



## DESIGNER DIAMOND™ Technique Step by Step

### DESIGNER™ Smocking:

Smocking can be done either in sewing mode or embroidery mode on your DESIGNER DIAMOND™ sewing and embroidery machine. We will do some of each.

**Be sure you are updated to the Newest update! Version 645I-5548 or higher:**

### Pleat your Fabric

If you are going to make a smocked band to use as a basket wrap, which is the project that accompanies this lesson, finish the edges of the fabric strip as described in the Basket Wrap Project. Your smocked panel can also have raw edges and be set into two other strips of fabric, made into a baby bonnet or even used as a yoke on a baby or child's dress. Any pattern that calls for hand smocking can be done on the machine.

Prepare your fabric by doing one of the following:

On a pleater, pleat 6" x 44" (6" x 88" for basket wrap) piece of fabric. A pleater is used by hand and machine smockers to pleat fabric prior to smocking it. There are several different brands of pleaters. Use polyester sewing threads that match your fabric for the pleater because it is stronger.



You can also use your gathering foot to pleat the fabric:

1. Snap on your Gathering Foot.
2. Select a basting stitch.
3. Test sew on a scrap and check to be sure it is gathering sufficiently.
4. Mark lines 1" apart across the width of the fabric with your Pictogram Pen and gather on the lines.

Once your fabric is pleated, you need to stabilize it for stitching. There are several options, depending on what your finished project will be with the pleated panel. One would be to

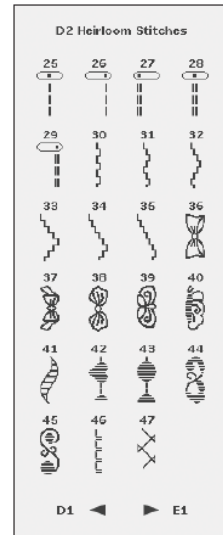
use a water soluble sticky stabilizer like INSPIRA® Aqua Magic Plus stabilizer. This will wash away completely when the garment is washed, and will leave a soft, pliable panel with a bit of give to it. This is a nice option for a baby or child’s garment. The other alternative is to use a soft iron-on stabilizer like INSPIRA® Light and Soft Fuse-on stabilizer. For our basket wrap project, we chose this method. The fused or sticky stabilizer keeps the pleated fabric stable while the stitches are being formed.

## Smocking in Sewing Mode:

1. Touch Start Menu  .

2. Your Smocking stitches are in menu D:2, stitches D:30 to D:35. They are designed to be programmed together, or used alone.

3. Try a few combinations on a scrap backed with INSPIRA® Tear-A-Way stabilizer. Because they will be sewn on an uneven, pleated or gathered surface, it is best when smocking in sewing mode to stick with rows of stitches that don’t have to “match”. If you want to do more intricate patterns, that require the “peaks” to match, you are better to do it in embroidery mode.



4. Here are a few combinations we liked:

This is one row of D2:30, one row of D2:35 at a 7.0 Stitch Width and one row of D2:30.



This uses twin needles.

Touch  .

Touch  .

Touch Twin Needle Safety and select 3.0. Insert a size 3.0 twin

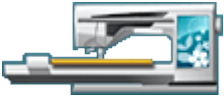
















needle. Touch , then , then  . Touch T and look for instructions on threading with a twin needle.


























It is one row of D2:30, a second of D2:30, the center is D2:32 and then two more rows of D2:30.




## Smocking in Embroidery Mode:


Smocking in Embroidery Mode is preferable when a more intricate pattern is desired. The stitches stay straight, and the rows lined up perfect. Here are several sequences we liked.

1. Toggle to Embroidery Mode .
2. Touch .
3. Select the 360 x 200 hoop.
4. Touch Start Menu .
5. Touch .
6. Select .
7. Touch  to go to D2.
8. Touch .
9. Touch  twice to remove the two FIX stitches.
10. Touch D2:35 .
11. Touch and hold  and enter 11, for a total of 12 repeats of the stitch.
12. Touch .
13. Touch .
14. Touch Color Edit .
15. Touch  to bring up the background grid.
16. Touch  to close the Color Edit window.
17. Move your design to 0.0 and 3.0.

18. Touch  to duplicate the design.
19. Touch Mirror Side to Side .
20. Move the design to  0.0 and  -3.0.
21. Touch Select All .
22. Touch Group . It is now one grouped design.
23. Touch  to duplicate the design.
24. Move to  0.0 and  30.0
25. Touch  to duplicate the design.
26. Move to  0.0 and  -30.0.
27. Touch Start Menu .
28. Touch .
29. Select  .
30. Touch  to go to D2.
31. Touch .
32. Touch  twice to remove the two FIX stitches
33. Touch D2:30 .
34. Touch and Hold . Enter 71 (360, size of hoop divided by 5.0, size of design plus the one that is already on the screen) for a row to fill the hoop. Look at the bottom of the screen and you will see Program Length 360 which is what we want.
35. Touch  to close the Stitch Selection window.
36. Touch  to close the Program window.
37. Move to  0.0 and  11.0.

38. Touch x2.

39. Move to 0.0 and 19.0.

40. Touch x2.

41. Move to 0.0 and 15.0.

42. Touch Step Through Designs  four times to go to the first small row.


43. Touch  Add/Remove Selection once to highlight it.


44. Touch Step Through Designs  to select the next small row.

45. Touch  to add the second.

46. Touch Step Through Designs  to select the next small row.


47. Touch  to add the third.

48. Touch Group  to group the three small rows together.

49. Touch x2.

50. Move to 0.0 and -15.0.


51. Touch Select All .

52. Touch Group . It is now one grouped design.



53. Touch Save to My Designs .

54. Touch My Files .

55. Touch  .


56. Touch and hold  to delete the name that is there.

57. Name the design smocking.

58. Touch  to close the naming window and  again to save the design.

## Embroider:

1. Hoop INSPIRA® Tear-A-Way stabilizer in your 360mm x 200mm hoop.

2. Touch  . The needle goes to the back of the hoop, on the right side. This is the far right side of the design. Position the stabilized pleated strip on top of the Tear-A-Way stabilizer, centered side to side with the needle approximately 1/2" to 3/4" from the end of your pleated fabric.

3. Baste the strip in place. Remember, you can baste using your foot control instead of **START** **STOP** when you want to control the speed.

4. Colors 1 and 2 stitch the center diamonds.

5. Colors 3 and 4 stitch the right hand row of diamonds.

6. Color 5 stitches the first small row to the right of the center.

7. Color 6 stitches the far right small row.


8. Color 7 stitches out the center right hand row.

9. Color 8 stitches the far left small row to the left center.

10. Color 9 stitches the far right small row.

11. Color 10 stitches out the center right hand row.

12. Colors 11 and 12 stitch the left hand row of diamonds.

13. When your Designer Diamond asks you "Embroidery Finished, Clear Screen?" touch .



14. When the design is complete, DO NOT remove the basting. Remove the fabric from the hoop and trim away the excess stabilizer next to where the next design will begin
15. Design Positioning would not work well in this instance because our design completely fills our hoop from top to bottom. We would be able to move the design from side to side, but not from top to bottom. Instead we are going to use our basting to match up our next repeat of the design.
16. Hoop INSPIRA® Tear-A-Way stabilizer and place your hoop in your DESIGNER DIAMOND™ sewing and embroidery machine.
17. Lower the needle into the corner of the basting, from the first design as shown.
18. Lower the foot and raise the needle. Baste the fabric in place.

