

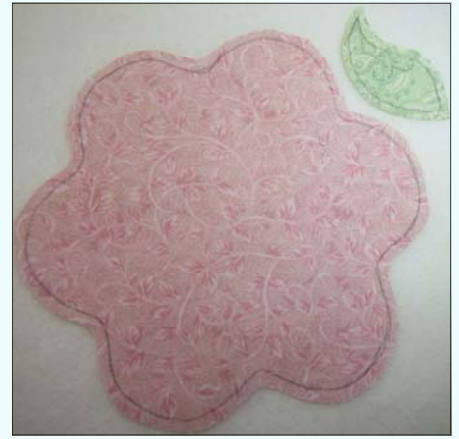
## NEEDLETURN APPLIQUE

### Preparing your Appliqué Pieces.

There are many methods for preparing your appliqué shapes. I have two preferred methods.

*Method 1:* Using your templates trace around the shapes with a marking tool of choice. For dark fabrics I like to use the Clover White Marking Pen or a chalk pencil. For light fabrics I use a .5 mm mechanical pencil. A sandpaper board helps to hold the fabric during this process. Cut out the shapes leaving 3/16" seam allowance around each shape.

*Method 2.* Using a light box and your pattern sheet, layer the fabric on top and trace them using your preferred marking tool. Cut out the shapes leaving 3/16" seam allowance around each shape.



### Placing your Appliqué shapes on the Background.

Using the light box, place your appliqué layout pattern sheet on the light box. Hold in place with masking tape.

Layer your background fabric over the pattern sheet being careful to match any registration marks supplied.

Place your pieces on and attach with either small appliqué pins or very small amounts of a washable appliqué glue.

Remember to carefully overlap your pieces as required and make sure any stems that you cut have their ends concealed under appliqué pieces.



### Stitching.

Start stitching at the bottom layer of your design.

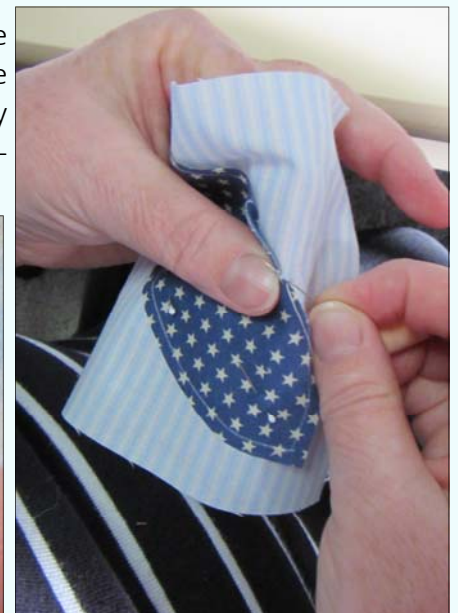
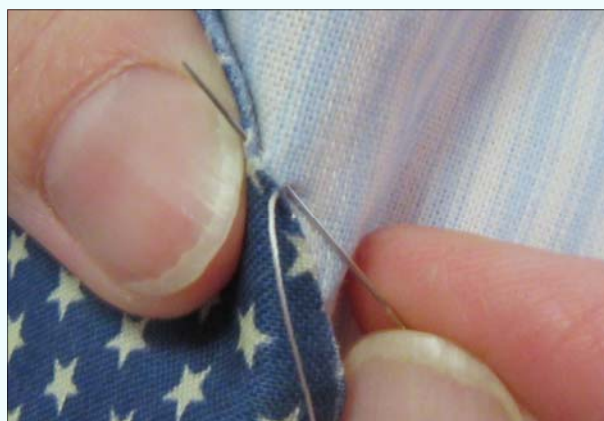
(Those are the pieces that are underneath others.)

Begin at an edge that is underneath another piece.

Turn under the seam allowance around the shape about 1/2" in front of your starting point.

Be careful to keep any edges or curves smooth.

With your needle come up from the back of the block through the edge of the appliqué piece, just catching one or two threads at the fold. Put the needle back into the block immediately beside where you have taken the last stitch but under the edge of the appliqué, pull through and then on the back move along a little less than 1/8" before coming back up again, to repeat the process. Pull this firm, but not tight enough as to distort the piece.



### Appliquéing Points.

If you are appliquéing a leaf or another object with points. Continue along the side of the piece to the point.



Take two stitches in the point to secure it, and then with the point of the needle, pierce the seam allowance above the needle and by holding your thumb on the appliqué turn the seam allowance back under the tip of the appliqué piece, and take another stitch. You should have a nice point on the tip of your piece. Continue back along the other side of the piece to your starting point. Finish off by tying a knot on the back to secure.

### Appliqué Outside Curves.

To appliqué outside curves, simply fold gently around the edge as you go with the needle tip, trying to keep your curve neat.

Stitch in place with the same stitch.



### Appliqué Inside Curves

To appliqué inside curves, clip the inside curves in two or three places (more if it is a long curve). When making these clips go to within two or three threads of the line, not all the way, this will help to fold under and have a fold rather than a raw edge. Stitch in place.

With all edges, it can help to fold under and finger press, then with the tip of the needle you can “tease” out the line and make the edge smooth.



### Appliqué Small Circles (Berries)

Cut small circle templates accurately out of cardboard or mylar. The more accurate your cutting the better your berries will be. With a needle and thread stitch a small running stitch around the seam allowance. Pull up firmly press well with starch and a hot iron to create the stitching fold. Once you are happy that the edge is permanent gently loosen the stitching and release the template. Pull up thread again and press again if needed. Use appliqué stitch to secure to your work.

### Finishing for Best Results!

Press your appliqué well from the reverse side using a well padded mat.

Use a short downward press rather than ‘ironing’ from side to side.

This allows the appliqué to look almost three dimensional.

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