



QUILTED TURTLE TUTORIAL



Step-by-Step Guide • Finished Size: 28 cm (W) x 24 cm (H)



MATERIALS

- Quilting cotton fabrics (various colors)
- Green felt (for head, legs, tail)
- Batting (quilt wadding)
- Fabric for back (solid color)
- Matching threads
- Embroidery floss (brown, green, yellow)
- Black and white felt (for eye)
- Sewing needle
- Scissors
- Fabric glue (optional)

FINISHED SIZE

28 cm (W) x 24 cm (H)

MAIN TECHNIQUES

- English Paper Piecing (EPP)
- Appliqué
- Blanket Stitch
- Embroidery (Backstitch, French Knot)
- Quilting / Topstitching

1. SHELL – ENGLISH PAPER PIECING (EPP)

CUT FABRIC PIECES

- Cut 9 hexagons with 1 cm seam allowance.
- Finished hexagon size: 5 cm across each side.



FABRIC CUTTING GUIDE



BASTE PAPERS

- Cut 9 paper hexagons (same size as fabric).
- Baste fabric around paper using small stitches.
- Remove papers as you join.



JOIN HEXAGONS

- Sew the hexagons together using whipstitch.
- Join 1 center hexagon + 6 around + 2 on top and bottom.



2. BODY – APPLIQUÉ

CUT BODY PARTS (GREEN FELT)

- Head: 1 piece
- Neck: 1 piece
- Legs: 4 pieces
- Tail: 1 piece



APPLIQUÉ TO BACKGROUND

- Position the shell first.
- Arrange and pin the head, legs and tail.
- Appliqué with blanket stitch around each piece.



3. EMBROIDERY DETAILS

EYE

- Layer white felt circle, black felt circle and sew.



SPOTS ON HEAD & LEGS

- Use French Knots or small felt circles.



MOUTH

- Use brown embroidery floss and Backstitch.



FLOWERS & VINES

- Stitch vines with Backstitch.
- Add leaves (Lazy Daisy Stitch) and French Knots for berries.



4. ASSEMBLY & QUILTING

LAYERING

- Place backing fabric right side down.
- Add batting.
- Place turtle top right side up.



QUILTING

- Quilt around the shell and body (optional).
- Use matching thread.



BINDING (OPTIONAL)

- Add bias binding around the edge for a clean finish.



MEASUREMENTS SUMMARY (CM)

Shell (finished)	18 cm wide x 15 cm high
Hexagon (finished)	5 cm per side
Turtle (finished)	28 cm wide x 24 cm high
Head	6 cm wide x 8 cm high
Legs (each)	3.5 cm wide x 5 cm high
Tail	2.5 cm wide x 3 cm high
Background fabric	At least 35 cm x 30 cm
Backing fabric	At least 35 cm x 30 cm

STITCH GUIDE (QUICK REFERENCE)

Blanket Stitch



Backstitch



French Knot



Lazy Daisy Stitch



Whipstitch (for EPP)



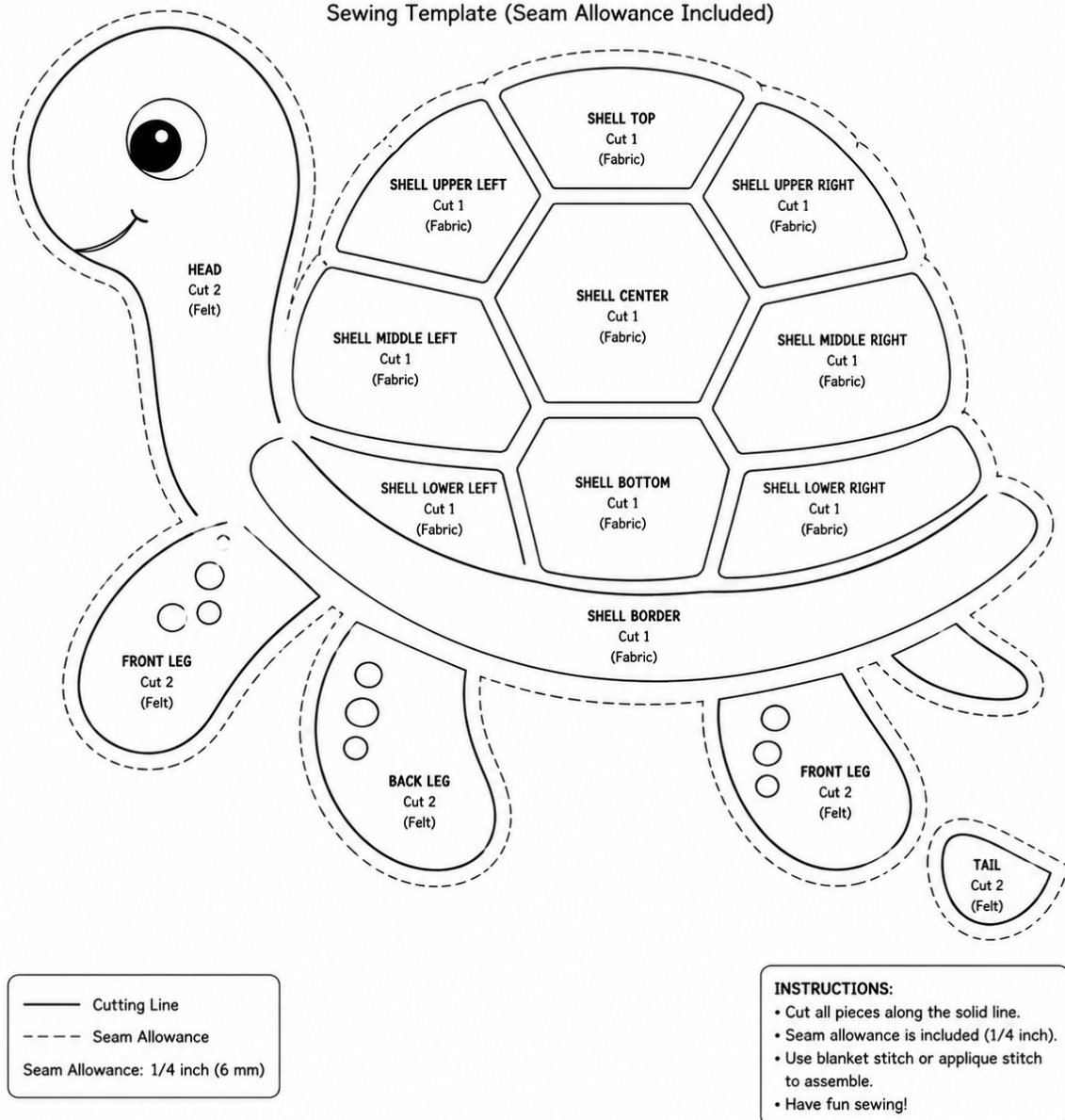
TIPS

- ✓ Use small, even stitches for a neat finish.
- ✓ Press your fabric pieces before cutting.
- ✓ Take your time with EPP for the best results.
- ✓ Mix and match colors for a unique turtle!



TURTLE APPLIQUE PATTERN

Sewing Template (Seam Allowance Included)



<https://creative.craftsforlove.com/> - **SEE THE BEST PATTERNS**

Quilted Turtle Tutorial – Complete Step-by-Step Guide (EPP & Appliqué)

Finished Size: 28 cm (11 in) wide × 24 cm (9½ in) high

 **Welcome! This detailed tutorial will guide you through every step of creating this beautiful Quilted Turtle using English Paper Piecing (EPP), appliqué, embroidery, and quilting techniques. The instructions follow the design shown in the reference image while expanding every step so that beginners and experienced quilters alike can successfully complete the project.**

Materials You'll Need

Before starting, gather all materials.

Fabrics

- **Quilting cotton fabrics in assorted colors and floral prints**
- **Green wool felt or craft felt for:**
 - **Head**
 - **Neck**
 - **Legs**
 - **Tail**
- **Solid cotton fabric for the background**
- **Cotton fabric for the backing**
- **Batting (quilt batting)**

Threads

- **Matching sewing thread**
- **Brown embroidery floss**
- **Green embroidery floss**
- **Yellow embroidery floss**
- **Black embroidery floss**
- **White embroidery floss**

Tools

- **Fabric scissors**

- Small embroidery scissors
- Rotary cutter (optional)
- Cutting mat
- Acrylic ruler
- Hand sewing needles
- Embroidery needle
- Pins or fabric clips
- Fabric marker
- Iron
- Ironing board
- Fabric glue stick (optional)
- Paper templates for EPP

Finished Measurements

- Turtle: 28 cm (11") wide × 24 cm (9½") high
- Shell: 18 cm × 15 cm
- Hexagons: 5 cm finished size
- Background fabric: at least 35 cm × 30 cm
- Backing fabric: at least 35 cm × 30 cm

Step 1 – Preparing the Fabric Pieces

Wash and press all cotton fabrics before cutting.

Iron each fabric until completely flat.

This prevents shrinkage later and produces much more accurate pieces.

Select fabrics that contrast nicely while keeping a harmonious color palette.

The sample combines:

- Navy floral
- Orange floral
- Turquoise floral
- Yellow floral
- Green floral
- Pink floral
- Purple floral
- Blue polka dots

Feel free to personalize the colors while maintaining good contrast between neighboring hexagons.

Step 2 – Cutting the Hexagons (English Paper Piecing)

Prepare:

- 9 paper hexagons
- Finished size:
 - 5 cm (2") across

Cut fabric leaving:

1 cm seam allowance all around every paper template.

Each fabric hexagon should be large enough to wrap around the paper comfortably.

Step 3 – Basting the Paper Pieces

Place one paper template on the wrong side of each fabric.

Fold one edge over.

Continue folding every edge neatly.

Secure using either:

- **Hand basting**
- **Fabric glue**
- **Small stitches**

The paper should remain perfectly centered.

Avoid stretching the fabric.

Repeat for all 9 hexagons.

Step 4 – Arranging the Shell Layout

Lay all hexagons on a flat surface.

Arrange them exactly like the sample.

Layout:

- **1 center hexagon**
- **6 surrounding hexagons**
- **2 additional lower hexagons**

Take a photo before sewing.

This helps if the layout shifts during assembly.

Step 5 – Sewing the Hexagons Together

Place two hexagons with right sides together.

Use a whip stitch.

Catch only a few threads of the fabric.

Keep stitches:

- Even
- Small
- Tight

Do not sew through the paper.

Continue adding each hexagon until the complete shell is assembled.

When the shell is finished:

Remove each paper template carefully.

Press the shell from the back.

Step 6 – Cutting the Felt Body

Using green felt, cut:

- Head ×1
- Neck ×1
- Front legs ×2
- Back legs ×2
- Tail ×1

Cut slowly to obtain smooth curves.

The body should match the proportions shown in the tutorial.

Step 7 – Preparing the Eye

Cut:

White felt

- One large circle

Black felt

- One smaller circle

Sew the black circle onto the white circle.

Attach the eye to the head.

A tiny white embroidery stitch can be added for the highlight.

Step 8 – Embroidering the Face

Using brown embroidery floss:

Embroider a gentle curved smile.

Use:

- Backstitch

Keep the smile small and friendly.

Step 9 – Embroidering the Spots

Using green embroidery floss:

Create raised spots on:

- Head
- Legs

Use:

- French Knots

Space them evenly.

The sample uses several clusters for a playful appearance.

Step 10 – Preparing the Background

Press the background fabric thoroughly.

Find the center.

Lightly mark the center using removable fabric marker.

This will help align the turtle.

Step 11 – Positioning the Turtle

Lay the felt body first.

Next position:

- Shell
- Head
- Legs
- Tail

Adjust until everything looks balanced.

Pin all pieces.

Double-check symmetry before stitching.

Step 12 – Appliqué the Felt Pieces

Using matching thread,

Sew each felt piece with:

Blanket Stitch

Work slowly around every curve.

Keep stitches:

- **Equal length**
- **Equal spacing**

Repeat for:

- **Head**
- **Neck**
- **Legs**
- **Tail**

Step 13 – Appliqué the Shell

Center the shell over the body.

Pin carefully.

Attach using:

Blanket Stitch

Work around every hexagon edge.

Take your time around the curves.

This creates the beautiful handmade appearance.

Step 14 – Embroidering the Decorative Flowers

Using colorful embroidery floss:

Add decorative flowers beneath the turtle.

Recommended stitches:

- **Lazy Daisy Stitch**
- **French Knots**
- **Backstitch**

Flower centers can be:

- **Yellow**
- **Orange**
- **Red**

Leaves can be embroidered in several shades of green.

Step 15 – Embroidering the Vines

Use brown embroidery floss.

Create graceful swirling vines.

Use:

Backstitch

Allow the vines to curve naturally around the flowers.

Step 16 – Adding Small Decorative Details

Optional decorations include:



Tiny flowers



Small leaves

Ladybugs

These little details make every turtle unique.

Step 17 – Building the Quilt Sandwich

Layer in this order:

1. Backing fabric (wrong side up)
2. Batting
3. Turtle front (right side up)

Smooth every layer.

Remove wrinkles.

Pin or baste securely.

Step 18 – Quilting

Using matching thread,

Quilt around:

- Entire shell
- Felt body
- Decorative flowers (optional)

You may also quilt:

- Background
- Echo quilting around the turtle

Keep quilting evenly spaced.

Step 19 – Trimming the Quilt

Trim away excess:

- **Batting**
- **Backing**

Ensure all edges are even.

Square the project carefully.

Step 20 – Adding the Binding (Optional)

Cut bias binding strips.

Join strips.

Press in half.

Sew around the entire edge.

Fold to the back.

Hand stitch using invisible stitches.

This creates a clean professional finish.

Embroidery Stitch Guide

Blanket Stitch

Perfect for:

- **Felt appliqué**
- **Shell edge**
- **Decorative borders**

Produces a strong decorative finish.

Backstitch

Used for:

- **Mouth**
- **Flower stems**
- **Vines**

Creates smooth continuous lines.

French Knot

Used for:

- **Turtle spots**
- **Flower centers**
- **Small accents**

Wrap the floss around the needle before inserting.

Pull slowly for neat knots.

Lazy Daisy Stitch

Perfect for:

- **Flower petals**
- **Leaves**

Produces elegant dimensional flowers.

Whip Stitch

Used only for:

- Joining the paper-pieced hexagons

Make tiny stitches along each edge for nearly invisible seams.

Helpful Tips



Press every piece before sewing.



Use short stitches for a cleaner finish.



Pin frequently to prevent shifting.



Keep embroidery floss untangled.



Trim seam allowances only if necessary.



Mix floral fabrics of different scales for a more attractive shell.



Sew slowly around curves.



Wash hands before handling light-colored fabrics.



Take photos during assembly if you plan to make more turtles later.

Common Beginner Mistakes

- Cutting inaccurate seam allowances
- Removing paper templates too early
- Pulling stitches too tightly

- Forgetting to press after assembling the shell
- Misaligning the shell before appliqué
- Using thread colors that contrast too much
- Quilting before checking that every appliqué piece is securely stitched

Finished Project

Once complete, your Quilted Turtle will feature:



A colorful English Paper Pieced shell



Decorative embroidered flowers and vines



Hand-appliquéd felt body



Beautiful hand embroidery details



Carefully quilted texture

This charming project makes a wonderful wall hanging, nursery decoration, table accent, gift, or keepsake, and is an excellent way to practice English Paper Piecing, appliqué, embroidery, and quilting in a single project.