



**Finished Size**

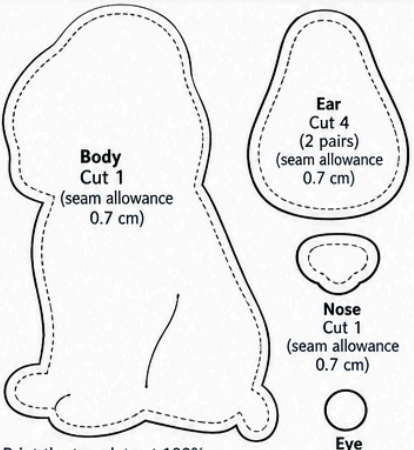
Height: 29 cm

Width: 19 cm

**Materials**

- Main fabric (body): 25 x 35 cm
- Ear fabric: 15 x 20 cm
- Nose fabric: 5 x 5 cm
- Eye fabric (dark): 5 x 5 cm
- Background fabric: 35 x 40 cm
- Thread to match fabrics
- Embroidery thread (for blanket stitch)
- Polyester fiberfill (optional, for a puffy effect)

**1 Template (with seam allowance)**



Print the template at 100% (full size). Seams of 0.7 cm are included.

**2 Cut the Fabric Pieces**



Cut all pieces according to the template.

**3 Prepare the Eyes and Nose**



Sew the eye pieces or use safety eyes.

Sew the nose piece and add embroidery details with brown thread.

**4 Attach the Ears**



Pin the ears to the front body piece. Right sides together. Sew and turn. Press well.

**5 Position the Face**



Place and sew the eyes and nose. Add hand embroidery details for the mouth and eyebrows (optional).

**6 Assemble the Front Piece**



After attaching all the pieces, complete the applique with a blanket stitch around each part.

**7 Add Details with Embroidery**



Use a blanket stitch with embroidery thread. This stitch gives a handmade and decorative look.

**8 Finish the Applique**



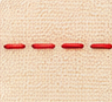
Complete all the blanket stitches around the ears, head, body, legs and tail.

**9 Attach to the Background**



Position the finished applique on the background fabric. Pin in place and stitch around the entire dog with a blanket stitch.

**Main Sewing Methods Used**



**Straight Stitch**  
(for assembling pieces)



**Blanket Stitch**  
(for applique)



**Back Stitch**  
(for facial details)



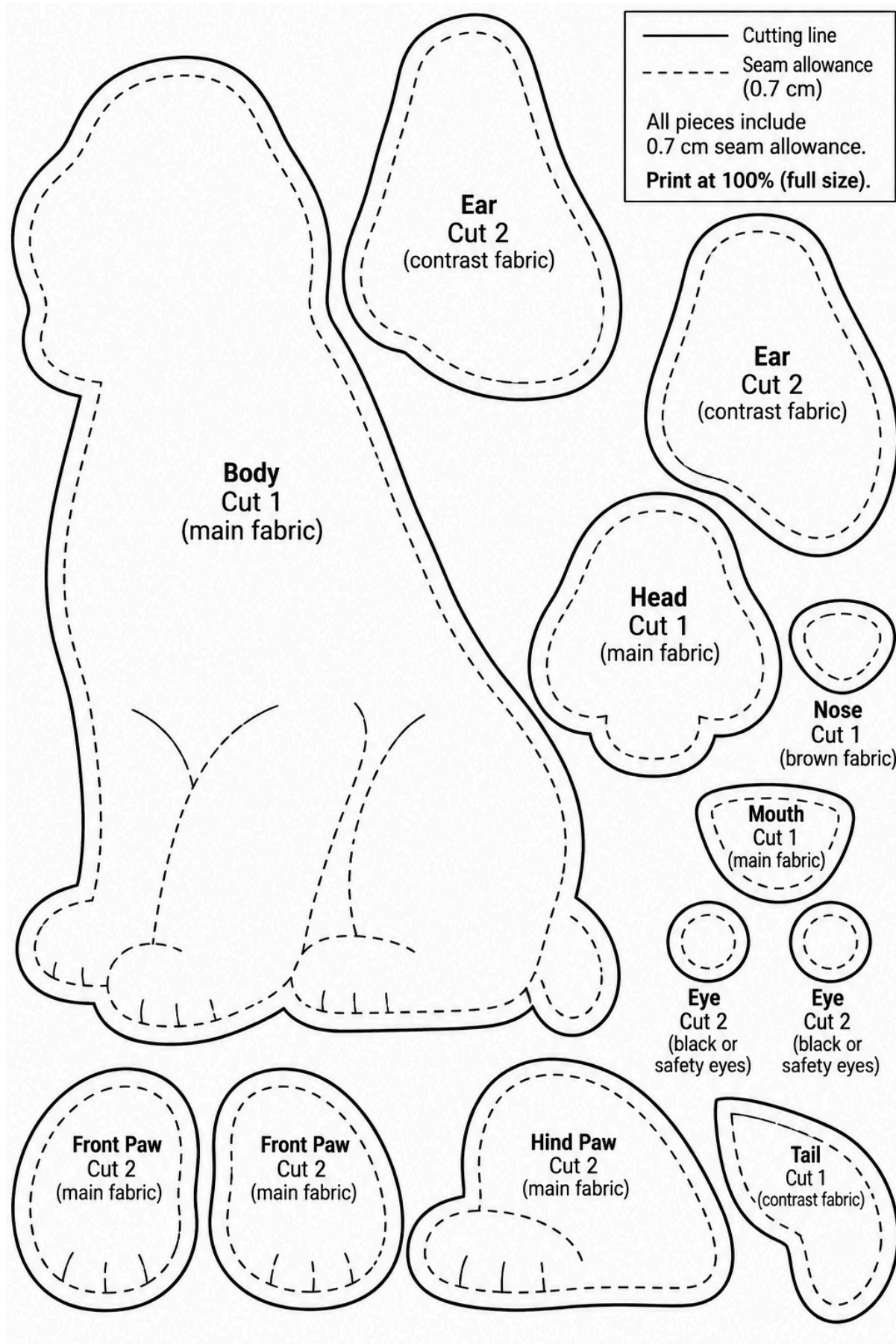
**French Knot**  
(optional, for highlights)

**Final Project**



**Tips**

- ✓ Use 100% cotton fabric (quilting fabric).
- ✓ Follow the seam allowance of 0.7 cm.
- ✓ Use contrasting thread for the blanket stitch.
- ✓ You can quilt around the applique for a beautiful finish.
- ✓ Great for cushions, bags, quilts, wall hangings and home decor.
- ✓ Adjust the size of the template if you want a larger or smaller dog.



# Fabric Dog Appliqué Sewing Tutorial – Complete Step-by-Step Guide

This fabric dog appliqué is a charming sewing project made with soft floral cotton fabrics, contrasting floppy ears, embroidered facial details, and decorative blanket stitching. Based on the tutorial chart, the finished dog measures approximately 29 cm high × 19 cm wide. It can be used as an appliqué for a quilt, cushion cover, tote bag, wall hanging, nursery decoration, or other handmade fabric project.

The design is especially suitable for quilters and sewists who enjoy combining fabric appliqué and hand embroidery. Most of the visible edges are finished with contrasting embroidery thread, which gives the puppy its distinctive handmade appearance.

The instructions below use centimeters (cm) to stay consistent with the pattern chart. Take your time when positioning the facial features and ears, because these small details create the puppy's expression.

## Step 1 – Gather the Materials

For the main body and head, prepare a piece of 100% cotton quilting fabric measuring approximately 25 × 35 cm. A light cream floral print works especially well because it creates a soft contrast with the darker ears.

For the ears and other contrasting details, prepare approximately 15 × 20 cm of contrasting cotton fabric. The chart uses a warm brown floral print.

For the nose, you will need a small piece of brown fabric, approximately 5 × 5 cm. You can also embroider additional nose details with dark brown embroidery floss.

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Prepare approximately 5 × 5 cm of dark fabric for the eyes. Small fabric circles can be used, although embroidered eyes are another good option. If adapting the design into a stuffed toy rather than a flat appliqué, avoid buttons or safety eyes when making an item intended for very young children.

For the background, prepare a piece of green cotton fabric measuring approximately 35 × 40 cm. This provides enough room around the approximately 29 × 19 cm puppy motif.

You will also need matching sewing thread, contrasting embroidery floss, sharp fabric scissors, embroidery scissors, pins or fabric clips, a hand-sewing needle, an embroidery needle, an iron, and your printed templates. Lightweight fusible web can be added if you prefer stabilized appliqué construction.

## Step 2 – Prepare and Print the Pattern

Print the dog templates at 100% or Actual Size. Do not select “Fit to Page,” because automatic scaling can change the dimensions of the pieces.

The tutorial uses approximately 0.7 cm seam allowance where a turned construction is required. If your printable template already includes this allowance, do not add another 0.7 cm.

Identify all of the pattern components before cutting. You will need the main body, head or muzzle section, two floppy ears, nose, eyes, front paw details, hind-leg details, and tail.

Place each template on the appropriate fabric. Pay attention to the direction of floral prints so that the motifs look balanced on the finished dog.

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Trace around each pattern with a removable fabric marker. Mark any useful placement references, particularly the positions of the eyes, nose, mouth, legs, paws, and ears.

Before cutting the fabric, compare all the traced pieces with the finished-project illustration. This simple check helps prevent accidentally cutting two pieces facing the same direction when mirrored pieces are required.

### **Step 3 – Cut All the Fabric Pieces**

Cut the main dog body from the light floral cotton. Keep the curves smooth, particularly around the head, chest, paws, back, and hind leg.

Cut the two long floppy ears from the contrasting brown floral fabric. If your pattern calls for turned ears rather than raw-edge appliqué ears, cut the required front and backing pieces according to the template.

Cut the muzzle or face piece from the main cream fabric. This piece overlaps the upper body/head area and helps create the layered appearance visible in the finished project.

Cut the nose from the brown fabric and the two eye shapes from the dark fabric. These are small components, so use embroidery scissors for greater control.

Cut any separate paw and tail pieces indicated by your template. Keep everything organized by placing the pieces in small labeled groups.

Once everything is cut, arrange the pieces without sewing. The assembled silhouette should be approximately 29 cm tall and 19 cm wide. Small variations are normal if you resized the template.

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## Step 4 – Prepare the Eyes and Nose 🐾

Begin with the eyes, since their position has a major effect on the puppy's expression. Place both eyes on the face while referring to the tutorial image.

Pin or temporarily baste the eye pieces in position. You can attach them using tiny hand stitches, a narrow machine appliqué stitch, or your preferred appliqué technique.

Add dark embroidery around the eyes to define their outlines. A backstitch is useful for creating smooth curved lines and delicate facial details.

For the highlights, use a tiny white stitch or a small French knot. These highlights give the eyes more dimension.

Position the brown nose in the center of the muzzle. Secure it carefully and embroider around or over the fabric as desired to create the textured appearance shown in the project.

Do not permanently attach the muzzle to the main body until you have checked the overall facial placement. Temporarily arranging the eyes, nose, muzzle, and ears together makes it much easier to correct proportions.

## Step 5 – Attach the Floppy Ears 🧵

Place the ears along the sides of the puppy's head. The ears should hang downward naturally, with one extending slightly differently from the other to preserve the handmade character of the original design.

If you are constructing turned ears, place the appropriate pieces right sides together, sew around them using the indicated 0.7 cm seam allowance, leave the turning section open, and turn them right side out.

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**Press gently with an iron. Avoid stretching the curved edges while pressing.**

**If you are making a flat appliqué version, the ears can instead be positioned directly over the main body and secured with pins or temporary fabric adhesive.**

**Check the ear placement before stitching. The upper edges should integrate naturally with the head while the lower portions remain clearly visible.**

**Finish the visible ear edges with blanket stitch using contrasting embroidery floss. The tutorial uses a warm golden thread, which stands out beautifully against both fabrics.**

## **Step 6 – Position and Sew the Face 🐶**

**Place the muzzle over the main head/body section according to the reference image. Center the nose and verify the spacing between both eyes.**

**Secure the muzzle with pins, small basting stitches, or a tiny amount of appliqué adhesive. Keep the fabric perfectly flat so it does not pucker during embroidery.**

**Work a neat blanket stitch around the muzzle. Try to maintain consistent spacing between stitches for a polished handmade finish.**

**Add the mouth using dark brown embroidery floss. A backstitch works well for the curved mouth lines because it provides good control around small shapes.**

**Embroider the eyebrows or small expression lines above the eyes if desired. These details should remain subtle.**

**Step back occasionally and look at the complete face rather than concentrating only on individual stitches. Small**

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adjustments to the eyebrows or mouth can noticeably change the puppy's expression.

## **Step 7 – Assemble the Body and Paw Details**

Lay the entire puppy flat on your work surface. Arrange the front paws, hind-leg sections, and tail according to the pattern.

Secure the pieces one at a time rather than pinning everything simultaneously. Working progressively helps keep overlapping layers in the correct order.

Use straight stitch where pieces require basic assembly. For visible appliqué edges, continue using blanket stitch so that the design remains consistent.

Follow the curved lines that define the puppy's front legs. These stitched lines separate the legs visually without requiring the entire body to be divided into many individual fabric pieces.

Add the curved stitching that defines the large hind leg. Keep this line smooth and follow the natural contour shown in the tutorial.

Attach the tail near the lower rear portion of the body. If using contrasting fabric for the tail, repeat the brown floral material used for the ears to create visual balance.

## **Step 8 – Add the Decorative Blanket Stitch**

The blanket stitch is the most important decorative technique in this project. It both defines the appliqué shapes and gives the dog its recognizable handcrafted appearance.

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Thread your embroidery needle with contrasting floss. Golden yellow, warm brown, or another color that contrasts with your fabrics will work well.

Begin in an inconspicuous area. Bring the needle through the fabric and form evenly spaced stitches around the outer edge.

Continue around the head, ears, muzzle, body, paws, hind leg, and tail. Keep the vertical portions of the blanket stitches reasonably consistent in length.

For tight curves, shorten the distance between stitches rather than forcing widely spaced stitches around the bend. This produces smoother outlines.

Check the back of your work periodically. Avoid large knots, tangled thread, or unnecessarily long thread carries, especially if the finished appliqué will be used on a quilt or cushion.

## **Step 9 – Understanding the Main Sewing Methods**

Straight stitch is the basic construction stitch used to join fabric pieces. On a sewing machine, a standard stitch length of approximately 2.0–2.5 mm is suitable for most quilting cotton.

Blanket stitch creates the decorative edging visible throughout the dog. It can be sewn by hand for a traditional appearance or reproduced with a machine blanket-stitch setting.

Backstitch is particularly useful for the puppy's mouth, eyebrows, eye outlines, and other small facial details. It produces a continuous-looking embroidered line.

A French knot can create tiny eye highlights or decorative accents. Wrap the floss around the needle, hold the wraps gently, and return the needle close to the original entry point.

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For a machine-appliqué alternative, you can use a narrow zigzag or machine blanket stitch. Test your settings on scrap fabric before stitching the actual project.

Whichever method you choose, consistency matters more than perfectly identical stitches. The slight variations created by hand embroidery contribute to the character of this design.

## **Step 10 – Attach the Dog to the Background Fabric**

Press the 35 × 40 cm background fabric before positioning the finished puppy. A smooth background makes accurate placement much easier.

Center the approximately 29 × 19 cm appliqué on the background, leaving an attractive amount of green fabric visible around all sides.

Pin the dog securely. Start near the center and work outward so the appliqué remains flat.

Attach the outer perimeter using blanket stitch. If you already secured the individual components with blanket stitching, choose matching thread so the final attachment looks integrated.

For extra stability, especially when making a wall hanging or quilt block, place lightweight stabilizer behind the background while sewing. Remove or trim it according to the manufacturer's directions afterward.

Press the completed work carefully from the reverse side using an appropriate temperature for cotton fabric. A pressing cloth can protect raised embroidery and decorative stitches.

## **Step 11 – Optional Quilting and Finishing Ideas**

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The completed fabric dog appliqué can remain as a decorative panel, or you can incorporate it into a larger sewing project.

For a cushion, add batting behind the green background and quilt lightly around the puppy. Echo quilting approximately 0.5–1 cm outside the silhouette can emphasize its shape.

For a wall hanging, layer the appliqué top with batting and backing fabric. Quilt the background and finish the perimeter with traditional quilt binding.

You can also place the puppy on a tote bag. In that case, complete the appliqué before constructing the bag so you can sew the decorative details while the panel is still flat.

Another option is incorporating the design into a children's quilt. Repeat the dog in different fabric combinations or combine it with simple patchwork blocks.

The template can also be resized. When scaling it, enlarge or reduce all pieces by exactly the same percentage so that the ears, muzzle, eyes, paws, and body remain proportional.

## **Step 12 – Final Pressing and Quality Check ✨**

Inspect every appliqué edge and make sure there are no loose sections. Reinforce any stitches that look weak.

Check the embroidery thread ends on the reverse side. Secure them neatly without creating bulky knots.

Examine the facial features. Both eyes should be firmly attached, and the nose and mouth embroidery should lie flat.

Gently press the project from the back. Do not flatten dimensional embroidery or use excessive heat on any synthetic stabilizer.

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**Trim stray threads with small embroidery scissors. Avoid cutting too close to knots or finished blanket stitches.**

**Your fabric dog appliqué is now complete. The finished motif should measure approximately 29 cm × 19 cm, based on the tutorial chart, and can now be incorporated into your chosen sewing or quilting project.**

### **Quick Tips for the Best Results**

**Use 100% cotton quilting fabric whenever possible because it is stable, easy to press, and well suited to appliqué.**

**Prewashing is optional, but if you prewash one fabric, it is generally sensible to prewash the other cotton fabrics as well so they behave consistently.**

**Keep the 0.7 cm seam allowance consistent wherever the construction method requires turned seams. For raw-edge appliqué pieces, follow the specific cutting line provided by your template instead.**

**Choose embroidery thread that contrasts clearly with the fabrics. The golden blanket stitching in the reference design works particularly well because it outlines every section without overwhelming the floral prints.**

**Press rather than sliding the iron back and forth. Lifting and lowering the iron reduces the chance of distorting small appliqué pieces.**

**For beginners, baste the pieces before completing the decorative embroidery. A few minutes of preparation can prevent the ears, muzzle, or paws from shifting.**

**Most importantly, make the facial layout your final checkpoint before permanent stitching. The eyes, muzzle, nose, and ear positions give this handmade puppy its personality.**

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