

How to do Applique's

Personalize your embroidery with favorite fabrics, prints, and patterns through a process called applique embroidery.

Applique sewing is very simple to develop if the embroiderer understands the process of making it. Machine embroidered appliques are not only fun and easy, they also allow you to really get creative by using fabric pieces that you already have.

Step 1: Load your embroidery design onto the machine.

Step 2: Hoop the fabric or material that you need to put embroidered applique on. This would be the base fabric.

Step 3: Start the embroidery machine and let the embroidery start with the design that you loaded.

Step 4: The machine will first embroider running stitches. These are actually called GUIDELINE stitch. This guideline is actually a pattern to show you where you need to place your applique fabric on.

You can use any thread color for this guideline stitch since in the end this would be covered with the outline stitches.

Step 5: Once the Guideline stitch is done, please stop your machine.

Step 6: Place a piece of applique fabric over the guideline. Make it large enough to adequately cover the outline but not so large as to be cumbersome. You should also glue this fabric with some kind of stabilizer like spray glue so that this applique will hold on to its place.

Step 7: Start your machine again. This time the machine will run the second sequence onto the design. This second sequence is actually called TACK DOWN stitches. As what it says, it will tack the applique onto the base fabric.

Step 8: Stop your machine.

Step 9: Use the scissors to cut away the excess applique fabric from around the tacking stitch.

Step 10: Start your machine again. This time it will begin to embroider the final stitches onto the edges of the cut piece. Usually it would be covered with satin stitches, E stitches or V stitches.

As far as digitizing is concerned suppose that this design is a single color design. The embroidery file would contain three sequences. First sequence would be GUIDELINE stitch. Second sequence would be TACK DOWN stitch. And Third would be the complete covering stitches.

In case the embroiderer does not want to cut the applique fabric on the machine (please see Step 9). And the embroiderer has a die cut machine or laser machine in house, he/she can extract the first sequence (GUIDELINE STITCH) from the embroidery design file and use that as a cut file in die cut machine or laser machine.