



Tips, Tricks & Questions Answered



Who is Lagniappe Peddler? I am just like you; a person who loves to sew! My motto is—"Love what you do, Share what you learn and Be Generous with what you create. Someone will appreciate your hard work!" Lagniappe stems from my South Louisiana roots and the belief that you should always give a little bit extra in everything you do. Peddler comes from my Peddling Bug logo. You will see it on my Blog page www.lagniappepeddler.com I have a lot of great articles, free sewing patterns and you tube videos to help inspire you.

What are your credentials? I have been actively sewing since the age of nine and throughout my adult life. In 2012, I purchased my first embroidery machine and it was true love. I have spent many hours and dollars doing extensive on site trainings, online classes, purchased various sewing, embroidery machines and different software. My learning continues with the ever changing sewing and embroidery field. Passion would be an understatement describing how I work when I create designs. I hope all of that knowledge will show in my designs and patterns so you will benefit and have a wonderful experience creating your masterpieces.

How do your designs get created? I digitize every design in house with **no auto trace stitch generation**. Then I test each design on three separate machines to ensure they will run optimally. If a design has a problem, I fix it and run again. A lot of time, thought and love goes into each design. I provide free designs so you can try before you buy. Look for those around my store and on my website.

What information is included with your designs? Each design will include the stitch files in separate machine formats of DST,EXP,HUS,JEF,PCD,PCS,PEC,PES,VIP,VP3,XXX. This is good for you in case you have more than one machine brand or change in the future. If you don't see your machine type listed, try the DST files as most machines on the market will read these. Also, there will be a design sheet showing a screen shot of the design with the dimensions, stitch count, suggested hoop size, thread colors, stabilizers and fabrics. There may also be cut files in SVG format if an applique is included in the design. Simple instructions to assist a satisfactory stitch out are in every design as are my license and use terms.

What about the cut files? Will my cutting machine be able to use those? I include SVG files with my applique designs. There are many cutting machines on the market but this file type is the industry standard. Depending on your software versions you may be able to automatically use them, convert them or need to upgrade your cutting software package. Refer to your cutting machine manual for that information. If you can't import the SVG file into your cutting machine, the cut file is still a possibility. Just double click to open the SVG file and print it off. Your internet browser should recognize it. Cut it out with a pair of scissors and you have a pattern template to precut your fabric for the applique.

What kind of needle and thread should I use with your designs? That is a great question and it will change depending on the type fabric or medium you are stitching to. In most cases a 75/11 sharp needle will work. Thread choices are always an individual decision but I run and test all of my designs using 40 weight Polyester. The design sheet included with each design will have a suggested fabric type listed.





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What kind of stabilizer should I use with your designs? The included design sheet will list suggested stabilizer types. It will also list any stabilizer wash away toppings that may need to be used. You may see "X2" next to the stabilizer. This means it will stitch out better if you use two layers of recommended stabilizer stacked on top of each other. If you want to test the design alone before stitching on your fabric, I would advise using a heavy weight cutaway stabilizer.

How do I know what kind of hoop to use or if the design will fit on my machine hoop? The listing should state measurements when you purchase. Double check this in your machine manual. Also, there will be a size in inches on the design sheet in the download and a suggested hoop size. I advise to ALWAYS do a auto trace with your hoop before you start stitching to make sure the design doesn't exceed your hoop and everything moves freely.

Can I edit your designs? You can edit the designs by changing the thread colors and adding text to personalize my designs. I would not advise changing the size of my designs. This may cause increased or decreased density or stitches that don't connect properly. Please don't pass on my edited designs as your original creations. This would infringe on my copyright ownership.

Why does the design look different when I open it on my machine or in my software? If the colors don't look the same as the pictured design, don't panic. This happens when the design file is converted to a stitch file for each machine type. All Embroidery machines read colors their own way. If they see a color that isn't exactly what they are used to, they assign a default one. So instead of blue you may see yellow on your computer screen or the color name listed in the LCD screen of your embroidery machine. It won't change how the design will sew out because every machine reads the X and Y geometric movements in the design to decide when and where to adjust your hoop and stitch. You can just follow along on the design sheet and it will tell you which color change you are on, give a suggested color and stop when it is time to change.

Why do I see thread jump stitches on your designs? I digitize my designs to include thread trims and these will be listed on the design sheet. If your machine is not trimming between objects that are the same color, it is because it cannot read the trims in the design. Your machine may have thread trimmers but they may only work when you press a button to make them function or when the colors change in the design. One of my test embroidery machines operates this way and I make sure the jump threads are digitized so you can stop your machine and manually trim them easily or wait until the design stitches out to trim them away. If I think you need to stop in the middle of the design to trim, I will put a reminder on the design sheet or extra instructions when and where to do that. Sometimes I may also include pictures.

Tell me about your applique designs? I digitize my applique designs to have the fabric trimmed in place. That means that there will be a placement stitch first with a stop. This gives you a mark to put your fabric down. Then the machine will tack the fabric down. Sometimes that stitch will be straight or zig zag. It depends on the shape of the applique. It will stop again and give you the opportunity to trim away the fabric around the applique. On several designs you may see a third tack down and then the satin stitch. All of these will be listed on the design sheet.





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Applique colors may look odd listed in the design worksheet or in your machine. This is perfectly ok and just helps your machine know that a stop is needed. In most cases use the same color thread from the placement to the final satin stitch. Just know your machine will see those extra colors and stop for you to add something or trim something. If you use your cutting machine or print out a template so the fabric can be precut, you can place it directly where it needs to go after the placement stitch and move forward. I do advise the use of an iron on bonding agent on the back of applique fabrics. Before your machine does the final satin stitch as long as the fabric can be pressed, you can iron it down and ensure it does not come up during the embroidery process or after laundering.

I stitched out a design but it is not lined up properly? What went wrong? First take a deep breath and know you are not alone. There are so many factors that go into getting a good stitch out. My first advice is check your needle. Many of my embroidery issues are always my needle. You want to make sure it is not dull, not bent, the right size and type and is installed correctly. Make sure it is pushed all the way up into the needle bar. The next thing I usually check is my stabilizer. Go over the design sheet and make sure you are using the recommended type. Also, incorrect hooping will sometimes cause the item to become stretched and as the design stitches out, the fabric tension loosens causing registration problems. Quality Thread is another factor. I have had machines become entangled with shredding thread and found that as long as I use thread that is not old or cheap, I get better results. Also check the thread path and make sure your machine is threaded properly. Bobbins are another thing most people don't think about but having experience with several different levels of machines, from single needle to multi needle, I know that tension from your bobbin can make or break a stitch out. If I see looping, thread breaks, pulling stitches, I will usually change the bobbin or adjust the tension myself. Even pre-wound bobbins from the factory are sometimes at fault. Maintenance and required oiling of your machine need to be done also. Refer to your manual to see if you should perform any of these things or have a technician look over it. If all of these things are good, I will usually put a different design on my machine and compare the stitch out. If you have tried all of these things and it is not working for you, get in touch with me at support@lagniapppeddler.com and we'll work together on a satisfactory stitch out.

What can I do with your designs? The better question is what can't you can do with my designs. I will usually include inspiring photos in my store or on my webpage. The complete license and use terms are included with every design but basically stitch my designs on personal items, gift items, items to donate or even small scale sellable items. Don't copy, sell, trade or give away the actual electronic embroidery files. Remember since I do all design and digitizing in house, I hold ownership and intellectual rights to the designs, even if they are edited. You'll do the right thing I know it. I hope you have fun with your crafting and sewing using my designs and let me know what you are making. I would love to see pictures. Send them to me via email. support@lagniapppeddler.com



Thank you!