

ATTIC WINDOW APPLIQUE QUILT BLOCKS

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Embroidery Playground



Basic Machine Applique Instructions & Tips

Are you ready to have fun and create a masterpiece? Here's a chance to use your bits and pieces of favorite cotton fabric. You can use whatever fabrics you wish. Mix and match your left-over small pieces. These designs are wonderful on quilts and wall hangings. Even though there are only eight designs, you can use them in all sorts of combinations of fabrics to create many projects with totally different styles on each one.

Materials Needed: Embroidery Designs, Fabric, Thread, Stabilizer.

Supplies Needed: New embroidery needle, scissors, applique scissors (if possible), iron, spray starch, fabric ruler, embroidery hoop(s) and machine.

Getting Ready:

Start with a fresh, sharp needle. The designs come in three sizes, to fit 5x5, 6x6 and 8x8 hoops. Choose your background fabric and cut it to whatever size you want your quilt blocks to be plus enough extra to fit the hoop and added seam allowance.

Hoop the background fabric and medium to heavy weight stabilizer. Be sure to get out any wrinkles in the fabric. If needed, iron it flat first. The same is true for your applique pieces. This is an important step. The more wrinkle free you make the fabric, the better the results will be. Iron the fabric pieces with spray starch, to make them perfectly flat and a little stiff. Getting your fabric smooth and wrinkle free makes the difference between just an "ok" or a "WOW!" result.

When you hoop the fabric, you want it to be firmly held by the hoop, but do not stretch the fabric excessively. Just have it smooth in the hoop and tight enough so it will not slip in the hoop, when handled and from the pounding of the needle. You will be removing the hoop several times from the machine. The fabric in the hoop must stay in exactly the same place during the entire process.

Decide which fabrics you want to use for the various areas and cut them in the basic shape of where they will go. Be sure and cut each piece larger than the area where it goes, so you'll have room to tack it down. Once you have stitched the guide and tack-down stitches, you can trim the excess before you sew the satin stitches on top for a clean satin stitched edge without "pokeys". If your fabric is very thin and difficult to work with, you can use a layer of iron-on fusible stabilizer on the back.

Ready To Stitch:

The only thread color that shows (on the window quilt blocks) is the satin stitching. The color guide shows several colors, but you will just be using one color. With any applique design, the extra colors on the color guide are there so your machine will stop when it is time to lay down the guide stitching, then tack-down stitching, then satin stitching. Decide what thread color you want your satin stitching to be and only use that one color on all 3 color stops.

Load the first design into your machine. Attach your hoop with the background fabric and stabilizer onto the machine. Stitch the first color stop (guide stitch). Spray the back of your first fabric scrap with a little spray adhesive and lay the fabric, right side up, on the area to be appliqued. Smooth it down so it is very flat, making sure you overlap all sides, so the guide stitches do not show. Also make sure the fabric doesn't double up or overlap where it shouldn't, before you start stitching. If you can easily reach the area, you can do this step with the hoop still on the machine. If not, remove the hoop from the machine, being careful to not disturb the fabric and smooth down the applique fabric over the area. Then put the hoop back on the machine. Be careful to keep the raw edges out of line of the stitching. Stitch the next color stop (tack down stitch). Remove the hoop from the machine again and trim the excess edges close to the stitching. Try not to cut through the stitches, but if you snip a couple, it is not a big deal, you will be covering it with satin stitching. Be careful not to cut the fabric, though.

Now proceed to the next area and repeat the process. Keep doing this until all the applique areas are covered. Once you have everything trimmed close to the edges of the tack down stitches, put the hoop back on the machine and stitch the satin stitching. DONE!

NOTE: On the designs that have the window smaller than the "wall" it is on... you put applique fabric over the entire square wall area, then when you do the window, you lay those pieces on top of the wall fabric.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at support@oregonpatchworks.com

We would LOVE to see your projects! Please send photos! Have fun!

Hugs and Blessings <>< Jackie www.oregonpatchworks.com