



Mansfield Lace Oval FSL Doily

For the third design in this little series, elements from the Mansfield Lace collection have been carefully digitized into an oval shape. The design is best stitched out with fabric in the middle. You may also want to attach fabric with small hand stitches after it is completed. This, I believe, is the only option for silk which should never be washed. Positioning lines for the fabric insert are included in the design.



Be aware! All colourways should be stitched in the same colour as your FSL. They are only shown in other colours to emphasize their special use.

This is a very large design with over 120,000 stitches, so it requires about 204 metres of thread in your bobbin, compared to around 630 metres for the top thread. I used bobbin thread for my stitch-outs, but I still needed to change it halfway through, so I have arranged for the design to stop in a suitable place for you to do this.



When applying a fabric centre under your lace, you trim away the fabric before doing the FSL. Stitch the set of running stitches which marks the outline for you so you can attach the fabric using little dabs of 505 temporary adhesive glue stick. Then stitch the set of small zig zag stitches will hold it in place before you trim. If you dab too much of the glue the wash away stabilizer will start to pull in.

Best practices for embroidering FSL

As I have spent so much time developing my own style of FSL, I have discovered that there are several ways to stitch it out. I use Floriani Wet N Gone for all my FSL, and it comes in three widths. I encourage you to discover what works best for you and your machine. Only with experimentation will you develop the skills required for the very best results.

These are the options to consider and test:

- You can use bobbin thread for FSL or wind your own bobbins with the same thread as they embroidery. One drawback with this is that for FSL designs with large stitch counts you are more likely to have your bobbin run out! Always start with a full bobbin.
- While it is essential to use good quality wash away stabilizer, it is not always essential to use 2 layers. Although your lace will probably look fine with one layer, I find that it is worth the expense of a second layer as less of the supportive underlay stitches are likely to pop out, especially in more complicated larger designs.
- Free standing lace can be embroidered with a variety of thread types. I found that when using Aurifil 40 wt cotton, I got a lot of fluff in the bobbin area, which needed regular cleaning. With bobbin thread in the bobbin, I had to adjust my thread portioning as I had looping underneath. On my machine I increased it from 50 to 70 and got perfect results. Do not be afraid to adjust your machine. The controls are there to be used so you get better results.
- There are a few other things that will improve the results and lessen the chances of underlay popping out from under the satin stitches. If your hoop has clips to hold the stabilizer in place I suggest that you use them. Otherwise use T-pins to hold everything in place. I also love to bind the inner hoop with cohesive bandage. This prevents the stabilizer from moving. Another option is to attach double sided sticky tape to the outside of your inner hoop.



If while embroidering your FSL, the thread breaks or the bobbin runs out, take the hoop off the unit and trim everything on the back, so there are no loose threads. Rethread your machine as necessary. Then place the hooped embroidery back on the unit and move the design back a few stitches if necessary. When doing a satin area, you may need to go back further in the design sequence. Turn the hand wheel on your machine one complete circle, so the top thread picks up the bobbin thread. Pull it out so that both threads are above your work. Hold them firmly but not too tight, as you begin to embroider again.

After a few stitches stop and trim them away if they are both still connected. This will prevent tangles developing under your lace. You could do this at the beginning of your FSL embroidery. Some people do this for all their embroidery.

When the embroidery is finished, trim any threads away on your FSL that you missed, and cut away as much stabilizer as possible. I run mine under the tap with hot water, rinsing it several times and then I leave it to soak overnight. Adding fabric conditioner will help make it softer. Dry it naturally on a towel making sure it is not out of shape. The lace you buy in the shops is never stiff, so I like to make my FSL as soft as possible. When it is dry press it on the back onto a soft surface. If any little threads are protruding trim them away, and/or secure with a dab of fray check if you are worried about unravelling.

Here are some guidelines on embroidering this design in a 200mm wide hoop.

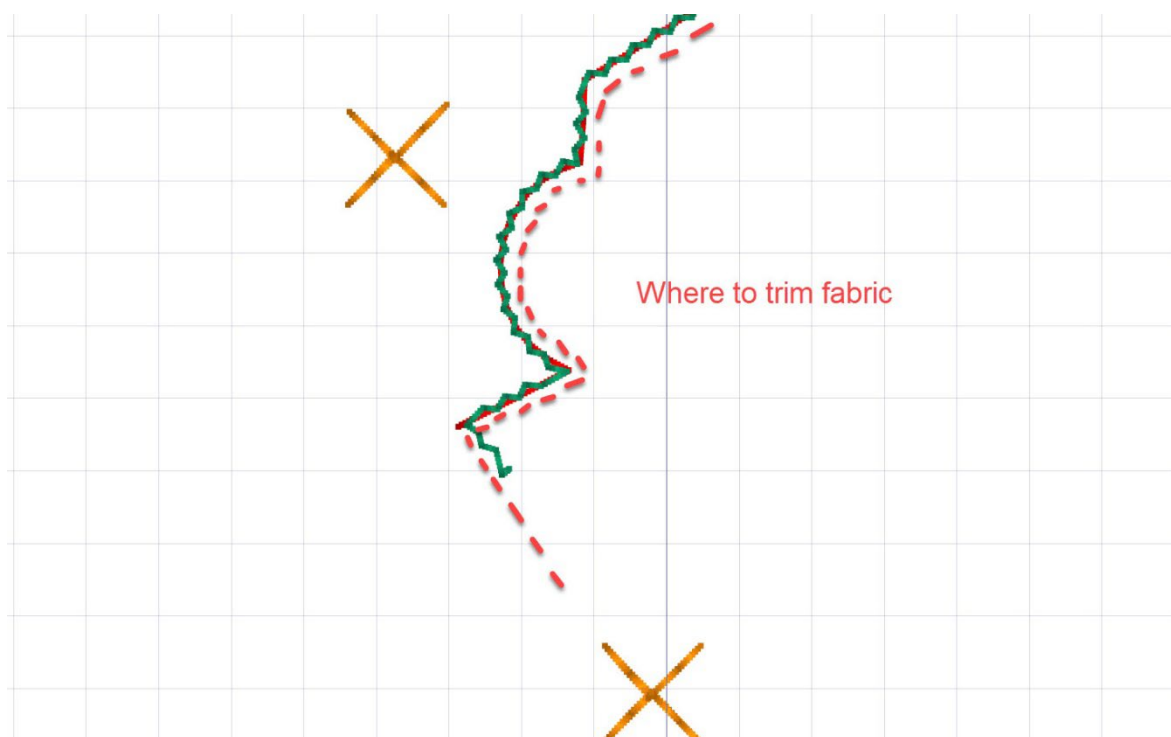
Firstly, embroider GFE-MFL-FSL3-4 on some suitable fabric so you have a fabric template to position under each side of the FSL. This can be done using tear away stabilizer. Although the stitches are shown in red use the same colour as your FSL so the stitches will be hidden once the FSL is finished. When finished, remove all the stitch and tear stabilizer, press if necessary.

Now hoop up 2 layers of wash away stabilizer for GFE-MFL-FSL3-2.



The first colour way stitches the outline to match that on your fabric.

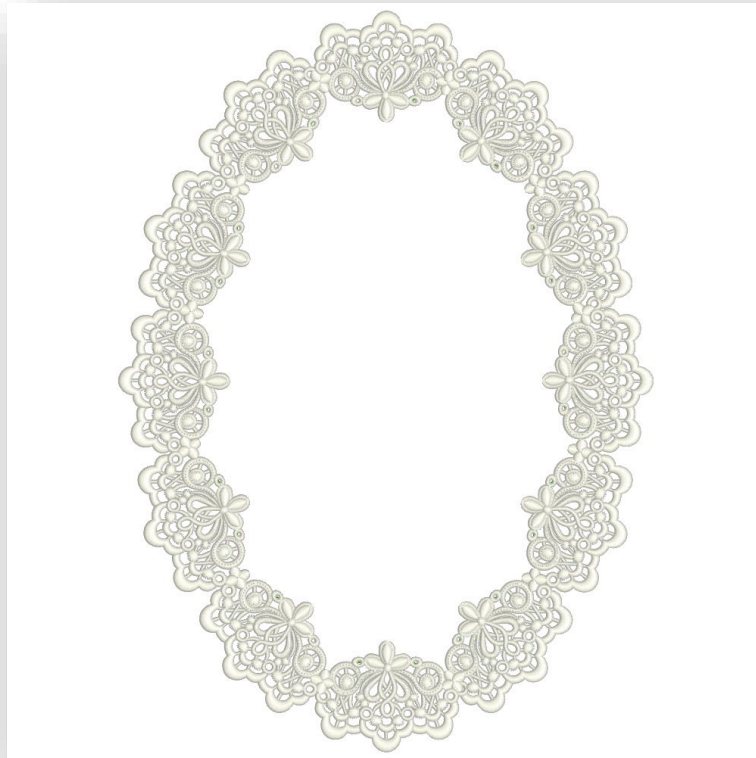
Remove the hoop from the embroidery unit. I dab a little temporary adhesive glue stick on the wash away stabilizer and secure the fabric in place matching up the outlines. Do not use too much as the stabilizer will shrink if it gets wet. Test the alignment in several places to be sure. My trick is to hold the hoop up to the light to check the alignment. Use pins to hold in place, well away from the embroidery area. Now stitch out the 2nd colourway the zig zag stitches. After these are stitched the next colourway stitches 4 alignment crosses in readiness for the final hooping.



Now you can trim half the fabric away. This shows how to do that on the lower edge. Follow the first and last line zig-zag stitches which go off at an angle. Do the same at the top. Now you are ready to stitch the FSL.

Remember to pull up your bobbin thread to avoid any tangles. When complete remove all the excess stabilizer.

Now hoop up 2 layers of wash away stabilizer for GFE-MFL-FSL3-3 and repeat the same process. This time after colourway #2 you have crosses as well as the outline to help you get perfect alignment. Stitch colourway 3 to attach the fabric and then trim away all the remaining fabric. Now your doily can be completed.







GFE-MFL-FSL3-1 (360mmx 260mm hoop)

Dimensions

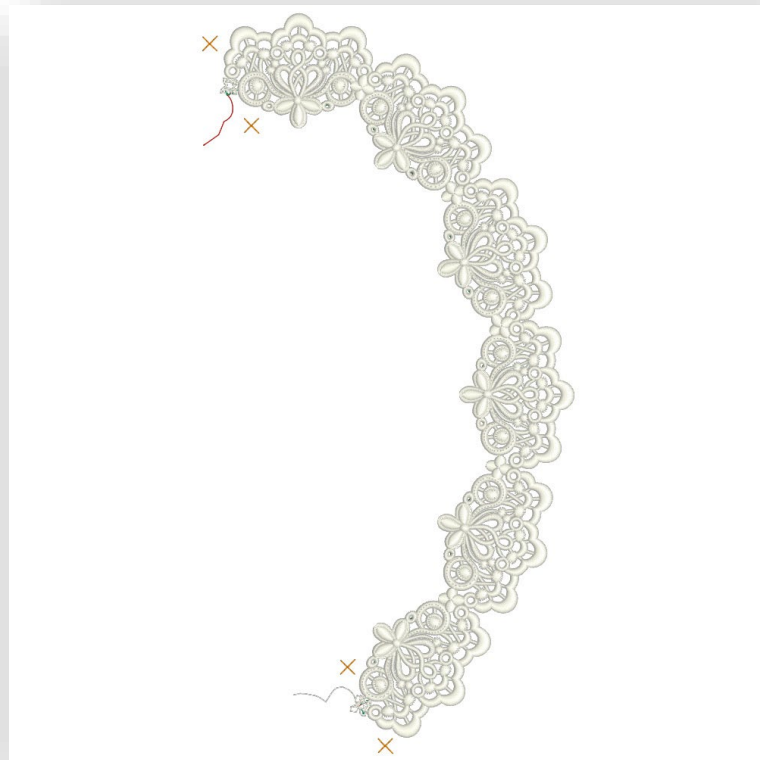
Width: 259.4 mm Width: 10.21"
 Height: 359.6 mm Height: 14.16"
 Stitches: 120350

Color Information

	Color	Thread Palette	Number	Name
1		Sulky® Rayon 40	1317	Poppy
2		Sulky® Rayon 40	1288	Aqua
3		Sulky® Rayon 40	1071	Off White
4		Sulky® Rayon 40	1071	Off White

Colourway #2 are tiny zigzag stitches that will secure your fabric in place like an applique. Trim before you embroider the FSL.

If you do not have this wide a hoop embroider the FSL in three hoopings as outlined above.








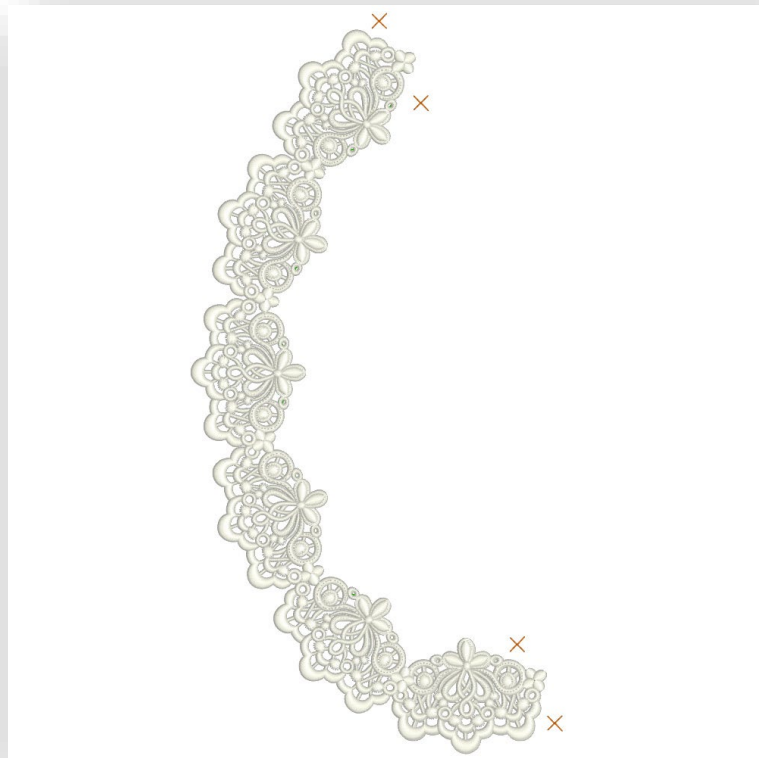
GFE-MFL-FSL3-2 (360mm x 200mm)

Dimensions

Width: 175.6 mm Width: 6.91"
 Height: 348.2 mm Height: 13.71"
 Stitches: 60386

Color Information

	Color	Thread Palette	Number	Name
1		Sulky® Rayon 40	1317	Poppy
2		Sulky® Rayon 40	1288	Aqua
3		Sulky® Rayon 40	1313	Bittersweet
4		Sulky® Rayon 40	0572	Blue Ribbon
5		Sulky® Rayon 40	1071	Off White








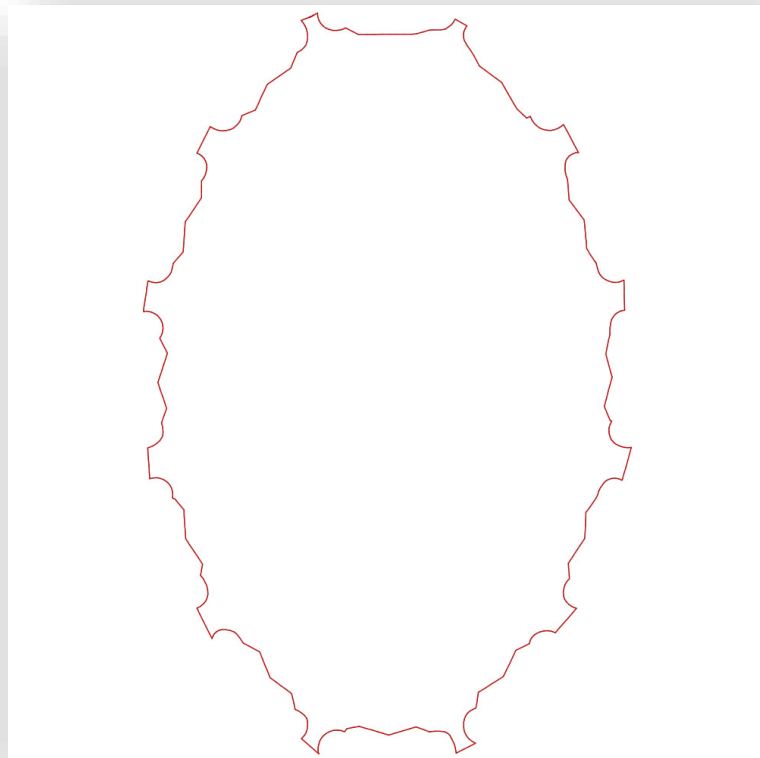
GFE-MFL-FSL3-3 (360mm x 200mm)

Dimensions

Width: 175.0 mm Width: 6.89"
 Height: 348.0 mm Height: 13.70"
 Stitches: 60772

Color Information

	Color	Thread Palette	Number	Name
1		Sulky® Rayon 40	1317	Poppy
2		Sulky® Rayon 40	1313	Bittersweet
3		Sulky® Rayon 40	1288	Aqua
4		Sulky® Rayon 40	0572	Blue Ribbon
5		Sulky® Rayon 40	1071	Off White




GFE-MFL-FSL3-4 (360mm x 200mm)

Dimensions

Width: 191.4 mm Width: 7.54"
Height: 291.0 mm Height: 11.46"
Stitches: 407

Color Information

	Color	Thread Palette	Number	Name
1		Sulky® Rayon 40	1317	Poppy



Graceful Embroidery does not offer any refunds on purchases because of the nature of these digital products. These designs have been digitised carefully, and this process takes a long-time involving stitching out the designs to check on the quality. You have purchased a license to use these designs which are copyrighted and remain the property of Graceful Embroidery. The license is for your personal use only, enabling them to be loaded on your computer and embroidery machine. Editing the designs is not allowed if you are selling the finished product. Only resizing, and colour changing is allowed. If you require some editing, then please email and I will let you know how much it will cost for me to do it for you. You may use the designs on items for your own personal use, on gifts and on items for sale without limit. You cannot exchange or give the designs to others or sell them as design files.

Happy embroidering from Hazel

Graceful Embroidery

Graceful Threads of inspiration – my blog

Email or send me photos at: gracefulembroidery@outlook.com

© Graceful Embroidery June 2025