

Cut-Away Fusible Applique Instructions

1) The main ingredient to fusible applique is the **Paper-Backed Fusible Web (PBFW)**. This product is offered by many manufacturers... Wonder-Under, Pellon... The one I like best is **Heat 'N Bond Lite**. To ensure a soft hand after appliqué, we are going to **cut-away the center** of the fusible on the pattern shape before applying the fusible to your fabric. **Just the Fusible** is cut-away in the middle, not the fabric. The result of Cut-Away Fusible is a more traditional, **lighter, hand-applique** look. But you still have enough fusible on the applique to hold it in place as you sew it down. You also have the fusible at the edge to reduce fraying of those raw edges. It is the best of both techniques.

2) Consider your fabric choices before your start on your appliques. Be sure to have pieces that contrast so your motifs show up on your quilt. **Trace** off your applique pieces from the pattern onto PBFW. **Mark** the items with piece name (fish, flower, tree) and with color suggestion (pink, orange etc.) near the *inside edge* of the shape. **Try to group pieces by fabric** as you trace.

3) *A completely fused fabric edge is less likely to ravel.* Trace your pattern shape onto the fusible (it will be reversed when you put it on the fabric). Then cut roughly around your PBFW shapes leaving about a 1/4" all around the outer edge. Before fusing to fabric, **cut away the interior** of the fusible, coming to about 1/4" from the edge. **Always fuse according to the instructions of the PBFW manufacturer whose product you are using!** Once fused to the fabric, cut along your pattern line to create a completely fused edge. When cutting, try **moving your fabric piece**, rather than your scissors. You'll end up with a more accurate cut and you'll find your hands don't get tired as quickly!

4) Remove the paper backing from the fusible web. I fold paper to paper, use a **pin slash** or simply **rip the paper with my fingernail**. Position and build your motif til you get it how you want it, then fuse to your background fabric.

5) **Always fuse according to the instructions of the PBFW manufacturer whose product you are using.** Press in place, still following the fusible manufacturer's instructions.

Machine Applique: Tips and Techniques

Fuse appliques in order from farthest to closest in the design, then machine applique in the same order.

I use a narrow, close zigzag... This differs from a satin stitch in that the stitches aren't quite so close together. I generally start out with my stitch length at 1 and my width about 2. That is about 16-18 stitches to the inch and a medium width. The difficult part of this stitch is in turning corners but there are a few rules to follow...

A. If you are approaching an acute angle (less then 90 degrees), it helps to make your stitch even narrower as you approach the tip.

B. When you are at an outside corner, put the needle on the outside of the applique when you pivot to turn the corner.

C. When you are at an inside corner, put the needle on the inside side of the applique when you pivot to turn the corner.

D. Whether stitching inside curves or outside, stop with your needle down and pivot at every "Hour" on the clock (12 times for a complete circle, 3 or 4 times for a quarter circle, etc.) This will help to make smooth curves.

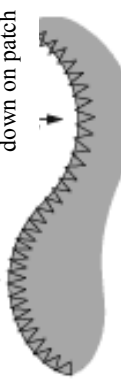
E. This stitch should be done with the needle zigging on the applique and zagging just onto the background.

Narrow your width at points



Outside Curve:
Pivot with needle down on background

Inside Curve:
Pivot with needle down on patch



When stitching curves, pivot at every "Hour" on the clock.

