

ASHLEY APPLIQUE INSTRUCTIONS

Best results will be obtained with the right combination of fabric and adequate stabilizer. I like to spray starch and press fabric before embroidering to help eliminate puckering. I also recommend prewashing and drying all fabrics if the finished product is ever going to be washed.

Appliqué is done in three steps. First hoop the desired background fabric with stabilizer, place in machine and sew the first step using a color of thread that will complement your appliqué fabric.

“Appliqué Material” thread stop sews a running stitch outline to mark where appliqué will go on background fabric. Next, cut a piece of decorative fabric large enough to cover this area. I use a fusible (see further instructions below) or a dab of glue stick to secure appliqué fabric to the background.

“Appliqué Position” uses tiny zigzag stitches to sew appliqué fabric to background fabric. After this is sewn down, remove hoop from machine, (do not unhoop fabric), and trim away excess appliqué fabric as close to stitched line as possible and fuse. Not trimming closely enough will result in “pokeys” showing through the satin stitching. Small, very sharp, pointy scissors are a must for this.

Replace hoop in machine and “Appliqué” thread stop will sew a 3.2 mm wide satin stitch around edge of appliqué piece securing it to the background and enclosing raw edges. Color choice for appliqué thread stops is up to you; use a colorful variety of fabric and thread to create a whole charming mini railroad. Color of satin stitch threads should match appliqué fabrics as closely as possible to minimize the visibility of “pokeys.”

Using fusible bonding agent:

Use a double-sided heat fusible bonding agent (the kind with peel-away paper on one side). Using an iron, fuse this webbing to the back of all appliqué fabrics before cutting out rough shapes, following the manufacturer’s instructions for heat and length of time to fuse. Sew out the first appliqué step (appliqué material) on hooped background fabric and position piece of appliqué fabric on background fabric. Sew out second step (appliqué position) and carefully trim away excess fabric close to stitched line. Then, while fabric is still in the hoop, use a small craft iron or the tip of a small iron to fuse the appliqué fabric to the background, making sure it is completely fused. Some appliquers recommend a line of fray check around loosely woven or easily frayable fabrics at this point. If you do this step, let this dry. Then sew out the appliqué satin stitching. You may use a drop of fray check at the end of a satin stitched line to make sure this stitching is securely sealed. This heat-fusing step is very important because some fabrics which fray easily may, with time, wear-and-tear, and washing, work loose from the satin stitching.