

Hooping jeans

Please keep in mind that this is how I do it, not necessarily the right way, the only way, or the best way! There are two ways I hoop jeans. I hoop the stabilizer and then sticky spray and pin the jean leg or I hoop the jeans with the stabilizer. Sometimes if your jeans are little, it's easier to just pin your jeans to the stabilizer because getting the leg to open and lay flat is hard with tiny jeans. Also, it depends on what size of hoop im using. If you are trying to get a 5x7 hoop on size 12 month jeans, probably not going to work. But your 4x4 on size 3t is easy, so you can hoop the jeans with the stabilizer. My suggestion is hoop it all together when possible, but if you are struggling to get your hoop on, don't waste your time fighting with it, just hoop your stabilizer and sticky spray and pin it!

Way 1- Hooping stabilizer and pinning jeans

1. Pick a pair of pants, any size.



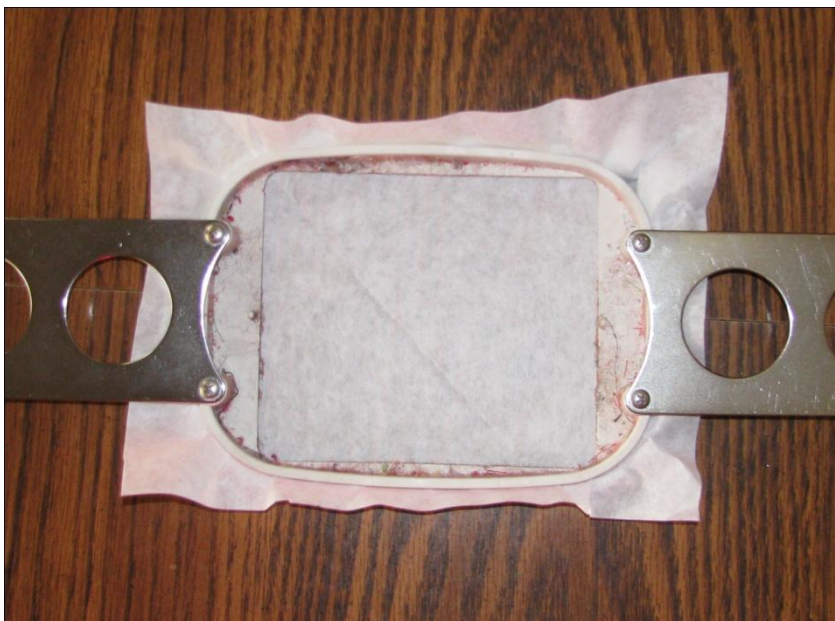
2. Cut off the bottom as much as you want depending on how big you plan on making the ruffles or if you want capris.



3. Find the side seam of the pants that are NOT double stitched on top. Usually, the outside leg seam is the one you want to use. Notice on these the inside one has the double top stitching, you really don't want to have to redo that, so you don't want to open

the inside up. Take the outside seam and pull it apart with your fingers, then using either little scissors or a seam ripper, snip the threads so it opens up.

4. Cut the threads so the pant leg is open about 3-4 inches bigger than the hoop you plan on using. For instance, the total length of the hoop im using is 6 ½ inches, so I'm opening the jeans up about 10 inches up the leg.



5. Cut a piece of stabilizer an inch or so bigger than your embroidery hoop and hoop just the stabilizer. I like the tear away stabilizer best because it

is plenty thick enough and you can tear it away so you will be able to iron a backing on later and not have the pants be too stiff like if you used a cut away.

6. Use a sticky spray to spray the inside of your jeans where you want your hoop to go. I like this one from hancocks, it's made by sullivan's and it's a LOT cheaper than the sulky brand one (around \$11 for the 12 ounce can vs the sulky brand that is \$17 at joanns for the 6 ounce can!) and while it smells terrible, it works even better than the sulky! If you haven't used a sticky spray before, it's a spray on adhesive that comes off with washing so your stuff won't be sticky forever. However, if you get overspray on your sewing table, it does take a bit of 409 or dish soap and a scrubby pad to get it off, so its best to put a couple pieces of paper behind where you are spraying. Also, the quilting basting adhesive spray from hobby lobby does NOT work well for this, it won't hold well at all!



7. Position your hoop in the middle of your jeans. Just press the sticky to your stabilizer and your sticky spray will kind of keep it there. If you miss, no worries, just peel it off and try again. I usually have several misses! You usually want about 2 inches of the jeans below the hoop, but this is just an estimate, you might want your appliqués higher or lower, just be sure you put it high enough up that you aren't going to end up sewing the bottom of the design into your ruffles later. Make sure your hoop is right in the middle of the side seam you did not take out and where you can see the original seam from where you tore out the seam on the side so your design will be centered in the jean leg.



8. Now, I have a LOT of faith in sticky spray, however, I like to be sure that my jeans aren't going to move because I tend to do silly things like trip over the dog when carrying the jeans to my machine or dropping the hoop when trimming appliqué fabric, so I pin the jeans around the edges. To pin, I have a little box of pins that I have bent like bananas. I like the longer ones, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, and I just bend them so they are curved. This lets me be able to pin without needing to move the stabilizer and fabric. Just put one finger on the back side after you get the pin through and gently push it back up. Make sure you pin where your embroidery foot won't get them! My hoop is about 5 by 6 inches on the inside, but the embroidery area is only $4\frac{1}{2}$ x 5 inches so I know I have about $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch around the edges that my foot doesn't hit.



9. And now I can put my hoop on my machine and start stitching!



The other way to hoop jeans is to sew stabilizer to the jeans so you can get your design in the middle. These jeans are about 5 inches wide on the front part of the leg. Let's say I bought a design that came in two sizes, a 3 inch wide by 4 inch tall size and a 5 inch wide by 7 inch tall size. I could use the 3x4 design and use the 4x4 hoop, but wouldn't the 5x7 design look so much better! But that means I need to get my 5x7 hoop (which has a total size of 6x8 inches since the sewing area is 5x7) on these jeans that are only 5 inches wide. If I try to hoop just the jeans, the hoop will be more towards the side of the leg and not in the very center. Sometimes this won't matter if you have a

skinny design because most machines can move the design on the screen and put it in the middle of the leg, but for a design that is right at 5 inches wide, you can't move it in your 5 inch wide hoop. So here is how you can do it!

1. Just like in the other way of hooping jeans shown above, cut off the bottoms, then open up the legs about 3-4 inches higher up than your hoop is long. Then, cut a piece of stabilizer that is a couple of inches bigger than your hoop.



2. Sticky spray the inside of the jeans where you want your hoop and press the jeans to the stabilizer, with the stabilizer hanging over the edge of the open seam of the jeans by about 1-2 inches.



3. Using the longest straight stitch on your sewing machine (or by hand) sew the stabilizer to the jeans on the inside seam area. Start at the bottom of the leg of the jeans and go up the side of the pants to the top of the stabilizer.



4. Center your jeans and stabilizer in your hoop. You can see how the jeans are only actually in the hoop on one side, the hoop is only holding the stabilizer on the opened side, which is fine because your jeans are sewn securely to that stabilizer and won't move!



5. And now you can put your jeans on your machine!

