

Machine Applique Techniques



- Pattern instructions should indicate which supplies you will need.
- My favorites are...
 - Templates - Templar™ Template Heat Resistant plastic
 - Fusible - Heat and Bond™ Light or Steam a Seam™ light, I really like the two sided fusible - it allows for placement and movement before you actually fuse to fabric.
 - Fabric - 100% cotton
 - Scissors - good fabric and paper scissors
 - Light weight sew in stabilizer

There are many techniques and tips for Machine Appliqué, these are mine.

- Simple Steps to prepare for fusing...
 - Press your fabric (not necessary to wash)
 - Place template plastic over the shape you wish to cut out and trace the shape with a permanent marker.
 - For fusible appliqué, you want to leave off the seam allowance when tracing your shape.
 - Cut the shape exactly on the line using smooth cuts with a good pair of paper scissors.
 - Trace the shapes onto the fusible paper, cut around 1/4" or 3/8" on the fusible before you place on the fabric.
 - You can eliminate this step if you can see through the fusible well enough to make an accurate cut, just trace the shape using the fusible, however do not cut on the line, cut about 1/4" or 3/8" around the shape. Once the shape is placed on the fabric and fused, then you cut on the line or final shape. Make sure to trace on the removable side of the fusible.

- Once the template or traced fusible is ready, then you will want to place it on the wrong side of your fabric - sometimes a pattern will call for your fabric to be precut to certain size, the template or fusible will fit in the precut shape.
 - When the fusible is in the desired place on the fabric, fuse in place according to mfg. instructions.
 - Using a good pair of fabric scissors, cut on the line of the shape in smooth cuts, especially for curves. Sharp, short cuts will make the fabric fray or ravel.
 - Now its time to choose a stitching preference.
- **Stitching suggestions for machine applique....**
 - Many quilters and seamstress like the invisible stitch using a small zig zag at 2.1 in size with a grey or smoke invisible thread.
 - I also like the small blanket stitch with a neutral color.
 - Aurifil™ thread is so nice, it just melts into the fabric, which is perfect for just top stitching the edge.
 - I suggest you take a sample of your brightest or darkest fabric choice and make different sample of stitches from your machine and use a permanent marker to write the information on the width and length of the stitch.
 - If you have a machine with an option for favorites, ♥ you will want to add the stitches you like to your library so you do not have to look for them each time you do machine appliqué.
 - The important thing to remember is to use a light or medium speed when machine appliquéing - if you go to fast with your stitches, they will not be uniform or look skilled, so practice your speed especially around curves. You will want to also lift the presser foot as necessary and use a stabilizer to keep pattern in place without the fabric stretching or bunching up around it. Be sure to remove after stitching.
- **Finishing**
 - Once design is in place and stitched, lightly press from the backside. You are now ready to include block with the rest of the quilt. Enjoy!

