

Embroidered Umbrella Project  
by Mary Jane Allen  
tbearwoman@perfectlittlestitches.com  
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If you embroider the edge of an umbrella, it may leak at the edges. You can seal the edges by coating the backside of the design with a waterproof glue (first test the glue on an inconspicuous part of the fabric to see if it will stain). Or just decide that it doesn't matter if the umbrella leaks a bit at the edges.

Supplies:

Plain, solid-colored umbrella

Teeny Fairy designs from Perfect Little Stitches

Assorted embroidery threads

Cut-away stabilizer that matches the color of the umbrella

Open the umbrella (if doing so indoors, be sure no children can see you!). Look at the creases where the umbrella folds. Most likely, there will be a crease midway between each spoke. If that is the case, you will not want to place an embroidery design where the umbrella wants to fold, so designs have been placed to avoid the creases.

If the umbrella spokes have the kind of tips that can be popped off when the umbrella is partially collapsed, then pop them off. My umbrella had sewn-on tips. The threads holding the tips could be clipped, then re-sewn after all the embroidery is done. Or, if you feel you can manage the umbrella, leave the spoke tips intact (as I did).

With the umbrella collapsed, fold one side in half by putting two spokes together. Measure the distance between the spoke and the fold. Divide that measurement in half. Place a straight pin that distance from the spoke, at the edge of the umbrella (pin through only one layer).



Place a second pin crosswise to the first, 3/4" from the edge of the umbrella (for a 3/4" design).

Pin the umbrella to the stabilizer near a corner of the hoop. You will be using this same hooped stabilizer for more designs, so leave lots of room for them. When pinning to the stabilizer, place three pins along the very edge of the umbrella and one to the left of the design.



Attach the hoop to the embroidery machine. Rotate the design 90 degrees to the left. Position the center of the design over where the two pins cross. Remove those crossed pins, then embroider the design. Use bobbin thread that will match the color of the umbrella.

If you have not removed the tips from the spokes, you will need to wrestle a bit with the umbrella to keep the spokes out of the way. Support the weight of the umbrella with your left hand while the designs embroider.



When the design is embroidered, remove the hoop from the machine, but do not unhoop the stabilizer. Unpin. Gently turn the hoop over. Trim the stabilizer close to the design, taking care not to clip the umbrella fabric.

Repeat until there are two designs embroidered on each side of the umbrella.

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Mary Jane Allen  
tbearwoman@perfectlittlestitches.com  
Perfect Little Stitches  
<http://www.perfectlittlestitches.com>