

Lesson 8 – Outer Points

Outer Points

The phrase “Outer Points” causes the hands of many hand-appliquers to sweat and their hearts to race. It doesn’t need to be this way. Outer points are not difficult if done one step at a time. If you very carefully follow these steps many of you will create a beautiful point the first time. For others, don’t get discouraged. The old adage “practice makes perfect” applies to outer points.

There are a number of steps. **Don’t skip any steps– ever.**

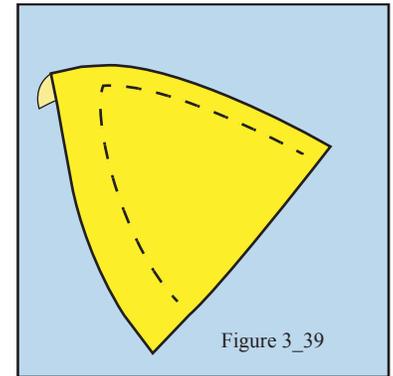
Perfect Outer Points

1. Trim a 1/8” seam allowance up to the point leaving the seam allowance extra long at the point. Do NOT trim down the second side.
2. Appliqué to the point.
3. Turn your work and take a second stitch in the point.
4. Push your needle through to the back-side of your work and park it.
5. Trim the turned-under seam allowance we just stitched on the first side of the point under our appliquéd side..
6. Trim the seam allowance to 1/8” on the second side, leaving extra fabric at the point.
7. Fold under the seam allowance at the point down the second side.
8. Stab stitch the first 2 or 3 stitches down the second side away from the point.

In this next section I will discuss each of these steps in depth. I would recommend that you read the whole section to begin with. Then come back to this point and do the exercise.

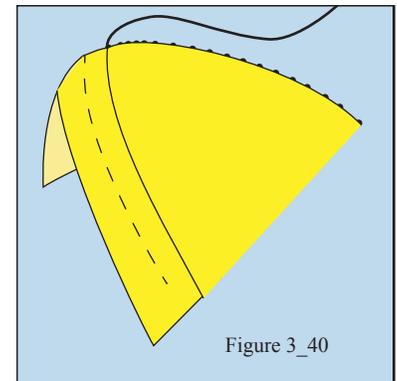
Cut a 6” square of background fabric – preferably a batik.. Trace Figure 3_38 – an outer point – onto the wrong side of your background fabric. The pattern is located at the end of this PDF file.

Cut a 2" square of appliqué fabric. 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 baste the patch. We are now ready to begin appliquéing our sample.



Step 1: Trim the seam allowance to 1/8". Do not trim down the second side of the point at this time. Leave the seam allowance extra long at the point. (Figure 3_39)

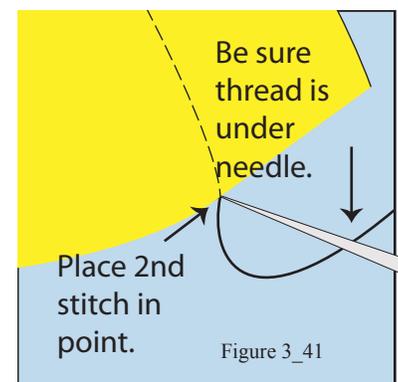
Step 2: Fold under and stitch the first side with an appropriate color of appliqué thread. (Figure 3_40) Use either a 100 wt. silk (preferred) or a 100% cotton 60 wt. or lighter. Using the appropriate



thread is critical. Use a heavier thread and your point may not be as sharp. It will be heavier and bulkier. When you get about 1/4" away from the point, begin placing your appliqué stitches closer together. Your last stitch on this side will come out the point. Check the back to be sure you are at the point.

Stitch all the way to the point taking your last stitch directly in the point. Do not stitch beyond the point. One of the big advantages of QuikPrep Appliqué is its accuracy. We can be sure we are exactly at the point, simply by turning our work over and looking at our stitches and the pencil line.

Step 3. On the right side, turn your work so that you can place a second stitch directly in the point. (Figure 3_41) Be sure to keep this stitch as shallow as the first. The thread should be under the needle not on top. Be sure this stitch is under the last stitch you took in the point

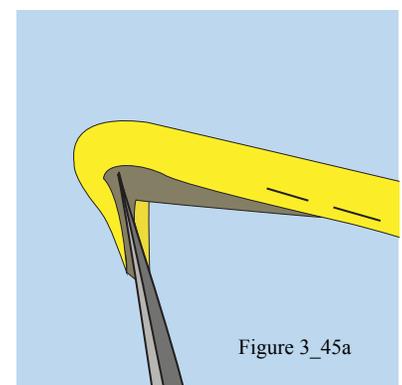
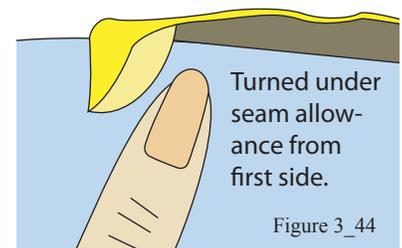
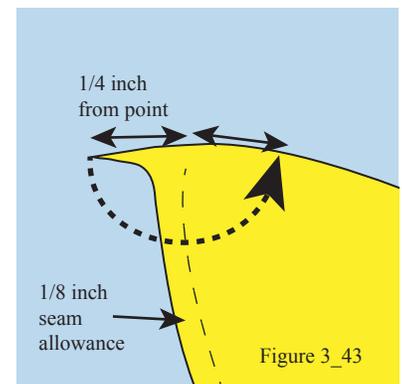
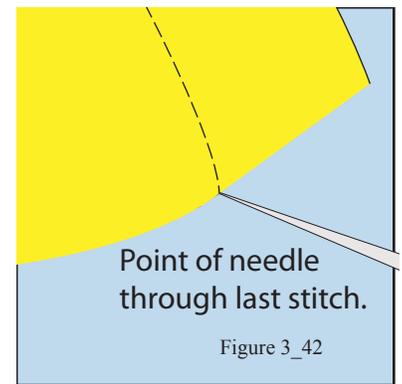


before turning your work. Also be sure it comes out the point not beside the point. We have now placed 2 stitches directly in the point. The point has been stitched. We will NOT place any more stitches in the point. We will NOT revisit it.

Step 4.: Park your needle on the backside of your appliqué piece by pushing it through to the back. (Figure 3_42) I like to run the point of my needle along the seam just stitched. As I do so, I can actually feel the point of the needle fall into the whole created by the last stitch. I like to use this. That is, I like to push my needle through to the reverse side exactly on the spot where I took my last stitch. Once it is on the backside I can then “park it” in the background fabric.

Step 5: Return to the front to trim the seam allowance on the second side. This is where the extra fabric at the point comes in. We will start trimming about 1/4” away from the point. We will very quickly “swoosh” down to 1/8”. We will quickly turn our work and continue trimming the seam allowance to 1/8”.

You might think this will be adding bulk to the point but just the opposite is true. Check out the Figure 3_43. The dark dotted line shows what will happen as we grab the extra fabric at the point with our cuticle stick and fold it under our appliqué fabric up to the edge we just stitched. You will notice the extra length doesn’t end up in the point. Instead it will lie beside the first appliquéd edge away from the point. This is also why we need extra stitches going into the point. As we fold under the seam allowance on the second side we don’t want it pushing through the first side.



Closely placed stitches on the first side will be a great barrier that will prevent the seam allowance from the second side from showing.

One of the most common problems when stitching an outer point is that we cut the seam going down the second side too narrow. When this happens the fabric will often fray and we will have extra, short threads poking out that we have to deal with.

To guarantee that you don't have extra fabric right at the point, you need to be sure you "swoosh" down to a 1/8" seam allowance leaving the fabric longer at the point.

Step 6. Turn your work so that you can see the seam allowance that you just stitched. That is you want to be able to see the seam allowance **under** the side you just stitched. We are going to trim that seam allowance to remove more bulk from the point. Don't worry. We have already stitched the first side with lots of stitches going into the point. After we are done trimming the seam there will still be enough fabric to hold the first side in place.

Be sure to trim at least the first 3/8" of the seam allowance. Trimming 1/2" would be even better. This removes excess bulk from the point.

Step 7: Turn your work back to the normal position for appliqué. Take your cuticle stick, grab the excess fabric at the point and fold it under against the stitches on the first side of the point.

(Figure 3_46) Now we see our point. Check your work carefully. Finger press it. Check your work again. Be sure the point looks just exactly the way you want it to look. I have a tendency to fold

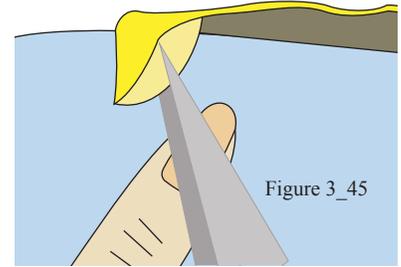


Figure 3_45

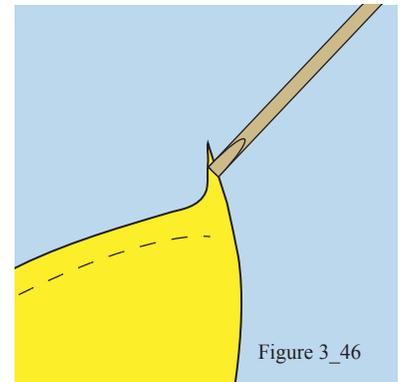


Figure 3_46

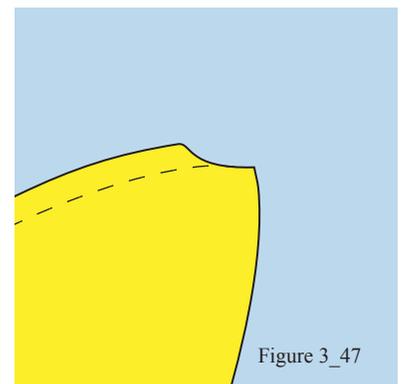


Figure 3_47

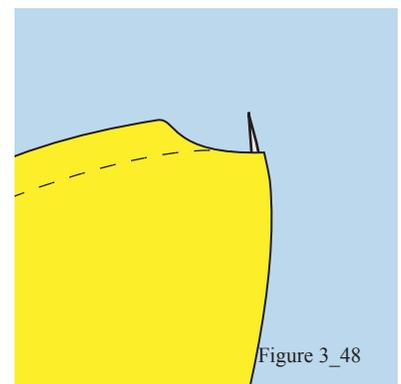
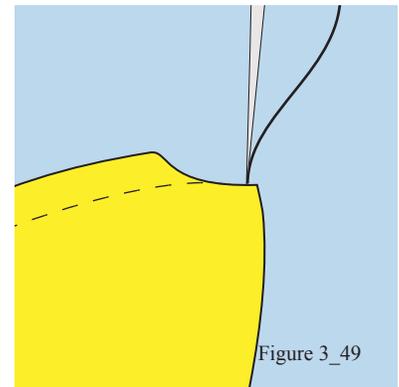


Figure 3_48

under too much. When this happens I use the point of my needle to gently pull out some of the appliqué fabric to create a perfect point.

Step 8: It is very easy to pop out your seam allowance as you use the appliqué stitch. So let's use a stab stitch instead to anchor the second side. (Figure 3_48) Your needle and thread are already on the backside of your work so just bring the point of your needle up



through the background fabric and out the fold of the appliqué fabric. I like to bring it out about 3/16" from the point. This anchors the seam that was folded under as I put in the remaining stitches. To make the stab stitch pull the thread through to the front about 3/16" down from the point. Then place the point of the needle next to your thread and slightly under the appliqué fabric. Push through the background fabric to the wrong side. This makes a stab stitch. Make 2 or 3 stab stitches moving back towards the point. Do not take another stitch in the point. After securing the first 3/16" return to your normal appliqué.

Continue making samples until you are comfortable with making outer points. Then it's time to return to "My First Appliqué Quilt". This time we will add outer points to the outer curves and inner curves that we learned previously. Follow the instructions in the exercise box to complete Block 3.

Exercise: Let's stitch Block 3 – Outer Points of our QuikPrep Appliqué Sampler. In this block we have added outer points to the inner curves and outer curves that we learned in a previous exercise.

1. Trace pattern onto wrong side of background fabric.
2. Place, pin and appliqué each patch.
3. Repeat until all patches are stitched..

Outer and Inner Points

Full size pattern

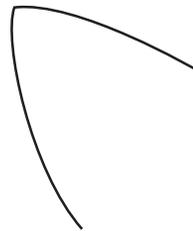
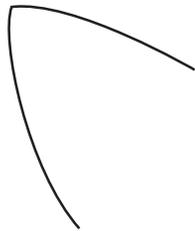
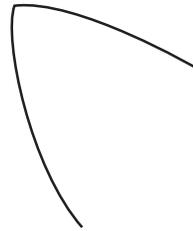
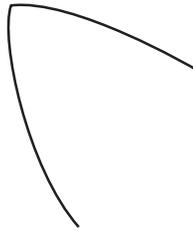


Figure 3_38