

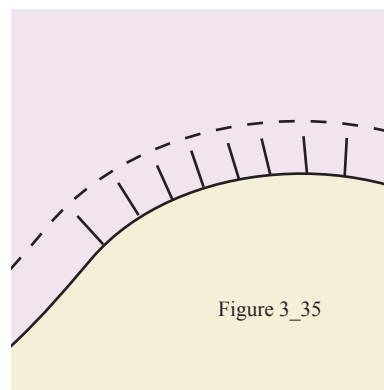
## Lesson 7 – Inner Curves

### Inner Curves

Inner curves will be the second element of QuikPrep Appliqué that we will learn. Just as we did for an outer curve, we will stitch an inner curve as a sample that we can keep and refer to later.

Begin by cutting a 6” square of background fabric. Trace Figure 3\_35 from lesson 5 onto the wrong side of your background fabric.

We will use the same pattern we used for outer curves only this time we turn our work upside down and use these curves as inner curves. Cut a 2” square of appliqué fabric – preferably a batik. Using the pin method of placement, pin the appliqué fabric in the proper position on the front



side of the background fabric. Use the QuikPrep Stitch on the wrong side of our background fabric to transfer our pattern to the front of our appliqué fabric. We are now ready to begin appliquéing our sample. Inner curves are very similar to outer curves. There is just one major exception. Many inner curves will have to be “relieved” in order for the seam allowance to lay flat. That is, we will have to clip the seam allowance in several places. Figure 3\_35 shows an inner curve with clippings to relieve the inner curve.

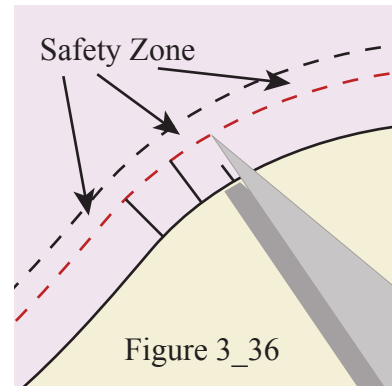
For some very gentle curves our fabric will stretch enough that we won’t need to clip the curve. Personally, I will almost always relieve a curve – even very gentle ones. The appliqué fabric for even a gently curve that is not relieved will be pulled and stretched during the stitching process. After the patch has been stitched the fabric will

relax back into it's "normal" position. This invariably means it will "shrink" back into place. This "shrinking" process will reduce the size of our background block. It is one of the reasons, that background blocks are often cut oversized when doing hand-appliqué. I, personally, prefer to avoid "shrinking" the background block whenever possible so I relieve these seams.

To relieve the seam allowance of an inner curve, clip perpendicular to the fold line - our QuikPrep Stitching line which is the black dashed line in Figure 3\_36.. **Do not clip over 2/3 of the way into the seam allowance.** This creates a safety zone between the fold line and our clips. In Figure 3\_36 the area between the black, dotted QuikPrep Stitched line (Our fold line) and the red dotted line is our safety zone.

If we clip into this zone we risk creating an inner pokie. If our seam allowance doesn't lay flat when we stitch it, we will need to make **more clips not deeper clips** between the clips that we have already made. This will allow our seam allowance to lay flat and not shrink our background.

So let's get started. Stitch your inner curve sample at this time. You can stitch as many of these little samples as you would like. Stitch until you feel comfortable with an inner curve.



#### Top Tip

Never clip into the safety zone. If the appliqué patch doesn't lay flat, add more clips between the original clips. Don't clip deeper.

Now let's put together our outer curves and our inner curves. In the next exercise you will stitch Block 2 of "My First Appliqué Quilt".

Exercise: Let's stitch Block 2 labeled "Inner Curve" of "My First Appliqué Quilt". In this block we have added inner curves to the outer curves that we learned in a previous exercise.

1. Trace pattern onto wrong side of background fabric.
2. Beginning with the bottom most patch, place and baste your appliqué fabric in place.
3. Stitch the patch.
4. Repeat until all patches are stitched.