

Raw Edge Applique with Fusible Web

Supplies

- Fabric – see fabric utilization page
- Matching or invisible thread
- Plain paper pattern
- Freezer paper pattern printed in reverse
- Fusible web
- Pointed tool – sharpened dowel, toothpick, dental tool...
- Scissors
- Scotch tape
- Clothes Iron or mini iron
- Muslin or extra fabric for ironing
- Rotary cutter and mat
- Sewing machine (or needle and thread if by hand)

Directions

1. Prewash fabric, dry, iron and set aside
2. Prepare freezer paper pattern for cutting
 - a. Number your pieces and number the plain paper pattern to match. This is optional, only necessary if there are many pieces of similar size, shape or color.
3. Cut freezer paper pattern
 - a. Using scissors cut straight down the middle of the pattern lines. **Important – do not** make corrections in your cut. Do not trim paper from individual pieces. If you remove extra paper it will create gaps in your applique design. If you don't follow the line precisely it is okay, the matching piece will still fit snugly against that piece, and it will be the new line. So don't worry.
 - b. Cut all border pieces straight to make sure your pattern has nice straight edges. A straight edge or paper cutter is recommended for outside edges.
4. Adhere pattern pieces to fabric
 - a. Take your chosen fabric and lay it wrong side up on the ironing surface.
 - b. Cut an appropriate size piece of fusible web and lay it sticky side down on the wrong side of your fabric.
 - c. Place your freezer paper pattern pieces shiny side down and arrange them on the paper side of the fusible web. Pay attention to the pattern or direction of your fabric so that your pieces will appear as you like when cut out.
 - d. Your pattern pieces can be very close to each other to conserve material and create less scrap.
 - e. Iron the freezer paper, fusible web and fabric together using the dry cotton setting on your iron for at least 3 seconds. It may take longer than you think to get good adherence. Tip - Don't iron more pieces than you will be able to cut out at one sitting, the freezer paper could release if it sits too long or is handled too much.
5. Cut your fabric pieces
 - a. Cut along the edge of your freezer paper; do not cut any smaller than the freezer paper. If you cut too small it will create gaps between your pieces where you will see the background.
 - b. If you can't cut very precise always error on the larger size, not smaller. If you cut too large you can always overlap the pieces and cause no problems.

- c. If your piece is the outside edge you can trim it so it takes the shape you want to see.
6. Assemble your applique
 - a. Choose your first piece and remove the freezer paper and fusible web backing.
 - b. Lay your first piece on the paper pattern (typically an edge or corner piece). Tape this piece in place to help keep your starting reference.
 - c. Remove the freezer paper and backing of the next piece and place it touching against the taped piece to assemble the applique. If you cut your piece larger you can overlap to get the desired look. Repeat until your applique is assembled. You will use scotch tape to tape the pieces to each other. You don't have to use a section of tape for each piece you can hold multiple pieces together with one section of tape. You want to be secure enough that you can transfer the applique to the background as the assembled applique.
 - d. Use the plain paper pattern as a reference to keep your edges straight and keep everything in proper alignment.
 - e. Use the pointed tool to make fine adjustment of your pieces or to help hold them in place while adding the tape.
7. Transfer the applique to the background
 - a. Lay the background on your ironing surface right side up.
 - b. Lay your entire paper pattern with the taped pieces on top of the background.
 - c. Carefully slide your hand between your applique and the paper pattern to unstick the applique from the pattern.
 - d. After applique is unstuck from the pattern carefully slide the pattern out from between the applique and the background.
8. Adhere the applique to the background
 - a. Check the alignment of your applique pieces and adjust any pieces if necessary.
 - b. Check alignment of applique to background
 - c. Do not remove the tape
 - d. Lay muslin or additional fabric over the entire applique.
 - e. Iron the entire piece using the dry cotton setting.
 - f. Remove the muslin or additional fabric
 - g. Carefully remove all of the scotch tape from the applique. The tape may make the pieces fray at the edges if not removed carefully. Tip – start at flat large edges and work toward points or tips.
 - h. After all tape is removed you may need to make slight adjustments, trim or re-iron the applique to be sure it looks the way you want and is fully adhered.
9. Stitch the applique
 - a. Stitch along all edges of each piece.
 - b. You can use a straight stitch or hand stitch if this piece will not be handled or washed. Use a zigzag or satin stitch if this will be a piece for use or washed.
 - c. You can use matching thread, even contrasting thread (if you want your lines to show) or invisible thread (be careful ironing later)
10. Add embroidery lines (optional)
11. Trim background or border
 - a. Using a straight edge square up your background
12. Use the finished panel as desired. You can now add borders, incorporate into a quilt, make into a pillow...have fun!