

# Birthday Calendar

by Yolanda Ingram for Brother



## Requirements

- ♥ Brother ScanNCut Machine
- ♥ Brother V7 Combo Sewing & Embroidery Machine
- ♥ 300 mm x 180 mm (or larger) hoop
- ♥ 90/14 denim needle
- ♥ Denim, canvas, suede or velveteen
- ♥ Fabric: (1) 11" x 19" for front and (1) 8½" x 13¼" for backing
- ♥ (1) 11" x 19" batting
- ♥ Appliqué paper
- ♥ Fabric for appliqué: 2" x 3" for B and 2½" x 12" for birthday
- ♥ Embellishments: Ribbon, buttons, Hot Fix crystals and eyelets.
- ♥ Normal sewing/embroidery requirements
  
- ♥ Download from [www.brother.co.za](http://www.brother.co.za): The free Birthday Calendar Designs (Including the appliqué lettering and heart design (supplied by Louisa Meyer) and the two .fcm pattern files for the ScanNCut Machine)

Skill level: Intermediate

Seam allowance: 1/4" (6 mm)

**1** Iron appliqué paper to the back of chosen fabric. Load the free .fcm patterns via USB onto the ScanNCut machine and prepare to cut out. Use the standard mat with the high tack adhesive support sheet.

Scan fabric first to make sure the cut out will fit onto the fabric piece. Set cutting blade depth to 4 and cutting pressure to 4.

Remove the letters.



**2** Open the free appliqué birthday design in the edit mode. Press SET and add the following to complete your design: Add **Family** in Anniversary lettering (capital and lower case) and rotate 90 degrees. Position it above "irthday", touching slightly.

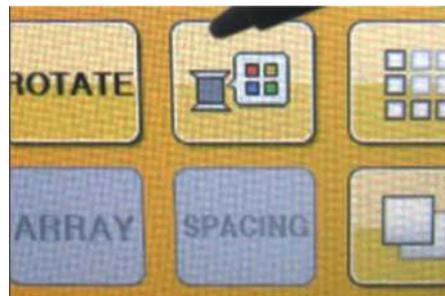
Add **& Friends** (capital and lower case) and rotate 90 degrees. Position it and under "irthday", touching slightly. Add any other lettering (medium size) as well as the months of the year (**JFMAMJJASOND**). Rotate 90 degrees. Press spacing button and drag the letters to fill the whole 300 mm of the hoop.

Now add any design of your choice. I used design 9 under Brother "Exclusives" vintage designs, rotated 90 degrees and moved to the right and above the "irthday".



I also used Design 63 twice under floral alphabet patterns and rotated them 90 degrees, making them as small as possible. Place them over the B as a shadow effect.

You can also change the colour of the stitches if you wish and, to see how it would look, simply press the thread button. See below.



Press EMBROIDERY. Before you start the embroidery, press the flower icon to put a tacking running stitch around the design. Now you can start...

Hoop fabric and batting into your hoop and secure with pins, especially on the long sides. Put the hoop in the machine and float a piece of Stitch 'n Tear underneath.

**3** **Sequence of embroidery:** Stitch tacking stitches to secure layers. Placement for lettering: Remove hoop. Remove appliqué paper from pre-cut shapes and place to cover the placement lines.

- Iron in place. Return the hoop to the machine.
- Secure the placement (you can skip this step if you use the ScanNCut method. If not, this line will secure your fabric).
- Remove hoop and cut out as closely to the stitching as possible.
- Zigzag to tack in place.
- Satin stitch around "B".
- Satin stitch around "irthday".
- Family & Friends.
- Months of the year.
- Floral design.
- Lastly the scrolls over "B".

Remove the tacking stitches **before** you remove the fabric from the hoop.



**4** Making the calendar: Cut this piece as big as the backing fabric, making sure to centre the design. Cut (12) 1,5 cm x 75 cm pieces of ribbon and place them over each month. Roll the ends up and secure with a pin. Place backing fabric on top and stitch a 6 mm seam right around, leaving a 7 cm opening on one side.



Trim the corners and turn inside out. If you want more stability, add a piece of plastic/acetate through the opening before closing it up. Iron lightly and top stitch right around.

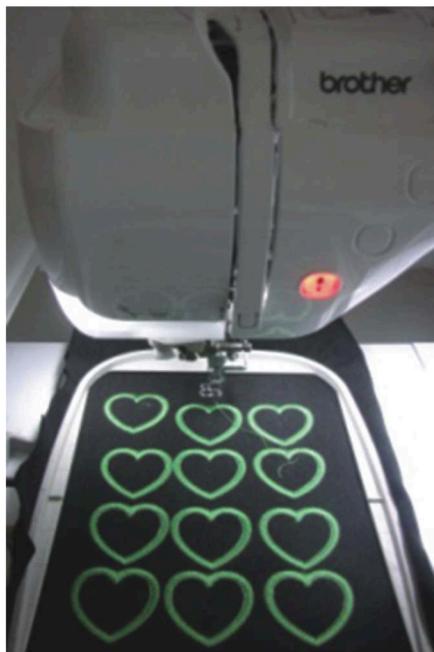
Now you can start to embellish the front. Add eyelets to the top to hang it. Use hot fix crystals and buttons to make it more creative.

Place a piece of ribbon through the eyelets with which to hang your calendar. You now have option to write the name and date of the person whose birthday it is.



**5** You can use the free heart design and fill a whole hoop with hearts.

Hoop two layers of starched black fabric and, using the same thread and top and bottom, embroider the hearts.



Remove and cut them out. (You can also make use of wooden hearts available at any craft store).

Secure a wooden peg to the back of the hearts with a glue gun and peg to the ribbons (or secure to hanging ribbons with stick-on Velcro dots).

If you are using fabric hearts, write directly onto the fabric with a white Artline paint marker.



Above is another design made in a similar way. If you are not up to putting together your own designs, the new set BIRTHDAY CALENDARS from Louisa Meyer, available at [www.louisameyeroriginals.co.za](http://www.louisameyeroriginals.co.za), will help you a lot.

This set includes motifs for 5 x 7 (split files) and a larger hoop.

I hope you enjoy doing this project as much as I did!

Yolanda

