

Instructions for Valentine Day Post Cards

By: Cindy Dzikowski

These postcards are relatively easy to stitch out and I've tried to make the instructions as easy as possible.




*****PLEASE NOTE*****


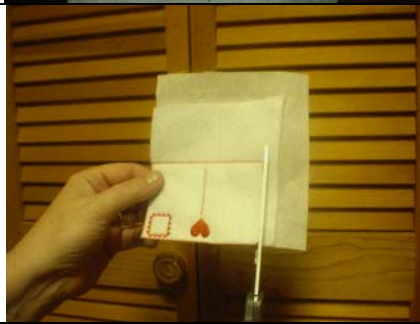




No matter WHAT color shows up on your particular machine, the running stitches around the edges and the final satin stitch around the edge of the front, are to be stitched in the color RED!

Also, before stitching then final satin stitch around the front edge, you'll have to remove the postcard from the machine to trim it, while it is off, change you bobbin thread to RED also.

With the final satin stitch the Upper & Lower Threads must match.

ALWAYS START WITH THE BACK OF THE POSTCARD FIRST!

		1. Hoop stabilizer only
		2. Lay your fabric on top of the stabilizer. You can use spray adhesive on it if you like. Attach hoop to machine.
		3. Stitch out entire back of postcard and remove from machine

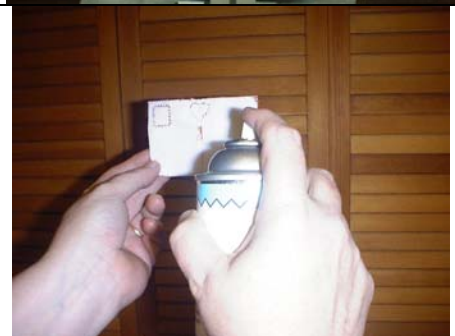
		<p>4. Remove back of postcard from the machine and un-hoop</p>
		<p>5. Trim fabric & stabilizer as close to running stitch line as possible without cutting through the stitches.</p>
		<p>6. The back of your postcard should look similar to this once it is all trimmed. Leave the back of the postcard to the side for now.</p>
		<p>7. Hoop a new piece of stabilizer and lay fabric on the stabilizer. Follow instructions 1 & 2 above.</p>
		<p>8. Stitch the front of the postcard. STOP the machine before the last TWO sections of stitching. The second to last is a running stitch and the last is a satin stitch. Remove from machine.</p>
		<p>9. Leaving stabilizer hooped, trim fabric as close as possible to the running stitch edge. Be careful, trying not to cut through running stitch. DO NOT CUT THE STABILIZER.</p>



10. After you trim the fabric you should have something that looks like this.





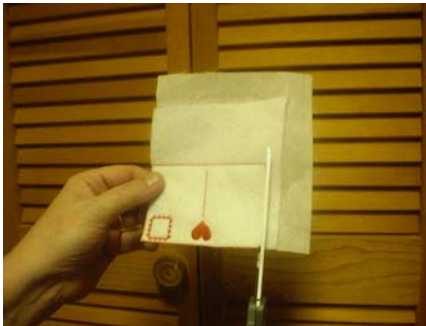

11. Turn entire hoop over so the back side is facing you.



12. Spray the back-side of the back of the postcard that you stitched before with adhesive. You can also put a piece of double sided tape in the center of the back (this is the method I use). Make sure if you use tape you center it, so nothing will sew through it. You will only be sewing the edges for the last two steps.



13. Carefully lay the back of the postcard on the BACK of the hoop following the running stitch edge from the front of the postcard. Make sure the top of the postcard from the back matches the direction of the top of the postcard on the front and the same thing for the bottom. Please be careful not to “push” down on it too hard as you will stretch the stabilizer. **REMEMBER TO CHANGE YOUR BOBBIN THREAD TO RED AT THIS POINT!** Turn over and return hoop to machine. Once hoop is back in machine I always run my fingers over the entire design to make sure the back hasn’t folded or wrinkled. When the hoop is back on the machine you can “press” a little harder to adhere the spray adhesive or tape better, as now it has some support under it.

	<p>14. Start stitching where you left off. The running stitch will stitch first. Then the satin stitch will stitch second. I have added a tack down stitch to the satin stitch that will automatically stitch before the actual satin stitch starts, but it is all done in one motion, no need to restart machine.</p>
	<p>15. Almost finished! When stitching the satin stitch it should look something like this.</p>
	<p>16. Remove hoop from machine & un-hoop everything. If you have used tear away stabilizer, pull it away VERY carefully. If you used regular stabilizer trim as close to satin stitch as possible without cutting the satin stitch. Trim any necessary jumps or strings. And you are done! I always add “Fray Block” or “Fray Check” to the edges just for added protection. Both are available at Wal-Mart</p>
	<p>17. Your finished product should look like this.</p>

I have stitched these on felt, I DO NOT RECOMMEND felt if you are going to write on them. It may not be a bad idea to hoop a piece of “Press & Seal” when you first start with the back of the postcard. Hoop stabilizer & “Press & Seal” together then lay the fabric on it. This way if you do write on it, the ink shouldn’t bleed through the other side. I have NOT tested this....at this point it’s just an educated guess.

This is my personal favorite secret!

If when you are finished and you trim or tare away the stabilizer and you can still see a little “white” color showing through. Grab a red permanent marker, like a Sharpie and carefully color over the white that is showing. I have bought the biggest color set of Sharpie’s on the market, yes they are expensive, but they are absolutely priceless when it comes to fixing things like this.

Happy Valentines Day!