

# A Child is Born

Finished size 55" x 55"



Celebrate the first Christmas with Mary, Joseph, and the  
 Christ child in a lowly stable in Bethlehem.  
 Shepherds, wisemen, and glorious angels on high marvel at the  
 signs and sight of His birth.

Original artwork by Nyssa Benthin

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## A Child is Born



### Fabric Supply List:

4 ¼ yards	Cream tone on tone Background Fabric
¼ yard	Gold tone on tone Quarter Inch Border Fabric for center Nativity Block (optional)
1 ¾ yards	Inner & Outer Border Fabric
6 ½ yards	Fusible Woven Interfacing by OESD or Shape Flex 101 by Pellon (20" wide)
½ yard	Binding
4 yards	Backing
60" x 60"	Batting

### Embroidery Supply List:

Hoop Requirements: stitch field must be 8" wide x 12" high or **larger**  
Grid or plastic Template for hoop recommended

**Heavy Weight Tear Away** (10 yards: Recommended Pellon #806)

Temporary Adhesive Spray: Suggested **505** Temporary Adhesive Spray

Removable fabric marking pen (No air erasable pens) Suggested: **SewLine Duo Marker & Eraser** Medium tip

Needles 80/12 and 90/14 Sharps (some machine prefer one over the other)

Terial Magic Starch (mandatory) and Heavy Spray starch like Faultless

**Basic embroidery kit** including small double curved scissors, tweezers

Jumbo Wonder Clips (4-6 clips) to hold embroidery out of the way

Arrow shaped post it notes by Post-It-Notes (they say: **SIGN HERE**)



**Bobbin Thread:** Suggested: (light neutral color & black)

**Embroidery Thread: Isacord 40 wt. Embroidery Thread listed**

#### Blues

3622 Imperial Blue (town, trim Joseph's covering)  
3713 Cornflower Blue (head coverings, Mary's clothes)  
3910 Crystal Blue (trim on camel)  
3750 Winter Frost (clouds)

#### Golds

0622 Star Gold (horn, halos, stars)  
0824 Liberty Gold (town, trim, shepherd, fire)  
0542 Ochre (hay)  
0941 Golden Grain (donkeys)  
0922 Ashley Gold or 0824 Liberty Gold (verse)

#### Browns

0933 Redwood (stable, hair, shoes, staff)  
0842 Toffee (hair, camels)  
1342 Rust (hair, shepherd's clothing, donkey, shoes)  
1355 Fox (cow)

#### Purples

2711 Dark Current (angel dress, blanket)  
2912 Sugar Plum (town building, king clothing)  
2640 Frosted Plum (angel dresses)  
3150 Stainless (angel wings)

#### Greys

0145 Skylight (goat)  
4073 Metal (shoes, clothing, blanket)

#### Green

5722 Green Grass (trees, clothing trim)

#### Other Colors

1760 Twine (light skin) or 0862 Wild Rice (darker skin)  
0020 Black or dark color (outlining)  
0870 Muslin or 0182 Saturn Grey (sheep)

Whatever sheep color shows on your fabric!

### Sewing Supply List

50wt. Cotton Thread matching the fabric for piecing

Basic sewing kit including scissors, pins, rotary cutter & mat, long straight ruler, etc.

20 ½" Square Ruler by Creative Grids for accurate marking & trimming

Suggested: 18"x24" Wool Ironing pad

# Tips For Successful Embroidery!

Please read through these instructions and the “Additional Tips and Helps” before beginning. Keep these pages accessible, you will need to refer to these “Tips” throughout your embroidery!!  
**Print the embroidery instructions in color** as the arrows and pictures will be much easier to follow.

To watch a demo of the “Perfect Placement Technique” from your computer go to:  
[www.claudiascreationsaz.com](http://www.claudiascreationsaz.com) Select the Videos Tab / choose “Perfect Placement Technique”

Download specific instructions for your machine at [www.claudiascreationsaz.com](http://www.claudiascreationsaz.com)  
 Updates/Download Folder / Machine Alignment PDF's

Follow Claudia’s two step “**Perfect Placement Technique**” for multi-hooping large designs!

**Step #1: Mark the First Stitch** of the design on the grid:

- Attach the **hoop and grid** to the module with no fabric.
- **Open the design** to be embroidered.
- Advance to the **Embroidery Sewing Screen**. (Embroidery machines open a design in an editing screen).

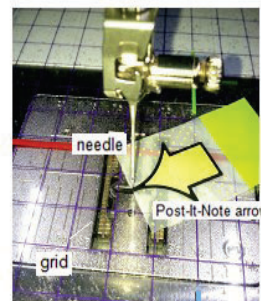
Touch the icon that moves you to the **Embroidery Sewing Screen** (ie. Color #1).  
**Bernina, Viking and Pfaff** machines automatically go to the first stitch of the design when advancing to the Embroidery Screen and are at the first stitch of Color #1.

**Brother, Babylock, & Janome** machines have an **Automatic Center Stitch programmed into the machine**. This programmed stitch is positioned at **Stitch #0**:

You **must** advance past this “**programmed “0” center stitch**” to move to the **First Stitch** of my designs .

Use the **Advance Screen +/- icon** , Touch **+1** to advance to **Stitch #1**.

- By hand, lower your needle to touch the grid.
- Place an arrow shaped post-it-note on the grid so the tip of the arrow touches the tip of the needle. (See picture)  
 This marks the **First Stitch location** of my design on the grid (**not** the center of the design or center of hoop)
- Raise the needle and remove the hoop and grid from the module.



**Step #2: Hooping the Fabric**

Place the **inner hoop with the grid** on the (stabilized and marked) background fabric. The arrow shaped post-it-note on the grid should be pointing to either the **Needle Alignment** or to the **Placement Line** location on the background fabric. The location is noted in the Embroidery Instructions and will be different for each hooping (it will almost never be the center of the hoop). Hoop the prepared fabric with the lines on the grid parallel and perpendicular to the drawn lines on the fabric. The drawn lines need not lie exactly under the lines of the grid, but must be parallel and perpendicular to the lines on the grid. This keeps the larger piece of fabric square and straight as you embroider.

Remove the grid from the hoop and attach the hoop to the module. The needle may need a little adjustment to be exactly over the **Needle Alignment** or **Placement Line** that is on the fabric. If needed, select the **Move Hoop Icon** & move the hoop to position the needle perfectly over the mark. Center & float a piece of sprayed **Tear Away** stabilizer under the attached hoop. Don't hoop the fabric with the stabilizer, it gets too thick.



### Additional Tips and Helps!

**Tip #1** Marking the Fabric using a large square ruler and a straight edge: [See video https://www.claudiascreationsaz.com](https://www.claudiascreationsaz.com) Click on the "Videos" tab to access video.

#### Tip #2: Hooping Tips

- A. Hoop the prepared background fabric without stabilizer. It is stabilized with the Terial Magic and interfacing. "**Center & Float**" stabilizer under the attached hoop. Make sure to spray the stabilizer with adhesive spray before floating. The piece of stabilizer should be no larger than the hoop itself. For additional stabilization slide or float a second piece of stabilizer under the hoop!
- B. I place sections of permanent double sided tape (**not repositionable**) on the wrong side of the inner hoop. Flip the inner hoop right side up and place the grid inside of it, on the fabric. The doubled sided tape holds the inner hoop to the fabric. This makes it easier to pick up the inner hoop and fabric and place it in the outer hoop with ease. (Always loosen the outer hoop screws as much as possible).
- C. Remove the stabilizer from the last hooping because that will reduce the stabilizer "bulk".
- D. Roll the excess fabric in a tube shape and use clips to hold the excess fabric out of the way. This will prevent the fabric from accidentally falling under the hoop and getting caught up in the stitching.
- E. Add extensions to fabric if needed.

#### Tip #3: Built in Basting Box!

- A. Many embroidery machines have a built-in basting box option. When this option is enabled it may add a color stop to the stitching order of the design. This option should be disabled before opening a design. If the basting box option is on or enabled when you advance to the embroidery sewing screen, you would be marking the grid with the first stitch position for the basting box and not the first stitch of the design!  
**BERNINA's** have two basting box options; turn off both before marking the grid. Mark the first stitch of the design with the post-it note arrow. Hoop your fabric. If you wish to stitch out a basting box turn on or enable the basting box option and sew the basting box out.  
**After sewing out the built-in basting box, turn it off.**

#### Tip #4: Unusual Embroidery Instructions (not so common in other patterns):

- A. **Needle Alignment:** This is placed first in the stitching order. It is strictly for needle placement and not to be sewn out (unless indicated). If it is accidentally sewn out it will look like a crosshair. Pick it out!
- B. **Placement Line:** This is usually a line that is to be "sewn out without thread" (see tip #6). It is an alignment tool for connecting one hooping to another.
- C. **The blank line after the thread color is for your use: Example: Thread Purple # \_\_\_\_\_**  
(Write your thread Color # on the line) It will help you remember what color you used!

#### Tip #5: Sewing without Thread

Every Machine has an icon where you can advance or move backwards through a design. This is usually used when you "**Break a needle**" or "**run out of bobbin thread**" and you need to backup to replace stitches. I use this icon to advance through a design to "**sew without thread.**" As you advance, lower & raise the needle often to check the needle position to be sure you are correctly following the placement line.

#### Tip #6: Ironing/Pressing

- A. Place the embroidered background fabric **wrong side up**, over a wool mat. Ironing on the right side of embroidery will crush the embroidery stitches! Padding the stitches with the mat won't crush them.

#### Tip #7: Trimming the Blocks

- A. For best accuracy, use a square ruler to trim all the blocks. Place the square ruler on the block lining up two sides, then trim. Trimming with a 6" x 24" ruler is not as accurate and leads to slips and miss-cuts. If you have difficulty keeping a ruler from moving when you cut, place double sided tape on the side that goes against the fabric! Also, using quilting gloves helps to hold it in place!

## Cutting Instructions and Fabric Prep

### Cutting the Background Fabric:

Cut (3) **30" squares**

Cut (2) **18" x 63" rectangles**

30" Square Corner Block	30" Square Corner Block	30" Square Center Block	18" x 63" or Length of Fabric Embroidered Verse Borders
			18" x 63" or Length of Fabric Embroidered Verse Borders

### Starch the fabric: Terial Magic.

Saturate the **Background** in **Terial Magic**. This product is a heavy starch. The fabric must be very stiff to avoid stretching during embroidery. Let the fabric **almost dry** then iron the fabric flat and smoot

[www.claudiascreationsaz.com](http://www.claudiascreationsaz.com) / Videos / Preparing the fabric with Terial Magic

### Hint for Pressing Fabric:

Press the fabric to eliminate the wrinkles and smooth it out.

Please do not press the fabric using a regular ironing board. Pressing large pieces of fabric on an ironing board will set **permanent waves in the fabric**. Ironing boards have a curve to the edge and they are made for clothing not fabric.

To get the best result please press the fabric on a pressing board. This is a large board covered with batting and muslin (or any fabric) and iron on that!! The flatness of the board will give you a great smooth result on the fabric!

You can easily make your own board. Check out YouTube "making a pressing board for sewing."

### Interfacing: Shape Flex 101 by Pellon (woven) or Fusible Woven by OESD

Center and Iron interfacing (after Terial Magic) adhesive side down, to the back of all **(3) 30" squares** and both **(2) 18" x 63" rectangles**. Piece the interfacing if needed. Overlap the pieced sections by  $\frac{1}{2}$ ". The interfacing may be slightly smaller than the fabric blocks & it will shrink more when you iron it. Lightly spray with water to activate the adhesive. Smooth the interfacing with your hands (this will help to displace the air between the interfacing & fabric). Start pressing in the center and work out slowly. Iron the interfacing to the fabric. All edges should be sealed together. If you see air bubbles, spray with water and iron again.


Watch my Fabric Prep video for a demo.

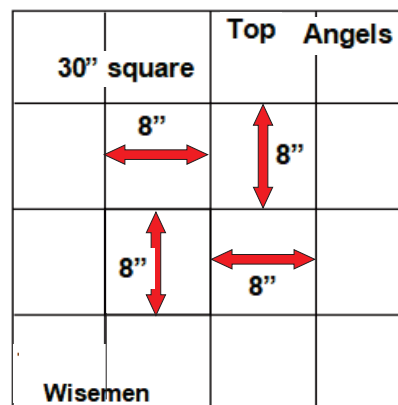
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### Marking Instructions

#### Marking Corner Blocks (2) 30" squares

##### READ first how to do this:

Use a 20 1/2" ruler to mark the first lines. This will give you an accurate crosshair. **Fold the fabric in half both ways** and crease the fabric in the center. Open the fabric and lay it flat on a surface. Place the upper right corner of the 20 1/2" ruler in the center of the block on the creases. Use the outside top & right edge of the ruler to mark the perpendicular lines.  Mark the top and right side edges of the ruler. It will form an "L" shape. Extend those lines across the width and length of the fabric to form the center crosshair that is at a 90° angle.



**Mark the Fabric:** Mark on the front side of the fabric (use removable pen) with a **horizontal & vertical line** centered on the full width and length.

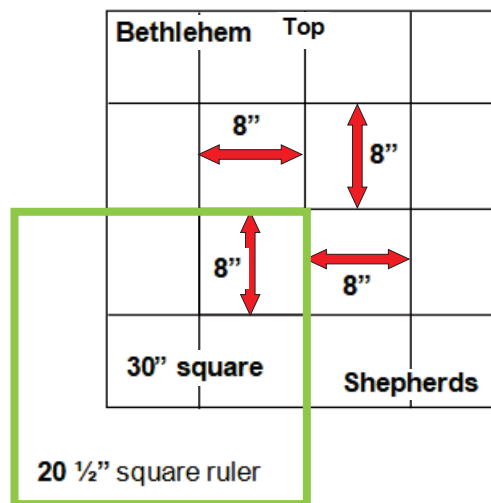
Mark additional lines the full width and length of fabric.

Mark **Vertical lines 8"** on both sides of the **Center Vertical Line**.  
Mark **Horizontal lines 8"** above & below the **Center Horizontal Line**.


The lines form a grid.  
Lines must be **parallel & perpendicular** to each other (**90° angle**).

#### On (1) 30" Block

Write **Top** at the center Top of the Block  
Write **Bethlehem** at the upper left of the block, see example.  
Write **Shepherds** at the lower right of the block, see example.



#### On the other 30" Block

Write **Top** at the center Top of the Block  
Write **Angels** at the upper Right of the block,  see example.  
Write **Wisemen** at the lower left of the block, see example

#### Center Nativity Block: Turn the block on point.

See example.  
With the Block on point, draw a center crosshair the full width and length. Select a different **colored pen**: Draw additional lines **5" above and below** the horizontal center line and **5" to the left and right** of the center vertical line. Lines must be **perpendicular (90°)** to each other. Use the outside top & right edges of a **20 1/2"** square ruler to draw the first lines of the center crosshair. The 45° mark on the ruler is aligned with the diagonal edge of the block. **Do not draw corner to corner** and assume the lines will be perpendicular to each other.

**Watch a demo:** [www.claudiascreationsaz.com](http://www.claudiascreationsaz.com)  
**marking the fabric**

