







This week's freebie is a sweet and super-quick project — a free in-the-hoop **Christmas Photo Frame** for 4x4 and 5x5 hoops!

Made in one fast hooping, this little frame is perfect for gifting with your favourite photo, hanging on the Christmas tree, or giving as a “blank” so friends and family can add their own special Christmas 2026 memories. It's also a lovely idea for teachers' gifts, stocking stuffers, keepsakes for grandparents, or even as a personalised tag tied onto presents.

I've included two styles of “Christmas” wording — one in a lovely, elegant script, and the other in a cute kid-style font. Choose whichever suits your fabric, colour theme, or the personality of the person you're gifting it to!

FINISHED SIZE

	4X4-ELEGANT.pes 94.4x98.2 mm (3.72x3.87 "), 82
	4X4-KID.pes 94.4x98.2 mm (3.72x3.87 "), 81
	5X5-ELEGANT.pes 123.2x128.4 mm (4.85x5.06 "),
	5X5-KID.pes 123.2x128.4 mm (4.85x5.06 "),

VIDEO

While we do not have a video for this specific design, the construction is the same as Kay's [Free in-the-hoop Photo Frame](#) video

[VIEW FREE PHOTO FRAME VIDEO](#)



MATERIALS FOR COASTERS

You can stitch this design two different ways:

- Cotton version: Uses a layer of batting and four pieces of fabric for a soft, quilted finish.
- Felt version: A super-quick option made with just two pieces of felt — no batting needed, as the felt provides all the structure and body

• Cotton Fabrics	4x4 hoop	5x5 hoop
Front fabric	2 pieces 5 x 5 inch	2 pieces 6 x 6 inch
Backing fabric	1-piece 10x5 inch Folded to 5 x 5 inch	1-piece 12x6 inch Folded to 6 x 6 inch
Batting	1 piece 5 x 5 inch	1 piece 6 x 6 inch

FELT	4x4 hoop	5x5 hoop
Front and back fabric	2 pieces 5 x 5 inch	2 pieces 6 x 6 inch

- Two layers of fabric type washaway stabiliser
- Optional – small piece of string/cord for hanging tab

STABILISER AND HOOPING



Hoop stabiliser

Use pins at the hoop edge to ensure no stabiliser movement

If you are new to this technique
[Click here to watch Kay's hooping video](#)

CONSTRUCTION



STEP ONE – THE FABRIC PLACEMENT LINE



Thread your machine with a neutral colour

Stitch Colour 1, which is the outline of the frame and shows you where to place your fabric

OPTIONAL HANGING TAG



As pictured, tape a piece of folded ribbon/string/cord in place outside the stitch line

STEP TWO – FABRIC

Fabric placement:

- If using **felt**:

Place your felt piece directly over the guideline. Felt has enough structure on its own, so no additional layers are needed.



If using **cotton**:

Create a small *quilt sandwich* by placing two pieces of cotton wrong sides together with a piece of thin batting in between. This gives the front of your photo frame extra body and strength. Place this quilt sandwich over the guideline.



Stitch Colour 2 to attach

STEP THREE – INNER DESIGN



Stitch inner embroidery

Colour 3 – Christmas
(red)

Colour 4 – 2025 (green)



Cut away inner fabrics

(if using cotton, ensure
you cut away the 3
layers)



Stitch Colour 5 –
zigzags inner raw
edges and completes
inner satin stitch edge
(gold)

STEP FOUR – ADD BACKING FABRIC

You have two options for adding the backing:

1. **Pocket backing** (as shown in Kay's video):

Place the backing fabric with a small gap at the top. This creates an opening on the back so you can easily slide your photo in and out.

Perfect if you plan to change the photo.

2. **Full backing** (closed back):

Place a full piece of backing fabric that completely closes the back of the frame.

With this method, you'll insert the photo from the front opening instead.

A great option if you're using one special photo that won't need to be changed.



POCKET BACKING:

Place your backing fabric with folded edge (or single piece of felt) in line with the top of the previously stitched inner edge satin stitch.

The gap at the top enables the photo to slip in the back



FULL BACKING:

Cover the entire guideline with your backing fabric and tape in place outside the stitch lines



Stitch **Colour 6** to attach your backing fabric

STEP FIVE – TRIM EXCESS FABRIC

Cut away excess fabric on the front and back of the hoop



STEP SIX – COMPLETE EMBROIDERY



Change bobbin thread to match your top thread

Stitch Colour 7 to complete the satin stitch edge (gold)

STEP SEVEN – FINISH



Use a Q-tip and hot water to remove the water soluble stabiliser from the edges and inner area



If you have chosen the full backing option, add your photo through the centre

If you have chosen the pocket backing, you can slip your photo in from the top



I wish to extend a heartfelt thank you to my amazing Angel Ladies, Beverly, Darina, Faye, Flo, Kay W, Louise and Sandy, who generously give their time to test and perfect my designs. Your creativity and passion mean the world to me, and I truly couldn't do this without you. You make sure every design is the best it can be, and I'm so grateful for all your hard work and dedication!

A special thank you to Kim, who runs our fantastic Facebook Group, to Kay for creating the incredible videos that bring these projects to life, and to Flo for proofreading these instructions — your attention to detail makes all the difference.

It takes a village!!

Heather

QUICK LINKS

- ✓ Need help? Please email: help@kreativekiwi.com
- ✓ Check out our '[How to' Video Library](#) – we have over 100 step-by-step videos
- ✓ [Read our Blog section](#), which includes many free project instructions
- ✓ [View our Inspiration Gallery](#) to see hundreds of items made by our Kreative Kiwi group
- ✓ View/download from over 300 [Free Embroidery Designs](#)
- ✓ Subscribe to [Kay's Cutz YouTube Channel](#) to get notifications when new step-by-step videos are added

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