

Hedgehog Hints

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Basics of Machine Applique

- Always read and follow the directions that come with your Fusible Web product.
- A Light Box is a great tool. But if you don't have one, try putting a piece of plain white paper under the page you want to trace. It will increase the contrast so you can see the shapes.
- When using light fabrics, iron a piece of lightweight fusible interfacing to the wrong side of the fabric before applying the fusible web shape. You'll have less shadowing from darker pieces.
- An open-toe applique foot will be a big help to see where you are going.

Making a practice piece (This is a very important step; I do it for every project, every time.)

Fuse several shapes (circle, square, etc.) to a piece of your background fabric. Experiment with different stitches, threads and settings. (I often use black thread and a blanket stitch. It outlines the shapes nicely and means no color matching or switching threads. For other stitching ideas, check with your local quilt shop or go to www.about.com) Stitch the practice shapes, adjusting your machine as you go until you have the look you want. Make a note of your machine settings right on your pattern.

Creating the Applique Parts

With applique page underneath, trace each individual shape onto paper side of fusible web, leaving 1/2" between shapes. Cut shapes apart, leaving 1/4" outside the lines. On the larger shapes (flower pot, shovel blade, etc., cut away the fusible web from the center, leaving a 1/4" margin of fusible web inside the line. This will reduce bulk and stiffness. Following manufacturers instructions, fuse shapes to the wrong side of your chosen fabrics.

Cut shapes out on the lines and remove paper backing.

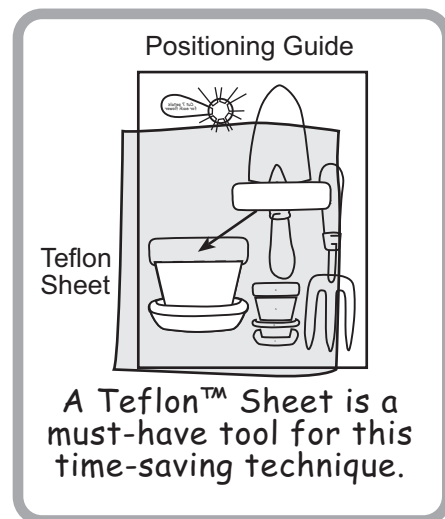
Making a Positioning Guide

Turn the applique page face down on a light table or light colored surface. Trace shapes, this time as one unit (such as the garden fork), including all lines where pieces overlap.

Applique Elements

With Teflon™ sheet over positioning guide, iron shapes together, overlapping at dashed lines. The pieces will fuse to each other and peel off the Teflon™ sheet as one unit, ready to place on the background fabric. But be careful. . . it's very hot. Let everything cool before peeling off the sheet.

Now you can move the entire unit (such as the flower pot) without having to realign each separate component.



We used my Garden Flags pattern (HhQ7346) for this example.