



Valentine Project

by Kristen Gramberg

Create a Valentine that is different from any Valentine that you can purchase in stores: Use your color printer and a little embroidery to create a unique Valentine's Day card. Create multiple Valentines for your child to take to school and hand out to his/her friends, or create one for your One and Only. This Valentine is a 4" x 6" card with an embroidered Cupid on the front. If you are a digitizing expert, feel free to create your own design. However, don't be afraid if you are not digitizer. We have made a version of the **.dst** file available for you to download in a ZIP file.

Design Files to download:

Level of Difficulty: **Easy**

Materials and Supplies needed:

- ? Appropriate embroidery thread colors (we've suggested the following below, but you can choose your own):

Colors:

- ? **Rapos 308 Orange Brown**



- ? **Rapos 115 Candy Red**



- ? **Rapos 900 Black**



✂️ bobbin thread

✂️ 2 sheets of cut away backing per Valentine



? Backing is a non-woven paper-like material applied to the back of a garment before a design is sewn onto the other side. It is used as a stabilizer to provide a stable base for your design.

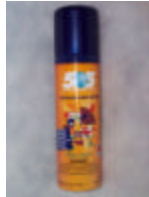


✂ ✂ Card Stock (available anywhere that sells stationary/office supplies).

? You need at least 2 pieces of cardstock for each card, but it is a good idea to have plenty extra for mess-ups.

✂ ✂ Glue

✂ ✂ Spray Adhesive



✂ ✂ Straight edge ruler



✂ ✂ Exacto knife



✂ ✂ Durkee 15cm Square hoop

? If you do not have this particular hoop, it is available as an accessory for Voyager.

✂ ✂ The embroidery design file, Cupid.dst (if you haven't already, you may download the file from the same place on the craft/project page on www.happyemb.com where you got these instructions).



☞ ☞ The 2 Valentine Template Files you can download, again from the same site.



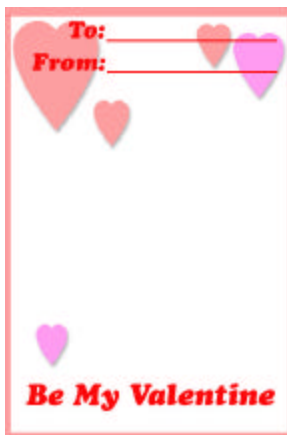
☞ ☞ Color printer

Steps

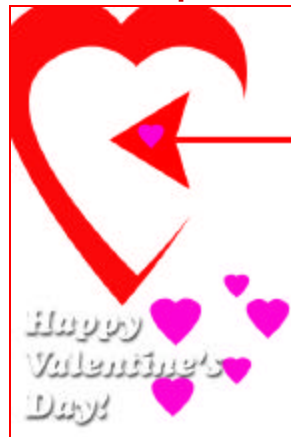
1. **Print the card design** by printing the template files according to the directions shown below and on the following pages.

? Design file list: We'll be printing the files in order below:

Valentine Template



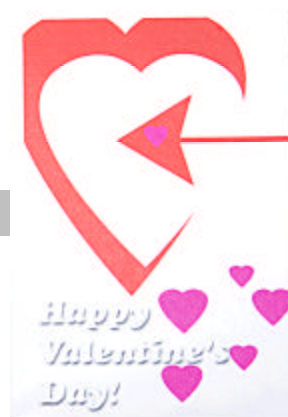
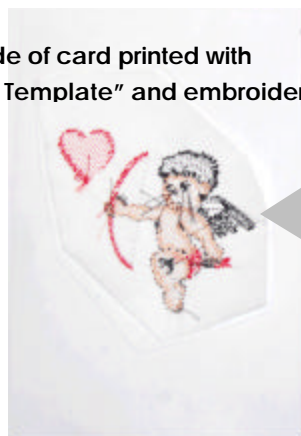
Back Template



? The "Valentine Template.jpg" file is going to be the front side of your card.

? The "Back Template.jpg" file is going to be the piece that is glued onto the back of the Valentine. After sewing the Cupid design onto the front of the card, you will then glue this piece onto the back to cover up the back of the sewing, along with the backing.

Reverse side of card printed with
"Valentine Template" and embroidered



Glue printed "Back Template" onto reverse side of card front to cover reverse side of the embroidery

? Printing the Card with Windows XP:

? If you are using Windows XP Print Wizard:

Printing the Valentine Template (the front side of the Valentine) and the Back Template (the back side of the Valentine).

☞ ☞ Go to the folder where you downloaded your files.

Note: If you know how to, create a folder and give it the name "Valentine Sewing Project" or something similar, and save ALL the project files from the webpage into this folder, making it easier to find everything.

☞ ☞ Highlight one of the files and go to "**File: Print**". A Photo Printing Wizard should come up that leads you through a series of steps.

☞ ☞ Click "**Next**" and a screen will appear with your JPEG files checked.

☞ ☞ Click "**Clear All**" to clear all of the check boxes so you can select the one you would like to print.

☞ ☞ Check the file that contains the front side of the Valentine (called "Valentine Template.jpg") and the back side of the Valentine (called "Back Template.jpg")

☞ ☞ After you have checked the file, click "**Next**".

☞ ☞ Choose the printer you would like to use, then click "**Next**".

☞ ☞ This step is **VERY** important: On the left, where it says "Available Layouts", scroll down to the "**4 by 6 in. Prints**" category and highlight "**4 by 6 in. Cutout Prints: cropped and rotated to print**". Doing this will position your designs correctly on the cardstock.

☞ ☞ Click "**Next**" and the printer should begin to print the front and back side of your Valentine on the same piece of cardstock.

? Printing the Card with any other program:

Printing the front and back of the Valentine:

☞ ☞ Open the program of which you wish you print your file from.

? Go to File, and choose "**Print**". Check Print Setup to sure your design is going to print out correctly. If not, you will have to go to "**Print Options**", and change the layout or size depending on the problem.

Note:

? When printing from this program, you will have to print one file at a time, unlike the Photo Wizard, which allows you to print as many designs that will fit onto the paper.

? Click "**OK**" or "Print" under your program's "**Print**" selection, and the outside of your card should begin printing.

2. Now it's time to cut out the Valentine. Cut out along the border of the front and back of both printed designs.

? Use your exacto knife and a straightedge ruler to cut a straight line, and to keep the card from looking sloppy.

Now it's time to sew out the Christmas tree design onto your fabric.

Note: For this project, I used denim; however, feel free to use any type of fabric as long as it doesn't fray at the edges.

5. Transfer your design file, cupid.dst to your HAPPY machine by USB or Flash card. (Detailed instructions on transferring your file to the machine are at the bottom of the document)
6. Prepare the cardstock and backing: I suggest using the spray adhesive to place the cardstock onto the backing.

Note: The reason we use 2 pieces of backing instead of one is to better-stabilize the paper. When sewing on paper, it is easy for the needle to cut or tear the paper. Using 2 pieces of backing will help prevent this.

A. Hoop 2 pieces of cutaway backing:

- a. Separate the inner and outer ring hoop. Make a best-guess and set the adjustment screw on the outer ring for the thickness of the fabric and the backing.
- b. Lay both pieces of backing over the hoop's outer ring, in between the inner ring and outer ring of the hoop.
- c. Press the inner ring into the outer ring, ensuring that the 2 layers of backing fits snugly together inside the hoop.
Note: You may have to turn the adjustment screw until you're satisfied that the hoop is tight enough to hold the material securely.
- d. Be sure to pull out any "slack" left in the hoop, and to make sure that there is sufficient backing leftover on the outside of all ends of the hoop.

B. Mount the printed cardstock onto the hoop

- a. Take the cardstock (already cut), locate it carefully in the center of the hoop (do your best, but it doesn't have to be spot-on) and tape it onto the backing
- C. Secure the hoop onto machine, taking care to ensure that holes on each arm of the hoop slide onto the pins on the ends of the sewing arm and "click"

6. Select the hoop in the Frame menu of Voyager's control panel: The Durkee 15 cm hoop isn't included as a standard template in the Frame menu, but if your machine has Firmware version 1.07 or later, you can go to Frame: User, and set it up there.



7. Whether you use the Frame option or not, double-check the fit and position of the hoop by performing a trace.

8. Set the color sequence: Press MENU and choose NEEDLE to set the color sewing sequence. The color sequence for this design is as follows:



1. Black for the wings, hair, eyes, nose, mouth, outline, and arrow.
2. Tan for the body.
3. Red for the heart, bow, end of arrow, and bloomers.

9. Press ESC to return to the main menu. Double-check that the design is at the Origin point.
10. Double check your threading: bobbin, and especially the 3 colors you'll be using..
11. Double-check to make sure your machine is oiled properly.
12. Press "Start" and watch your design come to life!
13. Once the design has sewn, remove the card from the machine and hoop, and cut away the backing.
16. Finally, glue the back side of the card over the back of the front side of the card. It will look like this:



Card front



Reverse side

Decorative Options:

Please feel free to download the design we have provided, or create your own. The same goes for the card – If you have another card template that you would like to use, feel free! Also, we have used denim as our fabric because of the nice color contrast. However, if you prefer to use another type or color of fabric, please do so. You have a lot of creative freedom with this project. Have fun and Happy Holidays!!!!

Additional notes and steps:

- Width of design: 5 inches
- Height of design: 3 ¾ inches
- Colors we used for this

design:

- ? Rapos 310 Brown
- ? Rapos 527 Green
- ? Rapos 115 Red
- ? Rapos G26 Metallic Gold



Problems I encountered while producing this project:

- Printing the inside of the card (on the back of the outside of the card).
This can get tricky. My advice to you is to use a plain sheet of printing paper and test print the card before you actually print it on your cardstock. This way, you can make sure you know which way to turn the paper, and which side to put it on when it's being printed.
- Cutting out the dotted lines with the Exacto knife.
This too, can get tricky, because it is easy to make mistakes. The best way to do this is to, again, practice before you cut on the real thing. Another tool you want to be sure to use is the straight edge ruler. Place your ruler against your Exacto knife while you're cutting, and it will be harder to make mistakes.

If you have any problems with this project, please email me at kgramberg@texmacusa.com and I will be happy to assist you.