Stay Put Beach Towel

By Bernadette Griffith

Summertime means fun, sun and swimming. But summertime also brings the challenge of protecting your active toddler from sunburn. Creating a “Stay-Put” beach towel is perfect for not only drying off your little one but also for keeping the sun from damaging their young skin. One of the nicest things about this project is that the towel allows even the busiest toddler to move freely and adding embroidery designs to your toddler likes almost guarantees that they want to wear their “special” towel when at the beach or the pool.

All you need is:

- One standard size bath towel or 1 yard of terry towel fabric
- Image file (Example used here is from Art Explosion 600,000)
- Embroidery thread in colors to match image
- Sewing and/or Serger thread to match the towel
- Appropriate stabilizer for the contract fabric selected
- 1/8 yd of t-shirt ribbing
- 1/3 yd contrasting fabric
- Quilter’s Ruler or yard stick
- Water or air soluble fabric marker
- Scissors
- Stay Put Beach Towel Instructions from the Generations website at: www.generationsemb.com

On the Computer:

1. Open Generations® with a double click on the icon on your desktop.
2. Click on the Insert Image icon.
3. Locate the desired image from the location where is it stored on your hard drive, CD-Rom or other media.

Tip 1: *Controlling Colors*

Since you may be using a different image than used here, here are some generated automatically in Generations™.

If your image has more colors than you want created in your design, control the colors that Generations™ sees using the image processing options.
In the Define Colors option, remove the checkmark next to Auto-Select and click on the Pick Color Button.

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Use the eye dropper tool to select only the colors needed in the design. Remember that the background is a color and needs to be selected.
Click Ok to go back to the Image Processing.

Tip 2: *Generating Background Colors.*

Since the eyes of the fish are the same color (white) as the background, the eyes will not automatically generate unless we use an option in the Image Processing.
In the Background option remove the checkmark next to Do Not Generate Background Color.

Generations will smart generate the areas that match the background color without placing extra stitches for the whole background area.

4. Now that you have the colors you want in your image, click on the OK button and insert the image into Generations™.
5. Resize if desired at the resize option or resize in the program at any time.
6. Generate (F9) to place the stitches in the design.
7. Change fills patterns or colors as desired.

Now that the design is done, we can get a little more creative with this and make a simple design, such as this fish into something a lot more fun.

Duplicating:

Since the fish used here is small I can use this design to create an overall pattern and really jazz up the towel.

1. Left click on the design file. It will be surrounded by black boxes showing that it is selected.
2. Press CTRL+C (for copy).
3. Press CTRL+V (for paste) and a second design will be pasted on top of the first one. The new design will now be surrounded by black boxes showing that it is selected.
4. Move your mouse to the center of the design and then press and hold the left mouse button down.
5. Drag the new design to the right side of the first design.

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6. Press CTRL+V and paste another copy of the design into your design then move the new design to the right of the second design.

Repeat this until you have created 5 copies of your original design.

TIP: Using a Grid
To align or space designs is may be helpful to use the grid on the work area screen. If you have turned your grid off, you can easily turn that back on by going to the View and then View Preferences menu. The Grid is located on the Canvas tab in the View Preferences dialog box.

Creating Perfect Arc Lines:
Generations has your standard align tools and a new Super Align tool. We will use the features in the Super Align tool to space our designs evenly on a path.

1. Click on the Create Perfect arc tool located on the create tool bar to the right side of the screen.

2. Move your mouse below the copied designs about 4 inches.

3. Starting at the left hand side of the Generations work area screen, place a left click and move to the right about 15 spaces on your grid.

4. Place another left click and then move your mouse to the center of the line that was just created.

5. Move the mouse upwards about two grid spaces and place a left click.
The new arc line has been created. The Perfect Arc tool is still active.
6. Move the mouse towards the right. Use the first left clicks as a guide and create another straight line about 15 grid spaces away from the second left click.
7. Place a left click and move the mouse to the center of the line.

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8. Drag the line downwards 2 grid spaces. Left click and you have created another perfect arc.

Repeat this as many times as you need to based on the size of your design. Remember to create this perfect arc line slightly larger than the overall design as well will be using this to place our designs on.

9. When you have finished creating the perfect arced lines, press the ESC (escape) key to turn-off the arc tool.

Using the Super Align Object Tools:

1. Select all the designs by pressing and holding the left mouse button in and dragging a large square around the designs, or by holding the CTRL key and left clicking on each design.
2. All designs will have large black boxes surrounding them and smaller black open boxes around each design showing that they are selected, but not grouped.
3. Click on the Super Align Object icon located on the Object Toolbar at the bottom left of the work area.
4. When the Super Align dialog box opens, select the Centered on the Line option.
5. Then click on the small black arrow in the Align Path option and a small menu will drop down.
6. Select the Existing Outline path and click OK.
This option will allow you to select the perfect arc line created to be the align path for the selected designs.

7. In the main work window. Place a left click on the left end of the perfect arc line.
8. Then place a second left click on the right end of the line.
The designs will automatically fit to the line.
9. Delete the perfect arc line by left clicking on the blue color chip on the left hand side of the work area and pressing the CTRL+DEL keys on your keyboard. We no longer need the line as it was just a guide to align the fish.

The Super Align Object tool allows you to line up two or more objects and behaves similar to the lettering tools in Generations.

If you need to move your designs around, just left click on the small white diamond below the design and it will turn green. Then press and hold the left

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mouse button over the green diamond and drag the designs into the desired location on the path created.

Add lettering to the design if desired.

Color Sorting the Design:

To color sort the design, click on Accessories from the menu bar at the top and choose the Optimize sewing order option.

Underlay Settings:

If you are stitching large stitch-intensive designs or you are going to stitch directly onto terry fabric, consider making some changes to your underlay settings.

1. Click on Edit and then Select from the menu options.
2. From the selection menu options, choose Select All Filled Areas. All selected areas will be highlighted with blue flashing lines.
3. Click on Accessories from the menu and choose the Create Global Underlay.
4. When the Global Underlay dialog box opens change the following settings:
   - In the Property Selection choose the Grid option.
   - In the Apply Options choose the Apply All Areas
   - Remove the checkmark in Auto-Select Color and click on the color chip.
   - In the color palette, choose a color matching the towel color.
   - Place a checkmark in the Disable Local Underlay Applied Areas.
5. Click Ok and the global underlay has been created.

Creating a global underlay for the whole design allows us to create an underlay that will be used for the whole design and hold down the terry fabric for stitching.

6. Save your design.
7. Export your design in the format needed for your machine by clicking on the File and then Export option.

Printing a Layout Template:

Printing a layout template for your design can be helpful when you are planning on multi-hooping.

1. Click on File and then Print Worksheet.
2. Select the options from the Print Worksheet menu you want to display on your printout.
3. Click Ok and a worksheet with thread colors, thumbnails and other information will print first and the design layout template will print as the second page.

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TIP: If your design is larger from side to side, select the Print Landscape option and the printout will rotate the images to fit on your printer paper.

You are ready to start stitching!

Please refer to the Stay Put Beach Towel Instruction Page for finishing the towel.

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Stay Put Beach Towel Sewing Directions

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Toddler Size 2-4 years

Supplies Needed:

- One standard size bath towel or 1 yard of terry towel fabric
- Image file (Example used here is from Art Explosion 600,000)
- Embroidery thread in colors to match image
- Sewing and/or Serger thread to match the towel
- Appropriate stabilizer for the contract fabric selected
- 1/8 yd of t-shirt ribbing
- 1/3 yd contrasting fabric
- Quilter's Ruler or yard stick
- Water or air soluble fabric marker
- Scissors

Cutting and Sewing Instructions:

All seams use a 1/2 inch seam allowances.

1. Using the ruler and fabric marker, follow the Red arrows measure and mark as follows:
   - Starting at bottom edge of towel, measure along the side length of the towel and mark 19 inches.
   - Starting from mark at 19 inches, measure along the length and mark 14-½ inches.
   - Measure across the width of the towel 21-1/2 inches.
   - Use the ruler and the draw guidelines for cutting using the 21-1/2 inch marks along the length of the towel and at the one end of the towel. (green lines)
   - Cut out the marked rectangle along the guidelines.

   - At the 19 inch marked point, measure from the side towards the center of the cut section of the towel 10-3/4 inches and mark.

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Stay Put Beach Towel Sewing Directions

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- Place the 5 inch neck pattern center on the mark created in the previous step and trace the pattern onto to towel or pin the pattern to the towel.
  (see attached pattern piece)
- Cut the neck opening.
- Reinforce neck edge using a 5/8 inch seam allowance and a running stitch on your sewing machine.
- Finish the cut neck, side and cut bottom edges of the towel with a serger or sewing machine.
- Set aside.
- Cut from contrasting fabric a piece measuring 11 inches in height (along grain of fabric) and 21-1/2 inches in width.
- Measure on side edge 5-1/2 inches and mark center fold line as shown

- Set aside
- Cut from ribbing fabric a piece measuring 17-1/2 inch length X 3 inch width.

- Set aside

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Embroidery Instructions:

1. Follow Lessons for creating your design from Embroidery Journal Magazine MEEC issue to create a design for the towel.
2. Using the printed layout template, mark placement of the design(s) on the upper portion of the contrast fabric as shown.

3. Hoop the appropriate stabilizer with the fabric and embroider.

TIP: *If you are multi-hooping, check the placement marks for each design before hoping to ensure that they will line up across the fabric as desired. Mark new placement design by design as needed.*

Putting it All Together:

Finishing the towel sides:

1. Fold each side edge ½ inch over to the back of the towel.
2. Stitch into place with a running stitch on the sewing machine.

Finishing Neck Edge:

1. With wrong sides together, fold neck ribbing in half at the side seams.
2. Sew side seams together and turn right side out.
This will form a tube for the neck edging.
3. With wrong sides together, fold neck ribbing in half so that the top and bottom edges meet.
4. Sew together with a running stitch.
5. To ensure that the ribbing is place evenly around the neck edge of the towel, fold the ribbing using the seam as the back center and mark the front center on the ribbing.
6. With wring sides together and starting at the back center neck edge, fit the ribbing to the towel neck edge, easing into place as needed.
7. Sew together and finish edges.
8. Turn seam allowance to the inside and press.

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Stay Put Beach Towel Sewing Directions

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Attaching the Embroidered Band:

1. With Right sides together, fold embroidered fabric band together.
2. Sew side seams together at each side.

3. Turn right side out and press.

4. Match the embroidered band top edges and stitch into place with a running stitch.
5. With right sides together, place the embroidered band onto the cut edge of the towel.
6. Pin into place and stitch together with a running stitch and finish the seam edge with a serger or sewing machine.
7. Turn embroidered band downwards and press into place.
8. Press the seam towards the towel.
9. Sew the seam into place with a running stitch and thread that matches the toweling fabric.

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5 inch
neck circle