

If you are new to applique or have struggled with it in the past, I want to encourage you to try this super simple raw edge, no fusible method. Simply transfer the design to fabric, stitch to background and trim away excess fabric.

TEMPLATES

Freehand or print any design you choose. We've included some templates you can print at home. We'll also have these templates and paper available for you to trace at our monthly meetings.

3 WAYS TO TRANSFER TO FABRIC

Which method I use depends on how detailed my applique piece is. I also may use different methods for different parts of my template.

- *Cut then Trace:* (least detailed) Templates that have multiple pages can be cut then taped together or taped together then cut.
- *Perforate and Pounce:* Perforate by stitching through template without thread. Place perforated template on fabric and brush over with a chalk pounce.
- *Sew Through:* (Most detailed) Pin or spray baste template to fabric. Sew through template, fabric and background. Tear template away.

FABRIC

- *Single Fabric:* Details can be added with stitching.
- *Layer:* Design is created by layering different fabrics on top of each other. Mark fabrics. Stitch down base piece. Layer and stitch additional pieces.
- *Reverse:* Design is created by cutting way layer to reveal the fabric underneath. If a lower layer is smaller than the top layer, be sure to stitch down them trim away excess fabric before adding top layer.

SEW

I usually sew at least twice around the outside of large applique pieces to be sure they won't turn loose when the edges fray. You can sew simple applique using a regular stitch – but free motion sewing is so much easier and faster! We're using larger templates for this project so it is a perfect chance to learn or practice free motion.

TRIM AND FRAY

- *Trim away excess fabric* at least 1/8" from stitching.
- *Snip into edge* all the way around.
- *Fray edges:* Prevents excess bits in washing machine. A toothbrush is a good tool for fraying.