

Which stabilizer should I use?

BASIC STABILISERS – With the plethora of embroidery design stabilizers available in the marketplace today, it is no wonder there is sometimes confusion when it comes to making the right choice. Choosing the correct stabilizer to back your embroidery design can make a world of difference to the look and feel of the finished design. Of course, matching your stabilizer with a good quality design will also help, as even a good quality stabilizer won't necessarily produce the desired results with poorly digitized designs.

ECHIDNA SUPERSOLV TOPPING

Effectively holds down the nap of the fabric during embroidery, creating a smooth surface and preventing stitches from sinking down into the fabric. **Roll size 20" x 10yards – 35 micron cold water soluble topping**

Application: Although commonly used on thick, fuzzy fabrics like towels, try using SuperSolv on any other fabric that absorbs stitches, such as piqué knits. After use, carefully tear the excess topping away and dissolve any remnants with water. Echidna SuperSolv topping will leave your embroidery looking crisp and well defined every time!

ECHIDNA WASHAWAY

Ideal for freestanding projects such as lace work and appliqués, Echidna WashAway lends support and stability during embroidery. It is then easily dissolved completely in warm water, leaving only beautiful embroidery behind. Echidna WashAway is a non-woven fibre style stabilizer, both strong and soft, and can be embroidered with or without fabric. **Roll size 20" x 10yards– 50gsm water-soluble**
Application: Use Echidna WashAway any time both sides of the embroidery will be seen, or use as a backing for sheer fabrics such as organza, tulle, silk or nylon, then rinse away when embroidery is complete. **Perfect for Zündt lace**

ECHIDNA IRON ON HOOPING PAPER

A polymer coated paper which is perfect for use with stretch or knitted fabrics. In fact, it's ideal for any fabric that tends to lose shape during the hooping process. When combined with one layer of Echidna TearAway or CutAway (depending on the fabric to be embroidered), you will be assured wonderful results.

Roll size 35cm x 20m

Application: Use a hot iron to apply – the special polymer coating sticks without the use of glue. This allows it to be easily removed from any fabric so you won't have any pulled stitches or unsightly residue left on your embroidery.

SPECIALTY STABILIZERS – When you are embroidering with difficult fabrics or creating specialist kinds of projects, there may be times where better results will be achieved by using one of our specialty stabilizers. The last 2 listed are not stabilizers as such, however they do complement specialty embroidery techniques.

ECHIDNA WASHAWAY TEARAWAY (medium weight)

This water-soluble biodegradable (environmentally friendly) medium weight stabilizer is produced from half water-soluble and half non water-soluble fibres. After embroidering, carefully tear away any excess stabilizer and any that is remaining will dissolve when the embroidery has been washed. The non-soluble fibres intertwine and will remain under the stitches after laundering, in order to support the embroidery and produce professional looking results. **Roll size 20" x 10yards – White only, 42gsm**

Application: Use under a variety of fabrics where you don't want the stabilizer to show through the fabric or been seen on the wrong side of your project. Suitable to use with low stitch count and open type embroidery designs. Not recommended for unstable fabrics.

ECHIDNA ECO-STICK

This medium weight tearaway/washaway sticky back stabiliser is very needle friendly. Unlike various brands of sticky back stabiliser, Echidna Eco Stick will not gum up or leave any residue on the needle. Remove the excess stabilizer prior to washing and the remainder will disappear after the first wash. Made from biodegradable PSA (pressure sensitive adhesive).
Roll size 20" x 5yards – White only, 57gsm

ECHIDNA TEARAWAY (medium weight)

This medium-weight tearaway stabilizer is perfect for use with non-stretch, woven fabrics. Simply hoop one sheet of TearAway underneath the fabric and when embroidery is complete, easily tear the excess backing away from the design. Because Echidna TearAway is made from the highest-quality materials, it can be torn in multiple directions and only one layer is needed for excellent stability.

Roll size 20" x 10yards – White

Roll size 30cm x 10m - Black

Pre-cut sheets 50 pack white medium; 20cm x 20cm

Pre-cut sheets 50 pack white heavy 41cm x 25cm

Application: Use with any weight of fabric – ideal for designs with a low to medium stitch count.

ECHIDNA CUTAWAY

Ideal for use with stretchy, non-stable fabrics such as t-shirts, sweatshirts and polar fleece. Not only does Echidna CutAway stop the stretch and stabilize the fabric during the embroidery process; the remaining backing trapped underneath the stitching helps keep the design's shape even after repeated laundering.

Roll size 20" x 10yards – White

Roll size 30cm x 10m Black

Pre-cut sheets 50 pack white medium; 20cm x 20cm

Pre-cut sheets 50 pack white medium; 41cm x 25cm,

Application: Echidna CutAway is a medium-weight stabilizer, perfect for designs up to 18,000 stitches. Simply hoop one sheet of CutAway behind the fabric and after embroidering, trim the excess backing away!

Application: Use with fabrics that have a tendency to move around in the hoop e.g. organza, chiffon, silk etc. Or thicker fabrics such as denim, corduroy, washable velvets, towels (no, the loops will not pull out), in fact, Echidna Eco Stick can used with most washable fabrics that are difficult to hoop. It is also ideal to use on those smaller, hard to hoop areas such as collars, socks, cuffs etc.

Simply hoop the stabilizer (sticky side up), remove the backing paper by gently running a pin around the inside edge of the hooped stabilizer, peel this away and then place your fabric onto the stabilizer. No need to worry anymore about hoop burn or struggling when hooping those difficult fabrics.

Use with medium stitch count (approximately 12,000 stitches), embroidery designs. When using embroidery designs with a higher stitch count, for best results simply float a layer of tearaway stabilizer under the hoop. When using Echidna Eco Stick, we recommend reducing your machine speed to 600 stitches or less per minute.

Which stabilizer should I use?

ECHIDNA DIAGONAL “FUSIBLE” NO SHOW MESH (cutaway)

Especially good where you are looking to achieve a softly draping effect to your finished project. This soft cutaway stabilizer can be successfully used on almost any fabric but is particularly brilliant on lightweight fabrics, resulting in an almost invisible effect when viewing your design from the right side of the fabric. It is multi-directionally stable and therefore will hold more stitches per single layer than that of a regular vertical patterned mesh. This results in much better defined design registrations.

Roll size 20" x 10yards – White only

Application: Prior to hooping, fuse to the back of the area to be embroidered (the “Low Melt Point”, makes it easy to apply, easy to remove and your fabric will not scorch or shrink.) When you have finished your embroidery, simply re-fuse the edges, peel back the excess stabilizer and trim around your design.

ECHIDNA NO SHOW MESH (cutaway)

Suitable for use with lighter weight and thinner types of fabric. Unlike traditional cutaway stabilizers, Echidna No Show Mesh will not show through to the right of the fabric once it has been trimmed back from the finished design. Roll size 20" x 5yards – available in White, Beige and Black

Application: Hoop one layer together with your fabric. When the embroidery is complete carefully trim as close as possible to the stitching being careful not to cut through any stitches.

ECHIDNA STITCH N SHAPE

Washable and dry cleanable, 100% Polyester. Use to add shape and dimension when creating bags, placemats, fabric bowls and boxes or projects such as hat brims where extra shape is needed. Also ideal for creating wall hangings and embroidered and embellished picture frame mats. After laundering simply reshape projects and items by steaming. 30" wide – Available by the yard

Application: Before using, remove any creases in the Echidna Stitch N Shape by steaming with an iron set at a warm temperature. To use, place between two layers of fabric, hoop with your preferred choice of stabilizer, baste the Echidna Stitch N Shape (or use spray adhesive) onto your stabilizer and embroider your design.

Note: To assist with holding each fabric layer in place, you may prefer to use a temporary adhesive spray on the back of each layer. For best results, we recommend reducing your machine speed to 600 stitches or less per minute.

ECHIDNA COVER IT UP

This soft and sheer, 100% polyester fusible lightweight fabric has a unique multi-directional stretch. This not a stabiliser, it is for use after embroidering. Roll size 20" x 10yard roll - White only

Application: Iron on to the wrong side of the embroidered design (with your iron set at a medium temperature) to prevent the “scratchies”, which can sometimes cause irritation when wearing embroidered clothing e.g. babies clothes, T-Shirts, blouses etc. Because it is soft and sheer, Echidna Cover It Up will not add any bulk or affect the hang of your project.

ECHIDNA HOT MELT FILM (ideal for badges)

Clear heat set film that is ironed onto an embroidered design. Ideal for badge making. Roll size 12" x 5yards – paper backed clear film

Application: Embroider your design (great to use with appliqué designs), onto a firm non-fraying fabric such as felt or Echidna Stitch N Shape. Be sure to stabilize your fabric in the usual way, i.e. hooped with either a cutaway or tearaway. When the design is complete, trim back as close as possible to the stitching (being careful not to cut through the stitching). Cut a template of the design shape from the Echidna Hot Melt Film.

Place the clear side of the design template to the back of the embroidered design and using a dry iron set at a high temperature, iron the paper side (using a firm pressure), until the film melts into the back of the design.

Allow the design to cool, remove the paper backing and using a dry iron set at a high temperature, iron your design (badge), into place onto your project (be sure to place a Teflon sheet or similar over your design to avoid melting the stitches or scorching the design.)

ECHIDNA DOUBLE SIDED TAPE

Double sided tape is a very handy embroidery product that has been a professionals secret for years. It allows you to embroider fabrics without hooping and without stitching through adhesives. Ideal for slippery and easily bruised fabrics like satin.

18m x 12mm rol

Application: Securely hoop the appropriate stabilizer for the job at hand and then place strips of double sided tape around the perimeter of the hooped stabilizer ensuring that it is not within the stitching area of the design. Peel off the backing tape and gently place the fabric on top of the exposed tape. Be careful and ensure that the fabric lays flat and smooth. If not, gently lift fabric and reposition until correct. Not recommended for fabrics with loose pile such as Towels.

What’s all the fuss - I just use copy paper!

Stabilizers or backings as they are sometimes referred to are such an important part of successful embroidery. We often receive phone calls from customers who are disheartened by the poor quality of their embroidery results. The blame is usually directed at the machine and while that can sometimes be the case, more often than not it is the improper use of or the incorrect choice of stabilizers.

At Echidna, we source all of our own stabilizer products. Mostly from the USA and China and one is even manufactured in Australia. We are constantly testing new products and liaising with our manufacturers to ensure we have the best available.

We are confident you won't find better quality or value for money in stabilizers or for that matter any of the products in our range. More importantly, if you have any questions at all about your embroidery, call us and we'll do everything we can to help with the job at hand. You'll be amazed how often a two minute phone call can save hours of frustration. After all, embroidery is the focal point of every working day at Echidna and we love it!