

Embroidery

- Fabric
 - Thick - Helps the fabric to stay reinforced in the hoop without sagging or moving too much, but you can always use an interfacing to reinforce
 - Solid color - Easiest to work with if you have a predetermined pattern, image, design
 - Iron beforehand - The hoop tends to pull out the fabric wrinkles.
 - Thin fabrics - cover with a low or no-pill fabric before ironing (there are very short or no hairy fibers that might stick to it)
- Grain
 - The intersecting lines of thread within the fabric
 - Stretch fabric back & forth diagonally to line up the grain
- Hoop
 - I like to get 3" & 4" wooden hoops and sand them down
 - Line up the grain inside of the hoop
 - Think of it as a grid
- Tension
 - Keep hoop tension (the screw) relatively tight
 - You want the fabric to be taut like a drum
- Thread
 - Cut elbow's length and separate the threads, pinch each strand & pull down in the same direction to prevent knotting
- Needle
 - Pull the thread through the eye of the needle so that a long tail hangs out $\frac{1}{3}$
 - Tapestry needles are great for eye
- Stitches - Running, Satin, Couch. Also Stem and French Knots
- Backing - felt circle (light/dark), thread matching the fabric, running stitch and trim