

presents...

3 Innovative Appliqué + Tutorial Projects

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3 Innovative Appliqué + Tutorial Projects

Appliqué designs are a fun and creative embellishment, and we've included three inspiring appliqué projects and one appliqué tutorial in this e-book to fuel your creativity and hopefully teach you a few new techniques to take your embroidery skills to the next level.

If you want to update your kitchen décor, scroll down to "Pretty Penny" for instructions to make a delightful appliqué tablemat with matching coasters. Or look to "By Candlelight" to make pretty candle wraps that can be easily switched out for different seasons all year long. Also included is "Pretty in Pink," which gives instructions for transforming a plain sweatshirt into a lovely jacket using an appliqué design and other decorative embellishments. If you don't have a lot of experience stitching appliqué designs, look to "Appliqués Unlimited" for tips and ideas for working with appliqué designs.

With these three great projects and informative tutorial, we're sure that you'll learn how to appliqué the right way in no time!

Thanks for reading!

Colleen Exline
Associate Editor, CME

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Appliqués Unlimited

By Rebecca Kemp Brent

Why be bound by tradition when choosing materials for appliqué embroidery designs?

Getting started

Materials for appliqués have just two essential characteristics: they must allow the needle to penetrate without damage to the needle or machine and they must remain intact after stitching. The door is open to using many non-traditional materials in place of fabric in appliquéd embroidery motifs.

- ◆ Some unorthodox materials can be laundered, making them suitable for garments and other items that will be subject to wear and tear. Restrictions may apply, such as “hand wash only” or “cold water wash.” Other materials can be spot cleaned; that is, wiped with a damp cloth to remove soil.
- ◆ Certain appliqué materials can’t be laundered at all, but are suitable for decorative embroidery in scrapbooks, on cards or framed and displayed as art.
- ◆ Select a needle that will pierce the appliqué cleanly and leave only a tiny hole. Size 75/11 embroidery needles are a good choice. Most threads can be used for unusual appliqué designs, but avoid thicker than usual types that will contribute to perforation and tearing.

- ◆ When creating a project with a new material, stitching a sample is essential. Subject the completed sample appliqué to the same use and care necessary for the finished project to see how the unusual textile responds and avoid disappointment later.

Design selection

- ◆ Appliqué embroidery motifs typically are digitized with one or two preliminary running stitch outlines, followed by an edge-finishing stitch. The running stitches define the area to be covered by the appliqué material and stitch the appliqué in place on the background fabric. In some designs, an open zigzag stitch is included to tack down the appliqué edges.
- ◆ The finishing stitch is often a closely spaced satin zigzag stitch. The satin stitches enclose the appliqué edges completely to prevent raveling, a necessity when the appliqué is cut from woven fabric.
- ◆ Many unconventional appliqué materials don’t ravel. The only concern is damage and tearing caused by too many needle penetrations too close together on delicate materials. This doesn’t mean satin-stitch

*Think of appliqué
in a new way! Use
uncommon materials
in place of traditional
appliqué fabric for
unique embroidered
looks.*





edged appliqués are always unsuitable for use with unusual materials, but they may work best if the satin stitches are omitted, revealing the running or open zigzag stitches used to secure the appliqué to the background.

◆ Some appliqué motifs are digitized with blanket stitch edges. Their well-spaced needle penetrations make these motifs ideal for materials that can perforate and tear. Still other designs are created for raw edge appliqués, with only running stitches securing the appliqué. These are also good candidates for unusual appliqué materials.

◆ Finally, choose designs with little or no detailing within the appliquéd shape. Remember that interior stitches will also perforate and tear delicate materials, and if the appliqué material has bold characteristics, the embroidered details will detract from or be lost in the unusual material's pattern.

If it fits...

"Fussy cutting" is a concept familiar to quilters. It means that a patch is carefully cut to take advantage of the fabric print so

a motif is perfectly placed within the piecework or appliquéd shape.

With inkjet printable fabrics and photo manipulation software, it's possible to create prints specifically for individual appliqué embroideries. In other words, the fussy work is done at the beginning of the process, by shaping a print to fit the embroidery template.

◆ Print a full-size template of the embroidery design, or use a template supplied with the design.

◆ Scan the template to create a graphics file on the computer, or work from an actual-size screen shot of the design in an embroidery program's workspace.

◆ Open the template in image-editing software. Import a photograph, graphic file or text into the workspace. Resize and/or move the graphic for the desired fit within the appliqué area.

◆ To work without creating a digital template, print the appliqué fabric design on scrap paper and compare it to a full-size template, then resize the design to fit. Holding the sample graphic and template up to a strong light or open window will reveal their relative positions.

◆ Following the manufacturer's directions, print the photo or graphic onto inkjet printable fabric. Allow the print to dry and prepare the fabric as directed.

◆ Hoop the background fabric with appropriate stabilizer and stitch the design, using the printed fabric to create the appliqué.

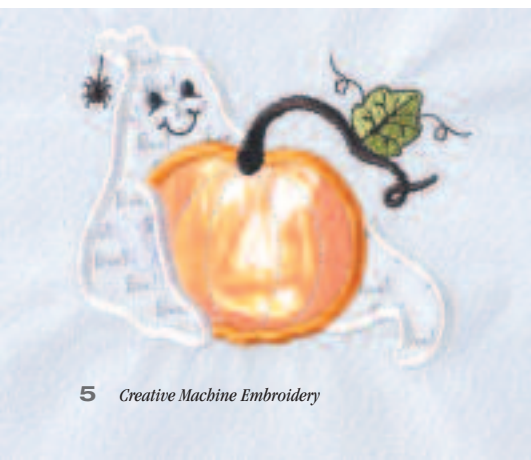
◆ Most inkjet printable fabrics are washable. Check the manufacturer's directions for brand-specific details.

For another take on printing shapes for appliqués, investigate software that creates kaleidoscopic patterns from digital images. Choose the printed kaleidoscope's size to fill the appliquéd area and even select a finished shape that matches the appliqué perimeter in the software's workspace.

Sweet idea

Finding raw materials for this technique is sweet as candy, or candy wrappers in the case of appliqué, that is!

◆ Find candies wrapped in metallic or paper coverings. Holiday-specific candies come in colors appropriate to the season, or use the logo from a favorite sweet to





Trick or Treat!



form a repeating pattern. *Note:* This is a wonderful technique for preserving commemorative candy wrappers from a special event or location.

◆ Enjoy the candies; smooth and save the wrappers. Small tears can be cut away or repaired, but try to remove the wrappers intact.

◆ Cut a piece of self-adhesive clear vinyl slightly larger than the appliqué. Lay the vinyl with its sticky side up on the work surface and remove the protective covering.

◆ Arrange the candy wrappers on the adhesive surface. Overlap or trim the wrappers as desired, or use a punch to cut the wrappers into circles, squares or other shapes. Cover the entire area with wrappers, or arrange the wrappers to add detail to the embroidered appliqué.

◆ Cut a second piece of vinyl the same size as the first. Begin removing the protective cover.

◆ Smooth the vinyl onto the candy wrappers 1" at a time. Work out any air bubbles and finger-press the layers firmly (A).

◆ The vinyl-covered candy wrappers are ready to appliqué. Keep rubbing alcohol and cotton swabs handy to clean the needle, if necessary, but stitching through the vinyl should cause little or no gumming of the needle.

◆ Candy wrapper appliqué aren't washable, but the vinyl covering makes them easy to wipe clean. Vinyl is damaged by heat, so avoid direct contact between the vinyl appliqué and an iron.

Shine on

Popular Angelina fiber is now available in its uncut form, as shiny sheets of colored polyester, called Textiva, that are washable, too.

◆ Choose Textiva sheets in colors to complement the appliqué design. Colors can

be combined and layered for rainbow effects. The film can be applied smooth, or scrunched to add texture.

◆ Stitch the shiny material into the appliqué in the usual manner.

◆ Although Textiva ordinarily fuses only to itself, avoid touching the material directly with an iron.

◆ Because Angelina and Textiva are polyester, they are washable. Hand wash finished projects and line dry. Touch up the background fabric around the Textiva appliqué with an iron, while protecting the film with a press cloth.

Party favor

If you've ever attended a party where the napkins were so lovely you hated to use them, this technique is for you. Appliqué a portion of a paper napkin onto a fabric napkin.

◆ Look for glue specially designed for napkin appliqué. Other permanent, wash-

A Smooth vinyl onto candy wrappers 1" at a time. Work out air bubbles and finger-press layers firmly.

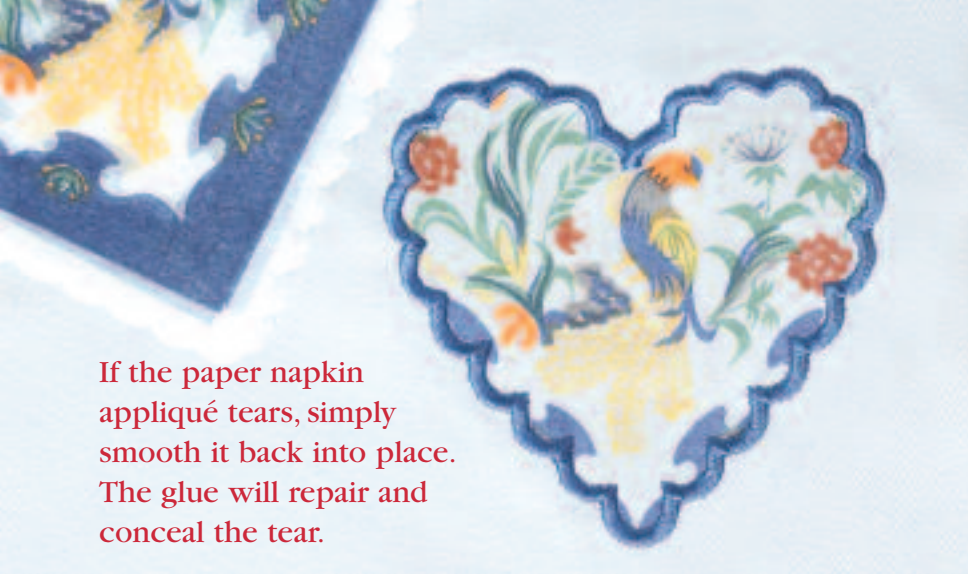


B Use brush to apply even coat of glue within appliqué area.



C Trim away excess napkin along stitched outline.





If the paper napkin appliqué tears, simply smooth it back into place. The glue will repair and conceal the tear.

able glues will also work with this technique, but using the correct glue makes the process easier.

- ◆ Choose a light-colored polyester/cotton blend fabric for the base napkin. Prewash the fabric to remove finishing chemicals that can interfere with the glue bond.

- ◆ Stabilize and hoop the fabric. Stitch the first step of the appliqué motif to indicate the area to be covered by the napkin.

- ◆ Use a brush to apply an even coat of glue to the fabric within the appliqué area (**B** on page 6). Be thorough, but use a light touch, as too much glue will stiffen the fabric.

- ◆ While the glue is still wet, place the napkin face up on the prepared fabric. Gently smooth the napkin onto the glue.

- ◆ Trim away the excess napkin along the stitched outline (**C** on page 6).

- ◆ Working from the center outward, apply a thin coat of glue to cover the napkin applique. Smooth out air bubbles and wrinkles as you work, and be sure the edges are covered to seal them to the fabric.

- ◆ Allow the appliquéd napkin to dry for 24 hours before completing the appliqué embroidery. Check periodically as the glue dries and secure any edges that work free.

- ◆ To avoid tying up the hoop during the extended drying time, use the appliqué glue to attach the napkin to a separate piece of white fabric. When it's dry, use regular appliqué techniques to attach the napkin-adorned fabric to the background. This technique also allows appliquéing onto dark-colored or printed fabrics.

- ◆ Paper napkins decoupaged to fabric with this technique are washable. Allow the glue to dry and cure for seven to ten days, then wash in a gentle cycle and lay flat to dry.

Taking covers

A flannel-backed vinyl tablecloth that's torn and stained from use yields plenty of appliqué material.

- ◆ Look for patterned or solid color tablecloths at discount stores, flea markets and thrift shops. The size is unimportant, as even the smallest tablecloth yields plenty of appliqué fabric. Spots and stains can be cut away, too.

- ◆ Choose appliqué designs with areas of ice or water and appliqué them with shiny metallic vinyls.

- ◆ Solid color vinyl tablecloths with a smooth texture are perfect for appliquéing boots and helmets, or shiny rain slickers.

- ◆ Large scale tablecloth prints may yield several solid colors for appliqués, if the pieces needed are smaller than the tablecloth prints.

- ◆ Flannel-backed vinyl is fairly resistant to tearing, so it can be used with satin-edged appliqué designs or motifs with detail stitching within the appliquéd area. Vinyl without a backing is better suited to running stitch or open stitch pattern appliqués that are less likely to perforate the vinyl material.

- ◆ As with other vinyls, tablecloth appliqués are best cleaned by wiping with a damp cloth.



More ideas

- ◆ Explore paper appliqué for scrapbooks and cards. For more on stitching with paper, see our special *Paper & Embroidery* issues. Order back issues at quiltandsewshop.com.

- ◆ Vinyl, both clear and colored, can be used as an appliqué fabric. Clear vinyl appliqués allow small trapped items to show through for a whimsical element. See "All the Trappings" in *Creative Machine Embroidery's* January/February 2007 issue for more. Order the article for \$4 by calling (800) 881-6634. ☼

Bag with vinyl window: Moose B Stitchin, Drawstring Bags 5, bag504heart

Fall and acorn: Pegboard Crafts, Patches 1, designs P1_Fall, P1_Acorn

Kaleidoscope star: Embroidery Library, design #Y1835

Ghost and skating bear: Fill in the Blanks with Machine Embroidery, published by Krause Publications

Quilt blocks: My Embroidery Haven, Trinity Quilt 01, designs MEH-tq1-a602, MEH-tq1-e504

Candy jar: My Embroidery Haven, Candyland, design Meh-CI-Jar2-6inch

Lettering: built-in fonts from Brother Innovis 4000D

Heart: A Bit of Stitch, Spring Coaster Collection, design Floral Heart Coaster

Credits

ExtravOrganza printable silk organza and Ink Jet Printing cotton fabric from Jacquard Products.

Aleene's paper napkin appliqué glue provided by Duncan Enterprises.

Textiva sheets provided by Textura Trading Company.

Kaleidoscopes printed with Kaleidoscope Kreator 2.0.

Pretty IN PINK

by Debbie Homer



Transform an ordinary sweatshirt into an extraordinary jacket. Add fringe, buttons and other decorative embellishments to make the jacket one of a kind.



SHOPPING LIST

- ☐ ready-made sweatshirt
- ☐ ½ yard of faux suede
- ☐ ½ yard of coordinating fabric
- ☐ tear-away stabilizer
- ☐ printable fusible web (See "Sources.")
- ☐ thread: all-purpose, bobbin, embroidery
- ☐ optional embellishments: buttons, fringe, zipper
- ☐ appliqué embroidery design(s)

Cut

- Fold the sweatshirt in half lengthwise. Unfold and cut open the sweatshirt along the center-front foldline. Cut off the ribbing from the sweatshirt lower edge and cuffs.
- From the coordinating fabric, cut six 7"x10" rectangles for the appliqués. Make sure the rectangles are larger than the chosen embroidery design.

Embroider

- Open the chosen design on the machine's screen. Copy the design five times, rotating the designs as desired. Print each design onto a sheet of printable fusible web (**A**). Cut out each design, leaving ¼" around the design outer edges.
- Position one design over one appliqué rectangle wrong side. Fuse the design in place, following the manufacturer's instructions. Cut out the design from the fabric along the design outer edges.
- Repeat to fuse and cut the remaining designs from the remaining appliqué rectangles.
- Peel back the paper from each design wrong side, exposing the adhesive (**B**). Position one appliqué approximately 1½" from the jacket right side lower edge and 3½" from the center-front left

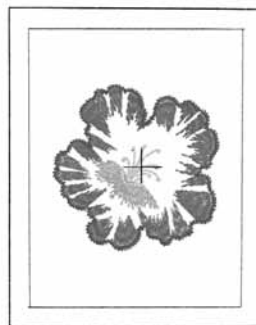
edge. Hoop the jacket and a piece of tear-away stabilizer and place the hoop on the machine. Embroider the design. Once the embroidery is complete, tear away the stabilizer.

- Repeat to embroider the remaining designs 3½" from the jacket center-front right edge, leaving at least 1" between each design.

Construct

Use ¼" seam allowances unless otherwise noted.

- Try on the jacket. If the jacket is too large, adjust the side seams to the desired measurements.
- Measure the length of the jacket center-front opening. Add ½" to the measurement; record. From the faux suede, cut two strips 4" wide by the recorded measurement.



A Print design onto a printable fusible web sheet.



B Peel back paper release exposing adhesive.



- With the strip right side facing the jacket wrong side, align one strip long edge to one jacket center-front long edge; stitch. Fold the strip to the jacket right side. Fold the strip long and short raw edges $\frac{1}{4}$ " to the wrong side; pin. Top-stitch close to each folded edge. Finger-press the strip into place.
- Repeat to stitch the remaining strip to the opposite jacket center-front long edge.
- Measure the sleeve circumferences. Add $\frac{1}{4}$ " to the measurements; record. From the faux suede, cut two strips 6" wide by the recorded measurements.
- Fold each strip in half widthwise

with right sides together; stitch the short edges to form cuffs. With the cuff right side facing the sleeve wrong side, match the cuff upper edge to the sleeve lower edge; stitch. Fold the cuff to the jacket right side.

- Repeat to stitch the remaining cuff to the opposite sleeve lower edge.
- Measure the jacket lower-edge perimeter. Add $\frac{1}{2}$ " to the measurement; record. From the faux suede, cut one strip 2" wide by the recorded measurement.
- Fold the strip in half lengthwise with wrong sides together; unfold. Align the strip foldline with the jacket lower edge; pin. Fold over

each strip upper edge $\frac{1}{4}$ " to the wrong side; pin. Fold over each strip short edge $\frac{1}{4}$ " to the wrong side, aligning each short edge to the jacket side edges; pin. Top-stitch each strip upper and short edge close to the fold.

- Stitch fringe to the designs and jacket collar, if desired. Stitch a button closure or insert a zipper along the jacket center-front opening, if desired. ■

DESIGNS

Flower: RNK Distributing, Jenny Haskins' Floral Appliqué Magic, design # fm02, fm03, fm15 & fm16; (877) 331-0034, rnkdistributing.com

SOURCES

RNK Distributing provided Web Magic (printable fusible web sheets): (877) 331-0034, rnkdistributing.com.



By Candlelight

by Sara Boughner

Liven up your home with simple yet stylish candle wraps.
Quick and easy, they're the perfect accent to any room.



SHOPPING LIST

Materials are enough for one wrap measuring $3\frac{1}{2}$ " x $13\frac{1}{2}$ ".

- $\frac{1}{2}$ " yard of silk fabric
- candleholder
- wire mesh
- embroidery software
- adhesive-backed water-soluble stabilizer
- thread: embroidery and sewing
- 80/12 topstitching needle
- air-soluble fabric marking pen
- appliqué scissors
- fusible web
- coordinating button
- 2mm to 3mm fusible crystals (optional)
- heat applicator wand (optional)
- appliqué and outline embroidery designs

Getting Started

- Starch and press the silk. Measure the height of the chosen candleholder and determine the width of the finished wrap; record the measurement. The featured wraps are $3\frac{1}{2}$ " wide. Measure the candleholder circumference; record.

- Cut the fabric to twice the desired width plus 1". For example, if the desired width is $3\frac{1}{2}$ ", cut the fabric 8" wide. Cut the fabric length to the circumference measurement plus $3\frac{1}{2}$ ".
- Using an air-soluble fabric marking pen, draw a line down the center of the fabric rectangle length.

Embroidery

- Some designs are available in multiple styles. For instance, the featured designs are available in three styles, including an outline, appliqué and fill stitch.
- Open the embroidery software program on the computer. Open the chosen appliqué design(s) in the software. Choose elements from the appliqué design(s), crop them out and enlarge each element approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ ". Combine the elements to make a single design.
- Transfer the appliqué and outline designs to the machine and insert a new 80/12 needle. Experiment with different thread colors before embroidering the outline design. Use thread that contrasts with the chosen fabric color to achieve a striking result. Alternatively, choose thread that matches the fabric color for consistency. Or select thread that's slightly lighter than the fabric color to add dimension.



Mix It Up

Select fabric colors and designs that correspond with the time of year to make seasonal wraps. The wraps below are perfect for the winter holiday season.



- Hoop a piece of adhesive-backed water-soluble stabilizer. Using the point of a pin, score the top layer of stabilizer from one hoop corner to the opposite corner, dividing the stabilizer into four triangle shapes. Lift one layer at a time to expose the adhesive.
- Place the fabric right side up over the stabilizer, aligning the fabric center with the hoop center marks. Lightly finger-press the fabric to the stabilizer to hold it in place.

Tip

Strategically attach crystals to the appliqué to hide the stitching.

- Embroider the design repeatedly to cover the entire wrap length, spacing the design as desired. Once the embroidery is complete, wash away the excess stabilizer; let dry. Press from the fabric wrong side.
- Determine placement for the appliqué design on the wrap. Load matching top and bobbin thread and hoop a piece of adhesive-backed water-soluble stabilizer. Score the stabilizer using the point of a pin or the machine's baste-in-the-hoop function, if applicable.



- Embroider the first appliqué thread color, which is usually the outline for designs. Once the first color is complete, cover the outline stitches with wire mesh.
- Embroider the second appliqué thread color, which typically are basting stitches that tack down the fabric. Once the second color is complete, trim away any excess wire mesh. Carefully press down the wire mesh trimmed edges, as any pieces of wire that protrude may cause thread breakage.
- Set the machine to embroider at half speed and embroider the remaining design. Once the embroidery is complete, clip any jump threads. Remove the stabilizer by soaking the design in warm water until the stabilizer is completely dissolved. Press the design between two towels to remove any excess water; air dry.

Construction

- Wrong sides together, fold the wrap in half lengthwise, matching the raw edges. Using a $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance, stitch the wrap long edge, leaving a 2" opening for turning (**A**).
- Press the seam to the wrap back, centering the embroidery on the wrap front (**B**).
- Stitch each wrap short edge (**C**). Trim the corners and turn the wrap right side out through the opening along the center back. Use fusible web to fuse the opening closed. Gently push out the corners; press.

A Stitch wrap long edge.



B Press seam to wrap back, centering embroidery on wrap front.



C Stitch wrap short edges.



- Stitch a buttonhole to accommodate the chosen button along one wrap short end. Carefully cut open the buttonhole. Place the wrap around the candleholder and hold it firmly in place. Using a fabric marking pen, mark a dot through center of the open buttonhole. Hand or machine stitch the button along the mark.
- Determine the placement for the appliqué design on the wrap. Using a 1.5mm buttonhole stitch and matching thread, stitch the appliqué to the wrap. Stitch in several

places to secure the design to the fabric without completely stitching it down.

- Use a heat applicator wand to attach crystals to the designs, if desired. ■

DESIGNS

Appliqué & Outline: Cactus Punch, Four Seasons of Embroidery with Thimleberries, EL007; (800) 933-8081, cactuspunch.com

SOURCES

Husqvarna Viking provided the Aqua Magic Plus adhesive-backed water-soluble stabilizer: (800) 446-2333, husqvarnaviking.com.
Pfaff provide the 4D Embroidery Extra software: (800) 446-2333, pfaff.com.
The Warm Company provided Steam A Seam II fusible web: (425) 248-2424, warmcompany.com.
YLI Corp. provided the iris polyester embroidery thread: (803) 985-3100, ylicorp.com.

**Great For
Gifts!**

Make a simple tablemat and some mug coasters as a way to get started with buttonhole appliqué. Once you master the technique, you can go on to more elaborate projects using the same concepts.





By Rebecca Kemp Brent

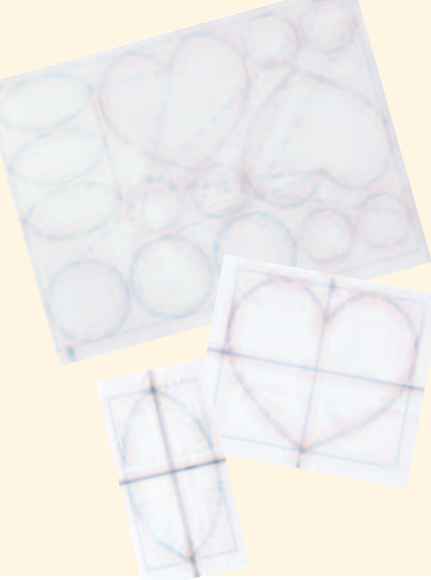
Pretty Penny

Penny rugs, the story goes, were first created by frugal American housewives, using the woolen scraps gleaned from factory floors. The scraps' odd shape and the pennies used as patterns for circle appliqués gave the rugs their characteristic shapes and name.

Embroidery machines can replicate the hand stitched look in a fraction of the time, and the popularity of wool felts and fabrics means plenty of resources for reproduction fabrics.

Design preparation

- ♦ Choose the buttonhole appliqué designs of your choice. Or purchase our three original designs, Heart #2, Leaf and Pennies, at quiltandsewshop.com, and then arrange them in many ways to create a wide variety of penny rug motifs. If you have customizing or design editing software, take a few minutes to create some variations of the double circle motif. Otherwise, read on for machine-based how-tos.
- ♦ Open the double circle motif in editing software. Select and delete the first two color stops (the larger circle). Save and rename as "small circle."
- ♦ Open the original double circle motif again. This time, select and delete the last two color stops (the smaller circle). Save the result as "large circle."



When using software that prints only one full-size image per sheet, try this to make multiple patterns: Open a workspace the size of your largest hoop and fill it with multiples of the embroidery motifs. Save the combination under a new name and print the file. When you print the combined design, cut the full-size image apart to create multiple patterns of the individual appliqué shapes.

◆ Open the double circle motif once more. Select and delete only the second color stop (the blanket stitches of the larger circle). Save the motif with the name “fringe penny.” This design can be used to create the pennies that edge the sample tablemat.

Make appliqué patterns

◆ Each appliqué motif is digitized in two parts. First is a running stitch outline that is used to indicate the placement for the fabric appliqué. Second is a blanket stitch that joins the appliqué to the base fabric.

◆ The running stitch outline is also used as the cutting line for the corresponding appliqué piece. While it's possible to lay the appliqué fabric on the base fabric, stitch the running outline, then trim the appliqué to size, the wool felt thickness makes it difficult to trim the fabric closely enough. Unlike satin-edged appliqués, there is no extra width in the appliqué stitching to hide edges that are cut too large.

◆ Instead, use the embroidery designs to make patterns for cutting the appliqué shapes. For ease in cutting the many small shapes in the penny rugs, make the patterns from self-adhesive tear-away template sheets or iron-on stabilizer so they can be attached to the wool felt without pins for accuracy in cutting. Each pattern can be reused several times, although the felt's fuzzy surface limits the number of uses.

◆ To create appliqué patterns with embroidery software, simply choose the option to print full-size and feed the stabilizer or template paper into the computer printer. Trim each pattern along its running stitch outline.

◆ To make appliqué patterns without a computer, hoop a layer of self-adhesive template sheets or iron-on stabilizer. Stitch the design's running stitch outline only. Stitch with an unthreaded needle, if possible, and embroider the outlines of several shapes in a single hooping.

◆ Remove the stabilizer from the hoop and trim around each shape along the running stitch outline. If thread was used, cut directly on the threads to remove them from the appliqué pattern.

◆ Once the patterns are ready, use them to cut all the pieces needed for the design arrangement to be stitched. Cutting the appliqués ahead of time makes the stitching process quick and simple. Follow our examples for motif arrangements, or create your own unique combinations.

◆ Print multiple copies of the double circle motif. Trim some along the large

If separate small and large circle designs were created with software, use them to create patterns for circle appliqués. The two sizes can be used separately or stacked to create a two-color circle.

circle outline and others along the small circle, creating patterns for both circle sizes.

Supplies

Note: Supplies listed are sufficient to make a tablemat and several mug coasters.

- ◆ Black wool felt or melton, 45" to 60" wide, 3/8 yard
- ◆ One 9" x 12" craft cut each of dark red, gold, blue and green wool felt
- ◆ Overdyed cotton thread or cotton quilting thread; bobbin thread (black or almost black is recommended). *Note:* Overdyed thread is similar to variegated, but the color changes are more subtle and random. The slight color variation adds to the antique appearance.
- ◆ Lightweight tear-away water-soluble stabilizer
- ◆ Glue stick

Mug coasters

Note: The finished size is a 4" square.

◆ Each mug coaster's appliqués fit within a 4" square embroidery hoop. Begin by choosing which appliqué motifs to combine in the coaster design. Arrange the motifs in customizing software or at the touch screen of the embroidery machine. Remember that the circle motif can be used three ways: as a large or small single circle and as a double circle appliqué.

◆ Using appliqué patterns as described above, cut appliqués from the dark red, blue, green and gold felt pieces. Be sure to cut accurately so the appliqués are the same size and shape as the running stitch outlines.

◆ Hoop the water-soluble stabilizer with the black felt.

◆ Thread the machine and bobbin with threads (black or almost black is recommended).

◆ Stitch the first part of the appliqué shape (outline).



Use your own combinations of designs to embellish the mug coasters. Each one can be different in design, but will look uniform by using the same felt colors.

Tablemat

Note: If you did not create files for the individual circles, plan to skip the first two steps of the double circle as you stitch to create a small circle or skip the last two steps for a large circle motif.

- ◆ Select the corresponding appliqué piece and apply the glue stick to the appliqué wrong side.
- ◆ Position the appliqué shape within the stitched outline and finger-press firmly.
- ◆ Stitch the second part of the appliqué shape (buttonhole stitch) to attach the appliqué to the background fabric.
- ◆ Repeat for the remaining appliqué shapes.
- ◆ When the embroidery is complete, remove the black felt from the hoop. Carefully trim and tear away as much of the water-soluble stabilizer as possible.
- ◆ Use a damp sponge to dissolve and wipe away the remaining stabilizer.
- ◆ Trim each coaster to a 4" square.

Note: The finished size is a 12" square, including fringe.

- ◆ If you have a hoop that will accommodate a 7" square design, begin by arranging the appliqué motifs in customizing software or at the touch screen of the embroidery machine.

- ◆ To assemble the mat in a smaller hoop, begin by making full-size design templates of the three downloadable motifs or from the motifs of your choice.

Note: The templates mentioned here are different from the pattern pieces used to cut the appliqués. The templates are also full size, but they should include the centering marks needed to position the motifs accurately.

- ◆ On a piece of black felt that's at least an 11" square, mark the horizontal and vertical centerlines with chalk or removable marker.
- ◆ When creating the mat with templates, also mark diagonal lines from corner to

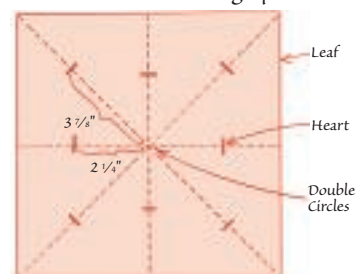
corner. Measure and mark design placements as follows (A):

- ◇ 2 1/4" from the center along each horizontal and vertical line
- ◇ 3 7/8" from the center along each diagonal line

- ◆ Hoop the felt with a layer of water-soluble stabilizer. Embroider a combined design at the mat center. (If you created a combined design for a 7" hoop, center and stitch the combined design.)

Note: For the following steps, the sample designs are referenced. Substitute with your own choices otherwise.

A Measure and mark design placements.



More Ideas

- ◆ Instead of black thread, use colors that match the felts (C).
- ◆ Switch to a pastel or bright color palette for a different look (D).
- ◆ Use the pennies as an overall design (E) by arranging them in a regular grid across the fabric surface.
- ◆ Create a penny fringe for a sweater or jacket.
- ◆ For a thicker coaster, back the appliquéd square with fusible web and bond it to a second layer of felt.
- ◆ For a contrasting edge, trim the appliquéd square to 3 1/2" and center it on a 4" square of a second color (F).
- ◆ Make the buttonhole stitch appliqués from woven cotton fabric to create quilt squares and other projects. Because the woven fabrics will ravel, back each appliqué with fusible web before cutting and stitching the applique shapes. Press to fuse when the stitching is complete, or use a small craft iron to press each appliqué as it's applied.



Remove the stabilizer before trimming to avoid stretching the felt edges.

- ◆ Embroider a heart centered at the placement mark on each horizontal and vertical line. Use the full-size design template to double-check the placement.
- ◆ Embroider a leaf centered at the placement mark on each diagonal line, using the leaf template to double-check placement.
- ◆ Remove the felt from the hoop. Gently cut and tear away as much stabilizer as possible. Use a damp sponge to dissolve and wipe away the remaining stabilizer.
- ◆ Trim the felt to a 9" square, keeping the appliquéd design centered.
- ◆ For the fringe, stabilize and hoop another piece of black felt. Stitch 24

small circle appliqués, six each in dark red, gold, blue and green, re-hooping as necessary. Leave at least 3/4" space between circles. If you prepared the fringe penny motif described earlier, use it instead of the small circle motif, and leave 1/4" space between designs.

◆ After embroidery, remove the stabilizer as directed above. Trim each circle 1/4" outside the appliquéd motif. For the fringe penny design, trim each circle along the running stitch outline, cutting away the running stitches.

◆ With chalk or removable marker, measure and mark each side of the tablemat square as shown (B).

- ◆ Set the sewing machine for a zigzag stitch 3.5 mm wide and 0.8 mm long. Lay a trimmed circle alongside the mat at each mark and zigzag with a few stitches to join the fringe to the mat square. Be sure to backtack to secure the stitches. 3

Designs

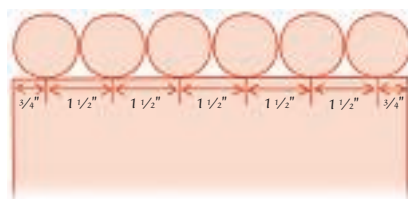
Heart #2, Leaf & Pennies: CME original designs; quiltandsewshop.com

Credits

Overdyed cotton sewing and quilting thread from Weeks Dye Works.

Floriani Template Tearaway from RNK Distributing.

B Measure and mark each side of tablemat square.



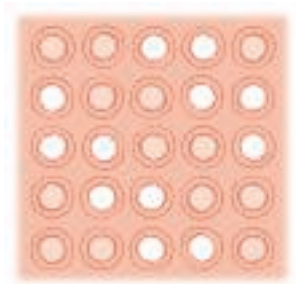
C Instead of black thread, use colors that match felts.



D Switch to pastel or bright color palette for different look.



E Use pennies as overall design.



F For thicker coaster, back appliquéd square with fusible web and bond to second layer of felt. For contrasting edge, trim appliquéd square to 3 1/2" and center on 4" square in second color.



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