional - One 4 ½- inch square piece of thin vinyl for inner waterproof layer.
- Draw a crazy quilt style pattern on a 5-inch square of paper or pattern tracing cloth or visit [letsgosew.com](http://letsgosew.com) for a free printable coaster pattern. Simply locate the tab titled **Bonus Materials for It's Sew Easy TV series 1700**. You'll find a free printable pattern for the crazy quilt coaster along with additional tips for finishing the edges of your coaster.
- Choose a method to finish coaster. Examples include lining the piece by sewing right sides together and leaving an opening for turning, binding raw edge with bias, or finishing edges with decorative thread on a serger.

### **Steps for creating coaster:**

1. Cut apart your pattern to use for cutting various crazy quilt pieces.
2. Place pieces on top of your base piece. **Tip:** Use a piece of thin pattern tracing cloth for the base and trace shapes onto the piece with a disappearing marker to aid in placement. Add batting as the second layer.
3. Select decorative stitches and stitch to cover raw edges of fabric where pieces join together. **Tip:** Satin style stitches will provide more coverage for raw edges.
4. Finish the coaster using one of the methods described above, inserting the vinyl layer if you want to make your coaster waterproof. **Tip:** Round off the corners for a neat finish that's easy to serge, bind, or sew.

### **Options and ideas:**

Super small remnants of fabric are ideal for making these coasters. Choose holiday colors with a mix of prints and a bit of shiny fabric for a festive look. Or, select bright batiks for a set of coasters that are perfect for patio weather. You could also select fabric that matches your room décor. By the way, these coasters make a great hostess gift. Wrap a stack of them with ribbon or decorative trim for an attractive presentation!



- Questions? Comments? I invite you to visit me at my Sewing and Embroidery website [www.letsgosew.com](http://www.letsgosew.com). You'll find online lessons, videos, free downloads, and lots of sewing and embroidery information and inspiration!

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Happy Sewing!

*Joanne*