

## **Machine Applique Tips and Tricks**

### **Reeze L. Hanson, Morning Glory Designs**

1. Prepare applique and choose stitching technique
2. Select top thread, bobbin thread, needle
3. Choose a stabilizer
4. Test sew a sample of each fabric, thread, stabilizer & stitch combination
5. Practice on several samples to get comfortable with your technique

#### **Straight Stitch:**

- Open toe foot, center needle position, sew 1/16" from the edge,
- Go slow and keep consistent distance from the edge
- Start and stop with minimal overlap
- Corners and curves

#### **Blanket Stitch:**

- Open toe foot, center stitch between open toes,
- Adjust scale of the stitch to the size of the applique (stems vs. flowers)
- Start with straight stitch, needle next to applique, take 8 stitches, change stitch to blanket stitch
- Needle touches outer edge of applique, the stitch bites in perpendicular to the edge
- Always stop outside the applique for turns, curves, points
- Reduce stitch width on patches with sharp points, keep stitch length consistent
- Use pin to pivot around curves or adjust position every few stitches on tight curves
- Go as fast as you can, but only if you can control the stitch at that speed
- Cover the starting straight stitches and stop when you get to first blanket stitch
- Change to straight stitch and take 8 stitches right over outside stitches.
- Use straight stitch to backtrack over previously sewn edges to avoid starting/stopping

#### **Satin Stitch:**

- Open toe foot, center stitch between open toes
- Don't get stitch too tight or too loose -- adjust based on thread weight
- Needle touches outer edge of applique, the stitch bites in perpendicular to the edge
- Always stop outside the applique for turns, curves, points
- Reduce stitch width on patches with sharp points, keep stitch length consistent
- Outside edge must be smooth, straight or curved
- Go slow to keep next to edge of applique and outer curve smooth, inner curves space stitches evenly
- Use same starting stopping technique as in Blanket Stitch, don't zig-zag over previous zig-zag