

SINGER® FUTURA™ – Graduation Cupcake Topper



Cupcakes are perfect for almost any occasion! Here's a clever way to make them even more festive. Whether you're planning a graduation party, baby shower or birthday celebration, these toppers are sure to be a hit. This project sheet is for making a topper for a graduation party, but you can change the text as desired to personalize for your special event. Enjoy!

Shopping List:

- 8" x 9" cotton fabric square (for topper center)
- 2" x 20" contrasting strip (for topper ruffle)
- 8" x 9" heavy fusible interfacing
- Machine embroidery threads
- All-purpose thread to match ruffle
- Lollipop stick
- Ruffler attachment
- Rolled hem foot
- Water soluble fabric marker
- 4" x 4" square card stock
- Tear-away stabilizer
- Hot glue gun with glue stick

Fabric Preparation:

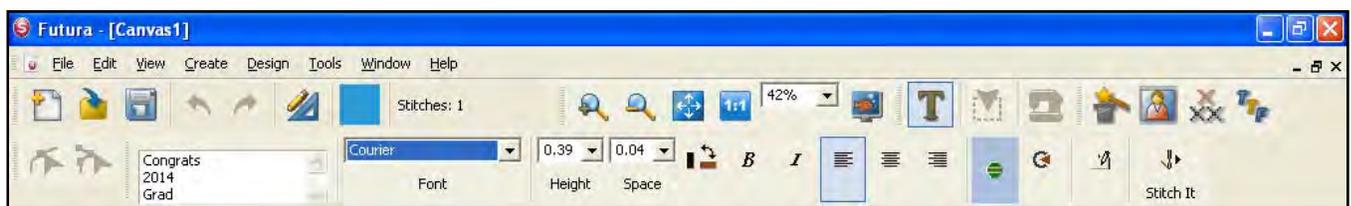
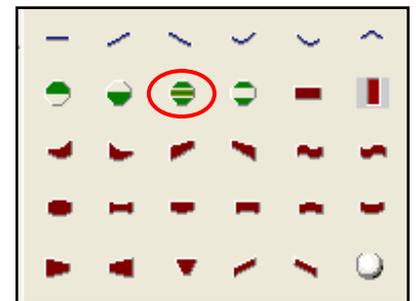
1. Apply the heavy fusible interfacing to the wrong side of the 8" x 9" fabric, following the interfacing manufacturer's recommendations. Hoop the interfaced fabric along with a piece of tear-away stabilizer in the small hoop. Attach the hoop to the embroidery arm.

At the Computer:

2. Open the software for the SINGER® FUTURA™ sewing & embroidery machine
3. Select the Small Hoop:
 - Select **Tools** from the main tool bar.
 - Click on **Select Hoop**.
 - Select **Small**.
4. Creating the Text:



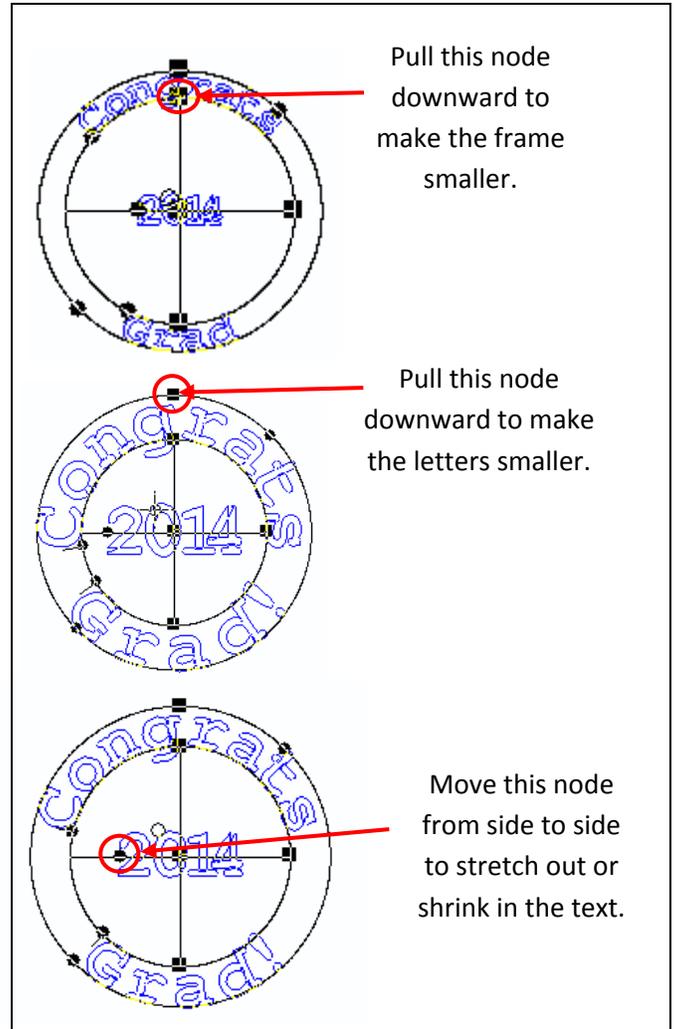
- Select the **Lettering** icon from the main tool bar. 
- Select the **Frames** icon. 
- A sub-menu appears with 30 text frame options. In this lesson, we'll use one of the "Arc" frames found on the second row of the Frames box. The green area represents the text placement within the arc. Select the third Arc frame which has three green areas within it. When this frame is selected, the text will automatically be placed on three lines within the arc.



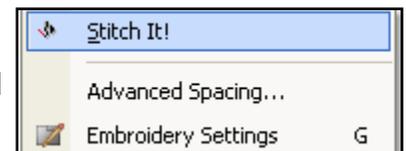
- In the text box and using three lines, type in:
Congrats
2014
Grad! (Note: The text appears in "ghost" form within the Arc frame as it is entered into the text box.)
- Select remaining options: **Font**—Courier; **Height**—0.39; **Space**—0.02 and **Justify left**.

5. You'll need to make some changes to the text while it is still in ghost form. Look closely and you will notice that the letters appear in between two circles that have several different marks or "nodes" on them. Some of the nodes are square and some of them are round. Each has a different function that can be used to manipulate the size and shape of the text. First, you'll need to make the size of the frame smaller. The perfect size of frame for the cupcake topper is about two inches in diameter.

- To make the size of the frame smaller, click on the square node on the top of the inner circle, then pull the node downward until you've made about a two inch frame. The letters are pulled in as the frame gets smaller. They also wrap around the frame more.
- For this application, you may prefer to have the letters a bit smaller. To do this, pull the square node on the top of the outer circle downward.



- You may also choose to spread the text out along the center line. If you do, click on the left round node on the center line and slide the node left or right to make the text stretch out or shrink in along the line. Once you're satisfied with the way the text appears, right click and then select **Stitch It!** The letters appear on the screen filled in with stitches.



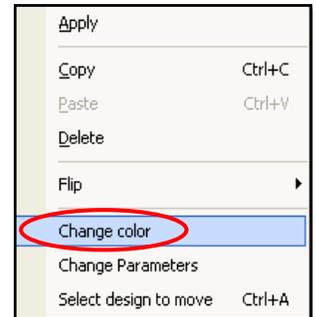
6. Notice that the letters are all of the same color. At this time you may choose to change the color of individual letters or words. In this case, the color of the date, "2014", is going to be changed.

- First you must select the numbers by clicking on the "2" and then dragging the cursor over to the right, enclosing the "4". A bounding box now surrounds the date. This puts the numbers

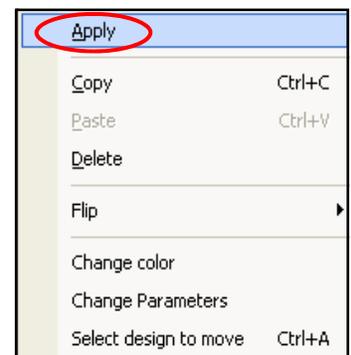
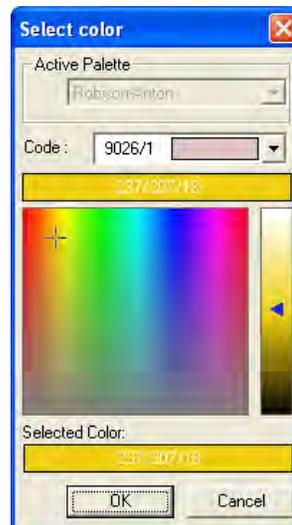


in an editable mode where you may not only change the color, but also make the numbers bigger, smaller, or move them. To change the color, right click, and then select **Change color**.

- Bring the cursor into the rainbow section of the Select color box. Click on the desired color.

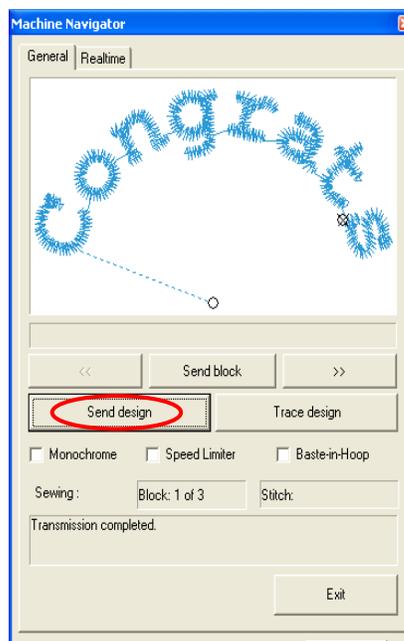


- Click on **OK**.
- Right click and then select **Apply**.



7. The design is ready to send to the machine for embroidery:

- Select the **Transmit to Machine** icon from the main tool bar. 
- Select **Send design** in the Machine Navigator box. Embroider the design. When the machine is finished embroidering the design, remove the fabric from the hoop and press, leaving the stabilizer intact. Press. Cut away some of the excess fabric, leaving about an inch or so from around the lettering.



Sewing Directions:

8. Prepare the machine for regular sewing by removing the embroidery unit and the embroidery foot from the machine. Attach the Satin Foot.

9. Decorative scallop around lettering:

- Thread the top of the machine with the color of machine embroidery thread that you'd like to use for the scallop stitching.

- Select stitch #57 (the scallop stitch).



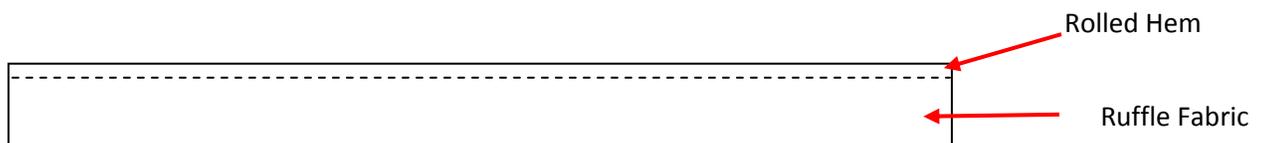
- Using a water soluble marker, mark a circle around the letters. Stitch the scallop around the circle.

- When finished, remove the stabilizer. Spritz away the marking pen with water. Press. Trim away excess fabric from the outside edge of the scallop stitch, being very careful not to cut the stitching itself. (Using a small curved embroidery scissors can be very helpful to cut close to the stitching.)



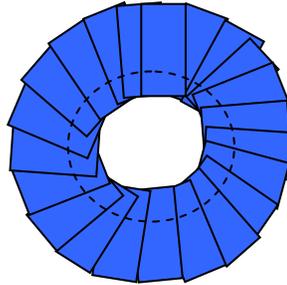
10. Ruffle:

- Hemming the edge: Thread the machine with all-purpose thread in the bobbin and on the top. Select straight stitch, stitch length 2.5. Attach the Rolled Hem Foot. Finish the one long edge on the 2" x 20" fabric strip with the rolled hem. Click here for instructions on using the Rolled Hem Foot: [Rolled Hem Presser Foot Tutorial](#)



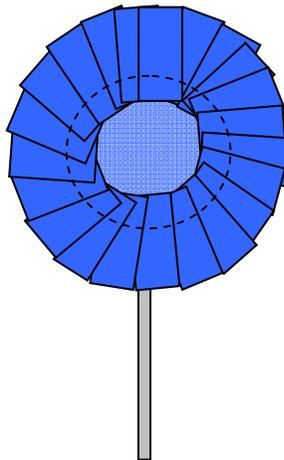
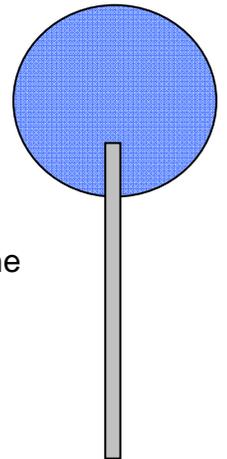
- Pleating: Attach the Ruffler. Use the setting on the ruffler which takes a tuck every six stitches. Pleat the unfinished long edge of the ruffle. Click here for instructions on using the Ruffler attachment: [Ruffler Attachment Presser Foot Tutorial](#)

- Lightly press the ruffled strip to form a circle about four inches in diameter. Cut any excess strip away. Press under the unfinished ends.



11. Putting it all together:

- Heat up the glue gun. Cut a circle a little smaller than 3" from the card stock paper. Place a good size amount of glue on the lower edge of the paper circle to secure the end of the stick.
- Glue the ruffle to the edges of the paper, putting the overlapped ends to the bottom center.



- Glue the embroidered piece to the top of the ruffle.

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