



# “Spooky!” Halloween Banner

Created by: Geri Finio and Anne Hein

Decorating with personalized banners is a festive way to celebrate any occasion. We're getting ready for Halloween using the free Janome AcuSketch and AcuEdit companion apps. This tutorial spells out SPOOKY but can be adapted for birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, etc. The banner may be displayed horizontally or vertically.

AcuSketch/AcuEdit Skill Builder

Time: 2 Days

Skill Level: Confident Beginner

## Janome Supplies Required:

- Janome Embroidery/ Sewing Machine with Wi-Fi
- AcuSketch & AcuEdit Companion Apps
- AcuSketch Stitch Package (add-on)
- Apple iPad & Janome Stylus
- Anti-Glue 75/11 Embroidery Needle
- Embroidery Hoop

## Fabric and Notions Required:

- 1 yd cotton fabric for main banner flag front
- 1 yd cotton fabric for main banner flag back
- Decorative 3/8-inch ribbon for tying attaching flags to banner (24-inches for each flag)
- 2 yds decorative trim for hanging flags
- 6 assorted 8x7 cotton fabric scraps (or fat quarters)



## Pattern Template for Banner Flag

- Peel and stick tearaway stabilizer
- Fabric glue stick
- Embroidery thread and bobbins
- Decorative buttons for embellishment (optional)
- Rotary cutter/ruler/mat, and basic sewing supplies

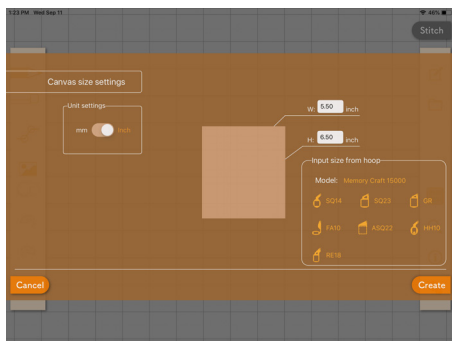
## Cutting Instructions (if applicable):

1. From main fabric, cut a generous 9"x14" piece for each flag front and flag back. This project uses two different fabrics for front and back, but one color works just as well.
2. Use template to cut both front and back of each banner flag AFTER embroidery is completed.

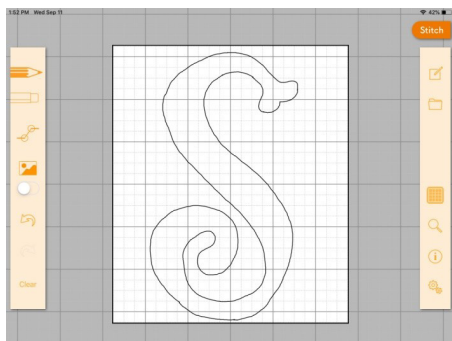
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## AcuSketch - Creating SPOOKY Letters

1. Open AcuSketch, tap **Create New**.



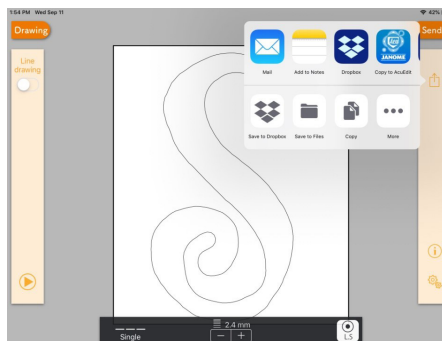
2. Input measurements of 5.5” x 6.5” in dimensions window. These measurements will serve as the workspace for each banner flag. The hoop will be selected later in project so disregard hoop selection for now.
3. Tap **Create** to proceed. A blank workspace screen depicting embroidery field dimensions of 5.5 x 6.5 inches will appear.
4. Freehand draw first letter which is “S” utilizing tools on left column of task bar.



5. When satisfied, tap **Stitch** (upper right orange button) which will convert sketch into stitches and open stitch screen.
6. In bottom black task bar, tap **Single** for stitch type. This is also where the stitches from the stitch add-on package can be found!
7. Make sure **L.S.** (Lock Stitch) is highlighted in white which reveals it is activated.
8. Adjust stitch length if desired using - and + buttons. Example shows design with a 2.4mm stitch length.

9. Tap export icon from the right task bar.

10. Then tap Copy to **AcuEdit** from the flyout menu.



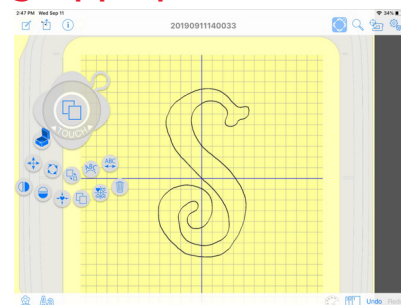
This will export design to AcuEdit to build layers for embroidery.

- a. Layer 1 will be placement to accurately lay fabric for applique.
- b. Layer 2 will be tack-down stitch.
- c. Layer 3 will be applique stitch. Each layer essentially represents a pause command (or color change) for the sewing machine enabling the sewist to either change the thread and/or trim the fabric.

Physically changing the thread will not be necessary, but it is important to designate different colors to prevent the machine from accidentally grouping all designs into one without pausing in between. Understanding this, remember to designate a new color for each layer even if the same color will be used throughout. Colors will be changed in a future step.

## AcuEdit - Creating Applique

1. From toolbox widget, tap copy/paste icon to activate. You will know it is activated because it becomes the center of the widget.

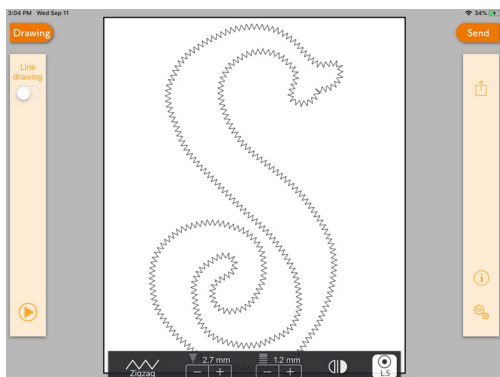


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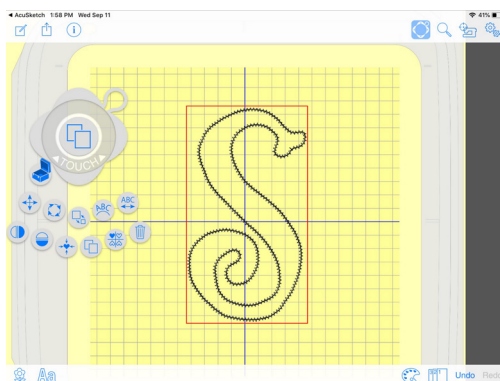
2. Tap design (a red box will surround it), then tap center of widget to copy/paste. That’s it! There are now two layers (one on top of the other) programmed.

**Note:** During the embroidery process, each layer will sew then pause for a color change or, in this instance, offer an opportunity to place fabric before proceeding to the next layer. After the tack-down stitch sews out, the machine will pause to allow for trimming.

3. Layer 3 will be programmed in AcuSketch so toggle back to AcuSketch. AcuSketch will have the last design shown which is the “S” created for layer 1 and layer 2.
4. Tap Zigzag from black task bar.
5. Once zigzag is activated, change the stitch width and length as desired, or use the variables depicted.



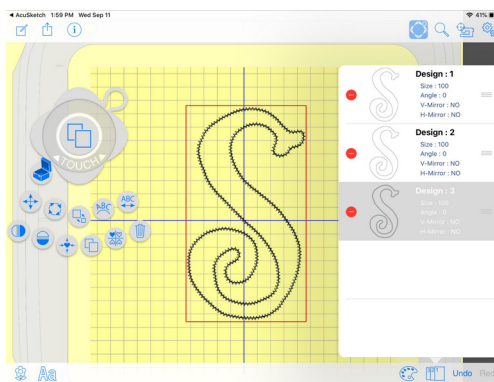
6. Tap export icon from top task bar.
7. **Copy to AcuEdit.** This final step just built the third layer of embroidery design and placed it on top of our previous two layers in AcuEdit.



## Checking Sequence and Changing Colors

Color changes need to be made so machine will stop after each layer.

1. By tapping the sequence icon (in bottom task bar between the color palette and Undo), a fly-out menu will display the designs (or layers) in sewing sequence. This is where changes to color and sewing sequence are made. To move them, tap on the three horizontal lines to the right of each design box to engage then move. They should all be in the correct sewing order, so no need to edit the sequence.



2. Tap sequence icon > Tap layer 1 > tap color palette icon > tap color > **Done.**
3. Tap sequence icon > Tap layer 2 > tap color palette icon > tap a different color > **Done.**
4. Tap layer 3 > tap color palette icon > tap actual desired color > **Done.**
5. Tap export icon from top task bar > **Save.**
6. Repeat these steps for each letter in banner.

## Hooping Preparation for Each Banner Flag

1. For each banner flag, hoop a generous piece of sticky stabilizer and score backing with a pin to peel away protective coating and expose the sticky side.



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2. Place a piece of flag front fabric (pressed and starched) onto sticky stabilizer.



3. From AcuEdit, pull up first letter previously saved and send to sewing machine.

## Locating Previously Saved Designs in AcuEdit for Wi-Fi Enabled Machines

1. Open AcuEdit on i-Pad.
2. Tap Create New icon > **Create New Design.**
3. Tap flower icon from lower left task bar.
4. Tap **Documents** from lower task bar.
5. Tap desired design/letter from library to it bring it up.
6. Tap **Done.**
7. Tap settings icon from top right task bar.
8. Tap **Model** > Select Janome machine model.
9. Tap **Hoop** > **RE18** or **RE20a** > **Done.**
10. Turn on sewing machine which needs to be on the same network as i-Pad.
11. Tap target machine icon.
12. Tap your machine model description > **Done.**
13. Tap export icon from top task bar > **Send** > click **OK** on machine display

**Note:** For non-Wi-Fi machines, attach i-Pad to computer with charging cord, then access files through iTunes.

AcuEdit saves with default Janome file extension of JEF+.

## Embroidering Each Applique Letter

1. Attach hooped stabilizer and fabric to machine.
2. Press START|STOP proceeds to sew color #1.
3. After placement stitch is sewn, lay a piece from assorted fabrics (approximately 6x7) on top of the placement stitch ensuring full letter coverage.



4. Use dabs of fabric glue stick to secure.
5. Press START|STOP to sew color #2.
6. Tack-down stitch sews, and machine will pause.
7. Remove hoop and trim around the fabric with applique scissors; replace hoop.



8. Press START|STOP to sew color #3.
9. The applique zigzag stitch will sew.



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10. Remove from hoop and remove excess stabilizer.
11. Press and set aside.
12. Repeat for all flags in banner.
9. Clip corners; turn and press. Use a blunt skewer to assist with pointed corners.
10. Fold top opening under about 1/4-inch and press.

## Banner and Flag Assembly

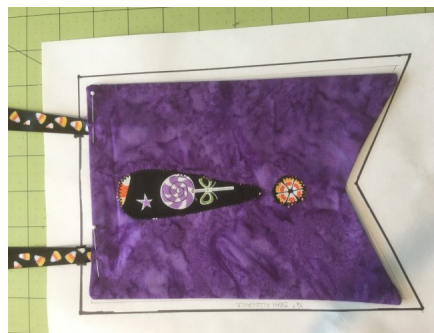
1. Change machine to sewing mode.
2. Trace template onto waxed paper with 1/4-inch seam allowance mark. This offers a window to audition how your letter will look on the flag once it is sewn. Consider the 1/4-inch mark and leave room for optional decorative top stitching or embellishments. Since there is plenty of fabric for the banner, this is a good time to make any size adjustments before cutting!



3. Lay flag template on top of embroidered letter making sure it is center.
4. Using the template as pattern, cut out flag.
5. Placing backing fabric underneath enables cutting the front and the back simultaneously. Time saver!
6. Pin together and set aside.
7. Repeat for each flag.
8. With right sides together and using a 1/4-inch seam allowance, sew together leaving an opening at the top for turning. Mark the bottom point with a 1/4-inch mark to use as a pivot guide when sewing.



11. Cut two pieces of ribbon each at 12-inches.
12. Fold each 12-inch ribbon in half and tuck folded ends inside open seam of flag. Use marks on template for ribbon placement.



13. Top stitch around flag securing the ribbon at the same time.



14. Repeat for each flag.
- After all flags are completed, simply tie them onto the decorative trim and hang!