



Pattern Transfer Guide

Here are some of my favorite ways to transfer patterns if you don't have a pattern that is pre-printed on your fabric. As you stitch, document your process and post photos to your social media with #KellerDesignCoStitches and @KellerDesignCo. I'd love to see what you create!

A note about transfer methods: There are quite a few methods for transferring designs to your fabric or other surface that you want to embroider. These are just a few that I like. Honestly my favorite is Water Soluble stabilizer. Experiment and find the ones that you like to use! You may find you like different methods for different patterns or fabrics.

WATER SOLUBLE STABILIZER (AKA MY FAVORITE!)

Arguably my favorite method of transferring patterns for embroidery. Basically, you print the pattern onto the "paper", peel, stick and stitch. It really is that simple. Most water soluble stabilizers come either in a roll or 8.5"x11" sheets. I like the sheets just because they are easy to store flat and fit easily into a printer. You can either draw onto the stabilizer or run it through your printer. Follow the directions on the packaging and if you use a pen or pencil, test it out first before using on your final fabric.

How To:

1. Enlarge or reduce the pattern to the size you want to stitch on a copier or in a design program.
2. Print onto Water-Soluble Stabilizer. You can also draw your own pattern on it, or add extra details.
3. Trim off any excess, but leave enough around the edges of the design, so the stabilizer stays in place. I leave about an inch or two excess.
4. Peel the stabilizer from the backing paper. Be very careful during this process not to get the stabilizer wet. If it does get wet, it will get "gummy or sticky". Just stop and let it dry. Then you can continue working. You can also cut off the affected wet area if it is ruined.
5. With your fabric on a flat surface, place the stabilizer on the fabric and smooth out any wrinkles. Hoop the fabric and you're ready to start stitching.
6. When you're finished stitching, un-hoop the fabric and carefully trim off any excess stabilizer. Soak the embroidery in warm water, agitate gently and the stabilizer will dissolve away. I often use a soft clean toothbrush to gently wash away any remaining stabilizer. After the stabilizer is completely removed, lay your project flat to dry.

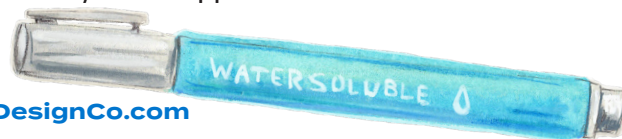


DIRECT TRACING: WATER-SOLUBLE PEN/PENCIL/MARKER

I prefer to use a water-soluble pen versus a marker to get more precise marks on my fabric. When using a water-soluble pen or pencil, just remember if your fabric gets wet, the lines will disappear.

How To:

1. Print or copy the design at the size you want to embroider and tape to your light source
2. Place your fabric in a hoop large enough to fit all of the design if possible. If the hoop is smaller you will have to reposition it to finish tracing the entire design. Using a hoop keeps the fabric taut enough to trace the lines accurately.
3. After you've finished your embroidery, you can spray with water and the pen marks should disappear. Keep in mind however as you are stitching, if the lines get wet they will disappear.



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DIRECT TRACING: HEAT ERASEABLE PEN

My favorite heat erasable pen is the Frixion Pen by Pilot. They come in a variety of colors and the best part is you can use an iron to “erase” the ink if you make a mistake tracing the pattern or after you finish stitching the design. Test this method, as any other method on a scrap of your fabric. The How To on this is similar to a water-soluble pen.

How To:

1. Print or copy the design at the size you want to embroider and tape to your light source
2. Place your fabric in a hoop large enough to fit all of the design if possible. If the hoop is smaller you will have to reposition it to finish tracing the entire design. Using a hoop keeps the fabric taut enough to trace the lines accurately.
3. After you've finished your embroidery, gently iron the image. Try ironing from the backside of your embroidery, with a soft fluffy towel under the fabric so you don't smash the stitches.

IRON-ON TRANSFER PEN/PENCIL

You can find Iron On Transfer pens, markers and pencils at your favorite craft or fabric store. Experiment with the one you like on different fabrics. Test the pen/ pencil on a scrap of your fabric. My favorite pen is from Sublime Stitching and it comes in a variety of colors.

You'll need to reverse your design (especially if there is type!)

How To:

1. Copy or print a MIRROR image (reverse) of the design at the desired size.
2. Trace the design onto another sheet of paper using the transfer pen. You can use a light box or sunny window.
3. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for ironing the design onto your fabric. Again, be sure to test the paper you use to trace then transfer on to a scrap fabric.
4. Get to stitching! The image transfer is permanent and will not wash out.

