

Needleturn Applique
By Sharon Keightley
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For this block cut your fabric 13 inches square.
Finished block measurement is 12.5 inches

You may applique this in any method you want to, I have provided instructions for the needle turn method that I use.

1. Cut out templates for each appliqué piece from template plastic or firm cardboard. Numbering each piece according to the layers. Do not add seam allowance to templates. Use an emery board to smooth out any rough surfaces.
2. For each appliqué piece, place fabric right side up and place template on top, then with fabric marker (washable) draw a line around the outside edge of the template. To cut reversed shapes flip the template over.
3. Cut out appliqué shapes allowing a 1/8-1/4 inch extra, from the marked edge.
4. Cut background fabric, to allow for shrinkage due to appliqué stitching it is always advisable to cut background a little larger, this can be squared up when appliqué is completed.
5. Fold background piece in half and press, then fold in half again and press, this will determine the centre.
6. Place appliqué pieces onto background according to placement guide. Using appliqué pins to keep in place. It is always advisable to only place one piece at a time stitching as you go. Pieces are usually numbered, number one being the first piece to be stitched. Work your numbers from the underneath layer upwards.
7. Using a number 9-10 straw needle, thread with appropriate colour thread about 12-15 inches long. Always use thread that matches the colour of the appliqué piece not the background.
8. Make a quilter's knot in the end of the thread and bring up from underneath of background fabric close to the stitching line on the appliqué piece. Turn the edge over as far back as the stitching line and take a small piece of the fold with your needle and pull the thread through, then place the needle straight down into the background fabric as close to the stitch you have just taken and bring up through a piece of fold in the appliqué fabric, this making an appliqué stitch. Carry on like this turning the edge fabric under a bit at a time and stitching until the piece is done.
9. To finish off bring the needle to the underneath and take one small stitch on the underneath and bring your needle up through the loop in the thread to secure it.

10 Cut your thread.

11. When doing concave curves you can clip the edges to make the curves lay flat, make small clips about $\frac{1}{2}$ cm apart, being careful not to cut through the stitching line.

Happy stitching