

## Lesson 10 – Straight Lines

### Straight Lines

We have learned to stitch the 4 elements of hand-appliqué. However, there is one variation that I think it is important to cover.

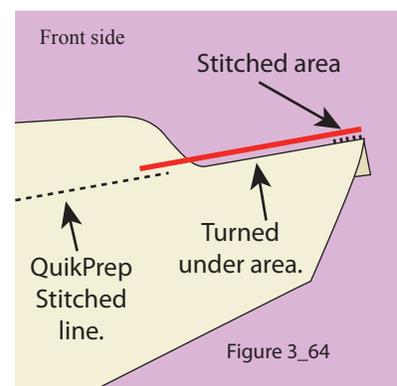
Straight lines are a variation of an outer curve or an inner curve depending on how you look at it. As we stitch long, straight lines it is all too easy to introduce a wobble ending up with a line that is not as straight as it should be.

To stitch a straight line without a wobble, we need to start with a traced line that doesn't have a wobble. It is very difficult to trace a perfectly straight line. The solution is simple, however. Use a ruler to mark the straight line when you trace the pattern. Make one long, smooth line. On extra long lines be careful when you reposition the ruler. The end of the first line should hook up smoothly to the second line. No bumps or wiggles where the two lines join.

Your stitched straight line can be just as straight as your traced line. If you have wobbles and bumps in your traced line, you can transfer those irregularities to your finished appliqued line. Always trace straight lines with a ruler.

When it is time to stitch your straight-line take your time, check often drawing an imaginary line from your QuikPrep Stitches through the area where you just turned under the seam allowance to the section that has already

been stitched. The red line in Figure 3\_64 is our imaginary line. You can also turn your work over and check the back.



If you leave the line, carefully

1. Unthread your needle
2. Remove stitches until a stitch or 2 before your wooble.
3. Push under a little more seam allowance.
4. Take a needle stitch. (Lesson 6, Page 50) Readjust seam allowance if necessary.
5. Re-thread needle and continue appliqueing,

#### Top Tip

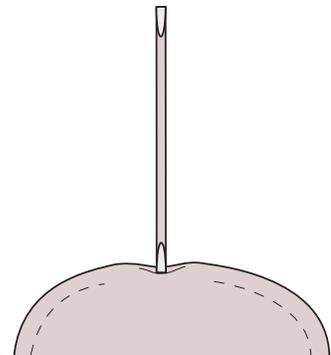
Always use a ruler when tracing straight lines on the wrong side of your background fabric.

## Cuticle Stick Tricks

We have been using an cuticle stick as we have learned the 4 basic elements of appliqué.

### Outer Curve

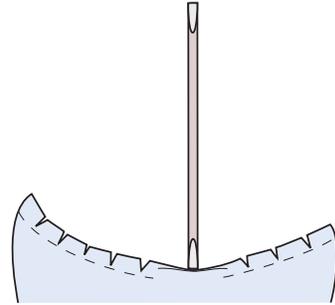
Remove several QuikPrep stitches. Place the cuticle stick perpendicular to your stitching line. Gently push/fold fabric under. Be sure your curve flows gently from your QuikPrep stitches in front of your needle through to your stitched edge behind your needle.



## Inner Curve

An inner curve is similar to an outer curve.

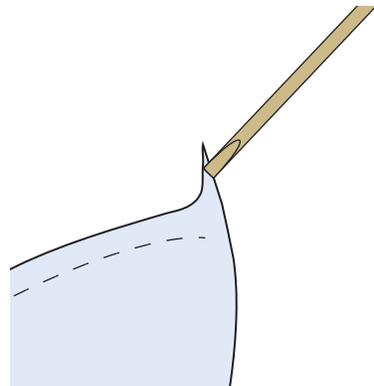
Gently remove several QuikPrep stitches. Place your cuticle stick perpendicular to your stitching line. Gently push/fold the fabric under being sure that your curve flows gently from your QuikPrep stitches in front of your work through to your finished edge behind your needle.



## Outer Point

Outer point going in: Appliqué as usual.

Outer point going out: Grab the fabric in the seam allowance at the point and fold under pushing away from your wrist.

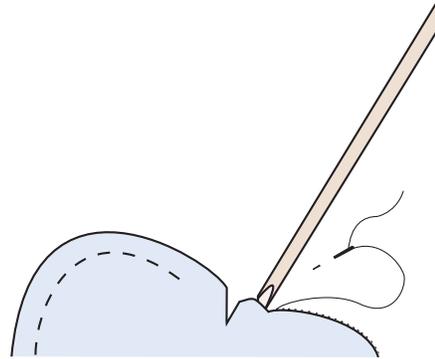


## Inner Point

Inner point going in: Stitching an inner point is a multi-step process. Stitch to within 1/2 “ of inner point. Paint glue on the seam allowance. Remove all QuikPrep stitches into the point. Also remove 1/2” of QuikPrep stitches going out of the point.

Use the cuticle stick to fold under the seam

allowance about 1/2” away from point. Pull back towards your wrist., sweeping the raw edge under. Place **needle** directly under the point to sweep under any threads that pop out. Stitch into the point.



Inner Point-Going Out: Remove 1/2” of basting stitches. Insert the cuticle stick 1/2” away from the point. Fold under the seam allowance and the push the cuticle stick away from the point. Use your **needle** to sweep under any stray threads.

