

# In-the-Hoop Spool of Thread Alphabet



The in-the-hoop Spool of Thread Alphabet is perfect for creating lots of terrific projects, from personalized banners to fridge magnets and key chains!

In this project, Kenny takes you through the steps to stitch the delightfully crafty [Spool of Thread Alphabet \(In-the-Hoop\)](#) designs. Clear and bold letters inside a thread spool can match any decor with fabric colors of your choice.

Read on to learn how to turn these cute letters into a banner, magnets, and a keychain. Great for the sewing room, and for the fridge! Initial key chains would also make fun stocking stuffers.

Read on for instructions to make some of your own!



Supplies Needed:

\*\*Small pieces of fabric (for front and back; I used felt)

\*\*Temporary spray adhesive

\*\*Medium weight cutaway stabilizer

\*\*Small pieces of print cotton fabric (I used quilter's cotton)

\*\*Medium weight cutaway stabilizer

\*\*Tear-away stabilizer

\*\*Masking tape

\*\*Two 3" lengths of 1/8" wide to 1/4" wide ribbon (optional -- for banner hangers)

\*\*Yarn or decorative cord (optional -- to hang banner)

\*\*Self-adhesive magnetic tape or button magnet and hot glue (optional)

\*\*Small grommet, grommet tool, and keychain ring (optional)

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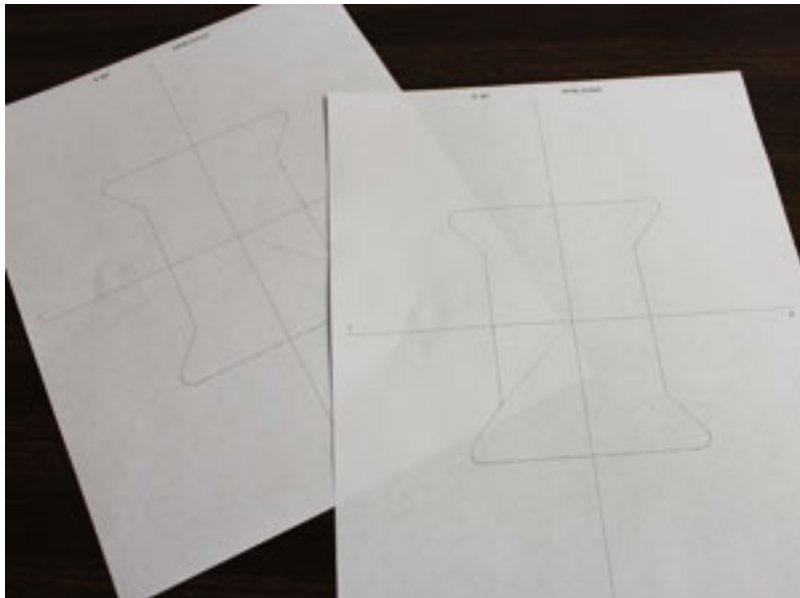
Special Project Notes:

These easy-to-sew Spool of Thread Alphabet designs are very versatile: create refrigerator magnets, key chains, and decorative banners!

Designs Used:

I used the [Spool of Thread Alphabet \(In-the-Hoop\)](#).

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When you download an in-the-hoop spool of thread design, you'll find three files. One file will begin with the letter "X" followed by 4 numbers -- that's the embroidery file. The other files are marked with "\_DL" -- those are the dielines.

The dielines are used to cut the fabric for the front and back (the files are marked as "\_DLFront" and "\_DLBack"). If you have embroidery software, open the DL (dieline) files and print them at full size.

These are the templates we will use to cut the shapes. If you do not have embroidery software, you can sew the dielines directly onto paper. To do this, hoop a piece of paper and embroider the dieline files.



Next, spray a piece of medium weight cutaway stabilizer with temporary adhesive.



Smooth the fabric on top of the stabilizer.



Spray the backside of the paper template with a quick shot of adhesive and smooth it on top of the fabric. Cut out the shape. Do this for the front dieline, and the back dieline too.



If you do not have embroidery software, another option is to embroider the dielines directly onto the fabric. Cut a piece of medium weight cutaway stabilizer and fabric a bit larger than your hoop. Spray the stabilizer with temporary adhesive, smooth the fabric on top, and hoop the fabric and stabilizer together. Attach the hoop to the machine, load the first dieline file (the files that end in "\_DL"). Embroider the dieline.

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Cut out the shape.

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Now that the fabric pieces are cut and ready to go, it's time to assemble the spool. Hoop a piece of tear-away stabilizer.



Load the full embroidery design (the file that begins with "X" followed by 4 numbers). Attach the hoop to the machine and embroider the design. The first thing to sew is another dieline. When you see a note on the color change sheet that says "front piece tack down" stop the machine.



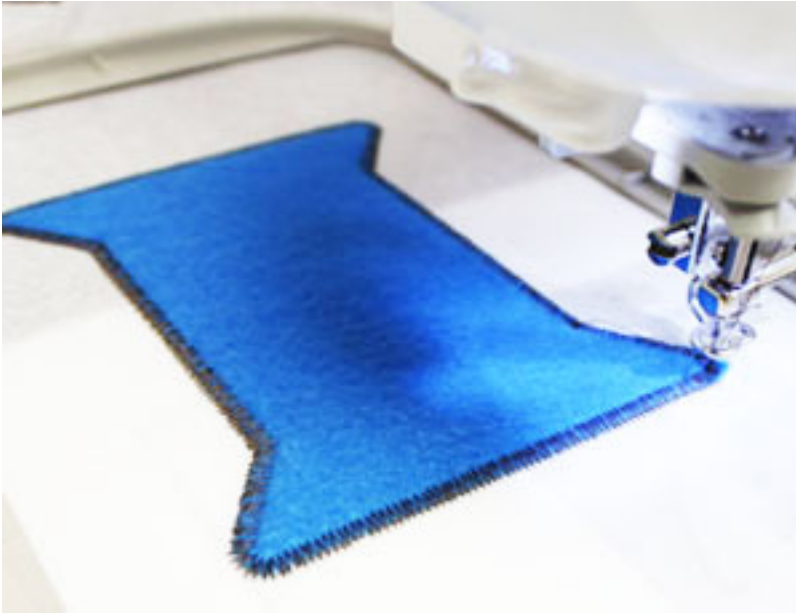
Then, spray the backside of the front fabric piece with adhesive.

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Place the fabric piece right inside the sewn dieline.

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Continue with the design. The next thing to sew is a zigzag stitch. This tacks the fabric down to the stabilizer to hold it in place during the remainder of the embroidery.

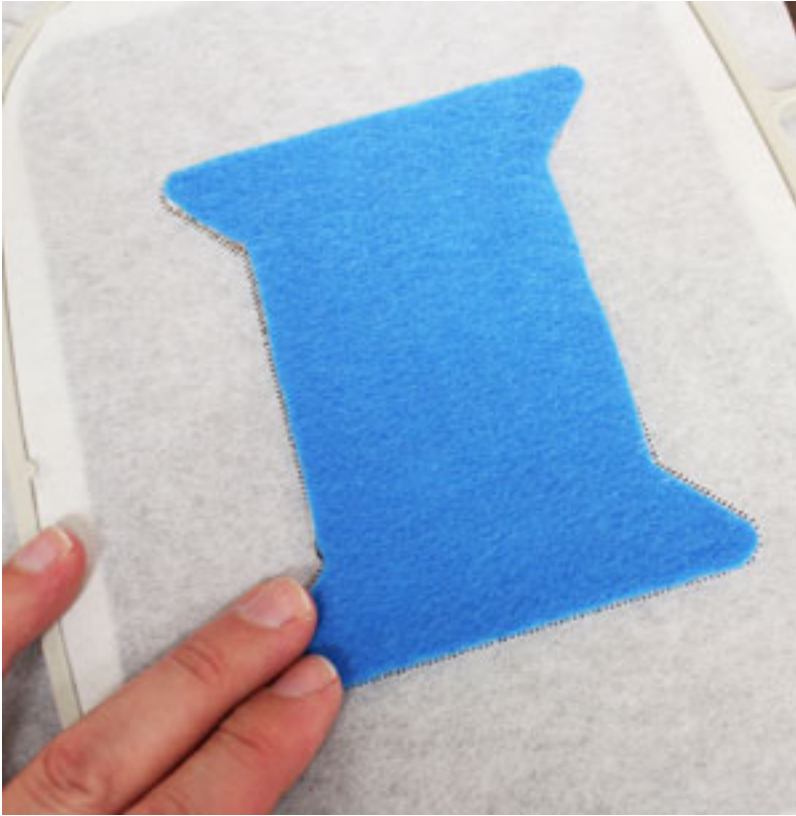
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Other elements of the design will sew next. Look for a note on the color change sheet that says "back piece tack down." When you get to this point, stop the machine.

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Remove the hoop from the machine but do not unhoop the stabilizer. Spray the backside of the back fabric piece with adhesive. Turn the hoop over to the backside and place the back fabric piece right inside the shape.



I wound a bobbin with the same color as the top thread for the remaining steps.



If you are making a banner with the spools, you can add ribbon loops to the top to create hangers. Cut two 3" lengths of 1/8" wide to 1/4" wide ribbon and form them into loops.

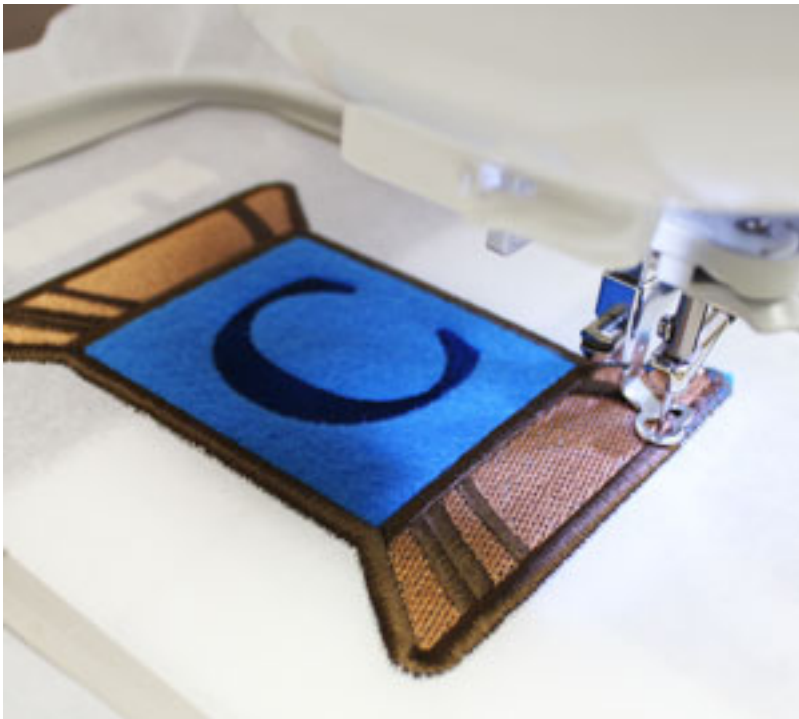
Tape them in place about one inch in from each top corner of the top edge of the back fabric piece. The raw ends should face in and extend onto the fabric about 3/4".



Spray the backside of the back fabric with adhesive and place it inside the shape on the backside of the embroidery.



Also, tape the loops in place to the stabilizer to prevent them from being sewn over.



Attach the hoop back onto the machine and continue embroidering the design. The next thing to sew is a tack down stitch which binds the back fabric to the stabilizer. And finally, a satin stitch border will sew.



Remove the stabilizer from the hoop and gently tear the excess away. To hang your banner, simply string yarn or decorative cord through the loops at the top of the spools, tie loops at each end of the yarn, hang it up, and enjoy!



Another option is to create refrigerator magnets by adding self-adhesive magnet tape or button magnets to the backside of the spools. To add button magnets, add a few drops of hot glue and press the magnets in place.



Hang your magnets on the refrigerator and you are done!



Create a keychain by adding a small grommet to one of the upper corners on the fabric just above the letter. Then add the keychain ring and away you go!



Personalized banners, magnets, and key chains made with the in-the-hoop Spool of Thread Alphabet are a fabulous way to decorate for a special occasion, and to give unique gifts to family and friends. And don't forget photo holders and chip clips! Enjoy!

[Click here for a printable version of these project instructions.](#)

