Virtual Sewing Guild

and

Lindee G Embroidery

www.VirtualSewingGuild.net

www.VirtualSewingGuild.net

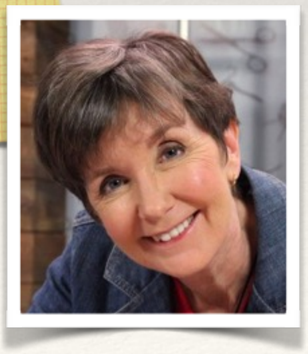
LindeeG Embroidery.com

embroidery design & education

Machine Embroidered Appliqué

Virtual Sewing Guild - August 2016

Lindee Goodall - LindeeGEmbroidery.com



About Me

- Began digitizing in 1994
- Founder, Cactus Punch: 1995 - 2006
- Lindee G Embroidery 2008 to present
  - Create quality embroidery designs & teach
    - Have won awards for my work, had my work featured on magazine covers, been a guest on PBS sewing shows
    - Don't travel much, work from home, no staff
  - Active on YouTube, social media

Agenda

- What is appliqué?
- Why do appliqué? (Why I love it!!!)
- Appliqué step-by-step
  - Manual methods
  - Automated methods
- Common booboos & how to fix
- What can you do with them?
  - All kinds of things!!!

Appliqué Freebie
@LindeeGEmbroidery
Visit the shop

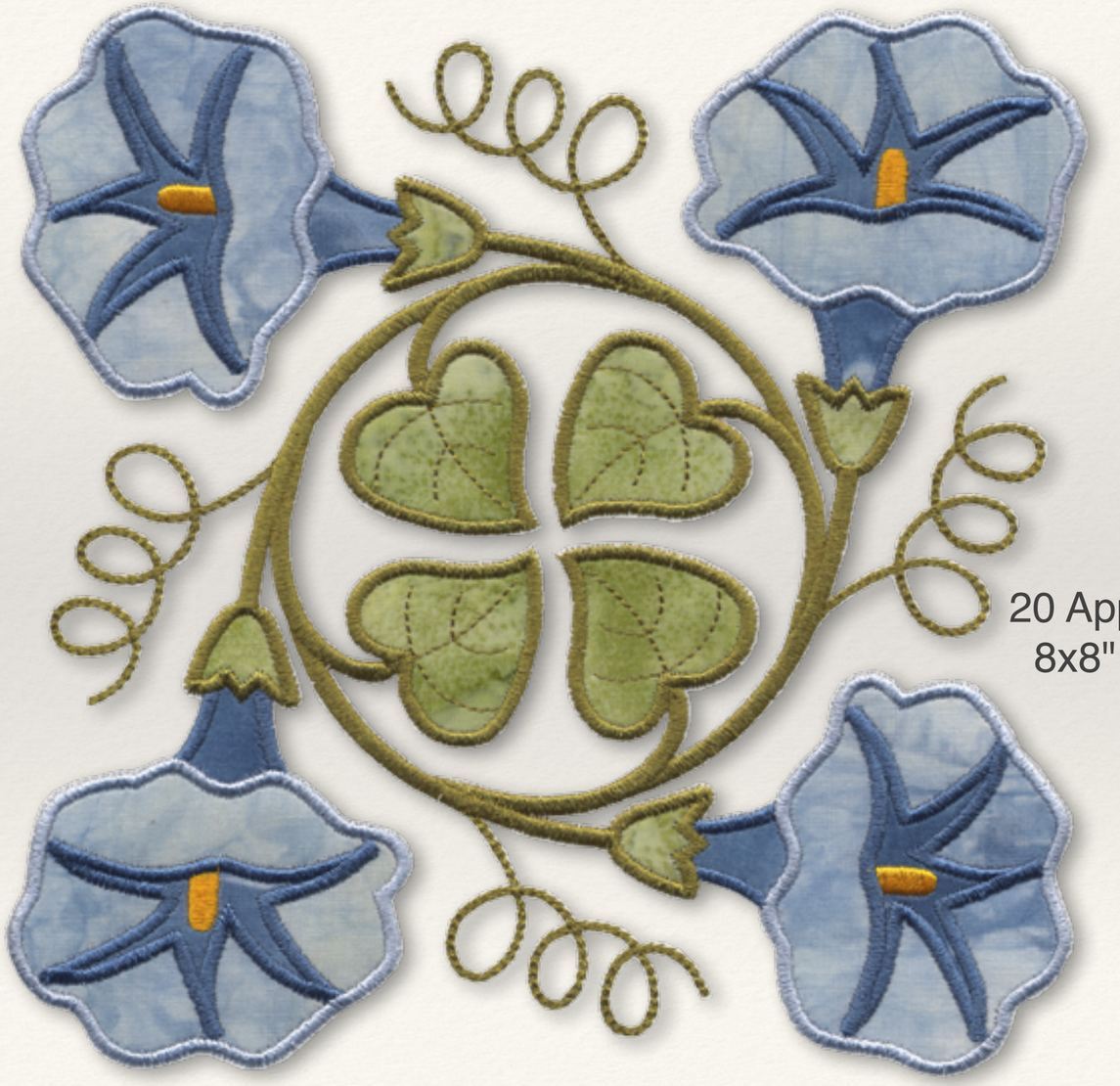
My First Appliqué

- Hand embroidered between the ages of 6-8
- Cotton on burlap with yarn
  - Buttons for eyes & nose
- Actual size: approx. 8.5" x 11"

What is Appliqué?

Main Entry: **1ap·pli·qué**
Pronunciation: "a-pl&-'kA
Function: *noun*
Etymology: French, past participle of *appliquer* to put on, from Latin *applicare*
Date: 1801
:a cutout decoration fastened to a larger piece of material

—*Miriam Webster Dictionary*



20 Appliqués
8x8" block

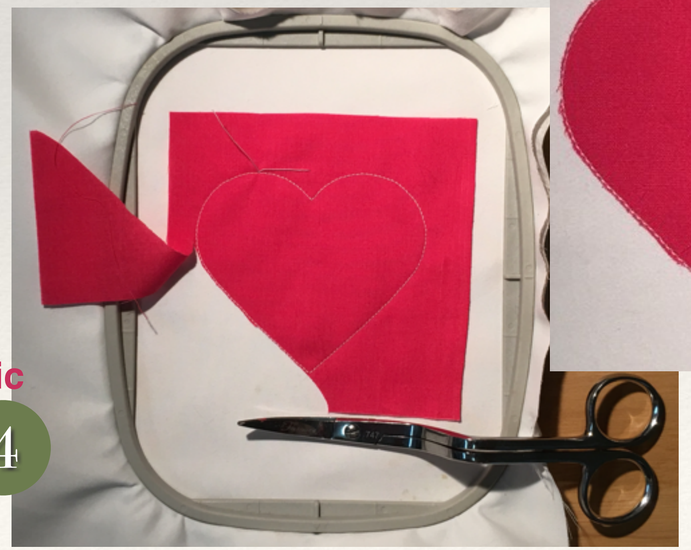
Typical Basic Process

1 Sew placement line

3 Attach fabric

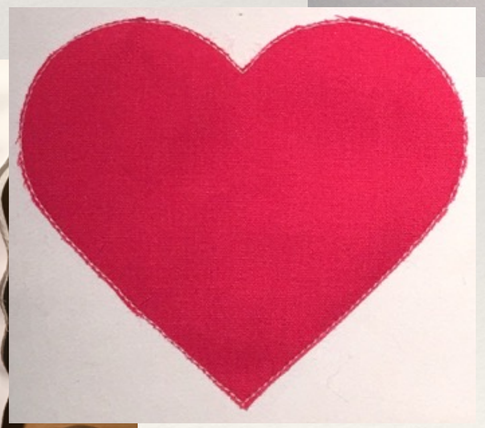
5 Finish Design

2 Place fabric



Trim fabric

4



2 Quilts, 2 Looks, 1 Design Set

Birth Month Flowers
of the Year
Block of the Month

Second Place
Quilt Fiesta 2016
Tucson, AZ

Other Appliqué Examples

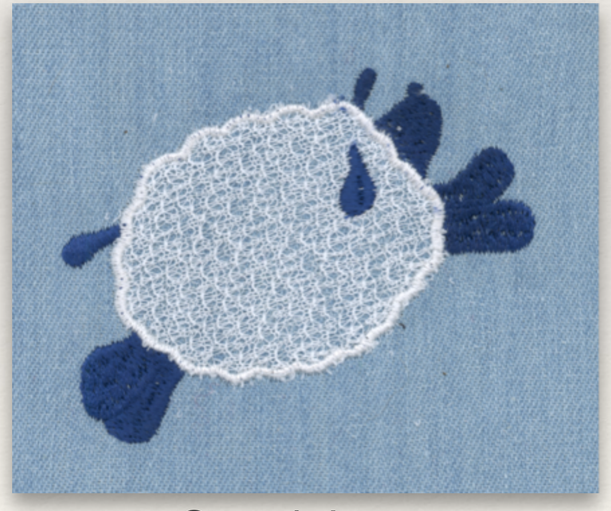
Why Embroidered Appliqué?

- **Embroidery machine perfectly reproduces the desi**
  - Perfect corners, smooth curves, even stitches
    - Every time!

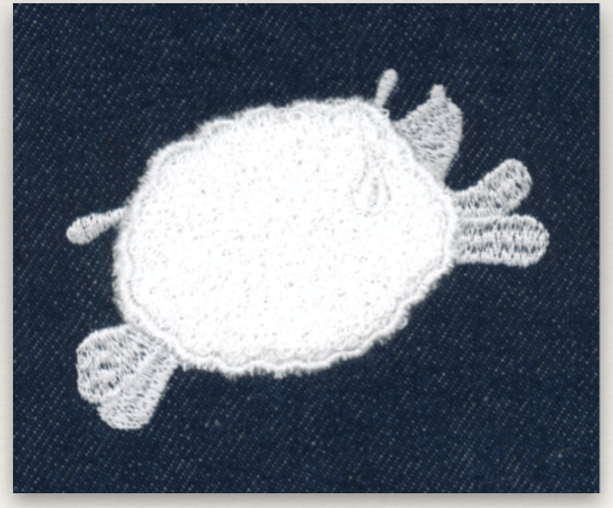
Why Embroidered Appliqué?

- Embroidery machine perfectly reproduces the design
- Greater design flexibility
  - Texture, color, patterns not available in thread

Printed cotton



Stretch Lace



Terry Cloth

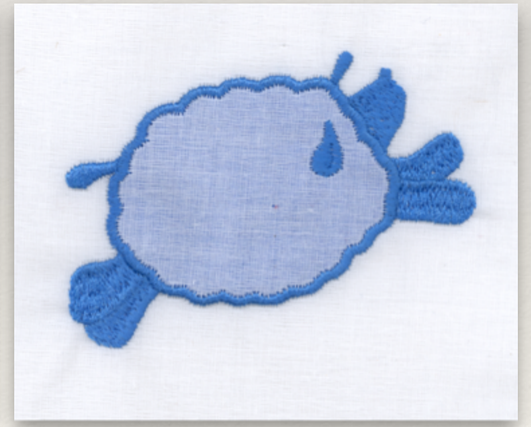
Why Embroidered Appliqué?

- Embroidery machine perfectly reproduces the design
- Greater design flexibility
  - Texture, color, patterns not available in thread
  - Or leave out fabric altogether!

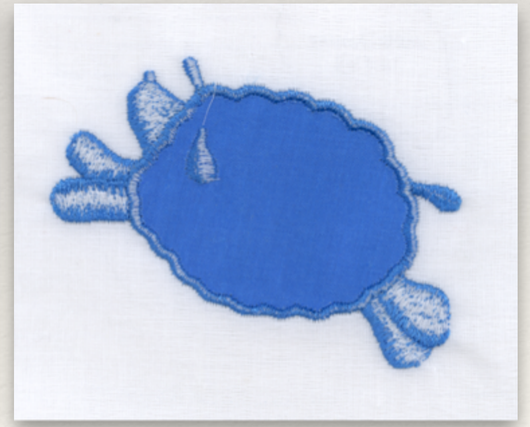
Why Embroidered Appliqué?

- Embroidery machine perfectly reproduces the design
- Greater design flexibility
- More fabric coverage options
  - More solid/opaque than thread
    - Better coverage on prints, strong color contrasts, textures
  - More translucency than thread

Printed Cotton



Shadow Appliqué



Shadow Appliqué, back

Why Embroidered Appliqué?

- Embroidery machine perfectly reproduces the design
- Greater design flexibility
- More fabric coverage options
  - More solid/opaque than thread
    - Better coverage on prints, strong color contrasts, textures
  - More translucency than thread

Why Embroidered Appliqué?

- Embroidery machine perfectly reproduces the design
- Greater design flexibility
- More fabric coverage options
- Lower stitch counts (rose is approx 8" square)

And, Oh yeah…

- Embroidery machine perfectly reproduces the design
- Greater design flexibility
- More fabric coverage options
- Lower stitch counts (rose is approx 8" square)
- Appliqué is great for covering up other booboos!
  - Stains
  - Rips, tears, holes
  - Previous bad embroidery (remove as much as possible first…)
  - Yep, I've done that! (and have the t-shirt!)
- So many options to make the same design different!!!

Effects of Color

- Same design, same fabrics, different thread colors
  - Notice how apparent size is affected
  - Notice how red fabric changes sunflower to a poinsettia!

Match appliqué

Match fabric

Contrast both

Add More Color with Paint/Ink

Just a tiny bit of dry brushing with acrylic paint

Otherwise Pre-Embellishing Fabric

Two Methods for Placing Appliqués

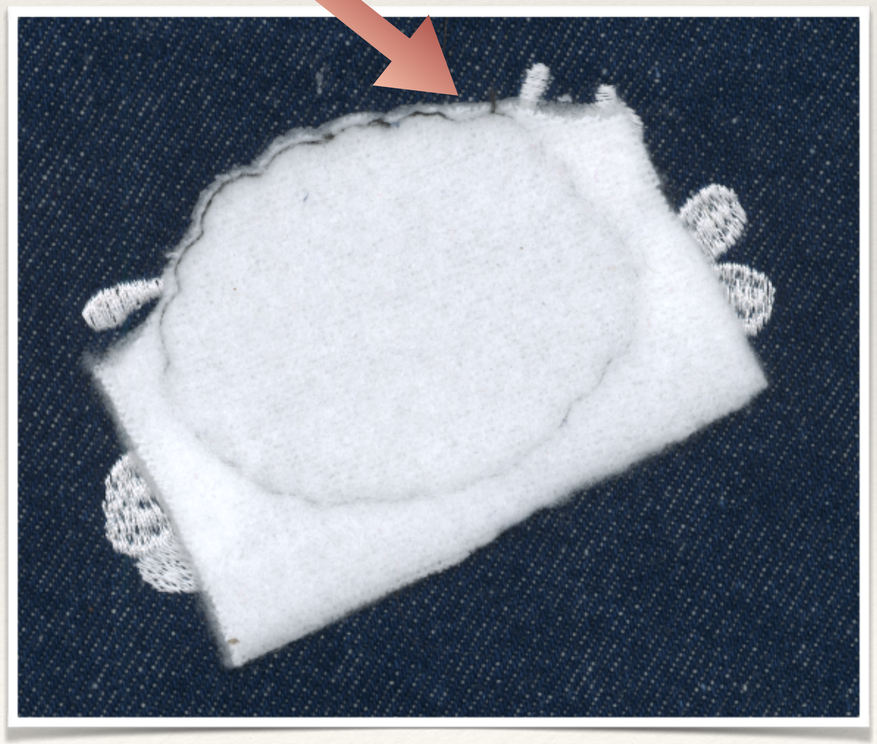
- Sewing machine appliqué - you guide around the shape
- Embroidered appliqué is pre-programmed
  - You have to place the fabric where the design will stitch
  - Two methods for placing the actual appliqué pieces
    - "Blob" method (my term) - stick, stitch, trim
    - "Pre-cut" method
      - How-to is coming!

"Blob" Method

- Sew outline
- Place prepared swatch of fabric over area
- Outline sews again
  - Note: If the tack down stitch is a zigzag, back up 1 color to stitch a line that's easier to cut around
- Trim fabric to stitching line
- Works best on simple shapes or with thick fabrics
- Most popular/common method
  - But I don't generally use it because…

Polar fleece on ducky is thick and difficult to cut accurately with a template.

"Blob" Method Disadvantages



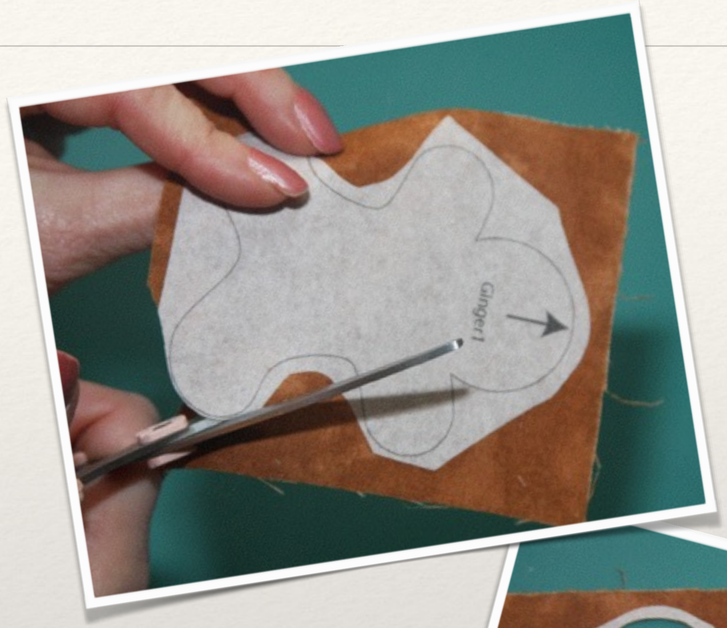
- Stops machine production
- Hooped fabric tension easily distorted during the trimming process
- Hard to trim close to cut line causing fabric to be exposed beyond cover stitching
- Difficult to trim intricate shapes
  - Think inside points…
- Difficult to trim when appliquéing to texture fabric (ex: terry cloth)
- Running stitch tack down may push fabric causing puckers or small pleats
- May be impossible on complex multi-piece appliqués
- Can waste more fabric and fusible web products
  - Watch if fusing! Only fuse within the stitching line!

Large, Multi-Piece Appliques

First test sews for Birth Month Flowers using 30's reproduction prints

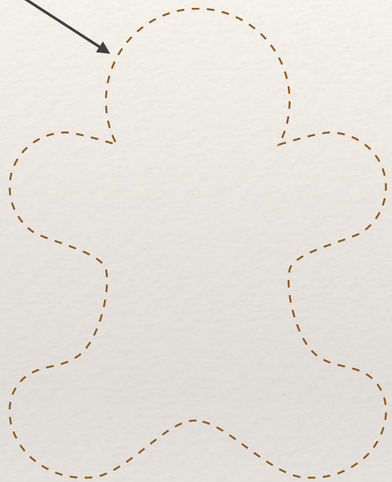
"Pre-Cut" Method

- Template used to cut appliqués
  - May be provided or can make for any design
    - Hold on, it's coming!
- More accurate
- Can be prepared before sewing
  - Good excuse to watch TV while you cut…
- Disadvantages
  - Requires accurate cutting and placement
  - May not be optimal for thick fabrics
- Method I prefer; instructions to follow



Anatomy of an Appliqué

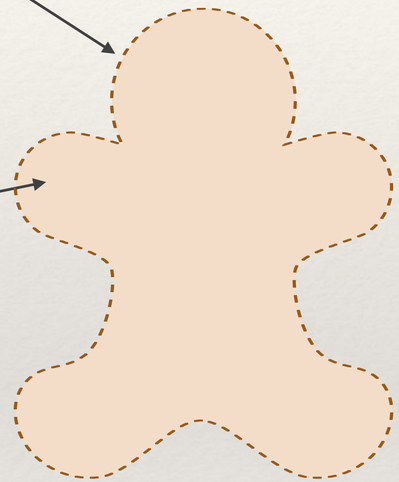
1 - Dashed Line:
First stitches, actual size
& shape of appliqué



Anatomy of an Appliqué

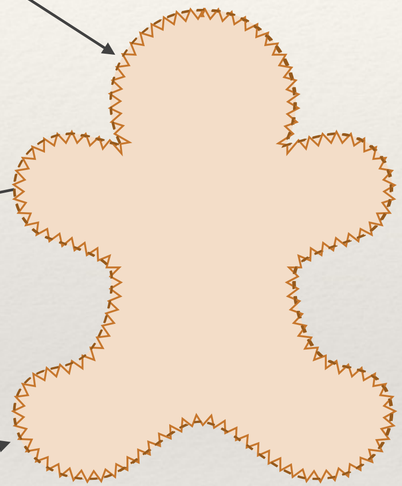
1 - Dashed Line:
First stitches, actual size
& shape of appliqué

2 - Place Fabric:
Align precut fabric
exactly over stitching line



Anatomy of an Appliqué

1 - Dashed Line:
First stitches, actual size & shape of appliqué



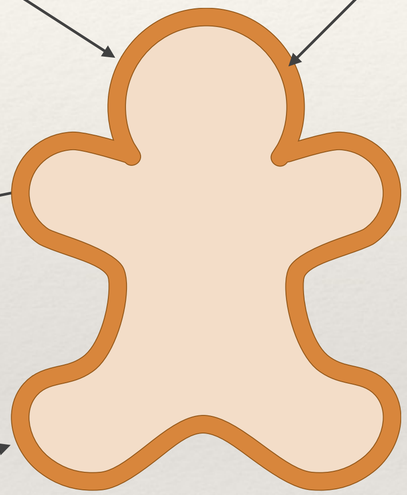
2 - Place Fabric:
Align precut fabric exactly over stitching line

3 Tack down:
Zigzag stitches that tack the appliqué to the base fabric; 2 mm wide, .5 mm to outside of fabric & 1.5 mm to inside

Anatomy of an Appliqué

1 - Dashed Line:
First stitches, actual size & shape of appliqué

4 - Tan Band (Cover Satin):
Width of satin cover stitching; 3-3.5 mm wide, 1 mm outside of fabric, 2 mm to inside



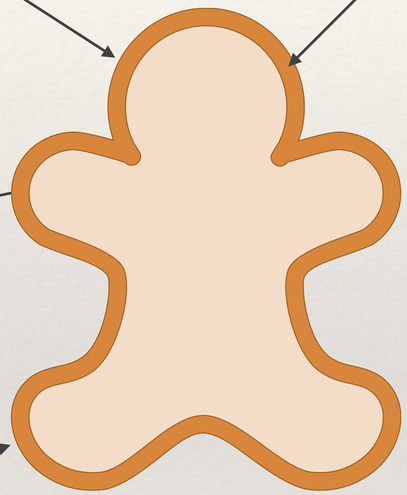
2 - Place Fabric:
Align precut fabric exactly over stitching line

3 Tack down:
Zigzag stitches that tack the appliqué to the base fabric; 2 mm wide, .5 mm to outside of fabric & 1.5 mm to inside

Anatomy of an Appliqué

1 - Dashed Line:
First stitches, actual size & shape of appliqué

4 - Tan Band (Cover Satin):
Width of satin cover stitching; 3-3.5 mm wide, 1 mm outside of fabric, 2 mm to inside



2 - Place Fabric:
Align precut fabric exactly over stitching line

3 Tack down:
Zigzag stitches that tack the appliqué to the base fabric; 2 mm wide, .5 mm to outside of fabric & 1.5 mm to inside

Travel stitches under satin cover avoid unnecessary jumps & trims

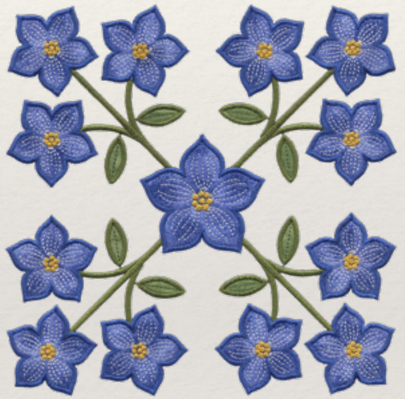
Note: Although this is the order, there may be other steps before the placement line or after the tack down and before the final cover satin

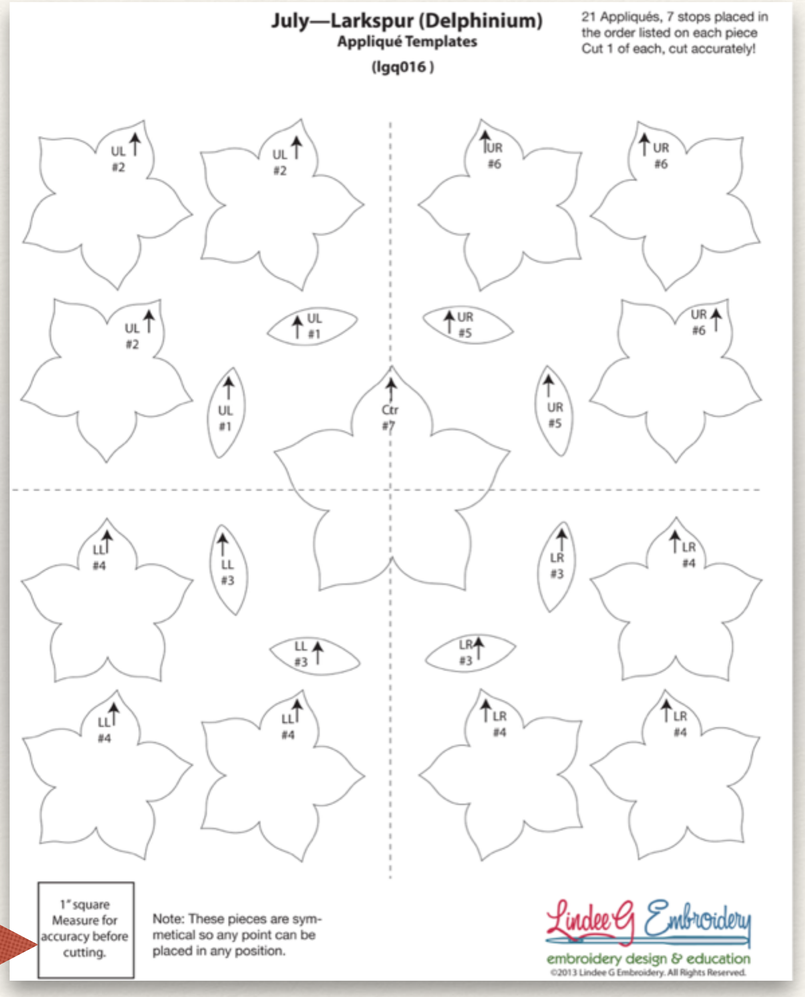
Appliqué is Not Always First

- Check color sequence reference first
- Multi-piece designs may group several pieces at one stop
- Really large designs with many pieces may group only a few pieces at one stop instead of all possible pieces to ensure accurate registration

Templates for Pre-Cutting

- Appliqué collections* include:
  - Appliqué Basics PDF (10 pg illustrated step by step guide)
  - Templates
    - PDF for printing & hand cutting
    - SVG & FCM files for digital cutters
      - Find tips for using the Brother ScanNCut on blog
      - Digital cutters are NOT required!!!
  - Details for use coming up!





Many pieces, only 3 shapes

*Except Building Block series

Preparing Fabrics

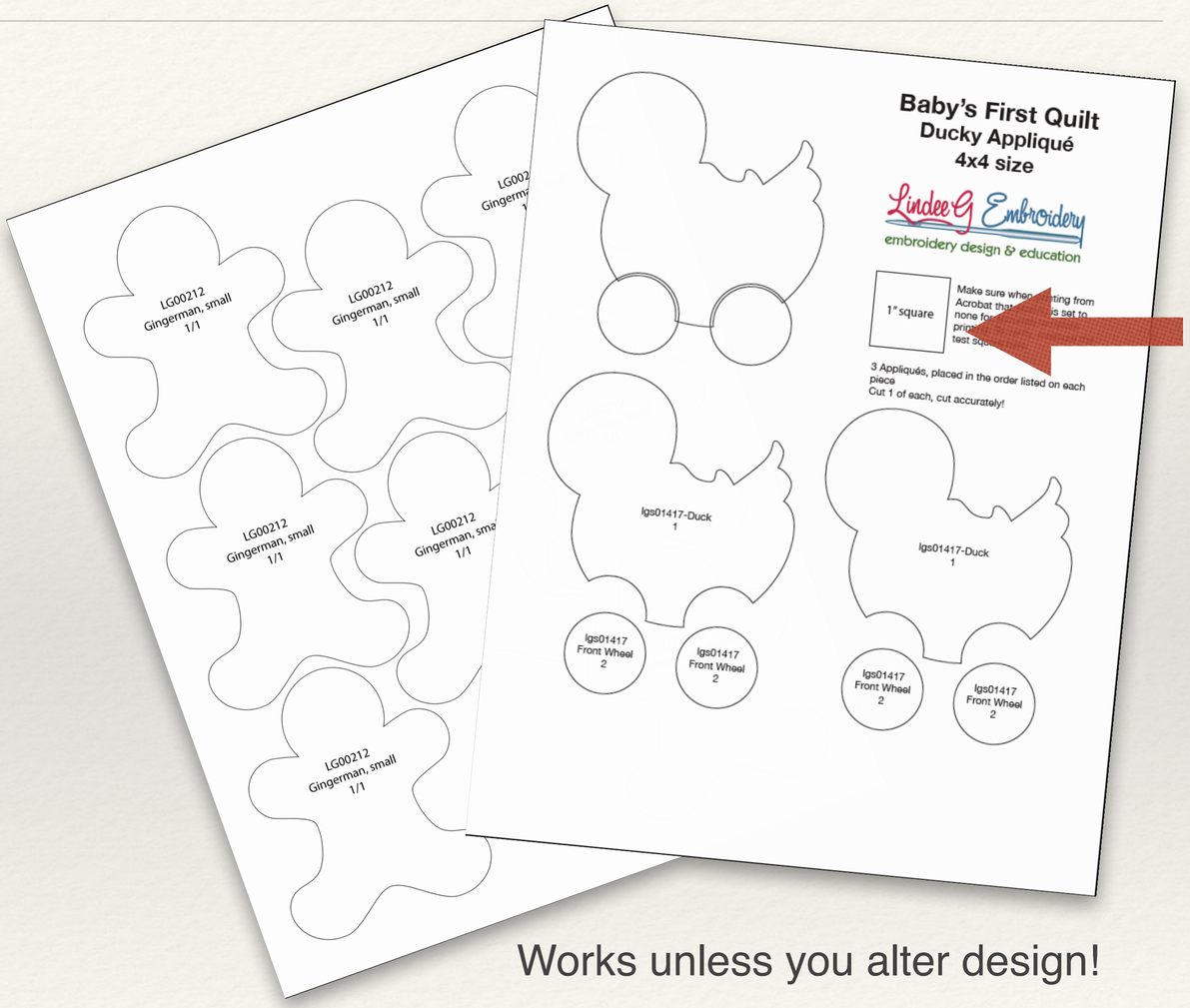
- Pre-shrink appliqué fabric and base fabric
- Apply a fusible web product to back of fabric
  - Improves quality over time; reduces raveling, rippling, and puckering.
  - Cautions:
    - Can add stiffness
    - May be visible on translucent fabrics
    - Some fabrics cannot tolerate heat

Preparing Fabrics

- Pre-shrink appliqué fabric and base fabric
- Apply a fusible web product to back of fabric
- Fusible web alternative
  - Temporary embroidery spray adhesive (“TESA”)
    - Keyword here is *temporary*

Using Printable Templates

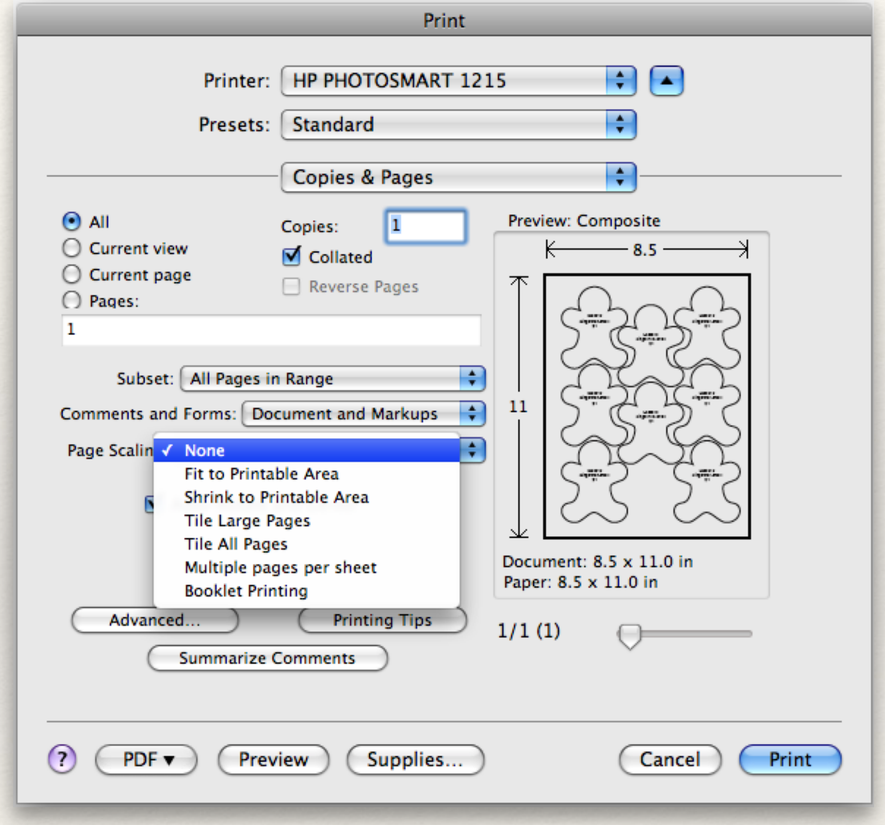
- In PDF (.pdf) format (Acrobat)



Works unless you alter design!

Using Printable Templates

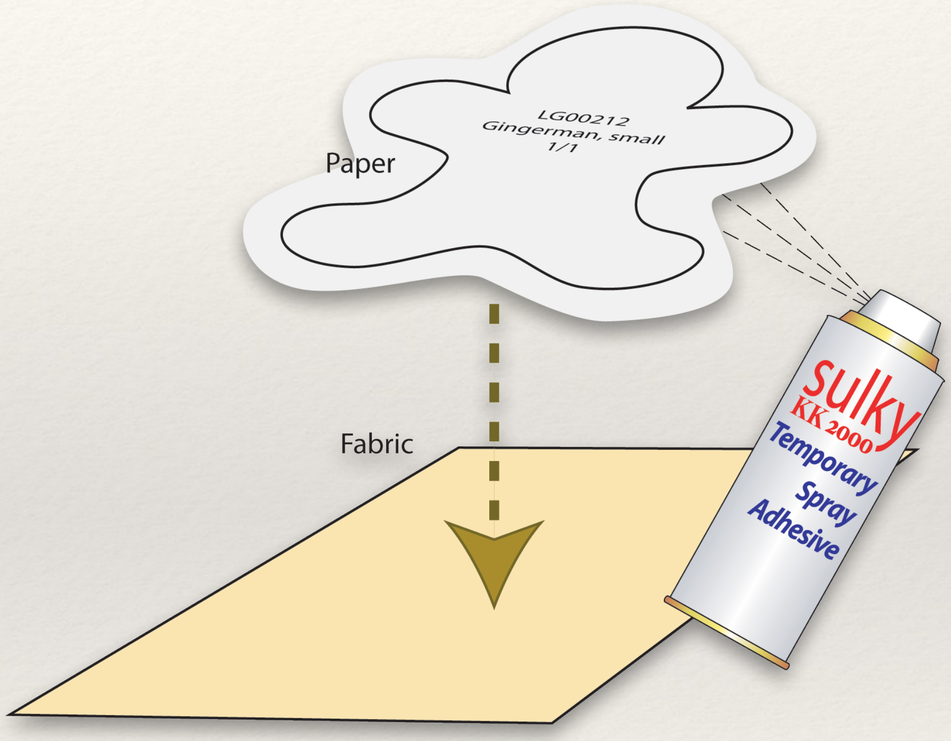
- In PDF (.pdf) format
- IMPORTANT!!!
  - Do not shrink to fit or scale up to fit paper
  - Print at actual size or your templates will not match the design
  - You may not notice until you place the cut pieces within the stitching lines!!!



Set page scaling to none; Acrobat often will try to shrink to printable area

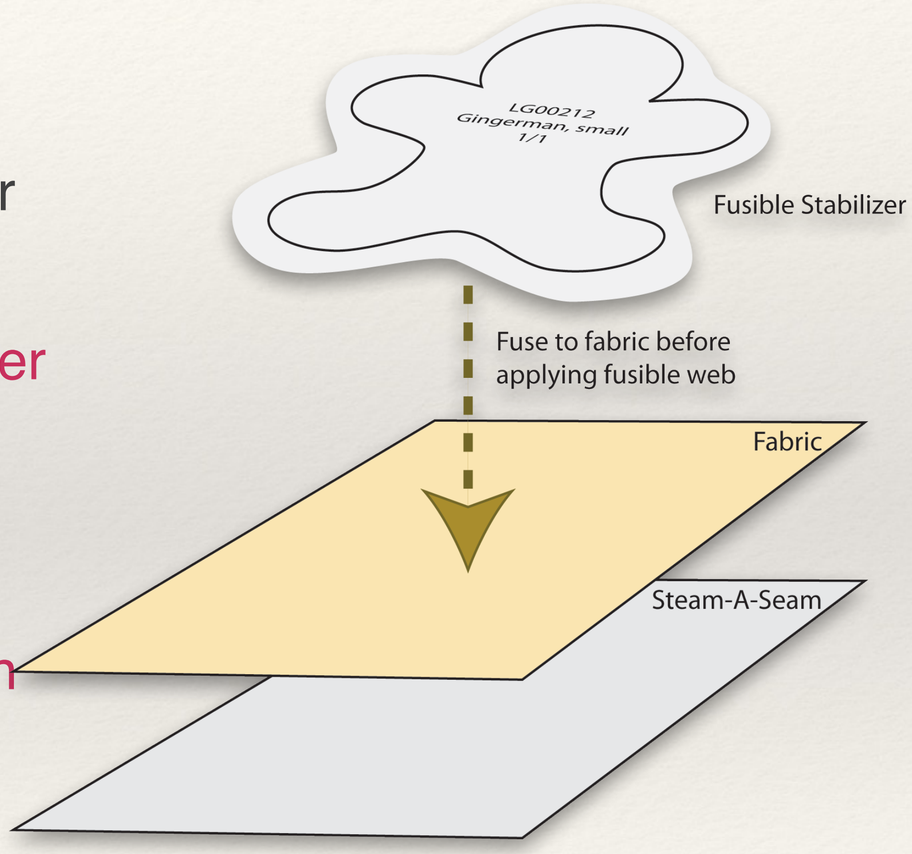
Using Printable Templates (Basic)

- Print on any printer on paper
- Cut out loosely
- Spray back with TESA
- Stick to front of prepared fabric
  - NOTE: Fusible web needs to be applied first, heat can "erase" some TESAs
- Cut out on template line
  - Cut just to outside edge of line
- Disadvantage: Can shift during cutting!!!
- Or a better way…



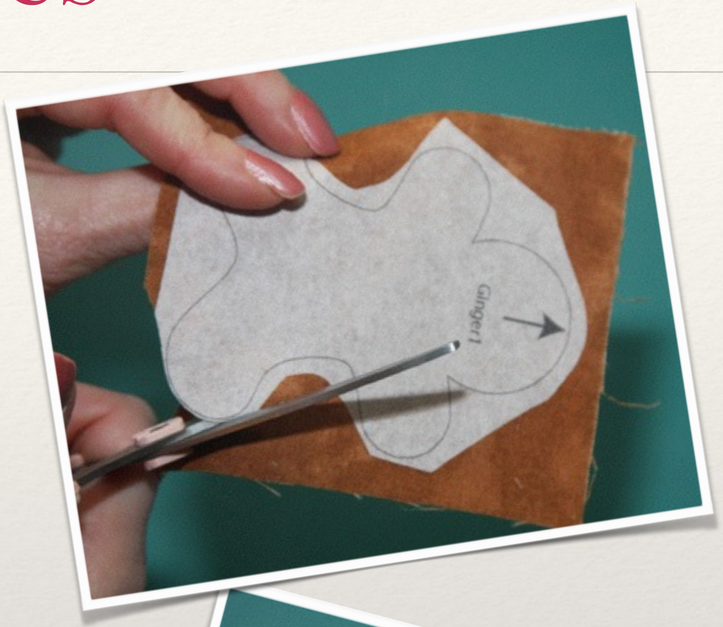
Using Printable Templates (Better)

- Cut a piece of fusible tearaway (or freezer paper) to printer paper size
- Press corners of tearaway to a piece of printer paper using a dry iron (just tack in place)
- Print templates onto tearaway side on an inkjet printer
  - Do not use a laser printer! (heat)
  - Can also photocopy (inkjet)
- Holds better than TESA; more accurate results when no shifting!!!
  - Sticks longer so cutting can be done later



Cutting Appliqués

- Cut out prepared appliqués *just to the outside edge of the outline*
- Cut carefully & precisely!
- If template is well secured to fabric, it should not slip
  - If template shifts during cutting, watch out!
- Leave paper template in place and paper backing in place until ready to use
- While you can cut appliqués while you stitch, I prefer to cut them all ahead of time



If You Have a Digital Cutter

- I also include digital cutter files
  - FCM - Brother ScanNCut
    - Just copy to your stick & load into cutter
  - SVG - other cutters; can be used for hand cutting to optimize fabric usage
- All these leaves perfectly cut in just 9 minutes!
- Precutting complex appliqués reduces machine time and increases quality
  - No pokies
  - No exposed raw edges (assuming precisely placed)
- Note: Avoid double-stick fusible web products with cutters

Cut from 12x12" square of fabric

Organization Tip

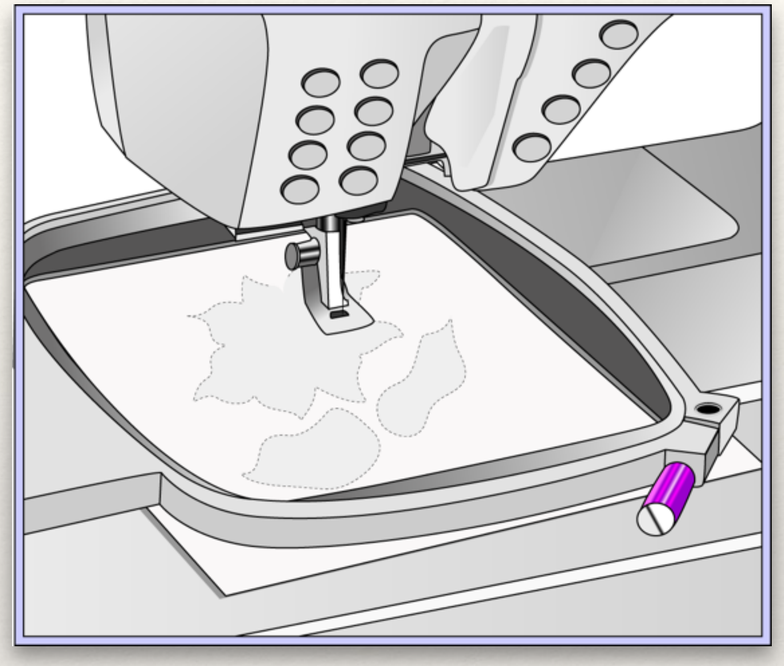
- To avoid losing cut appliqué pieces…
  - Insert a copy of the template into a plastic report cover or sheet protector
  - Stick appliqués on front in reverse order
    - *Sticking assumes double-stick type fusible web
    - Peel off and apply as design sews
  - Great for multi-piece appliqués to keep track of pieces and placement order
  - Or, store in plastic zip-top bags

What If There's No Template?!?!?

- Most designs won't come with a template (mine do!)
  - A few may come with a stitch file for the template
- If you resize your design, your template won't work
  - Scaling template *might* work if your appliqué is a perfect circle or square…
- If you mirror/flip your design, your template may not work (you could apply template to back of fabric)
- Make your own template by
  - Sewing it on card stock or quilter's template mylar
  - Sew directly on the fabric you'll use for the appliqué and then cut out
  - Use software like Embrilliance Essentials or other customizing software

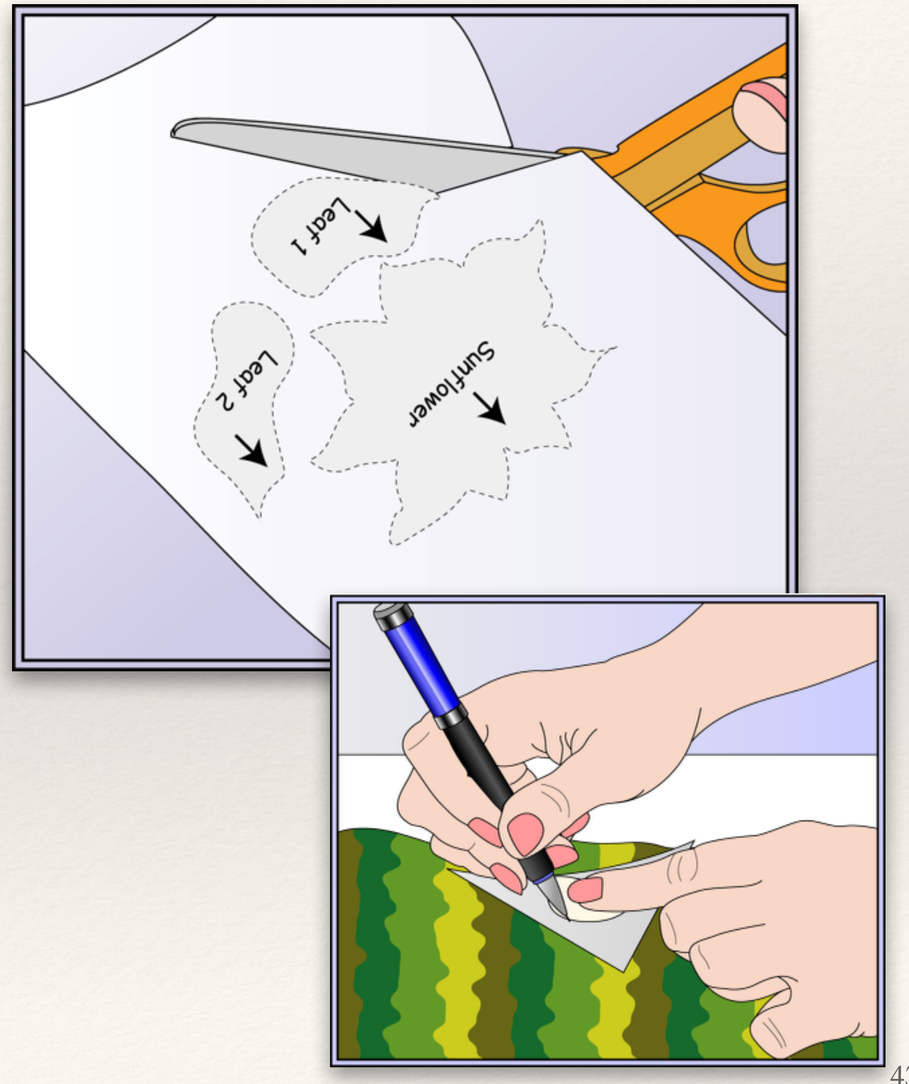
Making A Template

- Sew a template
  - Tape template material to bottom of hoop
    - Mylar quilter's template (plastic sheets)
    - Accurate, durable
    - Card stock
      - Cheap, not good if you have sharp points
  - Sew appliqué outlines only with no thread
    - May require skipping through design on multi-piece designs
  - Sew without thread!



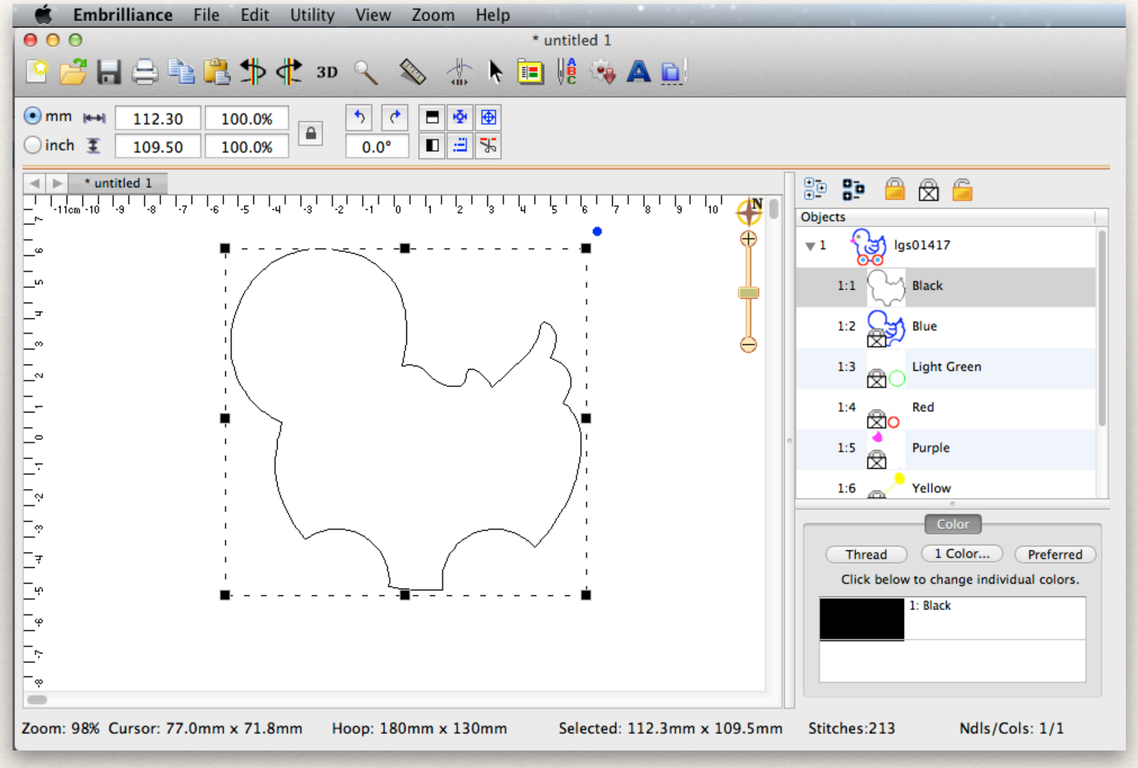
Making a Template

- Label, cut out, use to trace
  - Arrow pointing to top very useful!
  - Label with design or file name, and sewing order
- Included PDF templates are usually labeled
- Then use to trace shape on back of prepared fabric



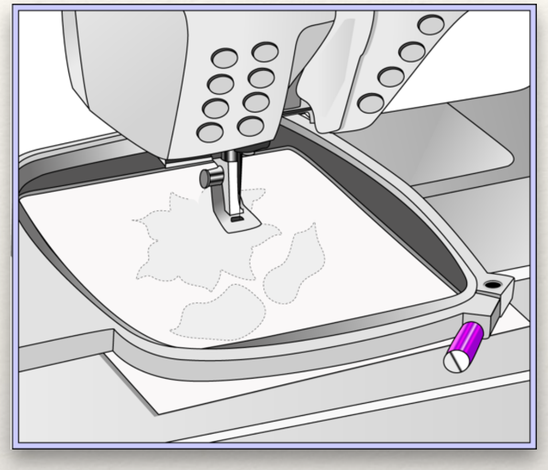
Software Extraction Method

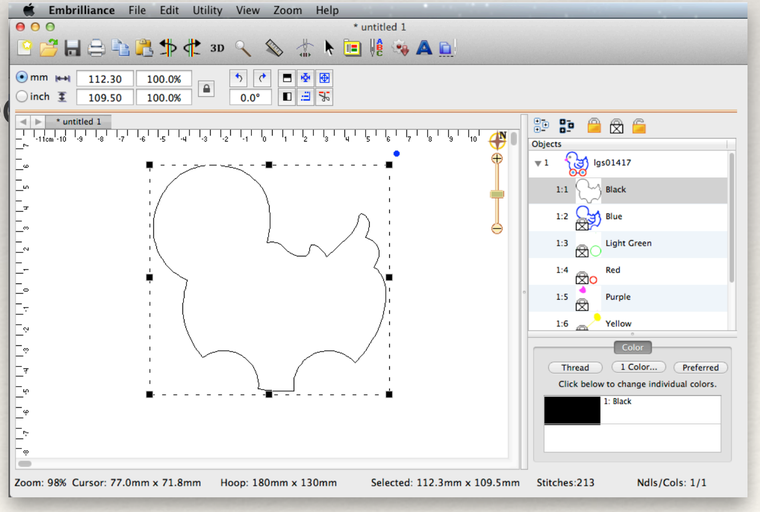
- Open design in software
  - Isolate the placement line
  - Delete other colors or copy and paste to a new file
    - Save as a new file name to use it in the future
  - Print actual size (on paper or stabilizer)



Can Appliqués be Resized?

- Yes, but…
  - Any included templates will no longer work
    - And don't even try to resize to match
    - Instead, remake them!
- Scaling down:
  - Satin columns may become too narrow to cover fabric edges adequately
  - Or, omit the fabric & just stitch
  - Check design first to make sure no previously hidden stitches will be exposed
- Scaling up:
  - Satin columns may get too long
  - Can change to fill stitch (some software will do automagically)
  - Beneficial when working with fabrics that ravel easily





After the Break…

- The best is yet to come!
  - How to sew your appliqué
  - How to make huge designs with tiny hoops
  - How to make a 3D corsage from a flat appliqué
  - My professional secrets for getting the very best appliqué designs

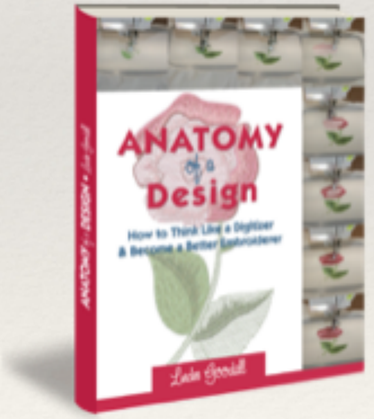
Webinar Special

- 19 appliqué Birth Month Flowers of the Year applique blocks, 186 design files
  - Single size versions for 8” hoops
  - Also split for several smaller sized hoops (5x7 min)
  - Plus single element versions for other uses
  - Includes appliqué templates (PDF, FCM, SVG)
  - Instructions for each quilt
  - Appliqué basics PDF – how to machine embroider appliqué using precut fabrics
- $139.99 retail, $97.00 show price. 30% off!
  - Digital download, no shipping

Place your order at:
www.VirtualSewingGuild.net

Webinar Super Special

- Birth Month Flowers of the Year set ($139.99)
- Adine Script font set ($9.95)
- Anatomy of a Design: How to Think Like a Digitizer and Become a Better Embroiderer 106 pg ebook ($37)
- Exclusive (~30 min) video on applique ($19.95)
- Exclusive 20-page ebook with extra details on machine embroidered appliqué ($19.95)
- Holiday Corsage project ($14.95)
- $241.79 value, 40% off show price: only $145



Place your order at:
www.VirtualSewingGuild.net

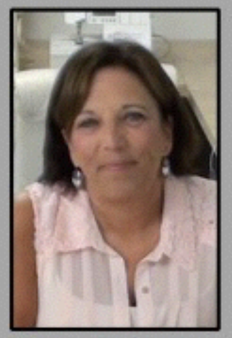
Margaret Moorehead's Virtual Sewing Guild

Sew Timeless
Heirloom Sewing for the Modern Woman
Toll Free: 877-870-6911

Sarah Vedeler DESIGNS

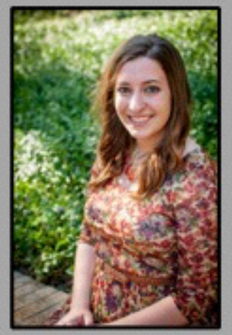
Pam Damour
The Decorating Diva

2016 Guest Presenters



Margaret Moorehead

Virtual Sewing Guild



be the difference foundation

dime
DESIGNS IN MACHINE EMBROIDERY

Patricia Gates

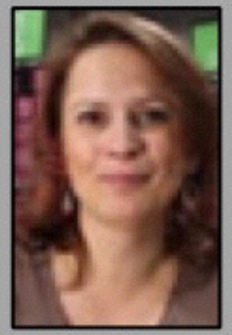
Purely Gates Embroidery

Lindee Goodall

Lindee G Embroidery
embroidery design & education

Rhonda Pierce

SCHMETZ needles



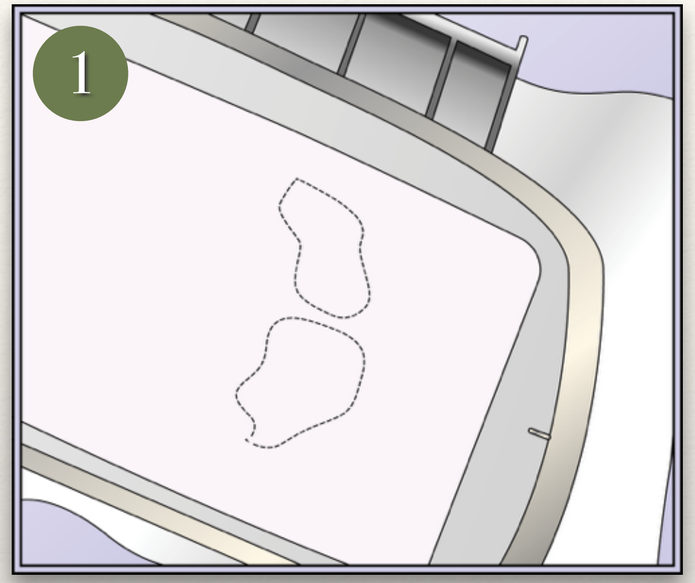
Lisa Archer

Pickle Pie DESIGNS

How to Stitch a Basic Appliqué Design

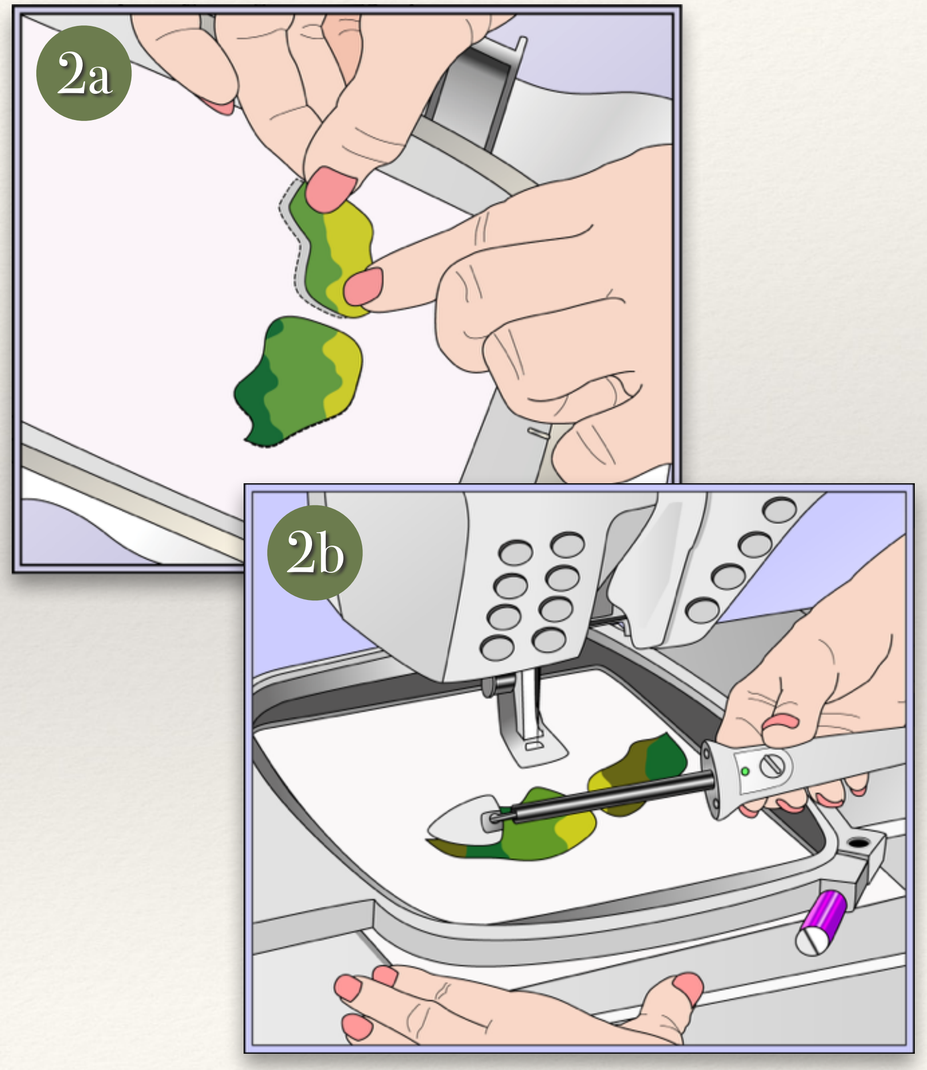
- Templates are cut, fabric is hooped, now what?

  1. Placement line sews, machine stops



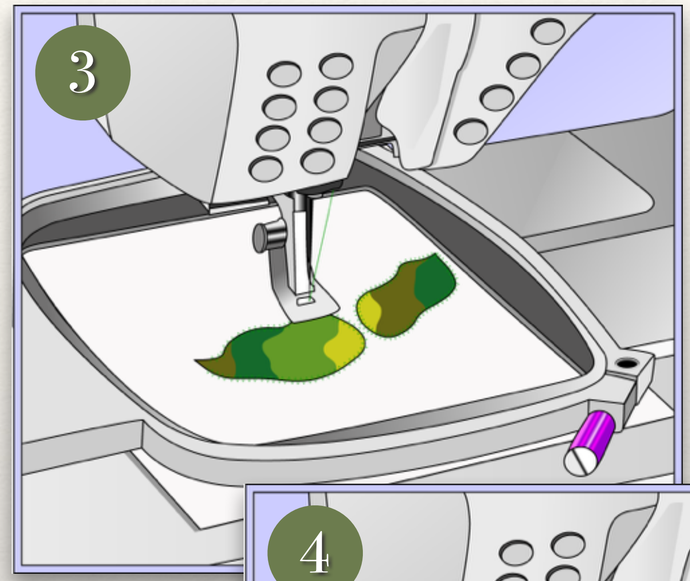
How to Stitch a Basic Appliqué Design

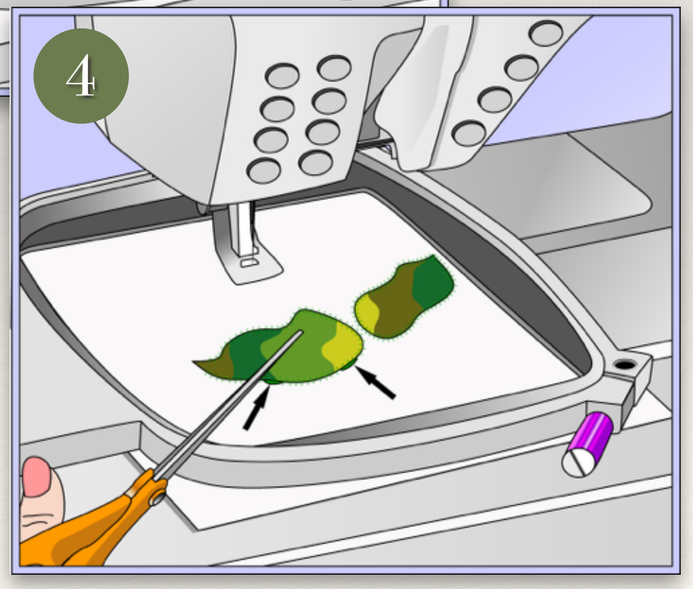
- Templates are cut, fabric is hooped, now what?
  1. Placement line sews, machine stops
  2. Place fabric, tack center with iron



How to Stitch a Basic Appliqué Design

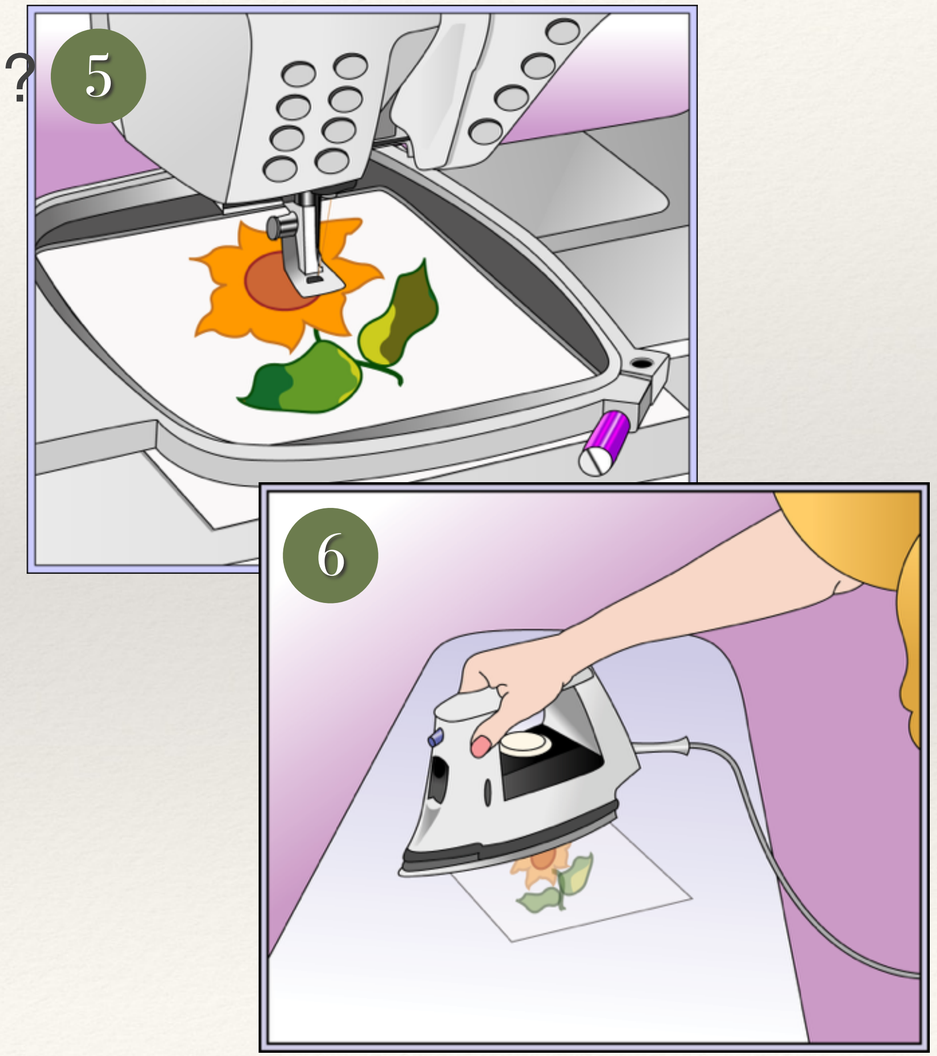
- Templates are cut, fabric is hooped, now what?
  1. Placement line sews, machine stops
  2. Place fabric, tack center with iron
  3. Sew tack down, manually stop machine
  4. Check for any pokies & trim if needed



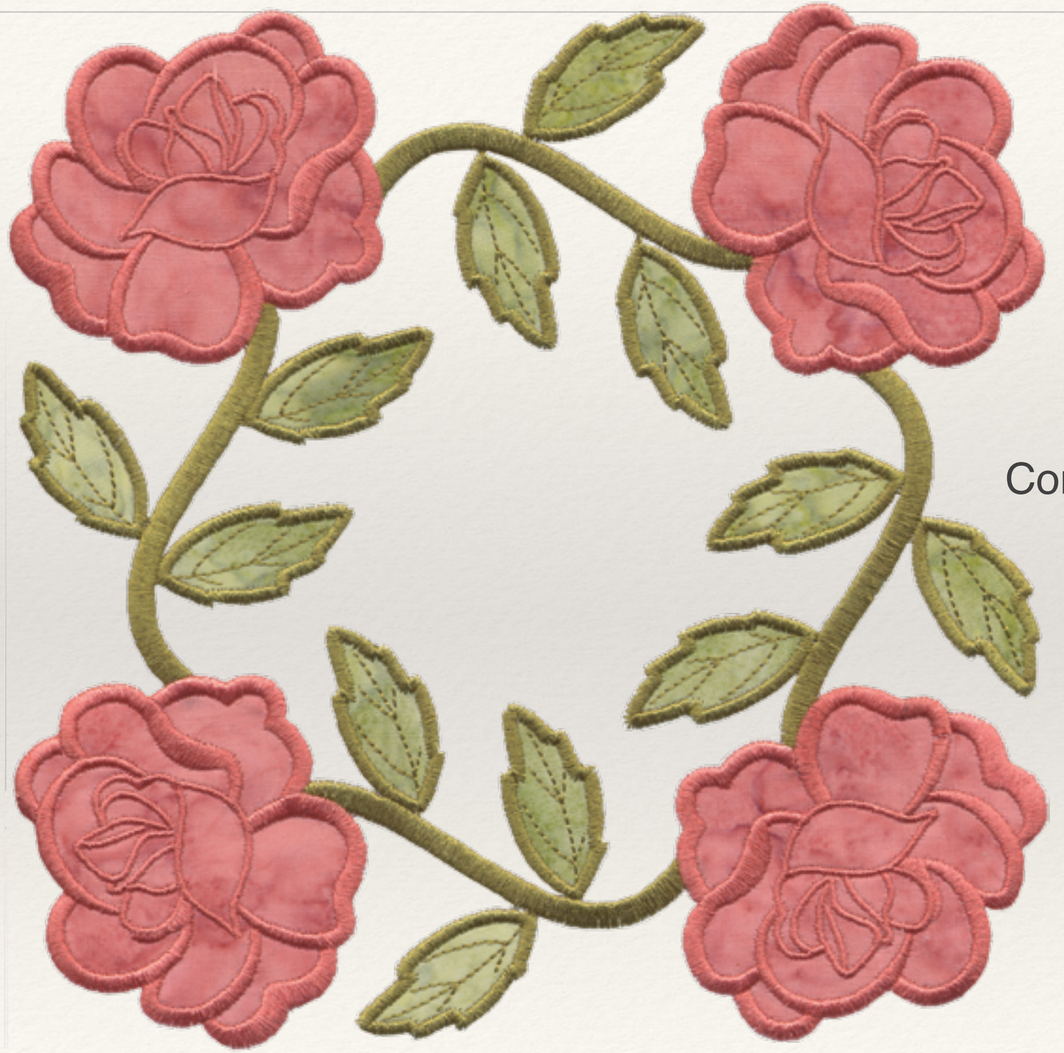


How to Stitch a Basic Appliqué Design

- Templates are cut, fabric is hooped, now what?
  1. Placement line sews, machine stops
  2. Place fabric, tack center with iron
  3. Sew tack down, stop machine
  4. Check for any pokies & trim if needed
  5. Finish or repeat for more appliqués
  6. Press from back to fuse



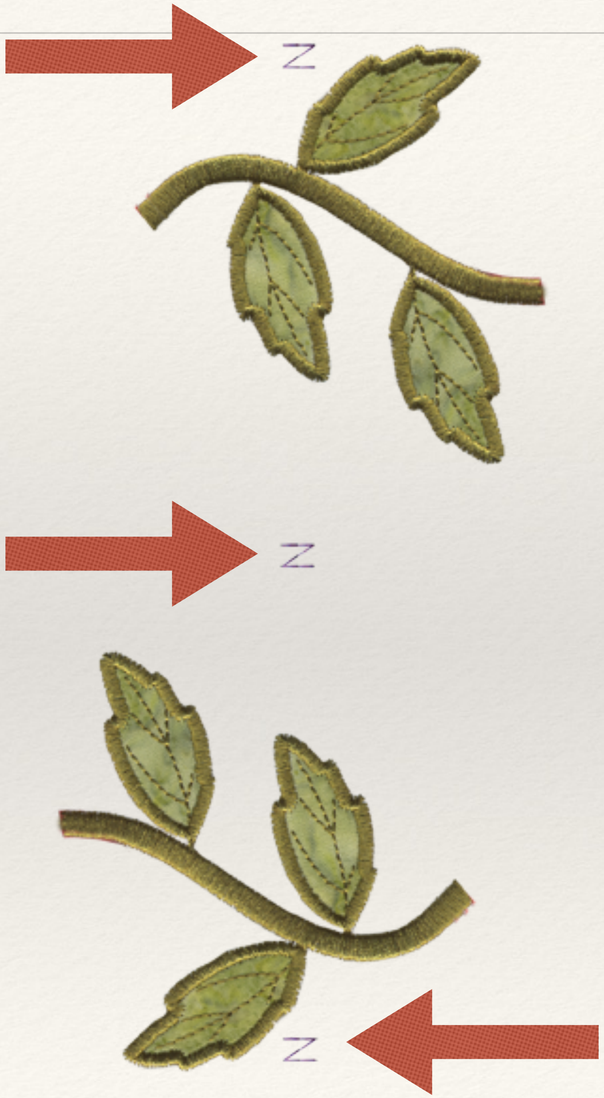
Sewing Big Designs with a Small Hoop



Completed 8" block

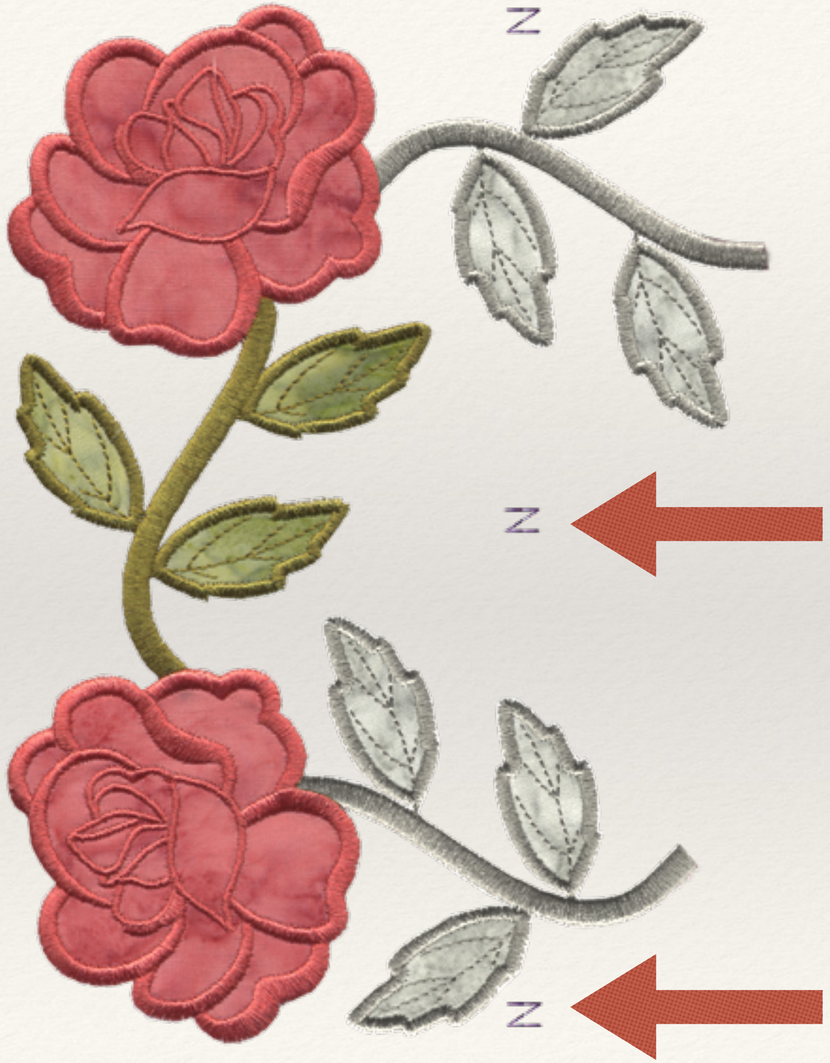
Split Version for Tall Hoops

- Z-stitches for registration
  - Sew last on 1st design

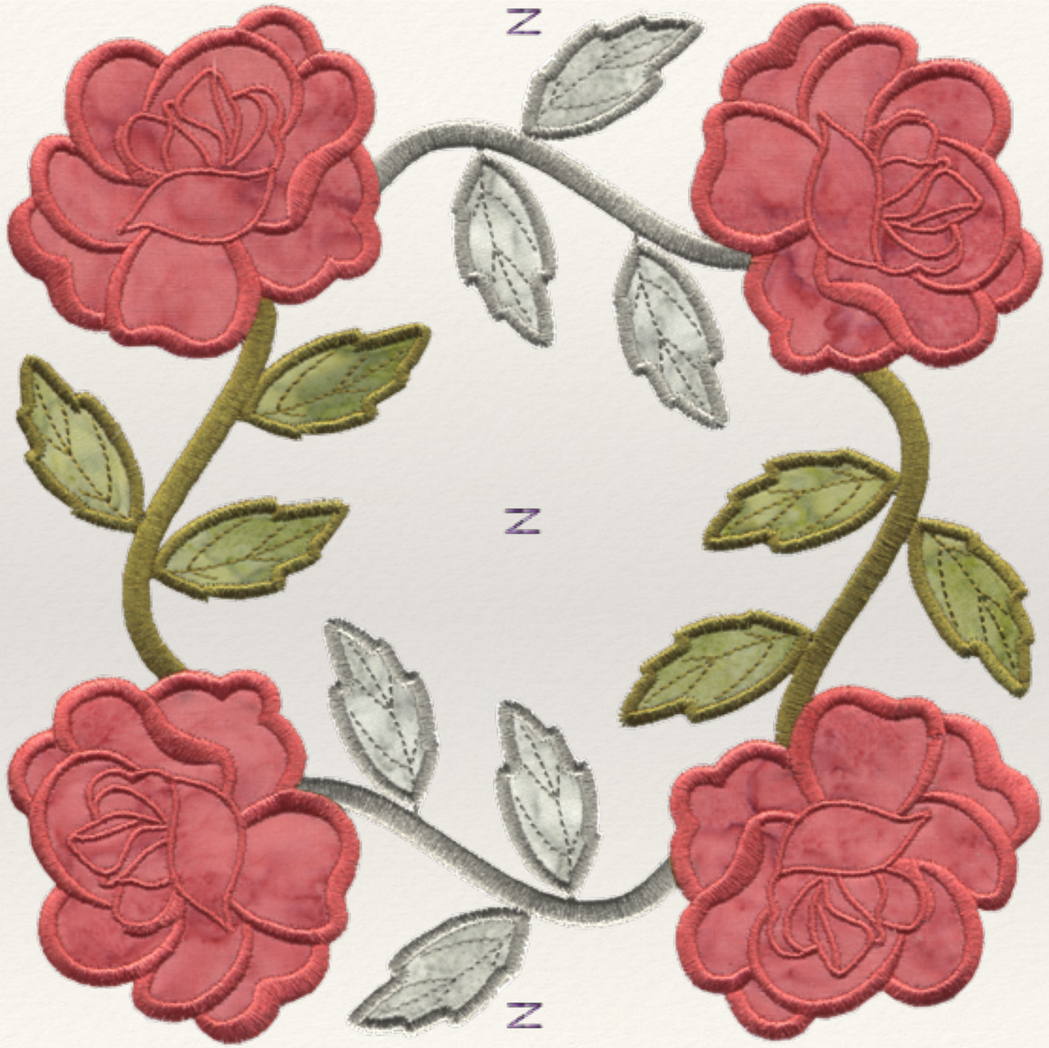


Split Version for Tall Hoops

- Z-stitches
  - Sew first to check for match
  - Always sew last z-stitches in a design but first just used to check
  - Don't remove until design done

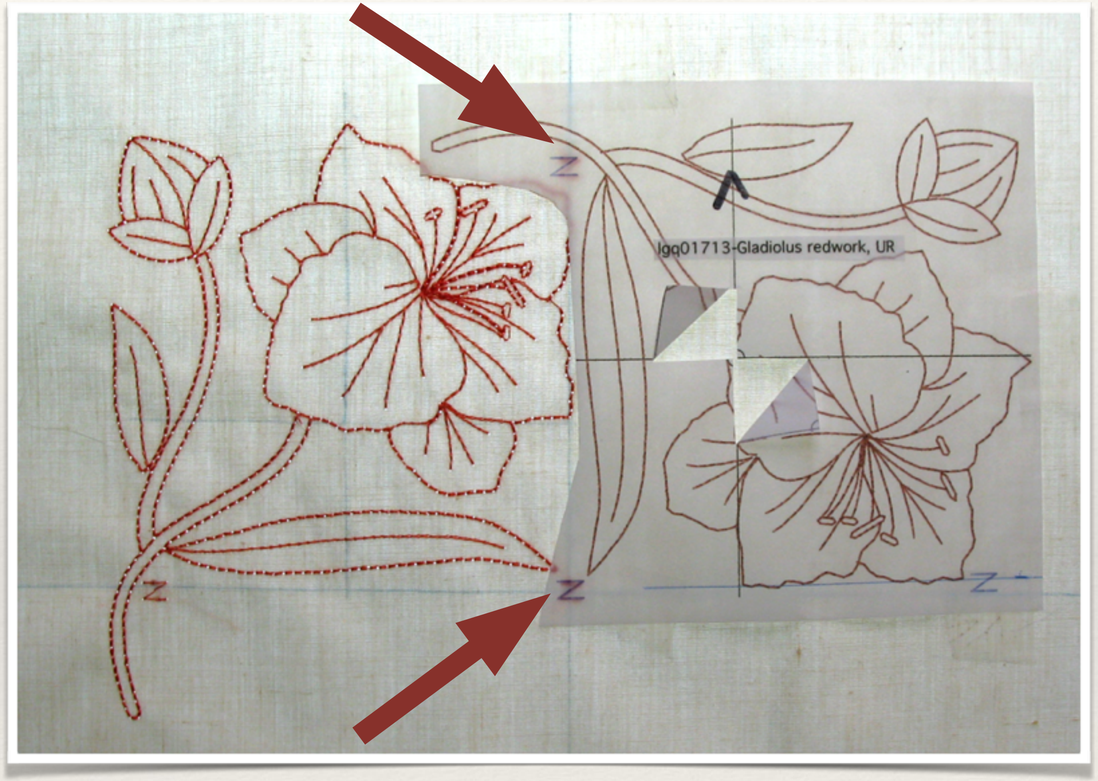


Split Version for Tall Hoops



How to Match Up Sections

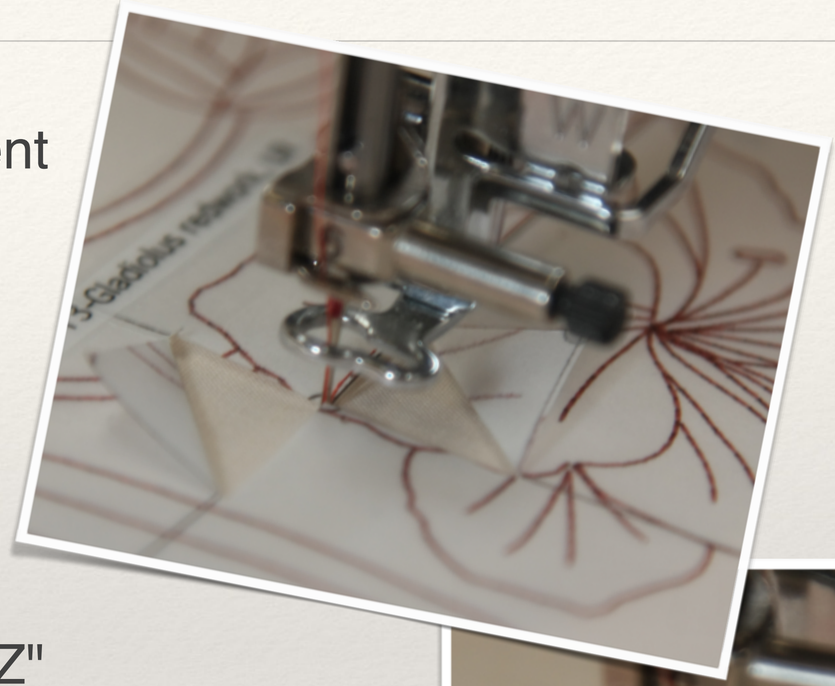
- Sew the first design in sequence
- Use printed template to match printed z-stitches with corresponding sewn stitches
- With template taped in place, hoop fabric
  - Or mark placement with temporary marker
- Try to hoop straight and as close to the center of the hoop as possible

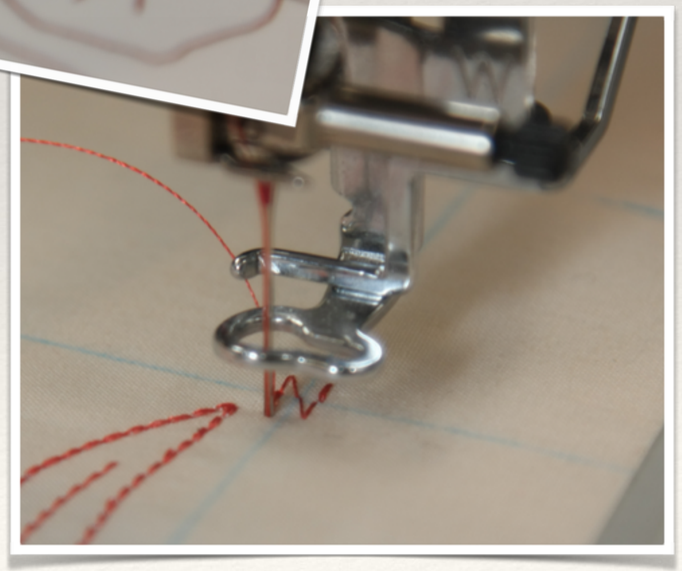


Second design placement
1. Align template
2. Mark placement
3. Hoop fabric centered & straight

Check Placement at Machine

- Before removing the template, check your placement
  - Needle aligned at center?
  - Needle still lined up at top, bottom, both sides
  - IMPORTANT! Remove template
- Load design
  - Advance stitch by stitch with needle to check if "Z" stitches match
- If all good, sew; if not adjust/rehoop
- Note: Don't expect this to be fast! Take your time!!!



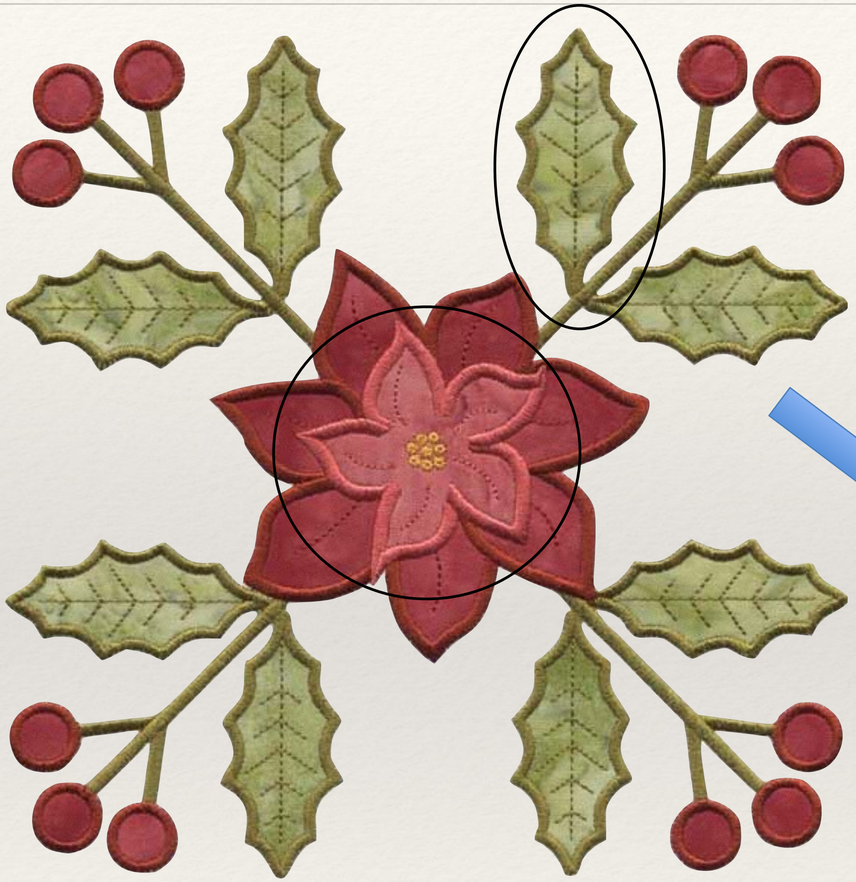


Using a Lightbox

- Even if you have a huge hoop, there'll still be times you need to rehoop
  - Lightbox with paper templates
  - Border elements premade for combining

Take time
to smell
the roses!

Going Dimensional!



Extract elements, stitch on organza

Your Machine Can Piece!

- Another variation on appliqué!
  - Place, stitch, flip
- Like automated paper piecing!
- Tip: Cut & place accurately for best results
  - Like other appliqué sets, templates for cutting included

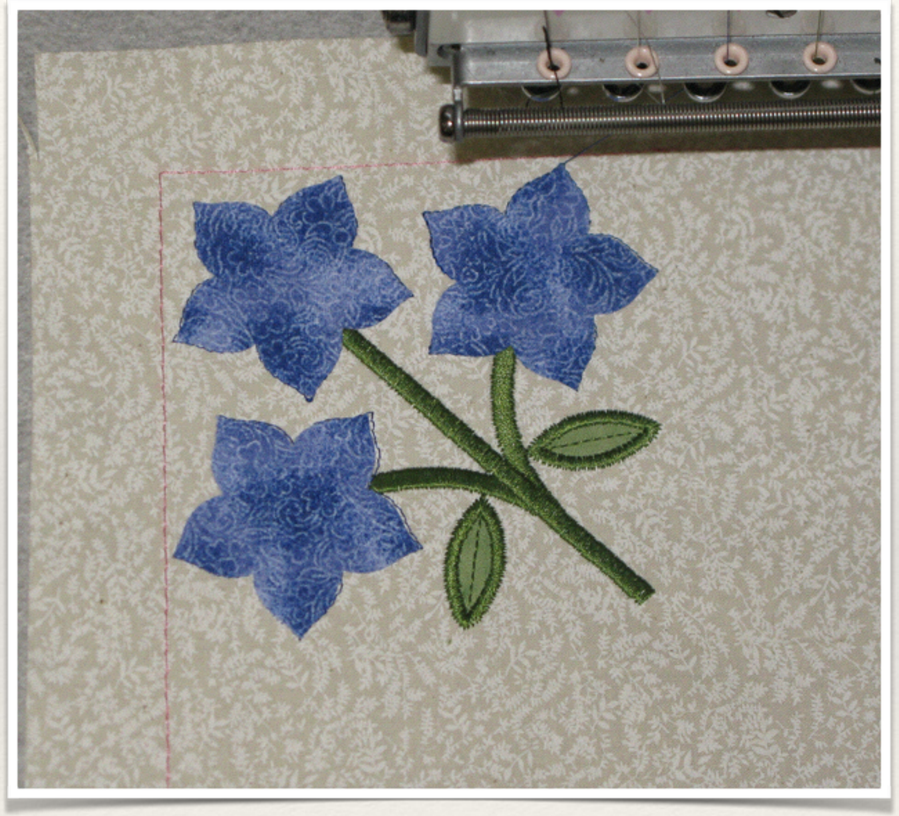
design from "Cabin Fever"

Top Tips for Great Results!

- Follow best practices for standard embroidery
  - The usual suspects: hooping, machine tensions, proper needle, thread, stabilizers, good design, etc.
- Best practices for machine embroidered appliqué
  - Choose appropriate fabrics & prepare properly
    - Prewash, preshrink, press, and otherwise optimize for embroidery (starch, interface, etc. as needed)
    - Choose fabrics that can work together; have same care requirements
  - Cut and place your appliqué pieces accurately!!!
  - Use a fusible web product when appropriate
  - Take your time!
    - Embroidery lasts the lifetime of the garment; don't unnecessarily shorten that life by taking shortcuts.
  - Read any instructions & review the color sequences before starting
  - Do not color sort!!!

Color Sorting & Why to Avoid

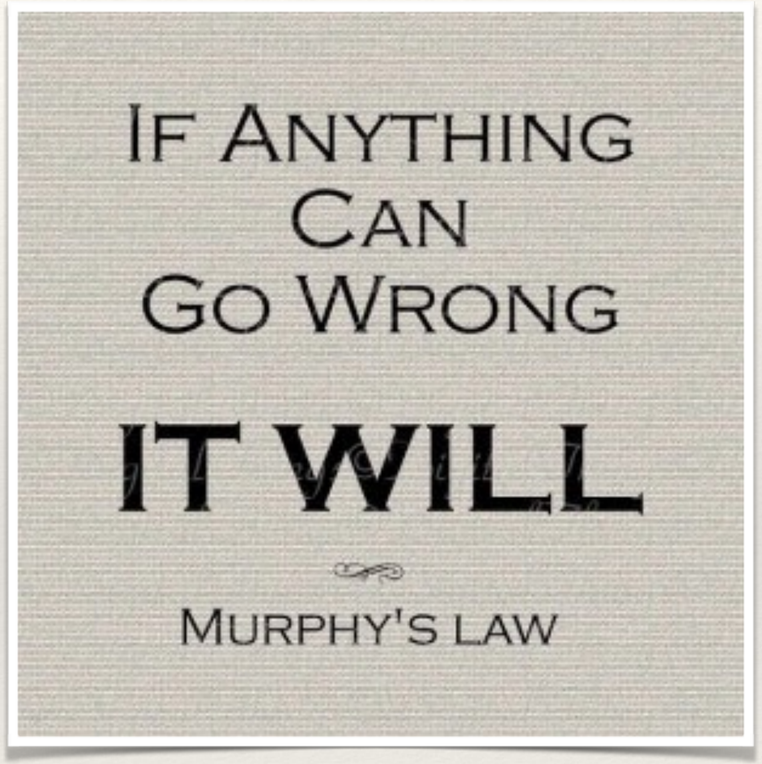
- What it is: a software feature to "intelligently" reorganize colors to avoid "unnecessary" repeats
  - If your design was professionally digitized and there are multiple color repeats that seem "unnecessary," they are likely there to maintain registration
  - Placing multiple pieces over a large space increases the likelihood that stitches won't match up!



2 leaves appliquéd, 3 flowers placed & ready to tack down.

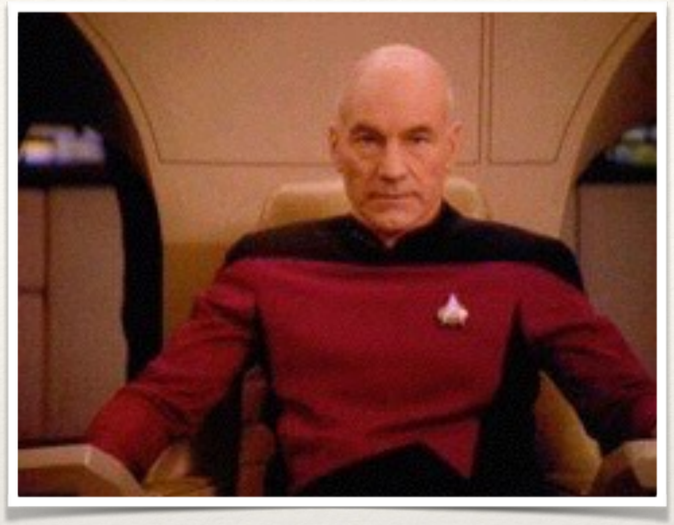
What Can Go Wrong

- Not cutting your fabric accurately
- Not placing your fabrics accurately
- Not cutting close enough if using the "blob method"
- Not trimming excess away with the hoop flat on a solid surface
- Poor/inadequate fabric preparation
- Poor fabric combinations/choices



What Can Go Wrong

- Not cutting your fabric accurately
- Not placing your fabrics accurately
- Not cutting close enough if using the "blob method" (or not placing accurately with the precut method)
- Not trimming excess away with the hoop flat on a solid surface
- Poor/inadequate fabric preparation
- Poor fabric combinations/choices
- And whatever happens, take a deep breath & "dinna fash"



"Make it sew, #1!"

–Captain Picard

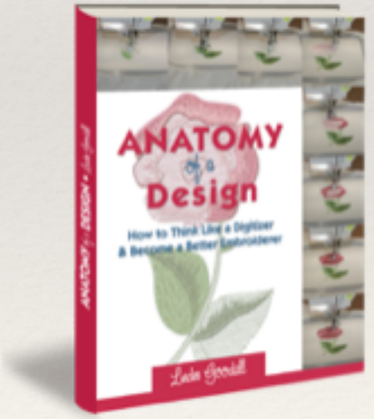
Webinar Special

- 19 appliqué Birth Month Flowers of the Year applique blocks, 186 design files
  - Single size versions for 8” hoops
  - Also split for several smaller sized hoops (5x7 min)
  - Plus single element versions for other uses
  - Includes appliqué templates (PDF, FCM, SVG)
  - Instructions for each quilt
  - Appliqué basics PDF – how to machine embroider appliqué using precut fabrics
- $139.99 retail, $97.00 show price. 30% off!
  - Digital download, no shipping

Place your order at:
www.VirtualSewingGuild.net

Webinar Super Special

- Birth Month Flowers of the Year set ($139.99)
- Adine Script font set ($9.95)
- Anatomy of a Design: How to Think Like a Digitizer and Become a Better Embroiderer 106 pg ebook ($37)
- Exclusive (~30 min) video on applique ($19.95)
- Exclusive 20-page ebook with extra details on machine embroidered appliqué ($19.95)
- Holiday Corsage project ($14.95)
- $241.79 value, 40% off show price: only $145



Place your order at:
www.VirtualSewingGuild.net

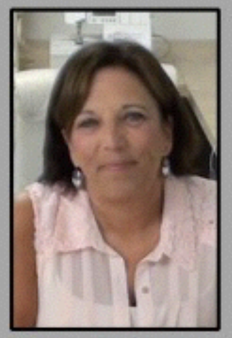
Margaret Moorehead's Virtual Sewing Guild

Sew Timeless
Heirloom Sewing for the Modern Woman
Toll Free: 877-870-6911

Sarah Vedeler DESIGNS

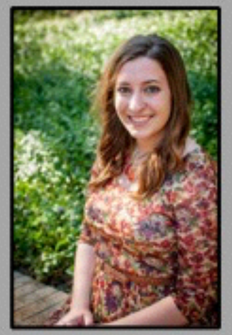
Pam Damour
The Decorating Diva

2016 Guest Presenters



Margaret Moorehead

Virtual Sewing Guild



be the difference foundation

dime
DESIGNS IN MACHINE EMBROIDERY

Patricia Gates

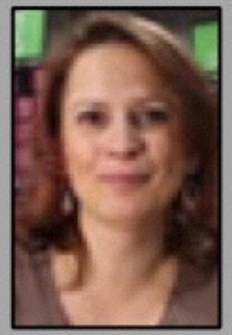
Purely Gates Embroidery

Lindee Goodall

Lindee G Embroidery
embroidery design & education

Rhonda Pierce

SCHMETZ needles



Lisa Archer

Pickle Pie DESIGNS

Where to Find Me

LindeeGEmbroidery.com

facebook.com/LindeeGEmbroidery

youtube.com/user/LindeeGVideos

pinterist.com/LindeeG

instagram.com/lindeegoodall/

etsy.com/shop/LindeeGEmbroidery

Visit My Blog!

- Over 100 articles all related to machine embroidery + more to add!
- Full on-line shop: designs, thread, gadgets, ebook
- Sign up for the newsletter and be notified of new stuff!
  - Get a free collection just for signing up!
  - New blog posts
  - New YouTube videos
  - New products
  - New sales
  - New freebies!

embroidery design & education

ThankYou !

And now it's time for you to enjoy creating your own wonderful projects using Lindee's great techniques!

www.VirtualSewingGuild.net