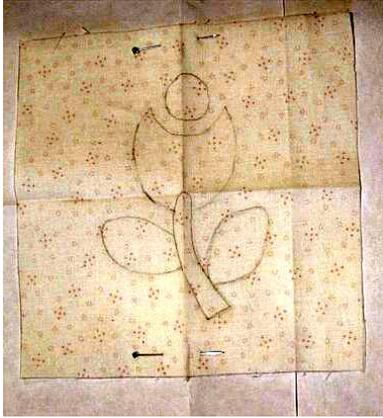


Back Basting Appliqué Demo ó Evergreen Quilt Guild
Sue Lemery * 920.362.6677 (call with any questions!)

You'll need a reversed drawing of your appliqué design when using the Back Basting Method.

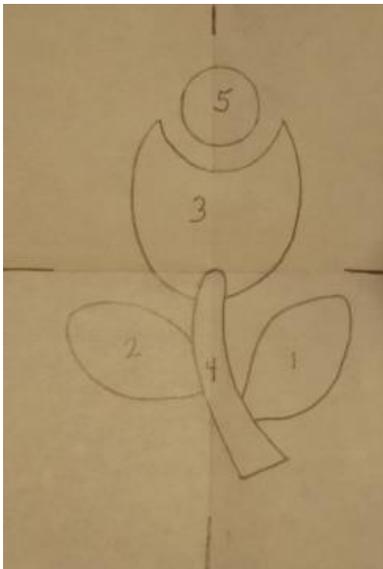
When you're cutting your background fabric for any appliqué block always cut it 1 ½" larger than the size it calls for in the pattern. The block will "shrink" up somewhat when you appliqué on it. When you're done appliquéing the block, then you will square it to the size it's supposed to be according to your pattern.

Step #1: Trace your pattern on the wrong side of your background fabric



Place your background square on top of the reversed copy of your appliqué pattern, with the right side of the fabric down. Pin in place to prevent shifting. Trace the entire appliqué pattern on the wrong side of your background square with a marking pencil. You might need to do this on a light table or at a window.

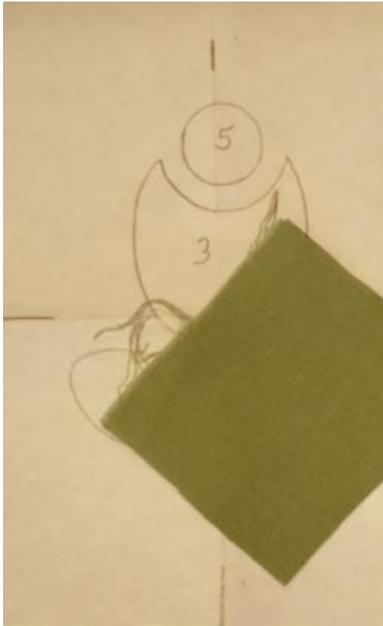
Step #2: Figure out your appliqué sequence.



Appliqués are stitched onto the background in a certain order; the pieces that are under other pieces have to go on first and so on. At this point number the appliqué pattern you've trace onto your fabric. You can usually skip this step for simpler designs.

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Step #3: Prepare appliqué pieces.

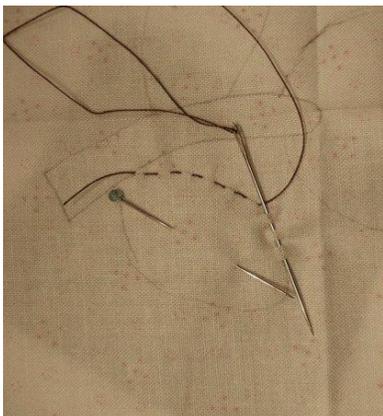


For each appliqué shape you'll need to cut a piece of fabric large enough to cover the area plus at least a 1/2" for your seam allowance. I don't like to waste fabric but I don't want to cut a second piece because the first one wasn't big enough. I look at each piece and mentally change it to a square or rectangle. It's easier to judge how large to cut your piece of fabric. I always err on the side of having too much rather than not enough.



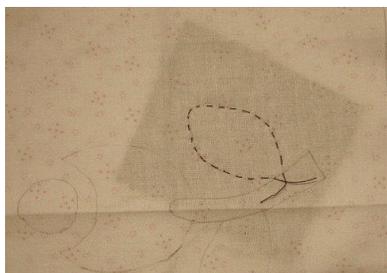
Pin the appliqué piece to the right side of your background fabric positioning it over the area to be appliquéd. I hold the fabrics up to the light to make sure I have enough fabric showing around the pattern area for my seam allowance. A window or light box aids in seeing through the fabric. Add additional pins if necessary so your appliqué fabric doesn't shift as you baste.

Step #4: Basting your appliqué piece in place.



Thread a 10 Sharps needle with dark or light hand quilting thread, depending on which color will show up better on your appliqué fabric. You want it to be a thicker needle. Begin basting the appliqué piece in position by stitching exactly on the line drawn on the wrong side of the background fabric. Do not knot the thread; just leave a 1" long tail at the beginning. Your basting stitches should be about 1/8" long. You don't want them too small but you don't want them as large as 1/4" either. When you're done basting your appliqué piece, again no need to knot; just leave a tail!

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This is what your piece will look like on the backside of the appliqué background when it is finished being basted in place. Notice the two tails?



This is what your piece will look like on the front side of the appliqué background when it is finished being basted in place. At this point I take a marking pen and trace along the basting stitches. I am more comfortable marking my stitching line on each appliqué piece.

Step #5: Time to Stitch!



Cut around the basted shape leaving a fat 1/8 seam allowance.



Thread a 10 Betweens needle with 50 wt cotton thread; using a color that matches your appliqué fabric. Starting at a basting thread tail, and working from the right side of the appliqué, use your needle to pull the basting thread to the top and remove two or three stitches. Bring your needle up from the back of the appliqué piece right on the marked appliqué line. *These pictures were taken from a left-handed appliquer so the direction of her stitching will look backwards to many of you.*

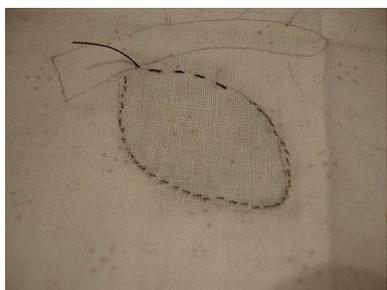
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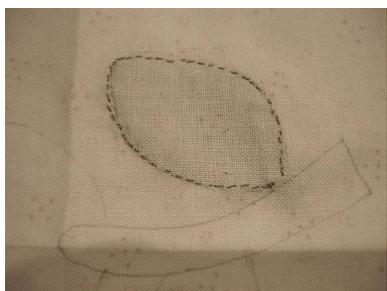
Use the tip of your needle to turn under the seam allowance, following the perforations made by the basting stitches. Insert the needle into the background fabric as close to where the thread came out of the fold as possible. Take about a 1/16ö stitch, coming up through the folded edge of the appliqué.



Continue stitching in this manner for a few more stitches and then remove more basting stitches and continue on stitching.



This is what your piece looks like on the backside of the background fabric when the appliqué piece is partially appliquéd down. See the larger basting stitches still in place!



This is what the backside of the background fabric should look like when you appliqué is done. Your stitches should be right on the drawn line!

Image Already Reversed

