



Dear EmbroidaBlock™ of the Month HoopSister/Mister,

Welcome to HoopSisters EmbroidaBlock™ of the Month Program, featuring quilting from Master Quilter, Sharon Schamber. We would like to congratulate you on your decision to become a “HoopSister/Mister”. Your dealer has invited you to this class because of the fun they know you will have. For the next few months you will become a pro at making your quilt blocks in the hoop of an embroidery machine.

Whether you have been quilting all your life or you are just beginning, we know you will enjoy the experience. We encourage you to laugh, have fun and get to know your fellow HoopSister/Mister.

We welcome you to join us on Facebook, Pinterest and our Yahoo Group from our website, [www.hoopsisters.com](http://www.hoopsisters.com) by clicking on the Social Media Tab at the top. You can even post pictures of your blocks, quilts, fellow HoopSisters/Misters or yourself and show the world how much fun you are having.

We recommend you review the rest of this document and take the time to get organized before making your first block. Even if you are familiar with our technique, it is good to review. This quilt is called Feathered Star™, it only looks complicated but we promise you it is not. Thank you for signing up for the EmbroidaBlock™ of the Month program. We can't wait to see your photos!



Sincerely,  
*Annie and Lynda*  
P.S. Yes we really are sisters!





## How to Organize And Use The Information Located On Your HoopSisters Bracelet Jump Drive or CD:

During each class your dealer will give you the embroidery files and information required for that month's class. The contents of the bracelet jump drive/CD should be saved onto your computer in case you misplace the bracelet jump drive or CD. To do that make a folder either on your Desktop or wherever you keep your current collection of embroidery designs. Call that folder EBOMFS and move (or copy and paste) the files from your bracelet jump drive or CD to your EBOMFS folder. Don't forget to bring your HoopSisters Bracelet Jump Drive to each class.

We recommend you purchase a three ring binder to keep all the information you will need to print. Open the "**Month One**" folder you've obtained from your dealer, then click on "**Organization**". Inside you will find several other files listed below that will be helpful throughout the program. Open each document, print them out and place in your binder. Those documents include:

- **Binder Cover** - a title page for your binder.
- **6 Color Ways** will get your creative juices flowing and help you decide on what colors to use for your quilt. A line drawing is also included so you can create your own color way. Print off a few copies and get out the crayons or colored pencils and see what color fabric best suits your taste. The line drawing also shows where fabrics 1, 2 and 3 will go in your quilt. **OR**
- **EQ7 file** for those who have EQ7 use the Electric Quilt file to help with fabric and color choices and leave the crayons for the kids.
- **Main Fabric and Thread Key** will give you the fabric yardages and a place to put swatches of your fabric choices and the names and numbers of your thread choices. Picking fabric for this quilt couldn't be easier. Choose two fabrics for your background and 10 fun fabrics for your stash. You will also need to have embroidery bobbin thread and water soluble thread. The instructions will tell you when to change your needle and/or bobbin thread. Pick up some empty bobbins as you will need to wind bobbins to match your needle thread. Your written instructions will show you where the embroidery is on each block.
- **5/10 Month/Wall Hanging Class Option** shows you what month the blocks will be stitched *and how many of each block*, plus the location in your quilt. The *Wall Hanging Class Option* document will also give you an *Upgrade Chart* in case you are having so much fun you want to continue to make your blocks into a bed size quilt. Note: All Half Square Triangles and All Singles are given out together. You can choose to follow your class option chart in stitching the blocks, or stitch them all at once and get ahead!

Also in "**Month One**" are folders named by quilt location

- **Section Folders (i.e.: ABC123)** will have that sections embroidery designs. You will choose either the 5" (lap), 6" (twin), 7" (full), 8" (queen) or 9" (king). After you open the correct size folder you will find folders with different file formats. Choose the file format for your machine and send the file(s) to your machine or media device based on the method your software/machine uses to transfer files. Your machine dealer will assist you with that if help is needed. Be sure to choose the correct size.



- **Instructions** are available in PDF format for each month. Each numbered instruction corresponds to the thread change number on your machine.
- **Slideshows** are available for each type of feathered star, Four Square, Nine Square and Half Square Triangles. Slideshows are also available for the optional Bonus/Border CD, should you decide to finish your quilt by adding the border. Most creative people like you are visual learners, so we have photographed the entire process and placed them in slideshows with written instructions next to them. It might be a good idea to view the slideshow first and then take the **Instructions** to your machine to sew the block.
- **Trim Join and Sash** is a document that will show you how to join completed blocks.
- **Video Instruction** is available on the link at the bottom of your written instructions and slideshows. Click on the link or copy and paste the web address into your browser to view the video. Viewing the video works best with a high speed internet connection.

### **Batting and Stabilizer or Battilizer® - Q & A:**

**Q:** *What is Battilizer®?*

**A:** Battilizer® is a product designed for Hoopsisters EmbroidaBlocks! It's a combination batting and stabilizer, no need to purchase or hoop stabilizer with your batting because Battilizer® is stable enough to sustain the areas of dense embroidery, yet will remain very soft.

**Q:** *If I use regular batting, do I need stabilizer?*

**A:** Yes, quilts made the traditional way normally do not have machine embroidery in them. Therefore stabilizer is necessary if you do not use Battilizer®.

**Q:** *What type of stabilizer should I use so I don't have a crispy quilt?*

**A:** We recommend a no show poly mesh typically used for knits. There are many brands out there. It feels just like a very light weight fabric. It doesn't add any bulk or stiffness to your quilts. Washes beautiful and you don't even know it is there.

**Q:** *Do you hoop the batting with the stabilizer?*

**A:** Yes the stabilizer is on the bottom and the batting on the top. We put the batting on the top so the quilting is pretty and poufy on the front of the quilt, while the stabilizer gives you the stability necessary for the embroidery motifs. If you choose to use Battilizer® no stabilizer is necessary. With Battilizer® the stabilizer is built into the batting so your quilt will look great on both sides.

**Q:** *Some batting is quite thick. Is it difficult to hoop?*

**A:** Not at all, as long as you use a low loft batting, such as Quilter's Dream Poly Request (low loft) or Select (mid loft). Both are easy to hoop with the stabilizer and we love how it looks after it has been quilted.

**Q:** *How much Battilizer® do I need for the Feathered Star quilt?*

**A:** Since there are so many sizes of blocks/quilts to choose from, we recommend you consult your Fabric and Thread Key for Battilizer® requirements.



### To Begin

- Open the file for the appropriate month. Choose the correct file and format and send file to your sewing machine. Place Battilizer® (or batting and stabilizer) in your hoop. Place embroidery bobbin thread in the bobbin. Place hoop on the machine. Do not follow thread colors on machine, but instead follow the instructions for that month to find out which thread to use in the needle.
- Stitch the pattern onto the Battilizer®.
- Follow the instructions which are numbered according to the thread change on the machine. The instructions will tell you what thread and which fabric to use. You will put your first piece of fabric over the appropriate section and the machine will sew a tack down stitch.
- On the pieced blocks you will choose fabric from your "Feathered Star Stash". You have the freedom to choose your own fabric and thread color.

### Trimming During Block Assembly

- After each piece of fabric is added you will most likely need to trim the fabric. In traditional quilting you **cut first then sew**, therefore it is important to cut the fabric to the exact size and to sew precise seams to get the quilt to turn out. In this technique you **sew first then cut**. Since each seam will be sewn in exactly the right place, the precise cutting is not as crucial. Cut as accurate as you can but don't stress out if it is not perfect.
- Any fabric that needs to be trimmed inside the block should be trimmed to a scant  $\frac{1}{4}$ " unless stated otherwise. By trimming to a scant  $\frac{1}{4}$ " inside the block, you will then use the edge of the trimmed fabric as a guide for placing your next piece of fabric. Any fabric that needs to be trimmed on the outside edge of the block should be trimmed at least  $\frac{1}{2}$ " to 1" past the outline stitch of the pattern, this will be trimmed later.
- Some of the pieced blocks use a "Layering" technique. You will be instructed to trim as if for appliqué. Trim these blocks using the HoopScissors very close to the stitching. A cover stitch will cover the raw edge later. Your block instructions will tell you when to do this, as well as the slide shows.

### How to Piece in the Hoop

After you have tacked down the first piece of fabric and trimmed it, you will begin adding more fabric to complete the block. Using the fabric the instructions call for, place it right side down, raw edges even with the previous piece of fabric and sew the seam.

Now you can flip the fabric so it is right side up and finger press the seam. You can use your finger (our preference), or a wooden iron, Clover Fabric Folding Pen or they have a great selection of mini-irons available now. Just be sure you remove the hoop from the machine (leave block in the hoop) and use a pad under the hoop – oh...and don't melt your hoop. Whatever you do, DO NOT attempt to press the seams with a mini-iron while the hoop is still on the machine.

If you are flipping a larger piece of fabric, sometimes a dab of fabric glue will help hold the fabric in place until the tack down stitch is complete.



Place your hoop back on the machine and sew the tack down stitch. Now you can trim the excess fabric. *Note: Be sure to always flip your fabric right side up and sew the tacking stitches **before** trimming as those diagonal pieces of fabric can cause problems. Ask me how I know.*

### **Adding the Backing Fabric**

- A few steps before the end of each design you will need to add the backing fabric. Use a temporary spray adhesive. You will spray the wrong side of the backing fabric and adhere to the back of the hoop (onto the Battilizer® or stabilizer).
- For this step you will use water soluble thread in the needle and embroidery bobbin thread in the bobbin.
- Now you will carefully place the hoop back on the machine and peek underneath to be sure the fabric didn't do a **Dunlop** (when the fabric *dun lops* over and gets stitched in wrong. That's a HoopSisters term!).
- The machine will now sew a basting stitch around the perimeter of the block to help hold the fabric in place while finishing the quilting. You will discover a second reason for this basting stitch below in the **Trimming The Completed Block** section. We suggest you use water soluble thread for this step. Then after your quilt is assembled if any of the pesky basting stitches show, just wet them or toss them in the washing machine and the stitches will dissolve.
- Tips for a pretty back: If your machine has an automatic thread cutter, turn that feature off after the backing fabric is added. Do a needle down and needle up to bring the bobbin thread to the top of your block before stitching, take a few stitches and cut the thread tails. This will guarantee the back of your quilt will be as beautiful as the front.

### **Trimming The Completed Block**

- After the block is complete. You can then remove your block from the hoop.
- The outline basting stitch has two purposes: 1.) to hold the backing fabric to the rest of the block and 2.) to use as a guide when it is time to trim.
- Instructions on how to trim each block are located on the last page of the written instructions and in the slideshows.
- See Trim Join and Sash Document for detailed information.

### **Trim Join and Sash Document**

- The Trim Join and Sash Document gives you detailed information on how to trim your blocks using the Trimmer By George 2.0!™ based on your block location, how to sew the blocks together and how to apply sashing. Layout recommendations and tips on sewing your quilt together are also included in this document.