

PATCHWORK DONKEY APPLIQUÉ – STEP BY STEP TUTORIAL

Finished Size: 40 cm (W) x 40 cm (H)



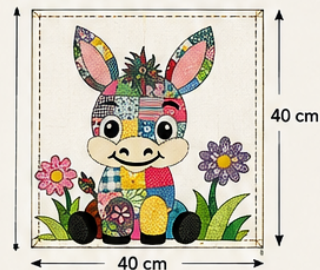
1. MATERIALS

- Assorted quilting cotton fabrics (many prints)
- Background fabric (light)
- Black fabric (hooves, eyes)
- Pellon fusible web
- Cotton thread
- Sewing needle
- Scissors
- Fabric marker
- Iron
- Sewing machine
- Quilting ruler
- Cutting mat



2. FINISHED SIZE & BLOCK

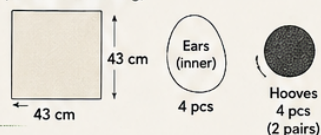
- Finished block: 40 cm x 40 cm



3. FABRIC CUTTING

Use the pattern pieces and cut your fabrics with 0.5 cm seam allowance.

Background: 43 cm x 43 cm (to allow trimming)



4. PATTERN GUIDE

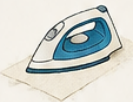
Print or draw the pattern pieces (full size). All seam allowances are 0.5 cm.



5. STEP BY STEP PROCESS

1. PREPARE FABRICS

Cut fabrics and fuse Pellon fusible web to the wrong side of each piece.



2. CUT PIECES

Cut out all pieces carefully on the traced lines.



3. ARRANGE LAYOUT

Place all pieces on the background (43 cm square) to plan your design.



4. APPLIQUÉ

Fuse or pin pieces in place. Appliqué using one of the methods below.

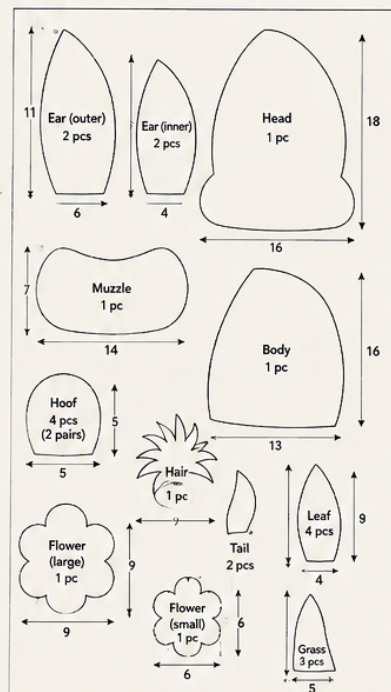


5. SEW DETAILS

Sew facial details (eyes, mouth, nostrils) with black thread.



9. FULL SIZE PATTERN (Measurements in cm)



6. APPLIQUÉ METHODS (Choose one)

FUSIBLE APPLIQUÉ

Fuse pieces to background with iron, then sew around edges with a straight stitch or decorative stitch.



TURN UNDER APPLIQUÉ

Turn edges under 0.5 cm, fold and pin in place. Hand stitch with invisible stitch.



RAW EDGE APPLIQUÉ

Place pieces right sides up. Sew around edges with zigzag or blanket stitch.



7. SEWING & QUILTING LEGEND

- Straight Stitch
- ~~~~~ Zigzag Stitch
- ||||| Blanket Stitch
- Invisible Stitch
- Appliqué Stitch
- ~~~~~ Quilting Line

8. TIPS

- Use high quality quilting cotton.
- Press each piece before appliqué.
- Take your time placing pieces.
- Use small stitches for neat finish.
- Quilt around the donkey or in the background.

ENJOY MAKING YOUR PATCHWORK DONKEY!



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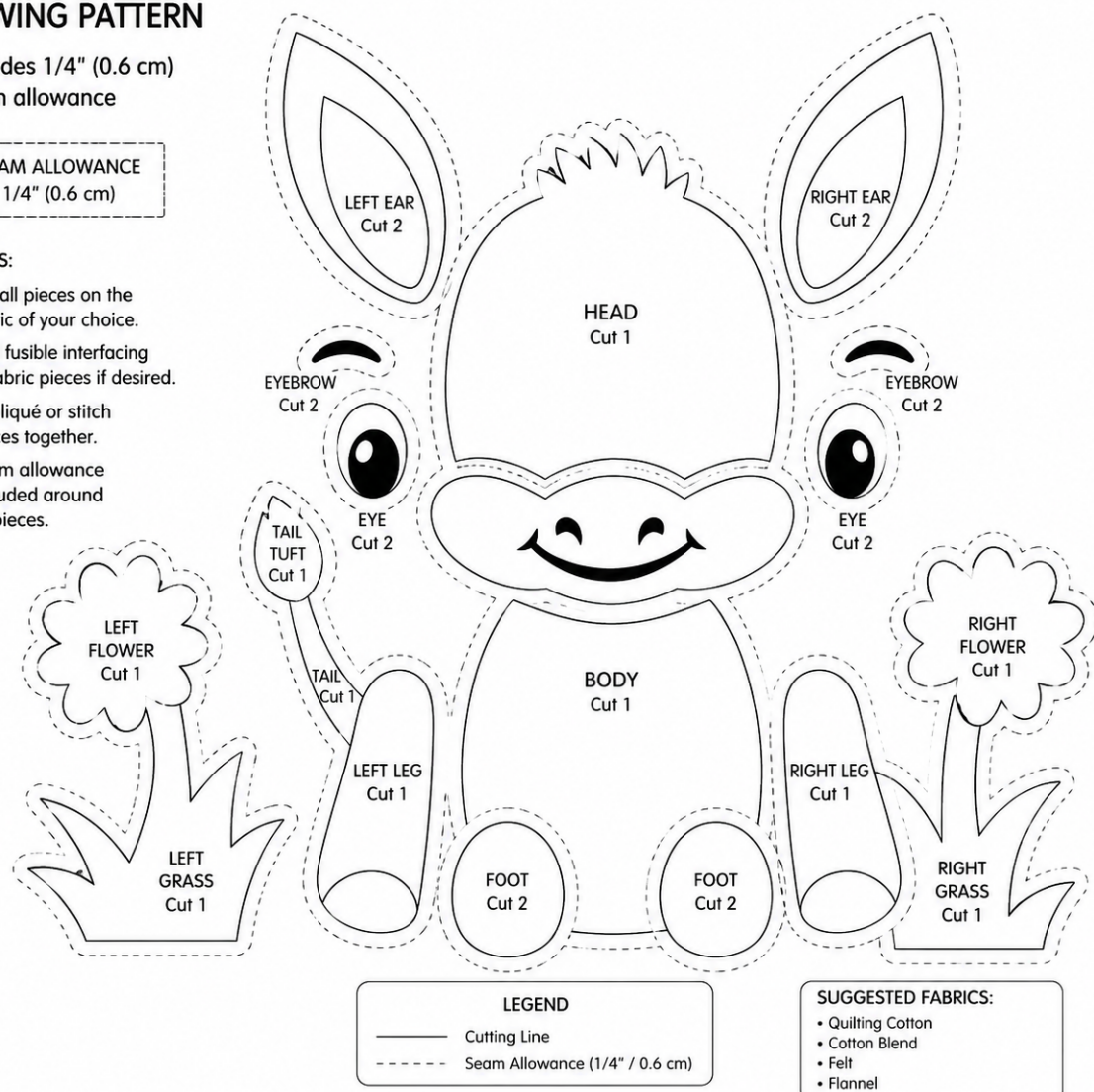
PATCHWORK DONKEY SEWING PATTERN

Includes 1/4" (0.6 cm)
seam allowance

SEAM ALLOWANCE
1/4" (0.6 cm)

NOTES:

- Cut all pieces on the fabric of your choice.
- Add fusible interfacing to fabric pieces if desired.
- Appliqué or stitch pieces together.
- Seam allowance included around all pieces.



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Colorful Patchwork Donkey Appliqué Tutorial



This cheerful patchwork donkey appliqué project is a beautiful way to combine quilting, appliqué, scrap fabric, and decorative stitching in one wall-hanging design. The finished piece features a seated donkey made from many colorful fabric

sections, two large ears, a soft muzzle, expressive eyes, flowers, leaves, grass, and a small floral arrangement between the ears.

This tutorial is written for makers in the United States and follows the visual structure of the reference image as closely as possible. Because the original artwork does not provide exact dimensions, the measurements below are practical suggested sizes that preserve the same proportions and can be adjusted before cutting.

For an easy-to-handle finished project, use a background approximately 22 × 22 inches (56 × 56 cm). You can make the design smaller or larger by scaling all pattern pieces at the same percentage.

Step 1 – Gather the Materials

For the background, choose a light neutral quilting cotton, linen-look fabric, or pale textured cotton. A soft cream, light beige, or very pale gray works especially well because it allows the colorful donkey and flowers to remain the main focus.

Collect a wide assortment of fabric scraps. This project is ideal for using leftover quilting cottons in pink, yellow, blue, green, purple, red, black, white, aqua, floral, striped, checked, dotted, and small-print designs.

You will also need lightweight fusible web for appliqué. Products designed specifically for raw-edge appliqué are easiest to work with because they stabilize the pieces without making the finished quilt excessively stiff.

Prepare black fabric for the hooves, eye pupils, nostrils, and selected decorative areas. Have white or cream fabric ready for the muzzle and eye backgrounds.

You will also need coordinating sewing thread, black embroidery thread or a narrow satin-stitch setting for facial details, fabric scissors, small appliqué scissors, an iron, pressing surface, sewing machine, pins or appliqué glue, and a removable fabric marker.

Optional supplies include lightweight batting, backing fabric, tear-away stabilizer, quilting rulers, a light box, and embroidery floss for extra decorative details.

Step 2 – Prepare the Background Fabric

Cut the background fabric approximately 22 × 22 inches.

Press it carefully so the surface is completely flat. Avoid stretching the fabric while ironing.

If you plan to turn the piece into a quilted wall hanging, cut batting and backing fabric about 1 to 2 inches larger than the background on all sides.

For easier appliqué placement, lightly mark the vertical and horizontal center lines using a removable fabric marker.

The donkey should sit approximately in the center of the background, with the tips of the ears positioned several inches below the upper edge.

Leave enough space on the left and right sides for the two flowers and the surrounding grass.

Step 3 – Create the Main Donkey Head

The donkey's head is approximately oval with slightly rounded cheeks.

For a 22-inch project, make the finished head approximately 7½ inches wide × 6 inches tall.

Instead of cutting the head from one fabric, divide the shape into several irregular patchwork sections. The reference design uses small pieces of pink, floral, yellow, blue, green, striped, checked, and dotted fabrics.

Arrange the scraps like a mosaic. Avoid making every section the same size because the irregular shapes give the donkey its playful patchwork appearance.

Fuse or sew the small scraps together first to create a larger patchwork panel.

Place the head template on the prepared patchwork panel and cut the final head shape.

Finish the outer edge using a narrow zigzag, blanket stitch, or satin stitch.

Step 4 – Make the Large Patchwork Ears

Create two long donkey ears measuring approximately 7 inches tall × 3 inches wide at their widest point.

Each ear should have a gently pointed top and rounded outer sides.

Build the outer portion from several different fabric scraps, following the colorful patchwork style of the head.

Create smaller inner-ear shapes from pink fabric.

The pink center should be approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ inch smaller than the outer ear on all sides.

Fuse the pink inner section onto each patchwork ear.

Stitch around the inner section with a small zigzag or blanket stitch.

Position the ears behind the head before permanently attaching the head to the background. Angle them slightly outward so they resemble the reference design.

Step 5 – Construct the Face and Muzzle

Cut a wide cream or pale beige muzzle approximately 7½ inches wide × 3 inches tall.

The muzzle should curve downward slightly at the sides and remain broader than the lower portion of the head.

Position it across the lower third of the head.

Fuse it in place and stitch around the outer edge.

For the nostrils, create two small black oval or curved shapes.

Position them symmetrically near the upper section of the muzzle.

To form the smiling mouth, draw a broad curved line from left to right.

Use black embroidery floss, a narrow machine satin stitch, or a dense zigzag stitch.

Add two small upward curves at the ends of the smile to create the friendly expression.

Step 6 – Add the Eyes

Cut two white or cream oval eye backgrounds measuring approximately 1½ × 2 inches.

Position them above the muzzle with a small space between them.

Cut two smaller black oval pupils.

Place the pupils toward the upper inside portion of the eyes.

Add very small white highlights using tiny fabric circles, paint, or embroidery.

Secure all the eye pieces with appliqué stitching.

The eyes are one of the strongest features of the design, so test their placement before permanently fusing them.

Step 7 – Create the Patchwork Body

The body is a tall rounded shape measuring approximately 7 inches wide × 8 inches tall.

It should be slightly narrower at the top where it meets the head.

As with the head, construct the body from many colorful fabric pieces.

Use checks, florals, stripes, dots, geometric prints, and bright solid colors.

Divide the body into approximately 8 to 12 visible sections.

Sew or fuse the pieces together to create a patchwork panel.

Cut the finished body shape from the completed panel.

Position the body directly beneath the head.

The head should slightly overlap the upper edge of the body.

Step 8 – Make the Front Legs and Hooves

Create two front legs from coordinating patchwork fabrics.

Each leg should be approximately 2¼ inches wide × 5 inches tall.

The legs can be slightly tapered toward the bottom.

In the reference design, the legs contain bright floral and yellow fabrics.

Cut two black hoof shapes approximately 2¼ inches wide × 1½ inches tall.

Round the lower corners to create the soft hoof appearance.

Attach each black hoof to the bottom of its corresponding leg.

Position the legs vertically in front of the lower body.

Allow the body to appear slightly behind them.

Stitch around each piece securely.

Step 9 – Create the Hind Legs and Side Hooves

Cut two rounded side shapes to represent the seated hind legs.

The left hind leg can use brown or dark patterned fabric, while the right side may use blue, aqua, or another contrasting color.

Position one rounded shape on each side of the lower body.

Create two larger black side hooves approximately 2½ to 3 inches wide.

The black hooves should overlap the lower edges of the hind-leg pieces.

Use textured black fabric if available, as it gives the hooves additional visual interest.

Secure everything with appliqué stitching.

Step 10 – Add the Small Tail

Create a narrow curved tail approximately 3½ inches long.

Use brown, black, or patterned fabric for the main tail.

Add a small colorful leaf-shaped or teardrop-shaped tip.

Position the tail on the left side of the donkey body, allowing it to curve upward.

Fuse and stitch around the shape.

A narrow satin stitch works particularly well for this small piece.

Step 11 – Build the Left Flower

Create a flower approximately 4 inches wide.

Cut around 8 rounded petals from pink floral fabrics.

The petals do not need to match exactly. Using several similar pink prints creates a more interesting handmade look.

Arrange the petals in a circle.

Create a yellow circular flower center approximately 1¼ inches wide.

Fuse the petals first and then place the yellow center on top.

Stitch around the individual petals if you want a more defined appliqué effect.

Add a narrow green stem extending downward toward the grass.

Step 12 – Build the Right Flower

Create the second flower approximately 4 inches wide.

Use purple floral fabrics for the petals.

Mix several purple tones if available.

Cut approximately 8 rounded petals and arrange them around a yellow center.

Create a dark green stem beneath the flower.

The right flower should sit slightly higher than the left flower.

This difference in height keeps the composition from looking too symmetrical.

Step 13 – Create the Grass and Leaves

Cut several irregular grass shapes from different green fabrics.

Mix lime green, dark green, yellow-green, floral green, and dotted green prints.

Create long pointed leaves approximately 3 to 7 inches tall.

Place the leaves around the lower left and lower right areas of the donkey.

Some leaves should overlap the flower stems.

Others can extend behind the donkey's hooves.

Alternate light and dark greens so individual leaves remain visible.

Fuse the grass and leaves in layers, beginning with the pieces that belong farthest in the background.

Stitch around the larger leaves using blanket stitch or narrow zigzag.

Step 14 – Add the Floral Decoration Between the Ears



The floral cluster between the donkey's ears gives the project a distinctive decorative finish.

Create several tiny leaves from dark and medium green scraps.

Add small red, yellow, pink, and floral pieces to represent flowers.

The finished arrangement can measure approximately 4 inches wide × 3 inches tall.

Start with the green leaves.

Layer small flower pieces over them.

Place one or two taller red shapes near the center.

Add yellow circular centers to selected flowers.

Because these pieces are small, fusible appliqué is usually easier than traditional turned-edge appliqué.

Secure the tiny shapes with short machine stitches or hand embroidery.

Step 15 – Assemble the Design in the Correct Layering Order

Before fusing anything permanently, place every piece on the background.

Begin with the pieces that should appear behind everything else.

A practical layering order is: ears, grass, flower stems, large leaves, hind legs, body, side hooves, front legs, front hooves, head, muzzle, eyes, facial details, flowers, tail, and the floral decoration between the ears.

Check the overall proportions.

The donkey should remain the central focal point.

The flowers should balance the composition without touching the outer edge of the project.

Once you are satisfied, take a photo of the arrangement before removing the pieces. This gives you a visual reference while fusing each layer.

Step 16 – Fuse the Appliqué Pieces

Follow the manufacturer's instructions for your fusible web.

Usually, the adhesive side is first attached to the wrong side of the appliqué fabric.

Trace the pattern shape onto the paper side before cutting.

Cut slightly outside the traced line when initially applying the fusible material.

Fuse it to the fabric.

Then cut precisely along the final pattern line.

Remove the paper backing.

Position the piece on the background.

Press carefully using the recommended temperature.

Avoid sliding the iron because movement can shift the appliqué pieces.

Continue until all major pieces are attached.

Step 17 – Stitch Around the Appliqué

Use a narrow zigzag, blanket stitch, or satin stitch around the appliqué edges.

For a traditional handmade appearance, blanket stitch is an excellent option.

For a more polished graphic appearance, use a narrow satin stitch.

Match thread colors to individual fabrics when you want the stitches to disappear.

Use black, charcoal, or dark neutral thread when you want strong outlines similar to the reference design.

Reduce the machine speed when sewing around tight curves.

Keep the needle in the down position when pivoting.

This is especially important around flower petals, ears, eyes, and the muzzle.

Step 18 – Add Decorative Details

Once the main appliqué is finished, examine the project for areas that would benefit from extra stitching.

You can add veins to the leaves using straight stitches.

Create tiny flower stems with green embroidery floss.

Add short decorative stitches between patchwork sections if desired.

The black hooves can be quilted with small curved or pebble-like stitches to imitate the textured appearance shown in the design.

Use embroidery to reinforce the donkey's smile and nostrils.

Small French knots can also be added to some flower centers.

Avoid adding too many details because the colorful fabrics already provide substantial visual texture.

Step 19 – Quilt the Background

If you are creating a wall hanging, layer the completed appliqué top with batting and backing fabric.

Baste the layers together.

Quilt around the donkey, flowers, grass, and leaves.

Echo quilting approximately ¼ inch outside major appliqué shapes works particularly well.

The open background can be quilted using small meandering stitches, loops, gentle waves, or simple straight lines.

Keep the quilting less visually dominant than the appliqué.

The purpose is to provide texture without competing with the colorful donkey.

Step 20 – Finish the Outer Edge

Trim the quilt so all edges are square.

A finished size around 20 to 21 inches square works nicely after quilting and trimming.

Prepare binding strips approximately 2½ inches wide.

Join the strips end to end.

Fold the binding in half lengthwise and press.

Sew the binding around the front edge of the quilt using approximately a ¼-inch seam allowance.

Fold the binding to the back and secure it by hand or machine.

Press the finished project gently.

Step 21 – Final Inspection

Check all appliqué pieces carefully.

Make sure small flower petals, grass tips, eye pieces, and narrow leaves are securely stitched.

Trim loose threads.

Remove visible fabric-marker lines.

Press the project from the back whenever possible.

Avoid placing a very hot iron directly over textured appliqué or embroidery.

Your finished project should feature the colorful seated donkey in the center, two large patchwork ears, a soft cream muzzle, expressive black-and-white eyes, bright patchwork body sections, black hooves, two large flowers, layered green grass, and the decorative floral arrangement between the ears.

The key to reproducing the style successfully is not perfect matching—it is maintaining the scrappy, colorful patchwork character. Mix prints freely, repeat colors throughout the composition, and use strong appliqué outlines to visually connect all the different fabrics.

A useful next step would be creating a printable English pattern sheet with each donkey, ear, flower, hoof, leaf, eye, and muzzle template plus seam/appliqué allowance, ready to print and use with this tutorial.

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