

HAND APPLIQUÉ



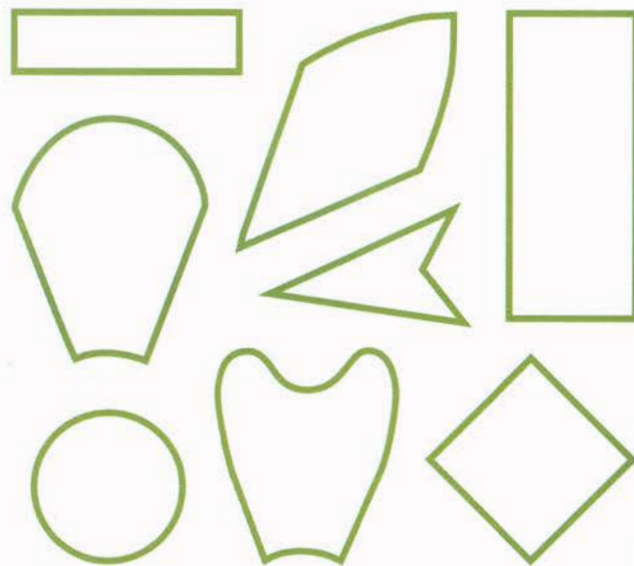
HAND APPLIQUÉ

WHAT YOU NEED

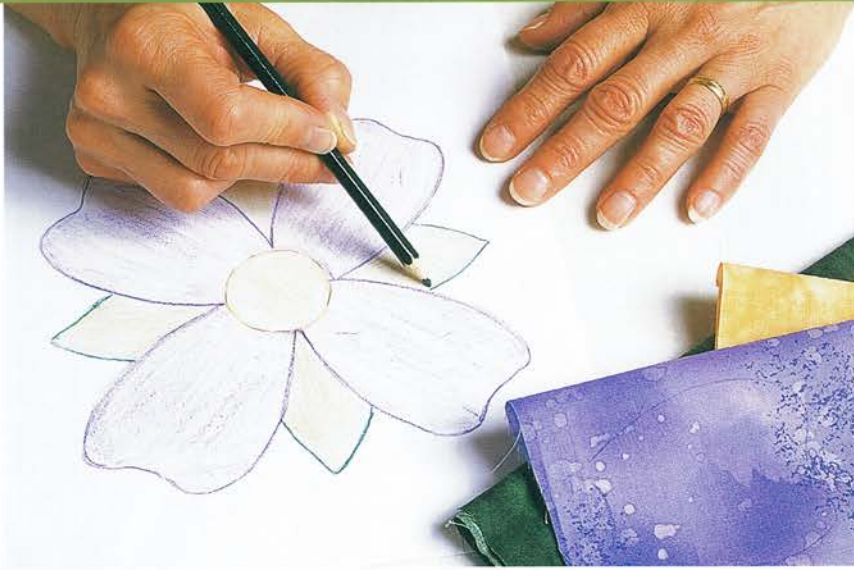
- Drawing paper
- Tracing paper
- Cardboard or template plastic
- Background fabric, such as good-quality muslin
- Fabrics for motifs
- Fine embroidery needle
- Ordinary sewing thread

Stitching shapes and motifs onto a contrasting background is one of the oldest ways known of decorating fabric. It probably began as a thrifty way of extending the life of textile items, whether clothes or household fabrics, by covering holes and worn areas with patches. Appliqué used in quilting, particularly in blocks, also has a long history and has always been a popular technique among quilters. Appliqué can be worked by hand or by machine – both techniques are explained here.

You'll find many designs and motifs suitable for appliqué in magazines and books, or you can draw them for yourself. To begin with, choose motifs that are quite simple, without too many sharp angles or overlapping elements.

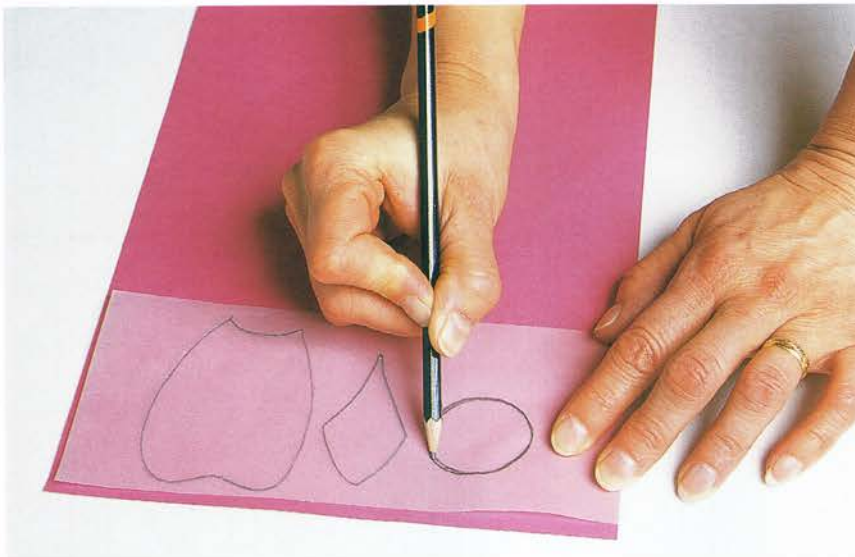
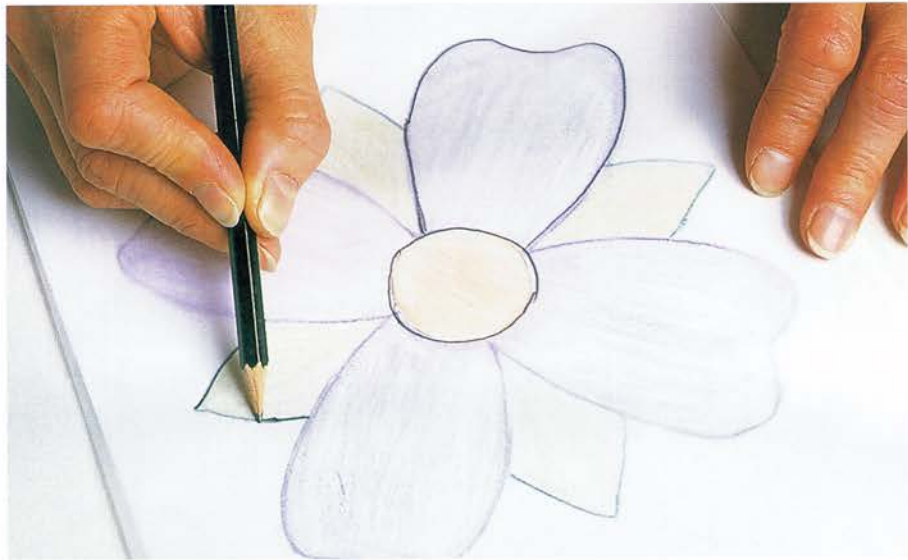


The number of shapes that you can use in appliqué designs is unlimited and the shapes can be as simple or as complex as you like.



STEP 1 Draw the motif or design on paper and colour the shapes to identify the fabrics you'll use.

STEP 2 Trace each individual shape using tracing paper.



STEP 3 Transfer the shapes from the tracing paper to cardboard or template plastic and cut out. Prepare the background fabric by tracing over the drawing with a soft pencil or other marker so that you can see where to position the motifs.

STEP 4 Place the template on the right side of the fabric and draw around it using a No.2 pencil. For very dark fabrics, you may find it best to use a fine chalk pencil. Cut out the shape, leaving a generous 0.5 cm ($\frac{1}{4}$ in) seam allowance all around it.



STEP 5 Prepare the shapes for sewing to the background. Firmly finger-press the seam allowance to the back of the shape, using the pencil line as a guide. Make sure the pencil line is not visible on the front of the shape. Alternatively, you can press the seam allowance turnings under with a hot iron to provide a crisp turning edge. Baste around the shape taking quite small stitches.

TIP

Notice that no turning is needed on a shape where it is overlapped by another one.



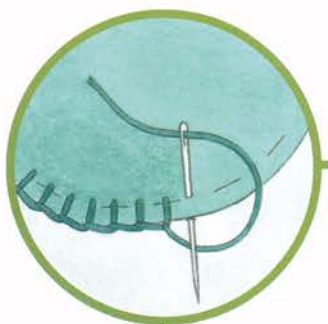


STEP 6 Prepare all the shapes in this way, and then pin them to the background. Make sure that the background is as smooth and flat as possible or your completed work won't lie flat.

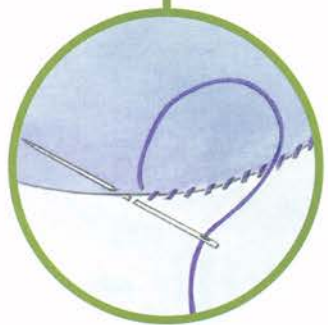
TIME-SAVER

Get a really sharp turning on shapes by pressing the edges over the template first.

Blanket stitch



Hemming stitch



STEP 7 Stitch the shapes to the background using a small hemming stitch or blanket stitch.

