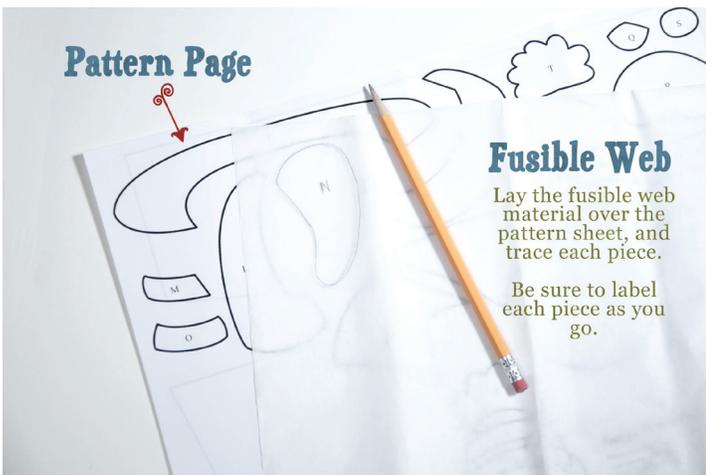


Just a little tutorial by
Kelly Mueller of
The Wooden Bear.

I have been wanting to do this tutorial for quite some time now, as almost all of my designs involve fusible applique. I know there are many quilters out there who have never heard of, or never used, the applique pressing sheets... or maybe are just afraid to give it a try. Being that it is quite possibly my very favorite tool in the quilt room, I thought it was time to spread the word, and hopefully bring a little enlightenment to how it works! I'm using my *Polar Walrus Patternlet* as an example. This design is perhaps a little complex if you're a beginner, but it allows me to show you a few tricks that you might use down the road. We have several Patternlets on our website that have fewer pieces, and would be a great beginner project. Let's get started!



Step 1: Lay the fusible web material over of the pattern page and trace each piece, labeling as you go. I have used *Heat n Bond Lite* for years now, and love it. The applique pressing sheet I use is by Bear Thread Designs. I have had mine for over 10 years now, and it's still going strong! (*We sell them on our website, and you get a free patternlet with purchase.*)

You may notice the pattern pieces are the mirror image of how they are on the final project. This is so they will be the correct direction after being adhered to fabric. Don't worry, this will make more sense as we move through the steps.

Now it's time to cut!

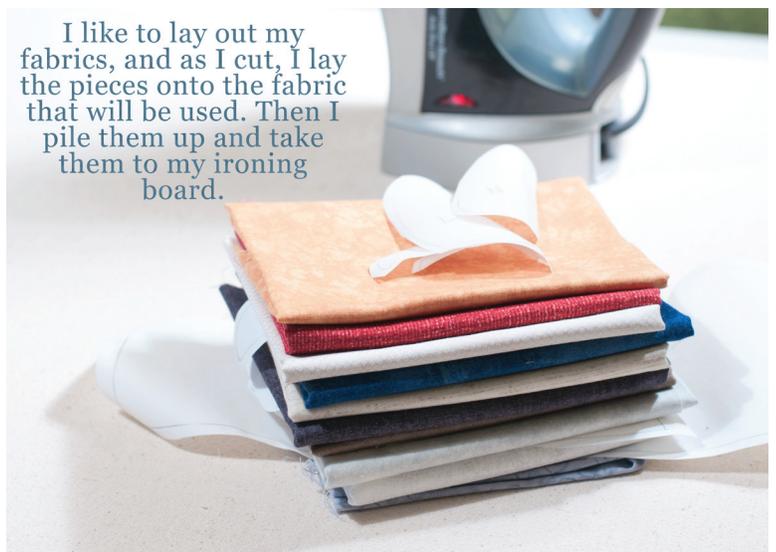


Step 2: Cut out the pattern pieces, cutting a little beyond the traced line. You don't have to be precise at all with your cutting, that comes later.



Step 3: Match up your fusible pattern pieces with the appropriate fabrics, and head to the ironing board.

A little tip "off the record": The package says no steam is needed, but I always have my iron on the steam setting. Be sure to test on a scrap to find what works best for you.



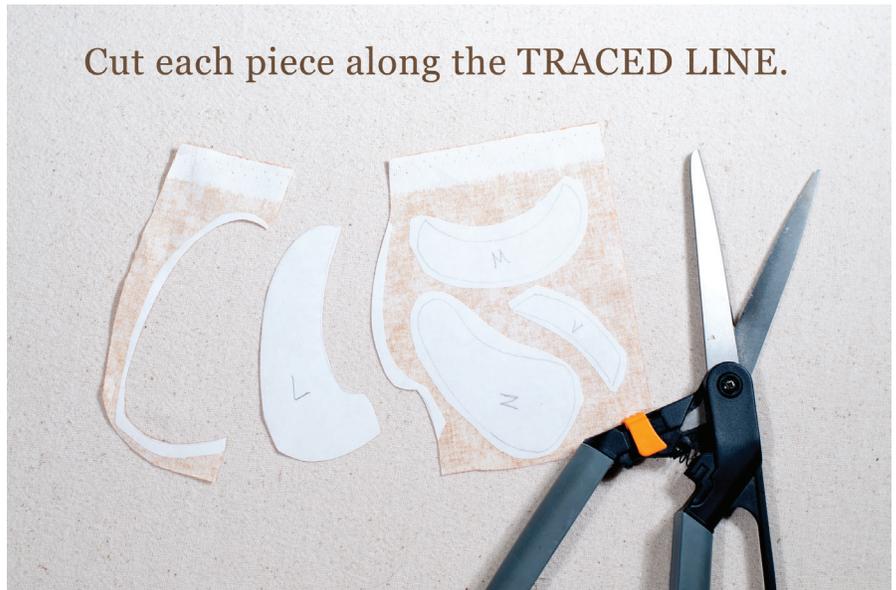
Step 4: Iron the fusible pattern pieces to the appropriate fabric following the manufacturer's instructions (except, perhaps, adding a little steam ;o).

Be sure to iron to the **BACK SIDE** of the fabric! I'm so used to this I don't even think about it, but when I first started, I would catch myself not paying attention and would inevitably iron pieces to the front side. Definitely cause for frustration!

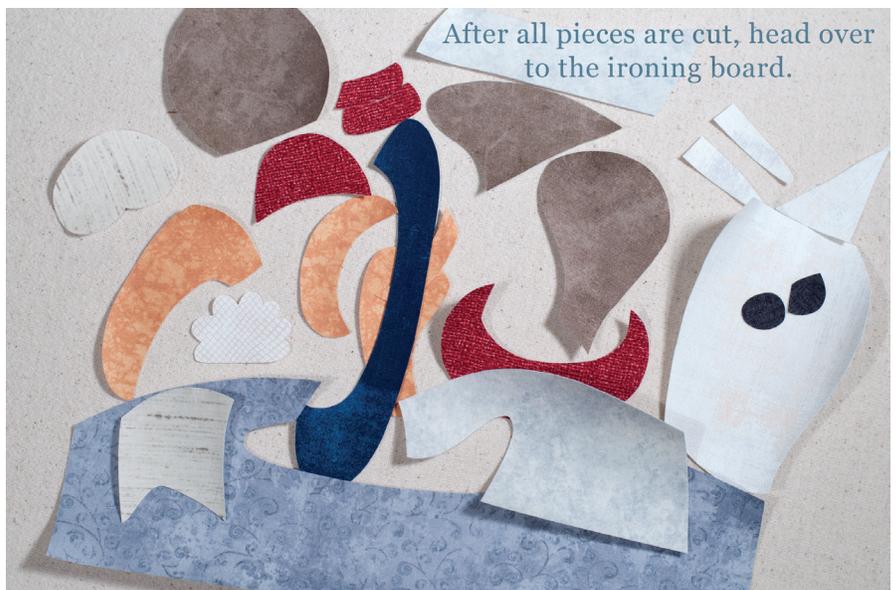


Step 5: After the pieces have cooled, cut each along the traced line. This is why you left a little extra space beyond the traced line, and this is where you should try to cut more precisely.

DO NOT PEEL OFF THE PAPER BACKING YET! Having the pieces labeled is going to help you lay out the pieces on the applique placement diagram.

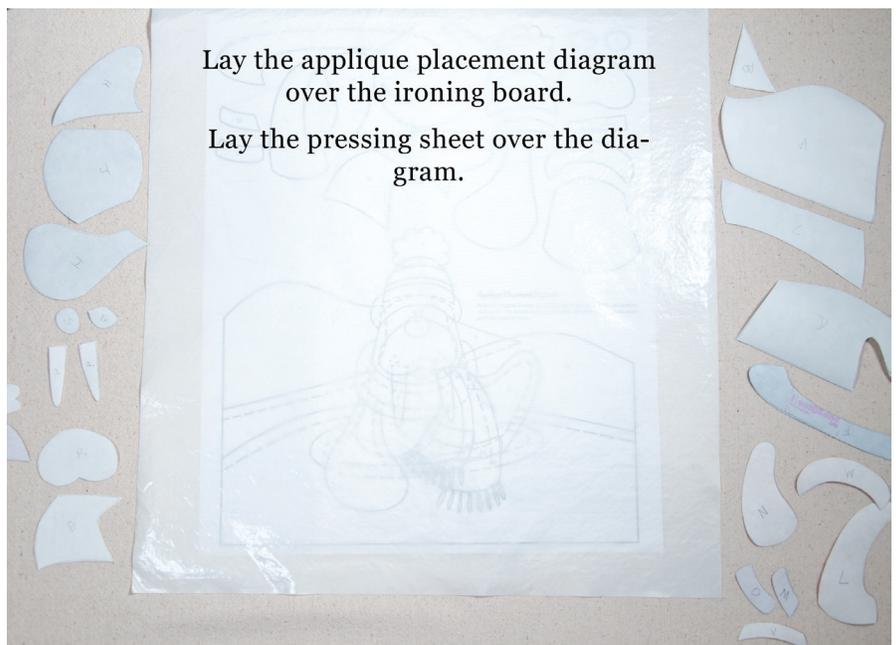


Now that the fusible pieces have been adhered to the fabric, things may be looking a little more familiar now (i.e. the correct direction). It's time to head over to the ironing board once again!



Step 6: Lay the applique placement diagram over the ironing board, and the pressing sheet over the diagram. You can see that the pressing sheet is translucent, and allows you to see the layout underneath. This is going to allow you to place each piece perfectly, instead of looking at a picture of the finished project and guessing where each piece should be placed.

FYI- that is the applique pressing that I have been using for over ten years now. Super durable!



A Few Words Before You Begin Assembling

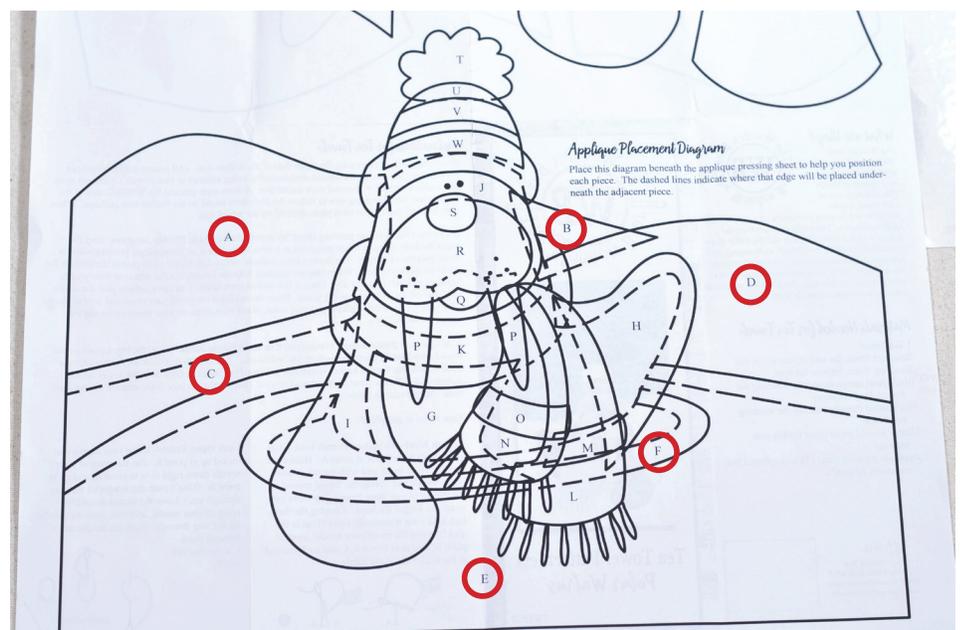
- When designating letters to my diagrams, I try to label them in the order that I would assemble them. I start with “A” for the piece that would be in the very back (i.e. the background pieces), and continue to label them in alphabetical order, layering pieces on top of pieces.
- The pieces only overlap by approximately 1/4”, and this will allow them to be adhered to each other along the edges. Having them only overlap a small amount helps reduce bulk, and makes it easier to sew through all the layers.



Keep laying pieces over the diagram, going in alphabetical order, and tapping lightly with the iron to keep each piece in place. You can see below where pieces overlap by approximately 1/4”.

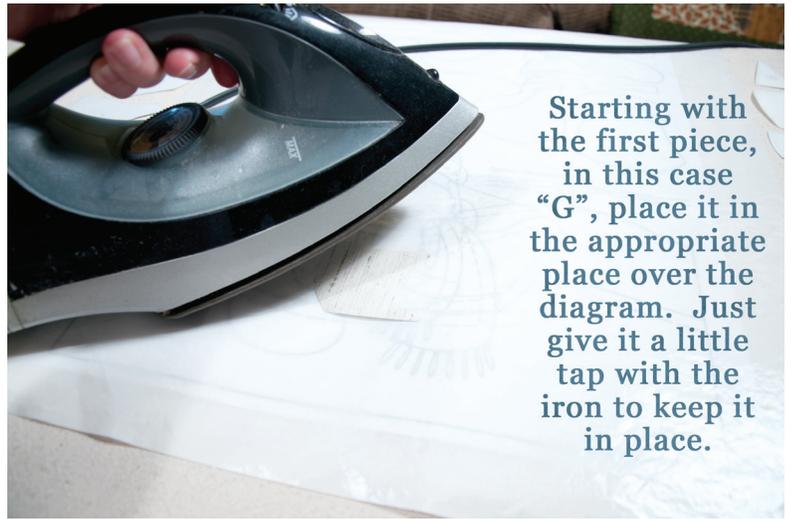
The dashed lines on the diagram indicate that edge of the pattern piece will go UNDERNEATH the adjacent piece.

- Along with labeling the pieces in the order in which to assemble them, there are also dashed lines to help guide you. The dashed lines tell you that edge of that piece will go underneath the adjacent piece. This will become apparent as you start to assemble.
- If you're a beginner, this design is perhaps a little more complex for your first try, but I chose this one so I could demonstrate how to break down the larger appliques for easy assembly. In the case of the Polar Walrus, I decided to break the majority of the design into “walrus” and “background.” Sometimes, if you build up the pieces that are “behind”, it makes it hard to see the lines for the subsequent pieces on the diagram. The pattern pieces circled in red are the background pieces that I will skip for now, and I will begin assembling the walrus. You will see in Step 9 where it all comes together.

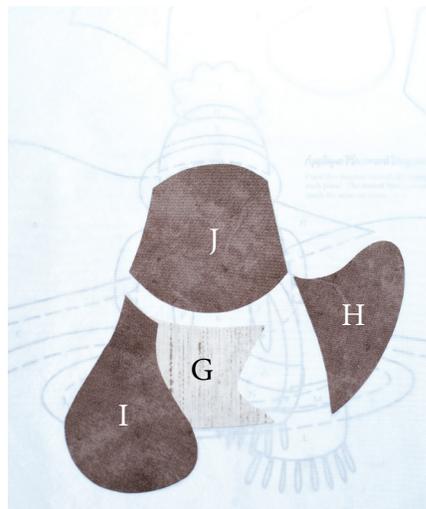
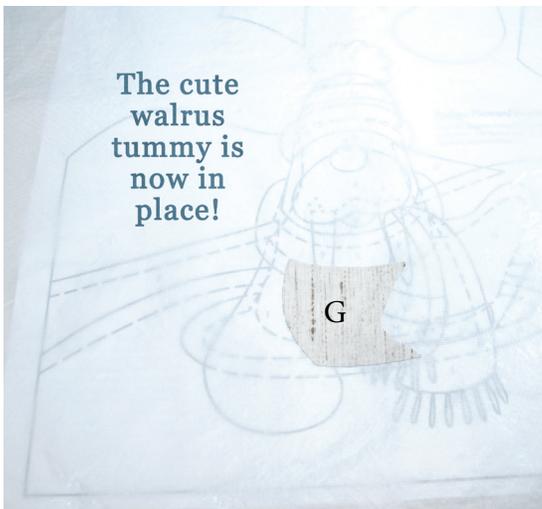


Okay, let's resume...

Step 7: As mentioned on page 4, I will begin with assembling the walrus. The first piece is “G”. Peel off the paper backing, and place it in the appropriate position on top of the applique pressing sheet. Align all edges, matching it with the diagram, and give it just a little tap with the iron. This just helps adhere it lightly to the applique pressing sheet so it will not move as you assemble.



Continue assembling the pieces, going in alphabetical order...



Step 8: You can see here where it would have been hard to piece the nose, snout, and tusks, because the face piece wouldn't allow you to see the diagram underneath. In this case, I would just slide the pressing sheet over so you can see the diagram of the face again, and assemble those pieces following the diagram. I did the same thing with the hat pieces. After those sections have cooled, peel them off and place them in position on the rest of the applique. Iron in place. There may be times when you will simply have to place pieces by looking at the diagram, but use this technique when possible.



Assemble elsewhere on the sheet.

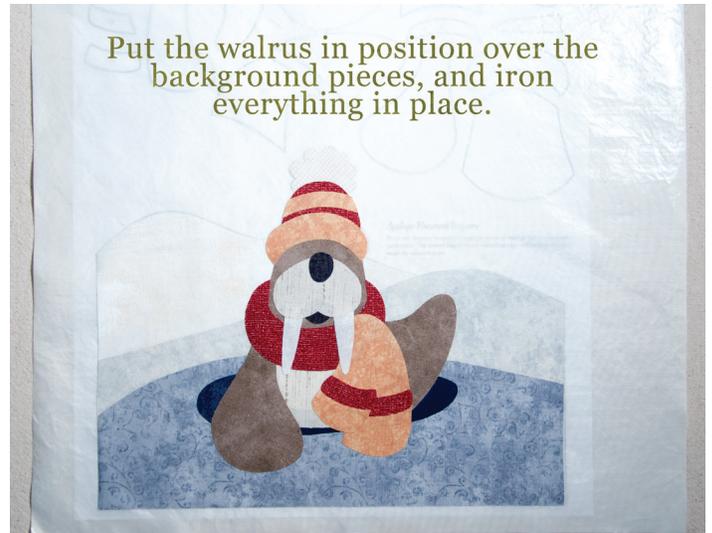
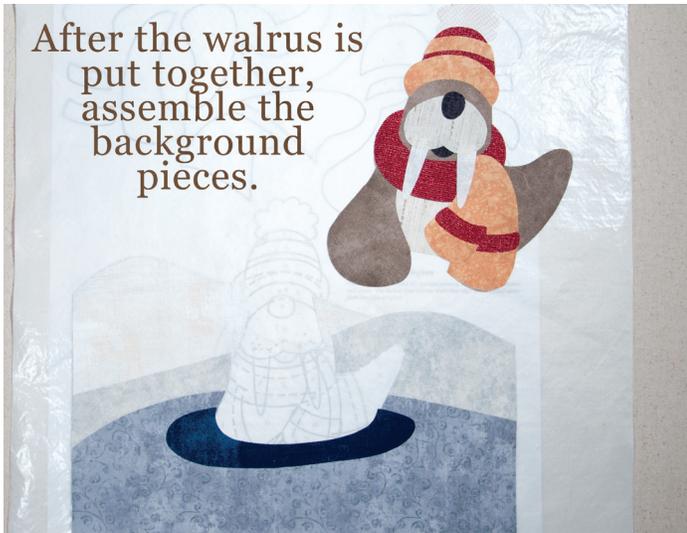


After it cools, peel it off...

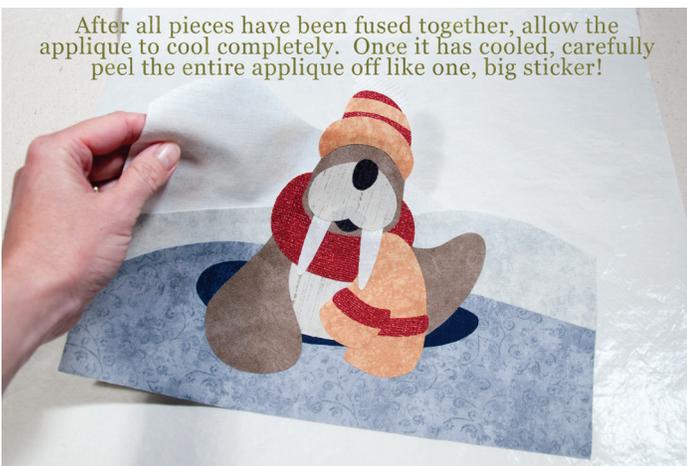


...and attach to the rest of the applique.

Step 9: After you have the walrus put together, assemble the background pieces. Once everything has cooled, peel off the entire walrus, and position him over the background. Fuse everything together by lightly ironing.



Step 10: Once the entire applique has cooled, peel the whole thing off the applique pressing sheet like one, big sticker! I love this part! Center the entire applique over your project, and iron in place.





Now, it's time to stitch all your pieces and add decorative stitches, buttons, and embellishments!

Hope this gives you a better understanding of how to use fusible web with the applique pressing sheet. Now, go give it a try!

Check out our website at www.thewoodenbear.com for many applique patterns for tea towels, small wallhangings, wool, and much more! We also sell tea towels, buttons, pearl cotton threads, and, of course, applique pressing sheets and Heat n Bond Lite!

