

Please read before starting!!

Hand Made Designs

Pattern for templates are included in this pattern. The seam allowance is included in pattern. Cutting and folding instructions, and marking lines for hand quilting.

- **Fabric choice:** I prefer cotton woven fabrics. I do not recommend using batiks, they are a very tight weave and create more resistance in hand appliqué and hand quilting especially if you are a beginner.
- **Fabric contrast:** There needs to be some contrast between the top design and background fabric. I recommend to use a solid or a fabric that 'reads solid' for the top. Remember part of your design is the hand quilting on top design. You can use a prints for the background fabric. Audition your fabrics until you are satisfied.
- **Thread:** I use a cotton thread with a silk finish (I like Mettler, the lavender spool), for appliqué and hand quilting the background in echo quilting.
- **For appliqué,** you want to choose a thread color as close to your top fabric as possible. Always choose the darker shade instead of the lighter. The darker shade will not shine around the appliqué, but will bury itself in the shadow.
- **For quilting on your top design, (ie. the pineapple or monstera),** use a thread color to highlight your quilting. I often use embroidery thread, (2 strands to enhance my markings, you can use a larger needle), the stitching will be longer, but create a nice embellishment.
- **For the background thread,** I use a color that blends into the fabric.
- **Batting:** My first choice for batting is wool. Wool is most often preshrunk, and the wool fibers cause very little resistance for hand quilting. My second choice is cotton batting, a natural fiber with a little resistance.
- **Needles:** I have tried many different needles, it come down to two things, can you thread it and slender enough for ease of pushing through fabric. A needle threader will help, and **good light!** I used Millners (7-9) for appliqué. And Betweens 7, for Hand quilting. You can purchase a variety pack of each, to see which size works for you.
- **Thimble:** I use a raised edge thimble for hand quilting is the best. The raised edge has a ridge that will secure the needle and prevent it from slipping. Fitting is essential, put it on you middle finger of your 'needle hand', it should be snug. Give a few small shakes, if it falls off it is too big.
- **Wooden Hoop :** A round 16-18 inch hoop one inch thick is the best. A round hoop for hand quilting allows you to rotate your project easily. You want to be able to quilt toward the eye.

Preparation Class: Your pattern will be available for either the Monstera or Pineapple quilt.

You will accomplish the following in the preparation class.

Template: *seam allowance is included* in the template for cutting.

The '4 square design', **ADD the seam allowance on 'straight side', as marked on pattern.**

The **one block design (NO seam allowance 'straight side)**. The pattern is cut on an eighth fold, like a paper snowflake.

(The Monstera leaf is the exception, each leaf is cut individually, on *four* 11" squares.)

Prior to cutting make sure that your folds are correct and press lines are necessary for proper alignment of pattern and background. Pressing the fabrics should be the same for top and bottom.

Align the center on the pattern template to the center of your folded fabric. The pattern is like a paper snowflake. (The Monstera leaf is the exception.)

I mark my fabric with a pencil for cutting, pin as needed to secure the layers. Cut carefully, make sure to cut the ovals

Basting: After the cut, open the fabric carefully and place the center to center on the top to the background, the bias folds should match. Lightly press to flatten without losing your press lines, now pin when you are satisfied. Baste large stitches about 3/8" from edge of pattern, including the ovals. This will secure your project, the 3/8" basting also works as a guide for your needle turn appliqué. Make sure to backstitch instead of knotting the thread. Backstitch on the top of your project, for easy clipping when ready to remove the basting thread.

Class 1

****We will practice appliqué on muslin provided by instructor, then move on to your project.

Now appliqué the top to the background fabric, when you are done carefully cut away background fabric from underneath the top design, for ease of hand quilting, (***this will be demonstrated in class***). I use 'bandage scissors' or craft scissors with a duckbill, to avoid cutting the top. Take your time.

You will sew your four squares on the sewing machine. (***This will be demonstrated in class***).

If you want to make your project a wall hanging, then add border as desired, and but batting at least 1 inch larger than project, and back at least 2 inches larger than batting.

Sandwich the top fabric - batting- and back fabric. Baste around the edge and diagonally both sides to create an X. This will secure with the hoop. Ready for Class Two.

Class 2

Ready for hand quilting Project, hoop, thimble, between needle and thread.

****We will practice hand quilting on on muslin with black thread, will be provided by instructor.