

## Appliqué: A New Method!

by Cindy Scraba

It's always exciting to share news with quilters who also appliqué! The Appliquick® Tools are a simple, but clever invention designed for use with the glue-stick method to help create perfect appliqué shapes more easily. They allow you to manipulate and sculpt fabric pieces with accuracy, which includes miniature appliqué shapes!

Our model demonstrating in the photos below is multi award-winning appliqué quilter, Val Ursulak, who is The Appliqué Society (TAS\*) Chapter Leader for the Nanaimo Dimensional Divas of BC.

At this stage of the demo, Val has already applied some glue stick (in this example, Elmer's School Glue™) along the 1/8-inch



edges ready to be turned. The slimmer glue stick pens are also useful for this method. Previous steps included tracing designs onto the backside of fabric and ironing to a single-sided fusible paper stabilizer that dissolves almost completely in water. Complete assembled blocks are later soaked to remove traces of the water-soluble glues and stabilizer. A trace of soft fuzz remains inside the appliquéd shapes—a good thing! In this example, Hugs 'n Kisses™ fusible appliqué paper was applied. For convenience, this brand is also inkjet printable and saves the tracing step when you pre scan pages of designs and print directly to the non-fused side of the 8.5" x 11" paper sheets.

As with most appliqué techniques, tools are often the secret to a more professional finish. I've mentioned in previous Cinderella Columns why micro-tip scissors with a serrated blade are the best choice for fine clipping into curves and for cutting out precise shapes. Plus, their serrated blade keeps the fabric edges from fraying creating a cleaner edge for the appliqué ready-to-stitch. In the demo photo, Val has her favourite



small perfect scissors designed by Karen Kay Buckley\* close at hand.

Val completed these various miniature appliqués within minutes as she demonstrated how to use the Appliquick® Rods to the group. Can you visualize lovely, wee seasonal berries (as in the photo) that you make yourself on some of your own appliqué block designs? Perfect appliqué pieces can be easier than you thought with the luxury of more control at your fingertips.

The Appliquick® Rods are made of durable, stainless steel and designed with three different tips offering versatility and specialized functions. The fork-like end acts as an anchor in one hand to apply slight pressure to hold pieces in place while the second rod has a beveled end resembling a spatula to assist with folding, shaping, smoothing curves and spreading glue where needed instead of on your hands and workspace. The pointed tips are great for finer areas—flipping, tucking and manipulating fabric where it would be too cumbersome for fingers and many other tools to maneuver. If you experience muscle fatigue perhaps the Appliquick® method could provide some relief.

Appliquick® Rods were designed by Rosa Rojas from Spain and introduced this past year to North American quilters at various US shows. The link for additional product information is: [www.apliquick.com](http://www.apliquick.com). The good news is they're now available to Canadians along with companion quilting & appliqué tools like the Karen Kay Buckley® signature products at [www.cindysthreadworks.com](http://www.cindysthreadworks.com). Group orders receive free freight, and teacher discounts are also available to CQA/ACC members!



AT LEFT Inspirational appliquéd blocks from Val Ursulak's personal legacy: *Audubon's Christmas Quilt* (appliqué pattern credit: Kathy McNeil)



\*Since the theme for this Winter issue of *The Canadian Quilter* is *Friends*, why not consider joining your local TAS Chapter or start one yourself in your area with a minimum of three friends who enjoy the art of appliqué. Visit The Appliqué Society website for this info: [www.theappliesociety.org](http://www.theappliesociety.org).

## Happy Appliquéing!



Education and inspiration  
are the focus of my column,  
thread talks and workshops.

*Cinderella*

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