



May 2021 ~ On the Border

Our Favourite Applique Techniques

Presented by Lois MacPherson

As we wind down the Border of the Month program from this challenging year, I want to acknowledge the gals who have assisted in presenting this program. The program committee have shared their experiences with the various techniques we have presented. Thanks especially to Rebecca Fiedler for starting us off on coping strips for borders, to Judy Eckhardt for her wealth of knowledge and willingness to share, to Lorrie Taylor for her help creating the slide shows and .pdf's for the website and to Linda Austin-Webster for her technical experience in putting these articles on line.

I have asked these ladies to share their thoughts, experiences, challenges and/or fears with doing applique, especially if they have added applique to the borders of any quilt project.

We all know of Millie Cumming's wealth of quilting knowledge. This month she is presenting her favorite method of doing applique on the Border of the Month during our program. In a note to me she told me she has also done traditional needle-turn, hand-applique using freezer paper, fusible applique, blanket stitch applique, machine invisible applique and apliquick technique. If you miss the May Guild meeting, check out her presentation on the website.

MY FAVOURITE APPLIQUE METHOD- Brenda Dagg

To be honest, I love all kinds of appliqué, but my first appliqué attempts were all fused appliqué, and it is a method I still often use.

To begin, you need to use a fusible web such as Wonder Under or Steam a Seam Lite. This is pressed on the back of your fabric (so you will need to reverse the shape before tracing). When you're ready to place your shape on your background, peel off the paper and press it in place. (Instructions are included with the fusible.) Another option is to press a section of fusible web onto the back of your fabric, then trace and cut out your shape.

Now that your shape is fused to your background, you will want to secure it with stitches. There are many options but here are three I often use:

1. Use a narrow zigzag stitch and a matching or invisible thread to secure the edges.



MY FAVOURITE APPLIQUE METHOD- Brenda Dagg (Continued)



2. If you are quilting the piece yourself, you can wait until you have layered it, then stitch along the edges of your shape to secure it and quilt it at the same time.



3. Use a showy thread and do a blanket stitch around your shape.



Sharon Neve-Gray

Sharon sent along a photo of a lone star quilt where she had appliqued diamonds to complement the lone star. The method used was apliquick fusible interfacing (a method taught by Kathy K Wiley).

In this method Sharon cut out the shapes she wanted applied to the back of fabrics, then cut with about 3/8" allowance around shapes. This was then glued onto underside of shape. She then hand stitched these onto borders.



Denise Rainville

Denise shared that she likes applique but finds it takes too much time. She is sharing photos of appliques she has sewn on t-shirts. She cut small squares and attached them using a variegated colour thread in a zigzag pattern.

No need for pins, glue or tedious work. She has not used this technique on a quilt, but thinks something similar would work well on a border.



Linda Austin Webster

Although I have tried a variety of applique techniques (freezer paper hand appliqué, blanket stitch appliqué with wool), the one I seem to create with the most is fusible appliqué with a machine blanket stitch. The closest that I have done using appliqué on a border is extending flowers on the border and using appliqué stitches on a plain border. Although I enjoy doing handwork, I think I am a machine “gal” as I always seem to resort to using my sewing machine.



Machine appliqué stitches used on piecing and on a border.

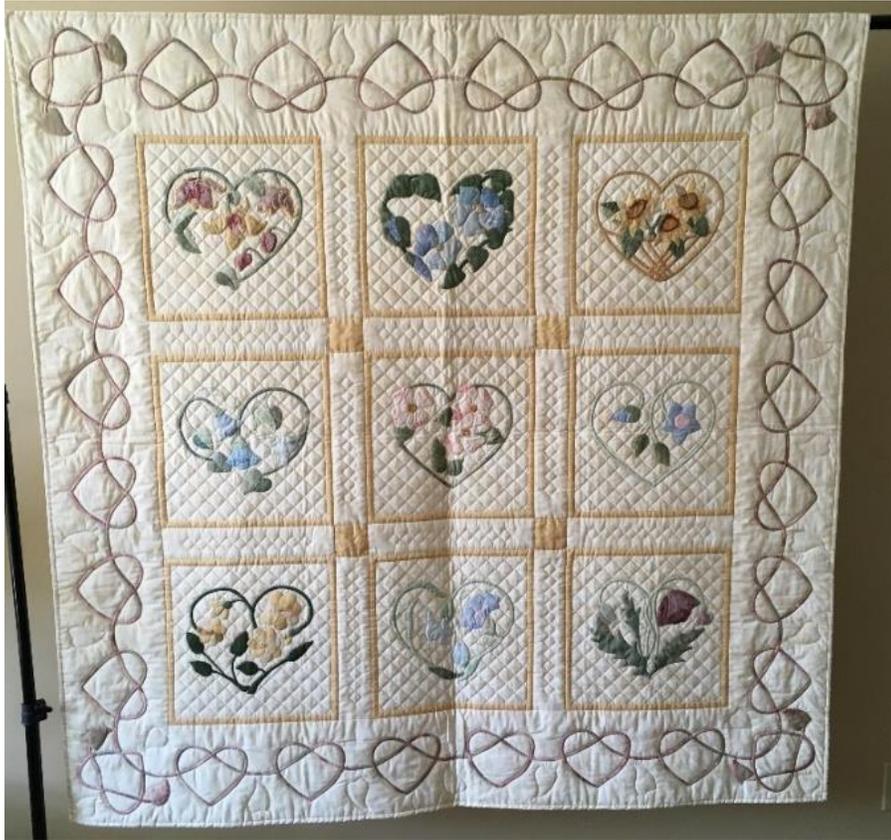


Blanket stitch machine appliqué and flower extension on a border.



Judy Eckhardt

Judy Eckhardt shares that 'back basted applique' is her favorite and sends along photos of some of her projects using this technique. Patterns are from Kathy Delaney's book, Hearts and Flowers. If this technique is new to you, check out YouTube.



Marg Wiley

This was my first attempt at appliqué in a workshop led by Debbie Biernes. Her “Harmony Rose” design used the freezer paper method. Appliqué can be a relaxing hand stitch project. This was a practice piece.

At our April virtual workshop with Cheryl Arkison, she encouraged us to play with techniques and colour and think “outside the ~~box~~ block”.

Why not try it?



Lorrie Taylor

Honestly, this is the only method of applique I have tried (fusible web with satin stitch) and I started it over 16 years ago when we first bought our cottage. Then I put it away in frustration. This month's program and the gals on the committee inspired me to pull it out, and start putting it together again. I hope I have the patience to finish it, as the initial plan was for a king size quilt.

What I learned (lol)

1. Cheap fabric stretches and plaids are harder to line up than you would think!
2. Use a sample bit of fabric to get your satin stitch and thread colour perfect before starting on the block.



The log cabin in the middle is from a pattern called Welcome to the Lake, from Cottage Creek Quilts. Designed by Pam Puyleart.

All the other blocks are from All Through the Woods; Quilted Projects From The North Country.

This book was written by Cori Dersken and Myra Harder

Lois MacPherson

I enjoy doing applique. Early on during this pandemic I took an online course with Becky Fiedler using hand applique method, and completed a 4'x5' quilt. (the pattern is Erin Russek's "Home Again"). A definite learning experience for me.

But my go to applique technique is using fusibles. I usually attach my design using a satin stitch. Here are 3 photos of projects where I have added applique to the quilt borders.



Pattern by Joni Newman, (quirksandquilts.com) The "Algonquin" wall hanging is part of her Canadian Landscape Series.)

Music Maker, pattern by J. Michelle Watts, Roswell, New Mexico



Memory quilt I made for my grandson last Christmas. Words around the border are fused and appliqued.