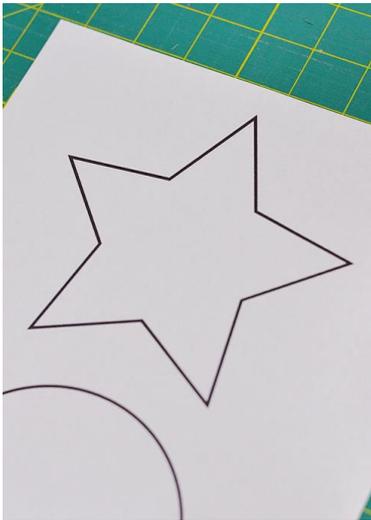


Tutorial: Basic Machine Applique Using Fuseable Webbing

Here's the thing about machine applique: with the right tools and techniques, it can be really, really easy.

1. Start with a template



Trace the template on to the paper side of some fusible webbing

Cut around your shape, leaving some space around the line. Iron to fabric.



Place the paper shape shiny side down on the **wrong side** of your fabric.

Adhere the paper shape to the fabric according to manufacturer's instructions.

Use a sheet of paper or greaseproof paper to protect your iron and ironing board from the adhesive

Cut out the shape on the line



Peel the paper off the back of the fabric.

Iron the shape to background fabric, according to manufacturer's instructions.

You have lots of choices when it comes to thread. I have used metallic, iridescent, matching, contrasting, even invisible thread. If you're just beginning, I suggest using a thread that matches your shape. As you gain skill and confidence, you can move on to other threads—which can add a LOT of fun and visual interest to your project.

Using a clear presser foot, align your shape right in the middle of your presser foot, so that your needle will sink right at the edge. Take a few very small straight stitches along the edge of the shape. This will help your zig-zag (or other decorative stitch) be secure and not unravel. On my machine, I set my stitch length to .5 and took about 5 stitches. I usually start on an inside corner or a straight part if there is one. On circles you can start wherever you want.

Stitch around the shape, using a decorative stitch

You can use a zig-zag stitch or a blanket stitch. Align your stitch so that it is all on the shape, just barely coming off the edge of the shape and hitting the background.

Drop your needle and pivot at corners. Lift your presser foot, pivot the fabric until it is aligned, then begin stitching again. When you reach a corner, manually place your needle right at the corner, in the background.

If I am stitching around a smaller or tighter curve, I sink the needle and pivot just like with corners, only moving less with each pivot. The “clock” means to pivot at each place where an hour would be located on the clock. This helps so that your stitching still looks circular like your shape.