

Reversible Quilted Snowflake/Holiday Vest Project

by Mary Jane Allen

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Supplies:

Vest pattern with only shoulder seams and side seams (no darts, buttonholes or zippers — Simplicity 7320, view D used in project)

Quilting Holiday 1 & 2, Quilting Snowflake and Small/Tiny Snowflake Designs from Perfect Little Stitches

2-1/2 yards midnight blue fabric (enough yardage for outer fabric, lining fabric plus 1/2 yard for bias binding)

Cotton batting (crib size was enough for a size 14/16 vest)

Sewing thread

Assorted metallic embroidery threads

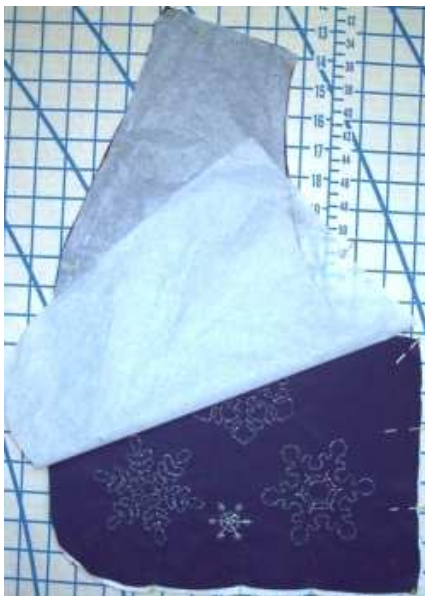
The same fabric will be used for each side of the vest, and for bias strips used to bind the edges. Cut out the vest and lining. Arrange these pieces on the batting. Pin in place, then cut the batting, leaving plenty of extra batting around each piece to allow for hooping. (The pieces fit best with the back fabric turned sideways on the batting.)



For each snowflake design, cut a paper template, using a CD as a guide. Mark the center hole of the CD to indicate the center of each snowflake design. Arrange the paper templates on each vest front. Be sure to allow at least 3/4" clearance from the edge of the fabric. The circles may overlap slightly because they are a bit larger than the actual designs. On each paper template, write which snowflake design will be embroidered and draw a line to show the orientation of the snowflake arms. Pin in place. Repeat for the other vest front, mirroring the arrangement.

Hoop the vest front, centering a paper template within the hoop. Before embroidering, be sure the design is centered over the small circle in the center of the template. Rotate the design to match the line you have drawn. Remove the paper template and embroider with a silver metallic thread. Repeat for each quilted snowflake design.

Fill in with Small/Tiny Snowflakes (smsnow1, smsnow2, tinsnow1 and/or tinsnow2).



Place paper pattern over the embroidered vest front. You will likely find that the fabric has drawn up slightly from the quilting. This is okay. Be sure the pattern lines up with the edges of the armhole, shoulder and side seams. Pin, then trim the batting to fit. As you unpin the pattern, carefully pin the fabric to the batting.

Baste all around, 3/8" from the edge of the batting. (If the fabric is more than 3/8" from the edge of the batting, stitch into the fabric, very near the edge.)

Repeat these steps for the vest back.



Sew the side seams, stitching through two layers of fabric and two layers of batting. Trim the batting as close as possible to the seam.



Press the seams open, taking great care not to let the hot iron touch the metallic threads. You may wish to use a heavy press cloth to cover the designs.



The other side of the vest is done with the Holiday Quilting designs. Follow the same techniques, filling in with the Small/Tiny Snowflake designs, as needed.



Pin vests right sides together. Stitch armhole seams. Trim batting close to seam. Clip curves.



Turn right side out. Press armhole seams, taking care not to iron over the metallic threads.



Pin shoulder seams as shown below (second image is a close-up view).



Stitch shoulder seams. Trim batting. Press open. Fold at top of armhole. Press.

Top-stitch each armhole, 3/8" from the edge.

Pin the edges of the vests, matching seams at shoulder and sides. Baste 1/2" from raw edge of batting and again 3/4" from raw edge.



Cut halfway between the two rows of basting stitches (this trims away the 5/8" seam allowance built into the pattern).

Measure the piece you have just trimmed away. This is how much bias binding you will need. Add a few inches to that measurement. Cut two or three bias strips, each 1-5/8" wide. Stitch the ends together diagonally to form a continuous strip of bias binding. Pin to the raw edge of the vest, having right sides together and raw edges even. Stitch 3/8" from edge. Turn the binding to the other side of the vest and stitch in place by hand.

Your beautiful, warm, reversible vest is done!

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