



Hand Appliqué using freezer paper

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We like to use freezer paper **on top** of our appliqué pieces rather than underneath. This way we have the convenience of a removable template and simple peel it away when we're finished!

Preparing the background:

Trace the appliqué design onto the background fabric using a fine pencil. A light box makes it easier to see the pattern through the fabric. You can also tape the pattern and then the fabric to a window, making sure the fabric is straight and square.

Making Freezer Paper Templates:

Use a fine pencil to **trace** each appliqué pattern piece onto the dull side of the freezer paper. **Transfer** any pattern numbers onto the template. **Cut** out along the lines; do not leave a seam allowance.

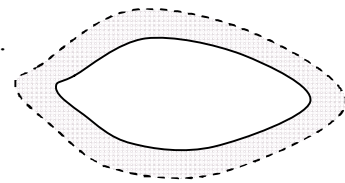
Cutting the Appliqué Pieces:

Place each freezer paper template onto the desired fabric, shiny side down.

Leave at least 1/2" between templates for seam allowance.

Iron the templates onto the fabric with a hot, dry iron.

Cut out each piece leaving a 1/4" seam allowance around the template.



Appliquing the Design:

Most appliqué patterns indicate the order in which the pieces must be sewn down. **Position** piece #1 onto the background fabric, carefully matching it to the pattern lines. **Pin** it down in the middle of the piece using small appliqué pins.

Thread an appliqué needle with thread that matches the appliqué piece and knot. Secure the knot in the seam allowance of the piece and bring the needle up right at the edge of the freezer paper.

Turn the first portion of the seam allowance under until the edge of the fabric lines up with the template.

Take a small **stitch** through the background fabric just under the edge of the appliqué piece. Catch the very edge of the piece with a small stitch. Continue turning under the edge and stitching until the piece is sewn into place. Make a small knot on the reverse side. Close stitches create a smooth edge.

Remove the freezer paper template.

Appliquing curves:

Concave or inside curves should be clipped almost, but *not quite*, to the stitch line. This will allow the fabric to lie flat. It is often helpful to put a drop of Fray Check *on the seam allowance* in very tight inside curves or points. This allows you to clip the fabric a little more.

Convex or outside curves should *not* be clipped. Take care to smooth the edge with your needle as you turn under to avoid lumps and bumps.

Appliquing points:

Start appliquéing at a spot *away* from the point. When you reach the point, take an *extra stitch* right at the point to anchor it down. Now turn under the seam allowance beyond the point, working it until the point is sharp and the fabric lies flat. Continue stitching as usual.

Appliquing bias tubes or strips:

Always appliqué the *concave curves first*, switching from side to side to do so.

This will ensure your bias strip maintains its width and lies flat.

Freezer paper is not used on bias strips.

