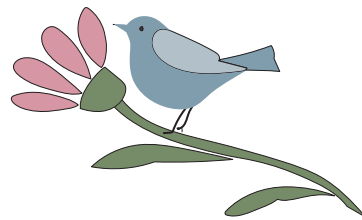


The Spray Starch Method of Appliqué

I love this method of appliqué. It's great for beginners and the advanced stitcher. If you haven't tried it before, I think you'll like it. It gives your appliqué a crisp, flat edge and it allows you to see your entire block before you stitch it down.

Materials Needed:

- ♥ Spray Starch or *Best Press* (I use *Best Press* because it doesn't leave a residue on the bottom of my iron)
- ♥ Sharpie®, Ultra Fine Black Permanent Marker
- ♥ Freezer Paper
- ♥ Small sharp embroidery scissors and paper scissors (curved scissors are also nice but not required)
- ♥ Stiletto or wood toothpick
- ♥ Glass jar with lid
- ♥ Small stencil brush or paint brush
- ♥ Small craft iron (solid bottom, no steam holes)
- ♥ Roxanne's Glue-baste-it
- ♥ Appliqué Pins



Instructions:

- ♥ Using a black permanent pen, trace one of each appliqué shape onto the shiny side of freezer paper. Take the traced pattern and press it shiny side down to the dull side of another piece of freezer paper. You've just made a template sandwich with the traced line on the inside. This automatically reverses the image and you are ready to cut out your pattern pieces. Cut out all shapes on the traced lines. If you have a pair of curved scissors, use them to cut around curves on appliqué shapes (the smoother the edge of your appliqué shape the smoother your finished appliqué will look). When cutting out your shapes, try turning the paper and not the scissors.
- ♥ Press shiny side of appliqué templates to wrong side of appliqué fabric. Using sharp embroidery scissors, cut out ¼" from edge. Clip inner curves almost to traced line. Stop just a few threads before the line. Don't worry about the outer curves. They don't need to be clipped.

The Spray Starch Method of Appliqué

Instructions: Continued . . .

- ♥ Spray some starch into a container (preferably a small container with a lid. I use a baby food jar). With your paint brush, start in the center of a straight edge of the appliqué shape and paint the starch onto the seam allowance. Keep the freezer paper in place and work with small sections (approximately 3").
- ♥ Using the point of your small craft iron (you can use a large iron, but it's much easier with a craft iron), press the seam allowance over onto the freezer paper. Use just the point of the iron and not the whole surface. Use a stiletto or a wood toothpick to "pull" your seam allowance onto the freezer paper. Continue around the shape until the entire seam allowance is pressed onto the freezer paper.
- ♥ Tip: If you are right-handed, press from right to left. This will automatically point the corner "flags" in the right direction for appliqué. If you are left-handed, press from left to right around your shape.
- ♥ To make the freezer paper easier to remove, turn your appliqué shape over and press from the top. Carefully remove freezer paper. Save the freezer paper shapes in a plastic bag after you remove them. You can reuse the shapes 4 or 5 times or more.
- ♥ Place pattern over a light box or on a table. Place appliqué background fabric on top of pattern. Using Roxanne's Glue, draw a tiny thin line of glue around the inside seam allowance of your appliqué shapes. A fine line is preferable to little dots. Little dots have a tendency to spread out when you place your shape onto the appliqué fabric. Position appliqué shapes on top of background following numbers on pattern.
- ♥ Add appliqué pins where needed and appliqué using the appliqué stitch.

