

The Starch Method of Applique

SUPPLIES FOR THE STARCH METHOD OF APPLIQUE

If you think you are going to want to try our favorite method of applique on small portions- such as basket handles, stems and leaves, block circle, etc- that are going to be applique in a larger project, the following is our list of basic and optional supplies that you might want to have on hand. Start off with the necessary and if you love the method, add in the optional.

NECESSARY SUPPLIES:

Can of spray starch, small craft brush, freezer paper, thin permanent marker, Paper Scissors.

OPTIONAL SUPPLIES: Stiletto or other sharp pointed object such as a good seam ripper, Straw #10 or #11 needles, complimentary threads to your project, Roxanne's Glue Baste It & most importantly, a travel iron with a good tip.

OUR FAVORITE APPLIQUE METHOD: THE STARCH METHOD OF APPLIQUE

Step 1: Trace your appliqué shape to the shiny side of a piece of freezer paper. Press that piece of freezer paper onto a 2nd piece of freezer paper so that you are working with a double piece- dull side to shiny side so that what you are left with is a double piece with one side shiny and one side dull. This will help prevent your templates from curling. Your marked line will now be inside the templates.

Step 2: Cut the shapes out on the line.

Step 3: Iron the freezer paper templates to the wrong side of the fabric. Cut a scant 1/4" seam allowance around the fabric shape. Clip into the curves and around the points. Remember that sharp curves will need more clips & soft curves will need less. For inner points, cut a few threads shy of the template.

Step 4: Leave the paper in place & paint starch onto the backside of the fabric seam allowance with a small paintbrush. [******spray some starch into a small jar or into the cap for it to "defoam" before use.

Step 5: Press the seam allowance back onto the freezer paper shape, taking care around corners & curves. A stiletto is very helpful in pulling the points all the way in as you are ironing down your seam allowance and in generally assisting you with the movement of the fabric as you press. In the absence of a stiletto you can use the tip of sharp scissors or a seam ripper.

Step 6: If you have excess fabric on an outer point, trim it down after you have starched down one side of the point. If you ever press more than you needed, simply reapply starch to the portion that you need to re-press down.

Step 7: Once the 1/4" seams are all ironed down, pull out the freezer paper along a straight away & what you have left is a perfect shape. You can reuse that same paper shape many times.

Step 8: Glue your appliqué shape down onto your background, using pin dots of the glue baste-it on the back of the starched down seam allowance. When done you now have a perfectly turned appliqué image ready for whatever kind of applique- hand or machine.

