

Techniques

Applique

No turn-under allowances are given on applique patterns.

Using a light table if needed, position background fabric over the applique placement diagram. Lightly mark the major shapes with pencil or chalk. Optionally, finger crease the fabric in half lengthwise, crosswise and diagonally to form guidelines for placement of the patches.

Use a stabilizer on the back to support machine stitching that is dense (like satin stitching) and to keep the fabric from tunneling. Choose a stabilizer that matches the weight of the fabric. After the applique is complete, gently remove the stabilizer.

Fusible Applique

Raw-edge applique using paper-backed fusible web is a fast and easy way to applique. Because fused patches are drawn on the paper side of the web and then flipped when ironed on the fabric, you may need to reverse the applique patterns (see specific pattern for instructions and whether reversing the presented patterns is necessary). Add $\frac{3}{16}$ " underlap allowance to those edges that lie under another.

Trace the pattern pieces, also drawing the needed underlap allowances, on the paper side of a fusible web leaving at least $\frac{1}{2}$ " between all the pieces. Cut about $\frac{3}{16}$ " outside each drawn line.

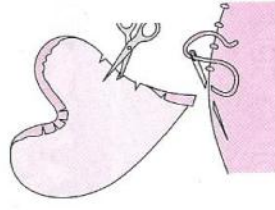
To eliminate stiffness, try this variation for patches larger than 1": Cut out the center of the fusible web $\frac{1}{4}$ " inside the drawn line, making a ring of fusible web.

Following the manufacturer's directions, iron the web, paper side up, to the wrong side of the fabric. Cut out the shape exactly on the drawn line. Carefully pull away the paper backing. Fuse the patches to the background where marked.

To finish the raw edges, machine satin stitch with a colored thread, or zigzag or blanket stitch using matching or invisible thread.

Turned-Edge Applique

It is helpful to have as many bias edges as possible on the perimeter of your applique patches. Trace and cut on the seam line of the pattern to make a template. Place the template face up on the right side of the fabric (face down on the right side for a reverse patch) and lightly draw around it. Cut out each patch about $\frac{3}{16}$ " outside the marked line.



On inward curves, clip the $\frac{3}{16}$ " allowance almost to the marked seam line. Turn under the allowance and finger press.

Pin or baste applique patches on the background fabric. To applique by hand, use a blind stitch and a thread color that matches the patch. To applique by machine, use a small zigzag or blind hem stitch and a matching or invisible thread.

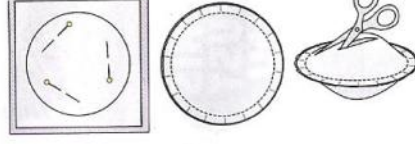
If the background fabric shows through the appliqued patch, carefully cut away the background fabric to within $\frac{3}{16}$ " of the applique patch or use 2 layers of applique fabric.

Perfect Applique Circles

Trace the circle pattern onto lightweight interfacing. Pin the interfacing to the right side of the fabric.

Stitch over the drawn line. Cut about $\frac{3}{16}$ " out-side of the drawn line. Carefully clip slits up to the stitching line about every $\frac{1}{4}$ " to $\frac{1}{2}$ " along the edge.

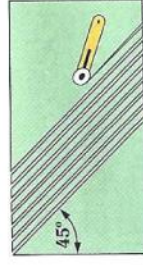
Pull the interfacing away from the fabric and carefully cut a slit in the interfacing. Pull the fabric through the interfacing to turn the circle right sides out. Use a blunt instrument inside the circle to smooth out the edges. Press the circle and position in place. Finish by hand or machine stitching around the applique.



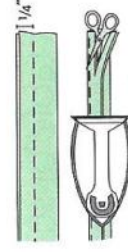
Bias Strips

Bias strips are cut at a 45° angle to the grain of the fabric. They are stretchy and therefore ideal for creating curved applique stems.

Make your first cut by aligning a 45° guideline on your acrylic ruler with the cut edge or selvage of your fabric. Use this new bias edge to cut strips the required width.



Prepare bias strips for applique by folding in half lengthwise, wrong sides together. Stitch $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the raw edges. Offset the seam allowance; press toward the center. Trim the seam allowance to $\frac{1}{8}$ ".



Stitch Diagrams



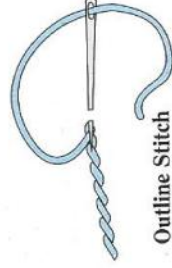
Backstitch



Blind Stitch



Running Stitch



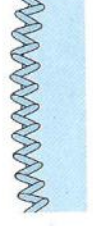
Outline Stitch



Machine Satin Stitch



Satin Stitch



Machine Zigzag Stitch