

Techniques - Creating Stand Alone Appliqués



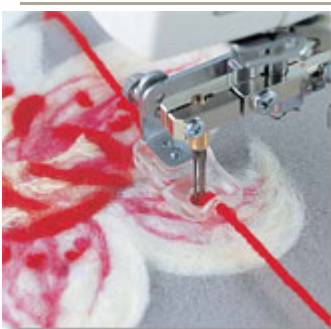
Some fabrics are difficult to punch, some can dull your needles easily. Seams or pockets may make it impossible to use traditional Feltscaper techniques. Creating Appliqués is the perfect way to create embellishment for these fabrics or difficult areas. It is often considerably easier to create Appliqués for ready-made garments rather than trying to embellish directly on the garment itself. Remember, you are not limited to just fabrics since Appliqués can be placed on virtually anything.



- *To create Appliqués for heavy garments such as denim or for non-fabric items (baskets, wood), felt is the perfect base fabric since it is non-woven. This allows you to cut very close to the outline of the design without having the fabric unravel. For best results, choose a felt that coordinates with the roving or yarn that you'll be using.



- *On a piece of paper, draw and cut out a simple, easily recognizable design such as a star or heart. Trace the paper design on the felt with a washable marker or chalk, leaving at least 1" between all designs.



- *Pull apart a long thin piece of roving (you may use yarn instead) and twist it between your fingers to create a bulky yarn. Place the twisted roving or yarn over the traced outline and use the Feltscaper to tack it in place. Add lengths of yarn as needed to complete the outline of the design.

- *Fill in the center of the design with either yarn or roving and use the Feltscaper to punch all areas, including the border. Check the back of the felt to ensure that you have sufficiently and evenly covered all areas.

- *Use a sharp pair of scissors to cut out the Appliqué very close to the outline. From the topside you should not be able to see any of the base felt.

- *Apply the Appliqués using either invisible thread, snaps, glue or even the Feltscaper. If the needles of the Feltscaper can penetrate the item that will be receiving the Appliqué, the Feltscaper may be used to tack the Appliqué in place so that it's easier to sew, or to permanently attach the Appliqué. If you use the Feltscaper to permanently attach the Appliqué, be sure that all areas have been punched. If in doubt, use invisible thread to anchor the Appliqué.

- *Appliqué variation: There are times when the weight of felt is too heavy for the garment you wish to embellish. For example, a knit sweater will hang and drape better if it doesn't include the bulkiness of the felt. To create a more pliable lighter Appliqué, use a non-woven water-soluble stabilizer for the base fabric. The steps are the same as those above; with the exception of trimming the Appliqué. You don't have to remove all of the backing since it can easily be washed away. Only use this variation if you are able to use the Feltscaper to directly apply the Appliqué to the garment. When rinsing the stabilizer out of the Appliqué, soak the Appliqué in water until you can see or feel that the stabilizer is completely dissolved. Most water solubles have a noticeable, slippery feel. Remove the Appliqué from the water and lay flat on a towel, folding the edges of the towel over the Appliqué if possible. Roll the Appliqué and

towel tightly to remove excess water. Unroll the towel and remove the Appliqué. Lay the Appliqué flat to dry, taking care that you don't stretch the Appliqué.

Wet or steamed wool is very pliable and can be shaped. This can be a useful creative tool in some instances.

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for Brother International Corporation

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