Hooded Bath Towel (Stitch-filled Design)

Kids will love to cozy up in this fun hooded bath towel!

These instructions show how to stitch a design on the edge of a hand towel, then turn that into a hood to attach to a bath towel. The stitch-filled Animals on the Edge designs have straight bottoms that are the perfect fit for the straight border of a towel. That makes them excellent choices for this project.

The directions include measurements for three hood sizes: baby, toddler, and child. Read on for more details!

**Supplies Needed:**

- **Two terry cloth hand towels** (one for the outer shell of the hood and one for the inner lining of the hood)
- **One bath towel**
- **Lightweight water soluble stabilizer** (for topping - I prefer Sulky Solvy or Sulky Super Solvy)

**Supplies Continued:**

- **Medium weight cutaway stabilizer**
- **Temporary spray adhesive**
- **Air-erase pen or dressmaker’s pencil**
- **6” to 7” round flat object** (for tracing -- plate, metal ring, or plastic lid)

**Special Project Notes:**
I purchased my towels at Target. For tips about stitching onto terrycloth, see the Fabrics 101 article all about embroidering terrycloth towels.

**Designs Used:**
I created the child-sized hood for this tutorial with the 5" x 7" size of the Peeking Sock Monkey (Boy) design.

Before beginning the project, decide what size hooded bath towel you would like to make. There are design size recommendations below for each size.

**Baby** (newborn to 18 months): 4" x 4" designs or smaller

**Toddler** (18 months to 3 years): 4" x 4" designs or smaller

**Child** (3 years to 8 years): 5" x 7" designs or smaller

It's a good idea to press the towel before starting to make sure it doesn't have any folds or wrinkles. This helps the towel remain flat and even when you're embroidering it.

The first step is to embroider the design onto one of the hand towels. I laid the hand towel flat, right side facing up, with one of the long side edges to the bottom (short ends to the sides).

Since I'll be embroidering the design onto the bottom edge of the towel, I won't hoop the entire towel as I normally do. Below are the steps I took to hoop the towel.

I cut a piece of medium weight cutaway stabilizer a bit larger than my hoop, and sprayed the stabilizer generously with temporary adhesive (I use KK100). Then I laid the towel flat, right side facing up, and smoothed the bottom edge of the towel onto the center of the stabilizer, leaving half of the stabilizer extending past the bottom edge of the towel.

Then I positioned the design on the towel. To do this, I created a paper template of the design by printing it at full size with embroidery software. See this tutorial if you would like more information about using templates. I trimmed the template by cutting right along the bottom edge of the design, and around the side and top edges, leaving about 1" of excess around the design.
I positioned the template on the towel by aligning the bottom edge of the template with the bottom edge of the towel. I centered the template side to side by measuring equal distances between the center point on the template and the outer edges of the towel.

To make sure the design covers the bottom edge of the towel just right, I moved the template directly down about 1/16” (just a tiny bit) past the edge of the towel. Doing this will allow the stitches on the bottom of the design to sew completely over the bottom edge of the towel.

I poked a hole in the center point of the template and marked the fabric with an air-erase pen. I also marked the horizontal and vertical axis points, marking the bottom vertical point directly onto the stabilizer. Since I’m embroidering a dark-colored towel, I used a dressmaker’s pencil to mark the towel, and an air-erase pen to mark the stabilizer.

I removed the template and drew lines connecting the marks.

When embroidering onto terry cloth or any type of "lofty" fabric, I recommend using a topping to prevent the stitches from sinking into the fabric. A water-soluble stabilizer works.
very well as a topping (I like to use Sulky Solvy or Sulky Super Solvy).

I laid a piece of water soluble topping over the towel, and hooped all three layers (stabilizer, towel, and topping) together, aligning the lines on the towel with the marks on my hoop. Not all of the towel will be hooped, and this is okay, as the adhesive on the stabilizer will hold the bottom edge of the towel in place.

Attach the hoop to your machine and load the design. Move the hoop so the needle is directly over the center of the lines on the towel, and embroider the design.

When the embroidery is finished, unhoop the towel and tear away the topping. If there are any small topping pieces left behind, you can use a tweezers to remove them, or wet your fingertips and gently brush them away.

I trimmed away the excess stabilizer from the back of the design, cutting along the bottom edges as close to the stitches as possible without cutting them. I used a small sharp scissors to do this. I also cut around the side and top edges, leaving about 1/4" to 1/2" of the stabilizer behind. And I trimmed any loose, long stitches on the backside of the embroidery.
Now that the towel is embroidered, it's time to make the hood. I laid the embroidered hand towel (which is the outer shell of the hood) flat with the wrong side facing up. I aligned the second hand towel (the inner lining of the hood) on top, wrong sides together. Then I added a line of fabric glue along the bottom edge of the embroidery, and pressed the inner lining in place on top (the rest of the towel will be sewn together later on).

**Hood Measurements**

In the next step, you'll use the dimensions below for your measurements based on the size hooded towel you're making.

**Baby** (newborn to 18 months): 9" wide by 7 1/2" high

**Toddler** (18 months to 3 years): 10 1/2" wide by 9" high

**Child** (3 years to 8 years): 12 1/2" wide by 10 1/2" high

To measure the size of the hood, keep the towels aligned together, and fold them lengthwise, inner lining to the inside and short ends lined up together. Position the towels with the design on top and the short ends on the bottom.

Using the baby, toddler, or child-sized measurements above, measure and mark the width starting from the upper left corner along the top edge. Then measure and mark the height, starting at the mark you just made and measuring down from that mark. Then measure and mark the height again along the outer left edge starting at the top left corner. Draw lines connecting the marks.

Next I aligned a 6" or 7" flat
round object (like a plate, metal ring, or plastic lid) at the top right corner of the shape I just drew, and traced the shape.

Then I cut out the hood shape along the lines, cutting through all four layers of the towels at once.

Next I stitched the layers of the hood together. Keeping the two layers lined up, I turned the fabric inside out and made sure it was still aligned. I pinned in place along the back edge of the hood and sewed a 1/2" seam along the back edge only. Then to keep the fabric from fraying, I zigzag stitched along the outer edge of the seam allowance along the back edge only.

I turned the hood right side out again and aligned the layers along the front edge. I pinned in place and sewed a 1/4" seam
along the front edge only, along both sides of the embroidery, without stitching over the design.

To attach the hood to the bath towel, lay the bath towel flat with the wrong side facing up. Measure and mark the center of the top edge of the bath towel. Then place the hood along the top edge of the towel, right side facing out. Line up the back seam of the hood with the center mark on the towel.

Turn the raw edges of the hood’s back edge in towards the inner lining of the hood 1/2”. Overlap the folded back edge of the hood about 3/4” over the top edge of the bath towel, pin in place, and zigzag stitch along the raw edges of the hood to sew the hood in place. And your hooded bath towel is complete!

Keep kids warm and cozy in a cuddly embroidered hooded bath towel!

Click here for a printable version of these project instructions.