

# Santa's Reindeer

as seen in  
Designs in Machine Embroidery Magazine  
by  
Janet Brooks



Volume 65 Nov/Dec 2010

*I wanted to create a very special hostess gift this year; one that I would be proud to give and one that would give pleasure to the recipient year after year. My Reindeer stands fourteen inches tall and may be stitched out in a 5" x 7" hoop. He may be offered for sale at local venues and would make an elegant centerpiece for any holiday setting. He is easily assembled using thread ties that are stitched out with the embroidery designs.*

*My background in art, as a painter, illustrator and sculptor, together with my love of fiber arts in all its forms, have found a wonderful media in machine embroidery. I am so grateful to be living in an age of technology that allows such creative possibilities.*

## Embroidery products

Santa's Reindeer by Janet Brooks available for purchase only at [www.jancreates.com](http://www.jancreates.com)  
The designs will be delivered as an attachment to an email.

## Materials

Aqua Mesh Wash Away Stabilizer  
Gold metallic embroidery thread  
Silver metallic thread  
White embroidery thread  
White bobbin fill  
Gold crochet thread  
White floral tape  
Plastic bottle with nozzle tip and cap  
Needle threader or needle with an eye large enough for the crochet thread  
Two coat hangers  
Wire cutters  
Pliers  
Hot glue gun  
Clear Plastic Wrap material

## Step 1. Getting Started

I used two layers of Aqua Mesh Wash Away stabilizer in a 5" x 7" hoop. You will need to hoop it eight times to complete all of the following embroidery

Left Side and Head 51,088 Stitches  
Metallic Silver Sulky 7001  
Metallic Gold Sulky 7007  
Soft White Sulky 1002

Right Side with Tail 38,604 Stitches  
Metallic Silver Sulky 7001  
Metallic Gold Sulky 7007  
Soft White Sulky 1002

Neck 60,398 Stitches  
Metallic Silver Sulky 7001  
Metallic Gold Sulky 7007  
Soft White Sulky 1002

Antlers 33,809 Stitches  
Metallic Silver Sulky 7001  
Metallic Gold Sulky 7007

**Note: Use matching bobbin thread for the antlers only**

Right Hind Leg 55,383 Stitches  
Metallic Silver Sulky 7001  
Metallic Gold Sulky 7007  
Soft White Sulky 1002

Left Hind Leg 55,746 Stitches  
Metallic Silver Sulky 7001  
Metallic Gold Sulky 7007  
Soft White Sulky 1002

Right Front Leg 48,671 Stitches  
Metallic Silver Sulky 7001  
Metallic Gold Sulky 7007  
Soft White Sulky 1002

Left Front Leg 48,942 Stitches  
Metallic Silver Sulky 7001  
Metallic Gold Sulky 7007  
Soft White Sulky 1002



After stitching all of the embroidery designs, trim away the excess stabilizer and separate the lower legs from the upper legs and the head and tail from the sides.

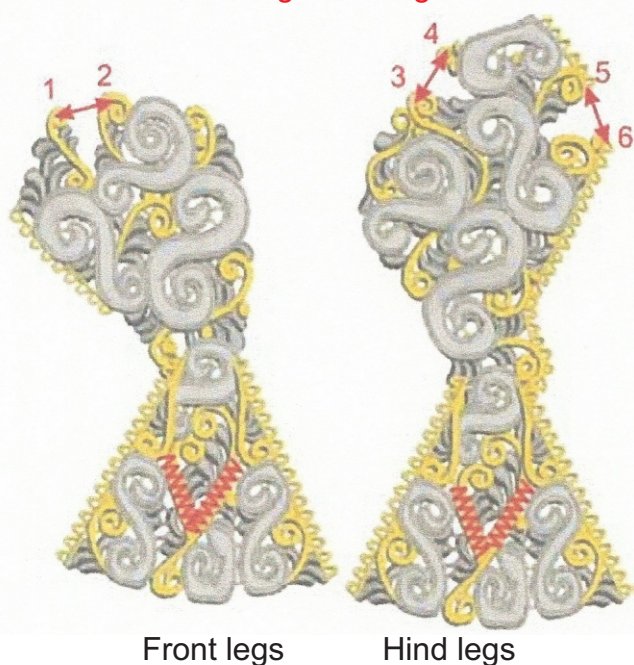
Place the excess stabilizer in the plastic bottle and set it aside for later.

### Illustration 1. Join Right and Left Sides



Join the right and left side pieces to make the body with a zigzag stitch in matching thread where indicated. It is very easy to do this before the stabilizer is dissolved.

### Illustration 2. Attaching lower legs



To join the lower legs to the upper legs, trim the stabilizer close to the stitching line on the lower legs and place that over the upper legs where it is to be attached. You should be able to see both pieces to be joined. Zigzag stitch over the satin

stitches where indicated. By leaving the stabilizer intact you will be able to pin it if necessary. Join both sets of legs.

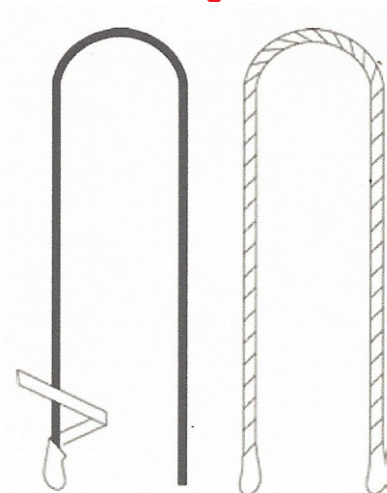
Join edges 1 and 2 on both front legs, creating a curve in the upper leg, and bar tack them together using matching thread. Join edges 2 and 4 and 5 and 6 on the hind legs and bar tack on both legs the same way.

The Aqua Mesh stabilizer dissolves very quickly when held under warm running water. When all of the stabilizer has liquefied, wrap the embroidery designs in a towel and ring the excess water out of them.

### Essential Step

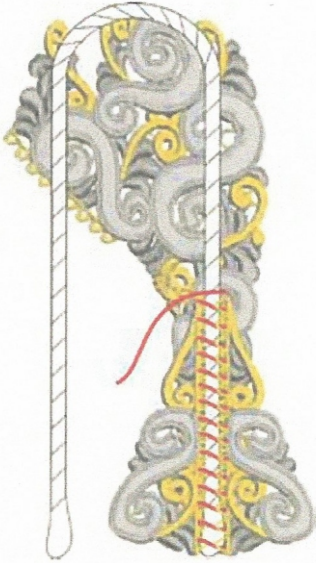
You must stiffen all of the reindeer parts before assembly. To do this, dissolve the excess stabilizer in hot water in the plastic bottle with the nozzle tip. It should be the consistency of honey when it is completely liquefied. Then drizzle the liquid stabilizer on the embroidery designs, blot the excess liquid with a paper towel and set them aside to dry. As the pieces dry; curl the ears and tail up slightly and straighten out the thread ties. Allow the upper legs to have a rounded convex shape in the areas of the bar tacks.

### Illustration 3. Coat Hanger Wires



Remove the hooks from the two coat hangers with wire cutters. Straighten the wire with the pliers. Cut two 17 inch lengths from the wire and bend them into U shapes. Wrap the tip of the wire with white floral tape to prevent it from scratching furniture and continue wrapping both wires with the floral tape.

#### Illustration 4. Attaching the lower legs to the wire



Starting with the front legs, fold the two sides of the lower legs to the back of the leg with wrong sides together. The lower legs have eyelets down each side that are woven together and around the coat hanger wire the the crochet thread.

Cut a 24 inch length of crochet thread and thread it through the needle threader. Starting at the bottom of the lower leg; tie a knot around the wire and one of the eyelets.

Begin weaving the thread by passing it through the next eyelet, front to back, under the wire. Continue weaving the thread through the next eyelet, back to front, and over the wire. Continue weaving the thread through the eyelets and around the wire until you reach the top of the lower leg.

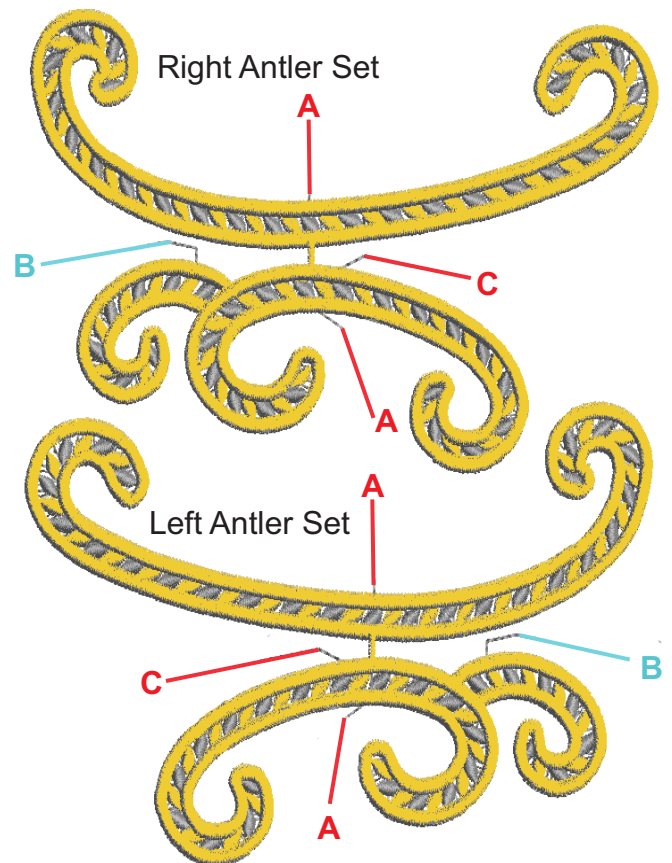
Looking at the wrong side of the leg; pass the crochet thread through an opening in the embroidery to the right side of the leg, take it around a small segment of embroidery and then back again and around the wire. Pull the front of the leg very tightly to the lower leg and wire, knot the thread and secure the ends with hot glue where they will not show and trim the excess thread. Attach the second front leg to the other side of the U shaped wire.

Using the second U shaped wire attach both hind legs the same way.

#### Illustration 5. Identifying and tying the thread knots on antlers

**Note:** There are three places where the ties are used again to join another piece. These are ties B, L and M. I show these ties in bright blue. Do not trim and secure these ties until the second connection is made.

The rest of the ties, shown in red, tie only once. Tie the red threads to there corresponding threads in a square knot, secure this knot with a dot of hot glue then tie in a square knot again. Pull the thread ties to the wrong side and secure to the wrong side with a dot of hot glue. When the glue is set trim off the tails.



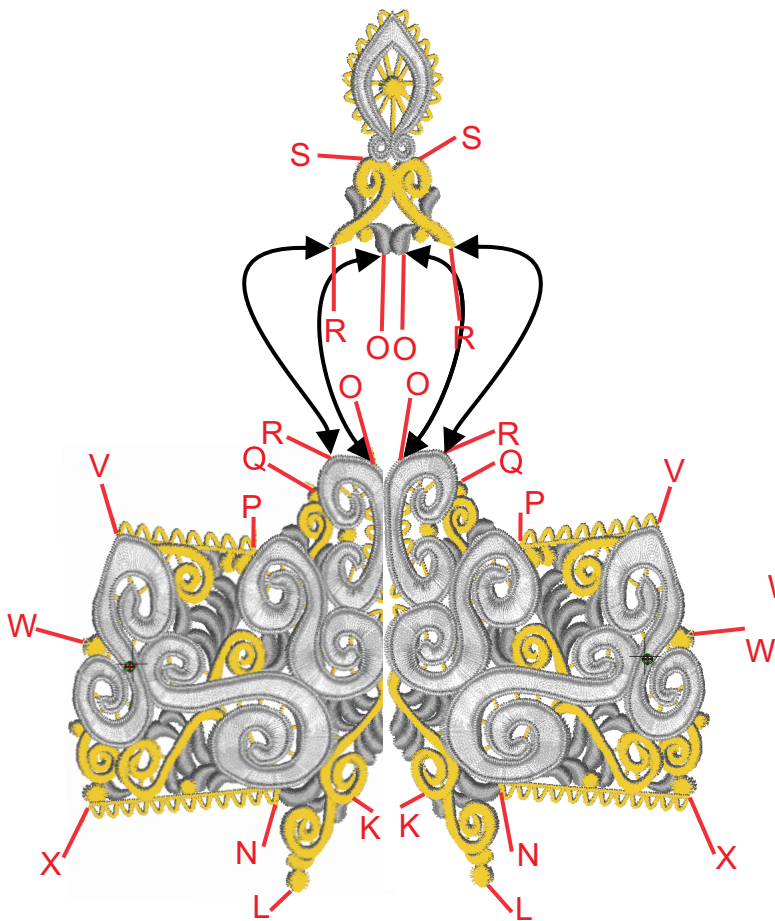
Fold the right set of antlers in half with wrong sides together. Tie the A knot on top of the antlers bring the double set of antlers together. they will both be right side up now. You may secure the tie ends to the wrong side where they will not show with hot glue and trim tails. Join the left antler set the same way.



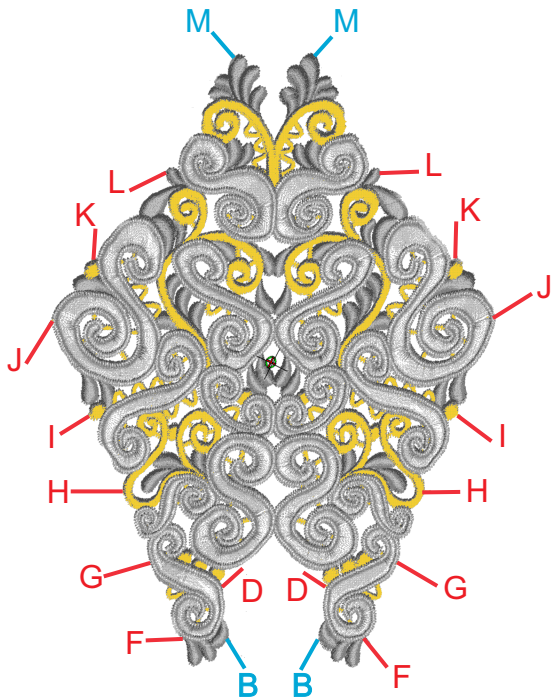
Right antler set will look like this after folding.



**Illustration 9. Attaching Tail to Body**



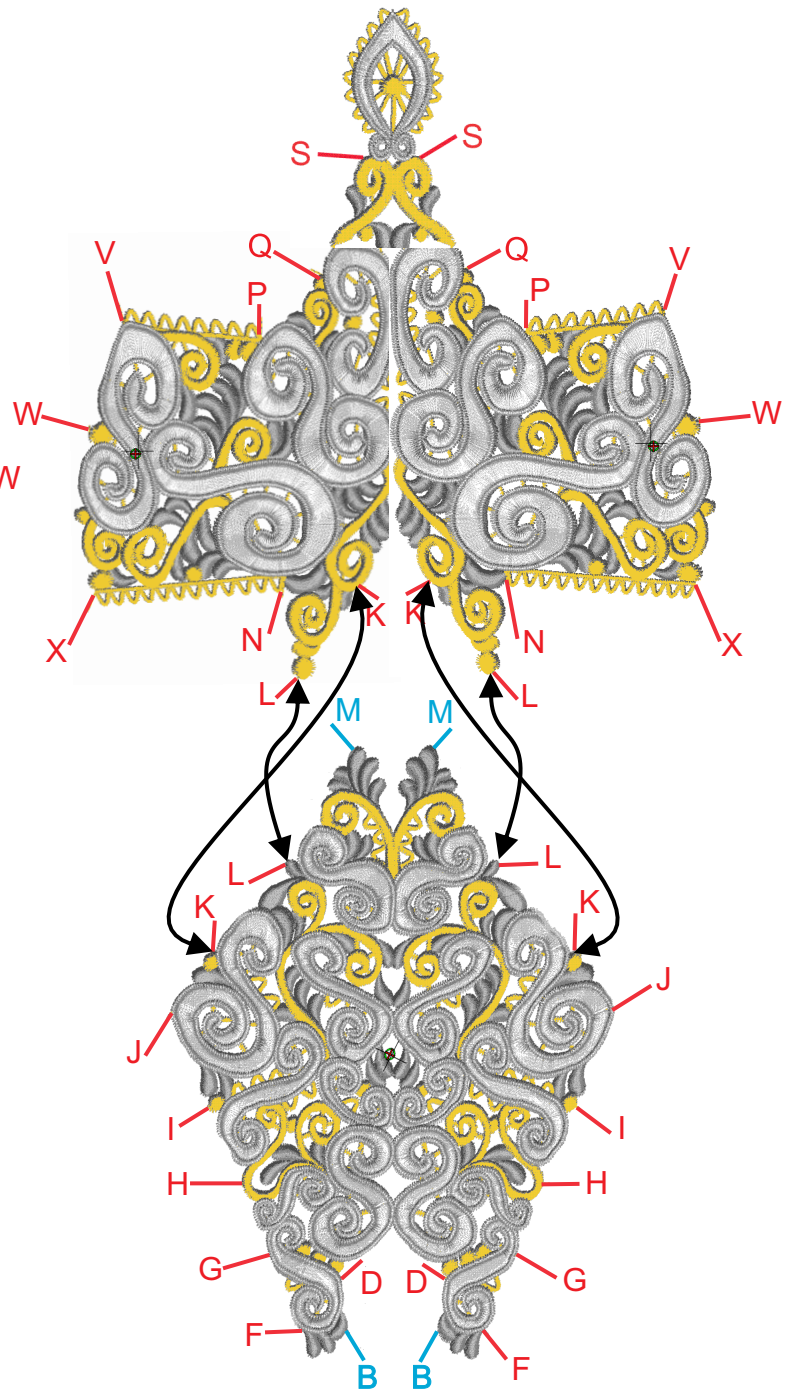
**Illustration 10. Joining the Neck**



Fold the neck in half with wrong sides together bringing ties F through J together. Start with the F knot and secure ends and trim before tying the next knot. Continue tying knots G, H, I, and J in the same way.

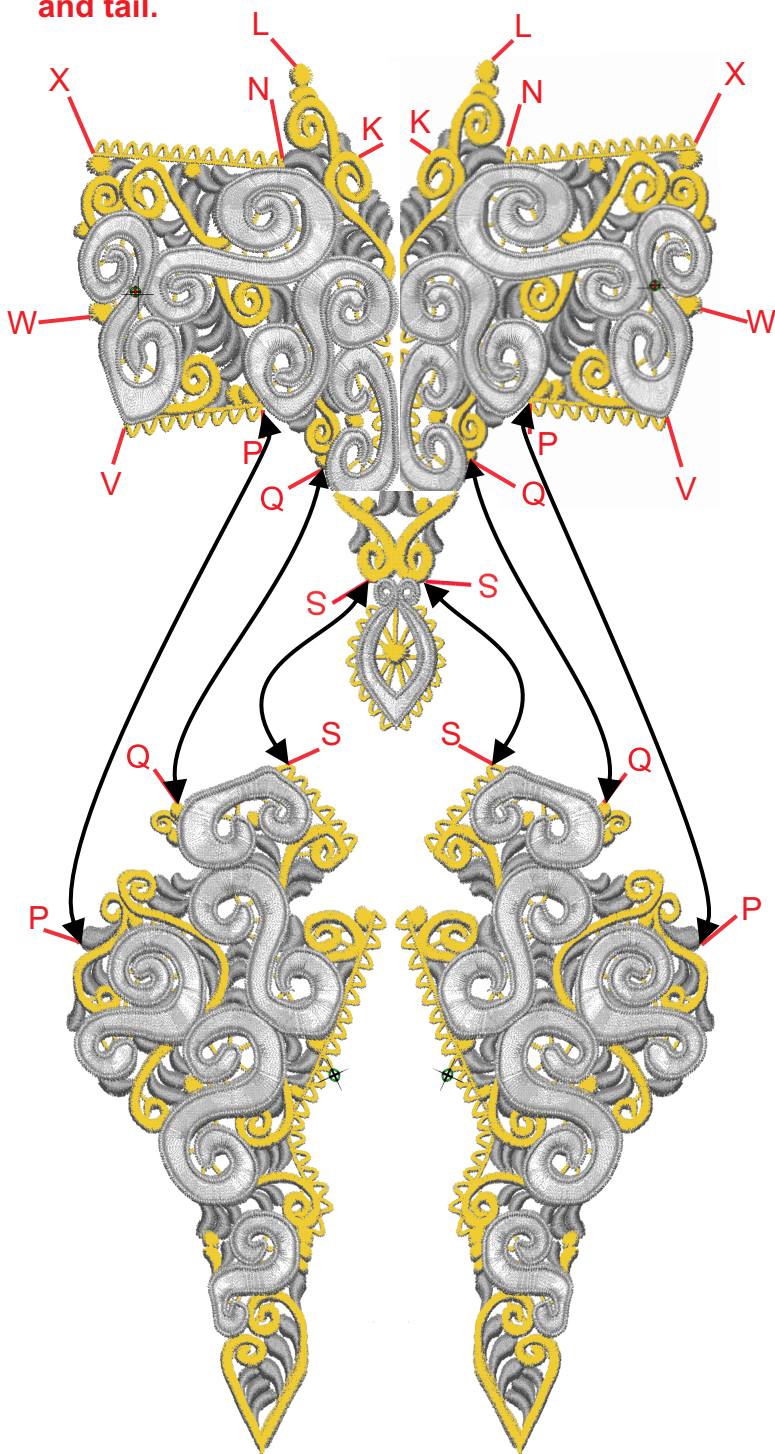
Tie the M knot creating a curve at the base of the neck but **DO NOT SECURE THE TAILS AND TRIM**. The M ties will be joined to the front legs at the breast later.

**Illustration 11. Attaching Neck to Body**



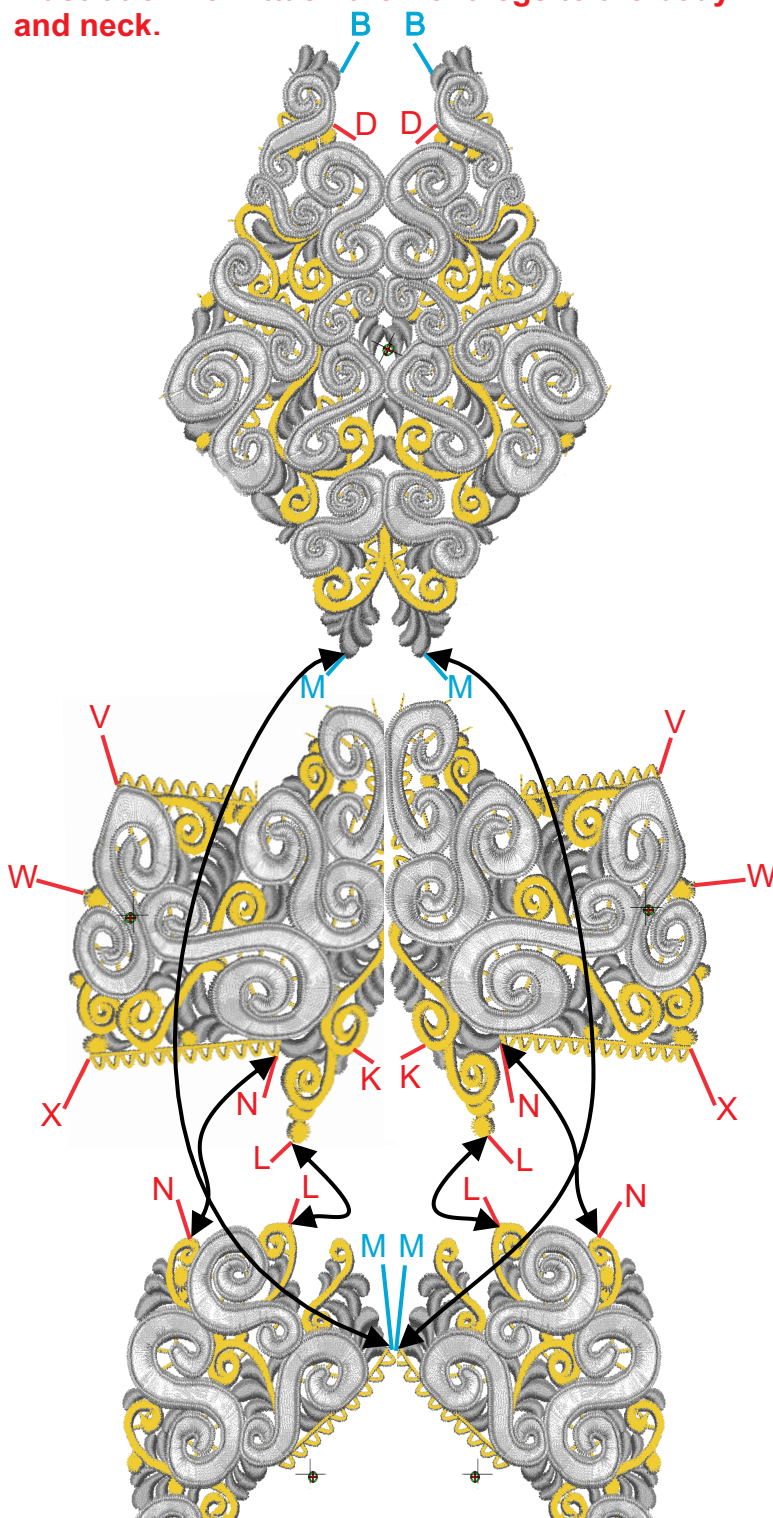
Join the L and K ties from the body to the neck. Secure and trim.

**Illustration 12. Attach the hind legs to the body and tail.**



Join the S ties from the tail, which is now attached to the body, to the S ties on the hind legs. Secure and trim. Attach the Q ties on the hind legs to the Q ties on the body and secure and trim. Attach the P ties on the hind legs to the P ties on the body and secure and trim.

**Illustration 13. Attach the front legs to the body and neck.**

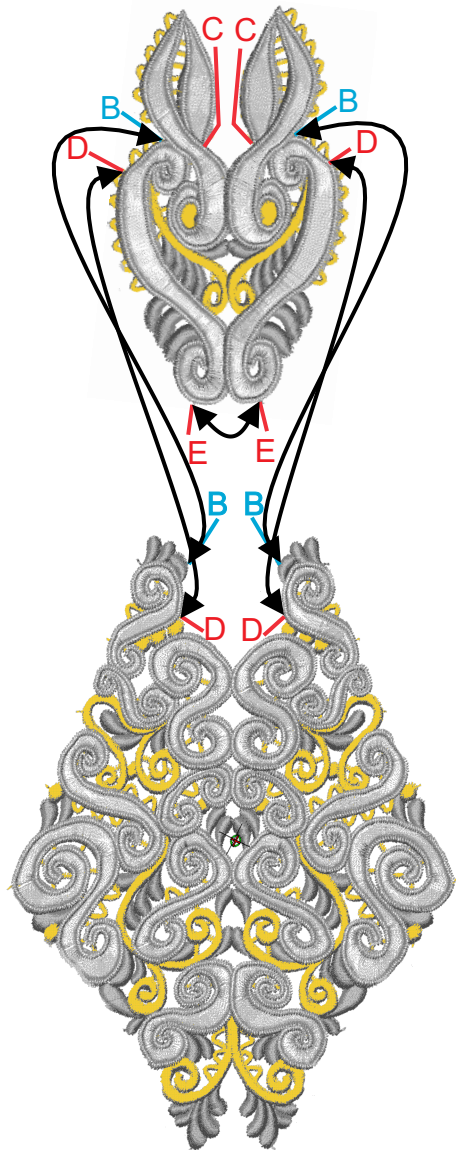


Tie the front legs together at the M ties but do not secure and trim. Then tie the M ties to the neck M ties which are now tied together at the base of the neck and then secure and trim all 4 ties.

Tie the L ties on the front legs to the L ties on the Body and secure and trim. Tie the N ties on the legs to the N ties on the body and secure and trim.



### Illustration 14. Attach Head to Neck



Fold the head in half length wise with the wrong sides together. Tie the E knot at the bottom of the nose and secure and trim the tails.

Join the D ties on the head to the D ties on the neck and secure and trim. Join the B ties on the head to the B ties on the neck BUT DO NOT SECURE AND TRIM. The B ties will be used again to attach the antlers.

### Illustration 15. Attach Head to Antlers



Tie the C ties in a knot to attach the antlers to the head. Looking at the illustration, tie the right antler set to the right side of the head and the left antlers set to the left side of the head. Secure and trim. Place a dot of hot glue on top of the head where the antlers meet in the middle to keep them from slipping.

Tie the B ties to join the antlers to the head and neck on both sides. As you tie these knots it will pull the antlers out slightly and curve them behind the ears. Secure and trim.

Tie the V, W and X ties to close the body along the under side and secure and trim

### Illustration 16. Stuff the body with Plastic Wrap

Wad up clear plastic wrap and stuff in the head and down into the neck to keep his head up and perky.

Stuff wadded up plastic wrap into the upper legs and neck. This will keep his neck from binding downward and backward. Stuff the body cavity with plastic wrap toward the neck and into the plastic wrap already in the neck. This will help keep him in shape for many years to come.

I hope you will enjoy my reindeer.

Sincerely, Janet Brooks

jbp1945@gmail.com