

Tutorial - Applique Workshop

This workshop is written to accompany my 'Daisies' Quilt Pattern. It demonstrates my two preferred methods of Appliqué and can of course be used for any appliqué project that you might be working on.

I have read about, tried out and seen a lot of different ways to appliqué and in the end have decided that these 2 ways work the best for me. One is quick and one is slower and the results are quite different.

Before you begin, the decision really is how you want your finished work to look. The quick method, generally referred to as 'raw edge appliqué' uses iron on 'fusible web' to fix on the shapes and thus has a flatter look, but the edges are exposed and secured only by decorative stitching. Some people worry that these edges will fray over time and with repeated laundering. The more traditional 'needle turn' style means that the edges all around the shape are turned under and secured with a hemming stitch and thus it is more secure. It is also more work and gives a more raised look. Personally, I use fusible web for small projects with lots of very small pieces and also on projects that are not washed often, like Wall Hangings. I prefer the needle turn appliqué for heirloom projects and anything that requires a more traditional look. I am lucky that I enjoy both machine and hand work, but in the end the choice is yours. Here's how to do both.



Method 1: (The quick one!) Raw Edge Appliqué.

This is so simple to do and great fun. You need to buy some fusible web and there are lots of versions on the market. I use 'Vliesofix Bondaweb' and have also used 'Steam to Seam' and had great results with both. These are readily available in craft and sewing shops.

Using your templates, trace the shape onto the smooth side of the fusible web. With the daisy pattern it is super simple as the petals are symmetrical (Be careful if you have shapes that are not as you may need to reverse the tracing). Cut out your petal shapes leaving a quarter inch all the way around. Place your shape with the rough (adhesive) side facing down, on the WRONG side of your fabric and press with iron. Don't use steam as this can wrinkle the paper. Cut out your shape accurately, peel off the top layer of the paper and place your shape on to the base fabric and iron again. It should stick firmly on to your fabric. Then you need to stitch around the outside of the shape either by hand or machine using a stitch like a 'blanket stitch' that will cover the raw edges. I nearly always do this on the machine and on a lot of sewing machines there are many choices of decorative stitches for this purpose.





Method 2: (The slow, but more traditional one!) Freezer Paper Appliqué

This is more time consuming, but it can also be a very rewarding process and gives lovely results. This time you need to buy some 'Freezer' Paper. The best and most recommended brand for appliqué is 'Reynolds'.

Using your Daisy template sheet, you need to either trace the shapes onto the freezer paper or cut out the templates and draw around the outline (You can back these with card to make them firmer as I have done in the photo). The freezer paper templates are reusable, so I suggest making one set of about 5 petals in each size).

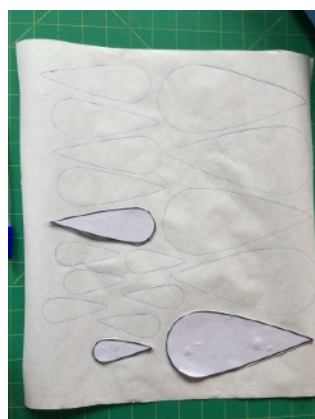
Take another sheet of freezer paper, the same size as your top one and layer them, shiny sides facing down. (I advise putting a piece of muslin, an old piece of cotton cloth or an appliqué pressing sheet on your ironing board first to protect it) With the iron, press gently onto your layers of freezer paper and the waxy coating will melt and stick them together. Cut out the petal shapes on the line and your templates are ready.

Lay the templates onto the wrong side of your fabric with the shiny side of the freezer paper facing down. Press with iron to adhere the template temporarily onto the fabric. Cut out the shape leaving about a quarter inch all the way around for turning under.

Put some 'Spray on Starch' into a small dish and with a little paintbrush (the sort you find in kids painting sets) paint on some of the liquid all around the edges of the fabric. Leave this to dry for just a minute and then with iron (I like to use a travel iron for this, as it is small) press the edges around the paper template. The starch will allow you to get a neat firm edge. Once the fabric has cooled, you can remove the freezer paper template easily and you should have a lovely precise shape with all the raw edges turned under. * **REMEMBER that the pointed end of the petals will be underneath your yellow daisy centre circle, so you don't need to worry about making the point perfect.** Fix your petals onto your quilt, either by machine or using a simple hemming stitch by hand.

You can reuse these freezer paper templates quite a few times, which is very useful and saves time.

When I first tried this method, I thought it was going to be quite a lot of hassle. However, once you get into the swing of it, it is really very simple and the results look professional.





Whichever way you choose - I am sure your quilt will be beautiful!



Happy Stitching Ruby x