



## Fabric Flower Appliqué

### Step by Step Tutorial

**Finished Size**  
Height: 23 cm  
Width: 20 cm

**Materials**

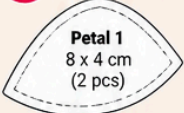
- 100% cotton fabric (various prints and colors)
- Background fabric (at least 30 cm x 30 cm)
- Fusible web (optional)
- Matching thread
- Needle and scissors
- Pins or fabric clips
- Quilting cotton for padding (optional)

**Tools**



### 1 Petal Templates (with seam allowance)

**Petal 1**  
8 x 4 cm  
(2 pcs)



**Petal 2**  
7.5 x 4 cm  
(2 pcs)



**Petal 3**  
7 x 3.5 cm  
(2 pcs)



**Petal 4**  
6.5 x 3.5 cm  
(2 pcs)



**Petal 5**  
6 x 3 cm  
(2 pcs)



**Petal 6**  
5.5 x 3 cm  
(2 pcs)



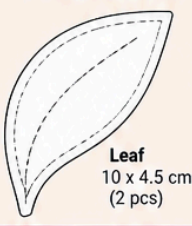
**Petal 7**  
5 x 2.5 cm  
(2 pcs)



**Petal 8**  
4.5 x 2.5 cm  
(2 pcs)

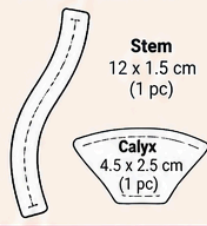


### Leaf Template (with seam allowance)



**Leaf**  
10 x 4.5 cm  
(2 pcs)

### Stem Template (with seam allowance)



**Stem**  
12 x 1.5 cm  
(1 pc)

**Calyx**  
4.5 x 2.5 cm  
(1 pc)

### 2 Cut the Pieces



Trace the templates on the wrong side of the fabric and cut all pieces with seam allowance (0.5 cm).

### 3 Prepare the Petals



You can use fusible web to make the pieces easier to appliqué. Fold the seam allowance to the back or use raw-edge appliqué.

### 4 Arrange the Flower



Arrange the petals from the largest to the smallest. Play with colors and prints until you like the composition.

### 5 Sew the Petals



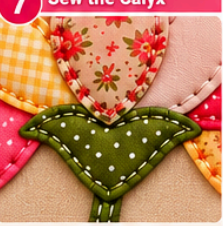
Sew the petals to the background using a blanket stitch, whip stitch or machine appliqué stitch.

### 6 Sew the Inner Petals



Continue sewing the next layers of petals, overlapping them slightly.

### 7 Sew the Calyx



Place and sew the calyx at the base of the petals.

### 8 Make the Stem



Fold the stem piece in half and stitch. Attach to the background.

### 9 Prepare the Leaves



Fold the seam allowance to the back and stitch the leaves. Add a decorative vein using straight stitch.

### 10 Attach the Leaves



Position the leaves and sew them to the stem and background.

### 11 Finished Flower



Your beautiful fabric flower appliqué is ready!

### Main Sewing Stitches Used





Blanket Stitch  
(hand sewing)

Whip Stitch  
(hand sewing)

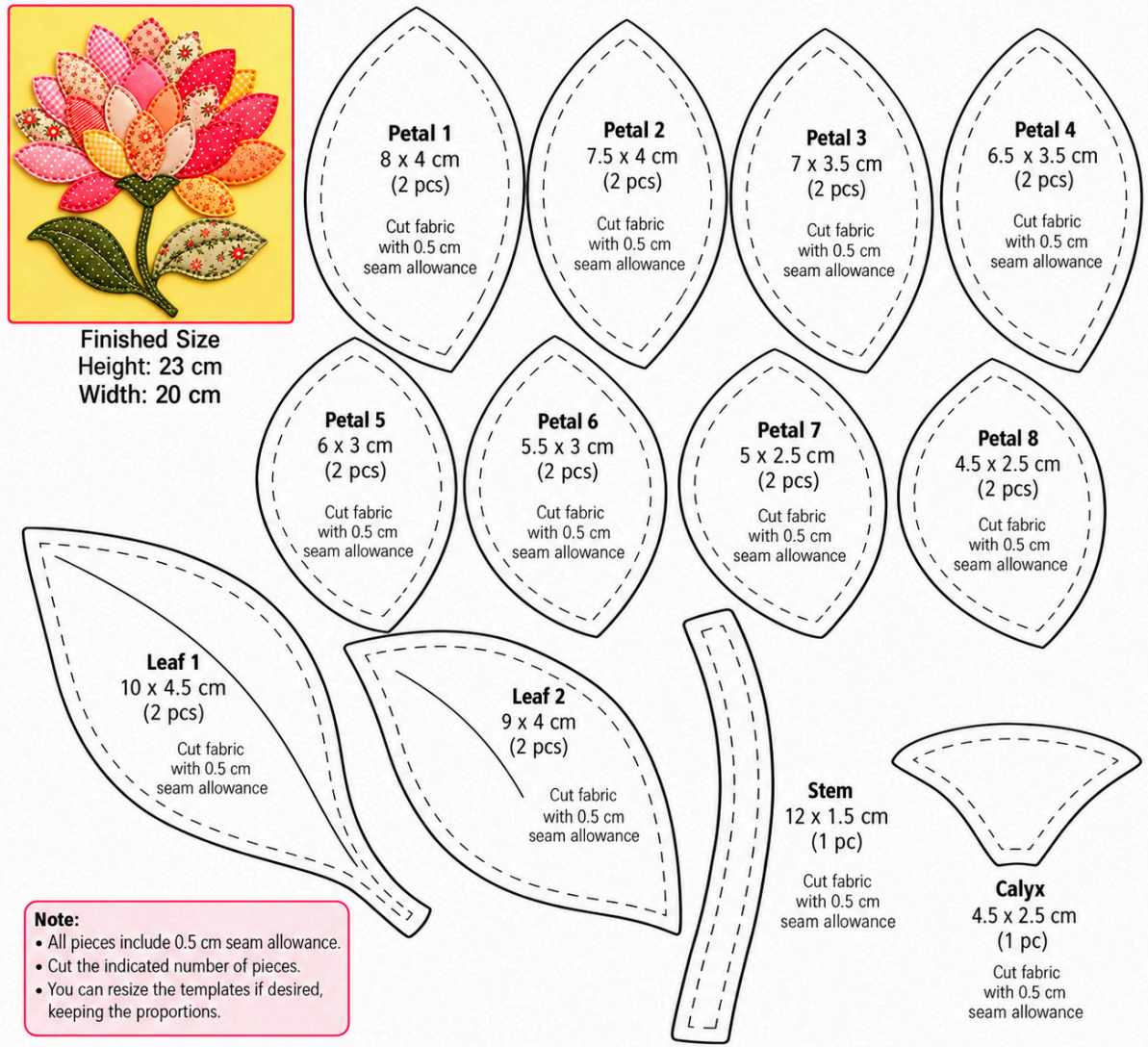
Machine Appliqué Stitch  
(zigzag or decorative)

### Color and Print Suggestions



### Tips for Success

- ✓ Use 100% cotton fabric.
- ✓ Press your pieces before sewing.
- ✓ Use fusible web for easier appliqué.
- ✓ Mix different prints and solid colors.
- ✓ Keep a 0.5 cm seam allowance.
- ✓ Try blanket stitch for a handmade look.
- ✓ Use coordinating colors for a beautiful result.



## Fabric Flower Appliqué – Complete Step-by-Step Tutorial

This Fabric Flower Appliqué is a cheerful quilting and sewing project made with layered fabric petals, a curved stem, two leaves, and a small calyx. The design is especially suitable for using cotton fabric scraps, because combining florals, gingham, polka dots, and solid fabrics gives the flower its colorful patchwork appearance.

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The finished appliqué shown in the tutorial measures approximately 23 cm high × 20 cm wide. You can use the completed flower on a quilt block, wall hanging, pillow cover, tote bag, table runner, placemat, or decorative fabric panel. Although the design looks elaborate, it is assembled from simple shapes and is very manageable when you work from the largest pieces toward the smallest ones.

The instructions below follow the graphic closely, including the 0.5 cm seam allowance, petal sizes, leaf, stem, and calyx. You can sew the project mainly by hand for a traditional appearance or use a sewing machine for a faster finish.

## Materials and Tools

For the main flower, choose several coordinating pieces of 100% cotton quilting fabric. Pink, coral, red, peach, cream, and orange work especially well for the petals. Small-scale floral prints, gingham, dots, stripes, and subtle solids create the varied appearance seen in the example.

For the leaves, stem, and calyx, prepare green cotton fabrics. Using two different green prints adds visual interest. The example combines a darker dotted green with a lighter floral green.

You will also need a piece of background fabric measuring at least 30 × 30 cm. This gives you enough room to position the approximately 23 × 20 cm finished appliqué while leaving extra fabric around the edges.

Prepare fusible web if you want to temporarily secure the pieces before stitching. This is optional, but it can make layered appliqué much easier, especially when many petals overlap.

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Your basic sewing tools should include fabric scissors, pins or fabric clips, a hand-sewing needle, matching or contrasting thread, and an iron. A rotary cutter can also be useful, although scissors are easier for cutting the curved petal and leaf shapes.

Optional quilting cotton or thin batting can be placed behind certain pieces if you want a slightly raised, dimensional effect. Avoid very thick batting because the flower contains many overlapping layers.

## **Step 1: Prepare the Petal Templates**

The flower is created from eight petal sizes. The tutorial uses two pieces of each petal size:

**Petal 1: 8 × 4 cm — cut 2**

**Petal 2: 7.5 × 4 cm — cut 2**

**Petal 3: 7 × 3.5 cm — cut 2**

**Petal 4: 6.5 × 3.5 cm — cut 2**

**Petal 5: 6 × 3 cm — cut 2**

**Petal 6: 5.5 × 3 cm — cut 2**

**Petal 7: 5 × 2.5 cm — cut 2**

**Petal 8: 4.5 × 2.5 cm — cut 2**

These measurements provide a gradual change in scale so the flower can be arranged in attractive overlapping layers. The larger petals form the outside of the flower, while the smaller pieces create the fuller center.

The graphic specifies a 0.5 cm seam allowance. When making paper templates, clearly mark both the cutting line and the finished edge whenever possible. This makes turning the curved edges much easier.

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Transfer the templates to sturdy paper or lightweight template plastic. Carefully cut them out while preserving the pointed upper ends and smoothly curved lower edges.

Before cutting your good fabric, arrange the paper templates into a flower. This allows you to understand how the different sizes work together and gives you an opportunity to adjust the overall scale if necessary.

## Step 2: Cut All the Fabric Pieces

Press your fabrics before tracing. Flat, wrinkle-free fabric produces more accurate appliqué pieces and makes curved edges easier to control.

Place each template on the wrong side of the fabric and trace around it with a removable fabric marker or fine pencil. Pay attention to directional prints so flowers, stripes, or other motifs face the way you want them to in the finished project.

Cut two pieces from each of the eight petal sizes. Following the graphic therefore gives you 16 main petal pieces to arrange throughout the flower.

Try not to place identical prints next to one another. Alternate florals, checks, polka dots, stripes, and solids so that the boundaries between overlapping petals remain easy to see.

Cut the leaf pieces and the green components at the same time. The main leaf template in the graphic is approximately 10 × 4.5 cm, and the project uses two leaves. You can vary the second leaf slightly if you want the more organic appearance shown in the finished flower.

Keep all of the pieces organized by size. A useful trick is to place Petal 1 through Petal 8 in separate small piles before assembly.

### Step 3: Prepare the Petal Edges

There are several ways to prepare these petals, but the illustrated project has a soft, finished-edge appearance rather than a strongly frayed raw edge.

For traditional hand appliqué, carefully turn the 0.5 cm seam allowance toward the wrong side. Work slowly around the curves so that the edge stays smooth rather than becoming angular.

Press the turned edge gently. A small appliqué iron can be helpful, but a standard household iron works perfectly well when used carefully.

If you prefer fusible appliqué, follow the manufacturer's instructions for the fusible web. Attach it to the wrong side of the fabric, cut the shape accurately, and fuse the petal into position before stitching.

Another option is raw-edge appliqué. In this method, you do not turn the seam allowance. Instead, fuse the piece directly to the background and secure the perimeter with a narrow machine zigzag, blanket stitch, or decorative appliqué stitch.

Prepare all petals before beginning final assembly. Doing the repetitive pressing and shaping at once makes the actual flower construction much smoother.

### Step 4: Arrange the Flower

Lay the background fabric flat on your work surface. Lightly mark the vertical center so you have a reference point for the flower head and stem.

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**Begin with the largest outer petals. Position them in a broad fan shape, allowing the pointed ends to spread outward while their lower portions overlap near the center.**

**Add the next petal sizes gradually. Work from largest to smallest, overlapping each new layer enough to hide the lower raw or turned edges of the previous arrangement.**

**Do not immediately sew the pieces. Spend some time experimenting with the placement. A few millimeters of movement can significantly change the balance of a layered flower.**

**Mix the colors throughout the arrangement. If one side contains several dark red petals, balance it with a similarly strong color somewhere on the opposite side. Scatter cream, peach, and pale pink pieces between brighter colors.**

**Once you are satisfied, take a quick photo of the arrangement before removing anything. This gives you an easy reference if the petals shift while you are sewing.**

## **Step 5: Sew the Outer Petals**

**Secure the first layer using pins, temporary fabric adhesive, or fusible web.**

**For the handmade appearance shown in the tutorial, use a blanket stitch around the exposed edge of each petal. Keep the stitches reasonably even and close enough together to control the curved edge.**

**A whip stitch is another good hand-sewing method, particularly when you want the thread to be less prominent. Use small stitches and catch only a tiny amount of the background fabric.**

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If working by machine, choose a narrow machine appliqué stitch, small zigzag, or machine blanket stitch. Test your stitch settings on scrap fabric before sewing the actual flower.

Sew slowly around the pointed tips. Stop with the needle down when turning around tight curves so the stitching remains smooth.

Continue until the complete outer layer is firmly attached. Check frequently that the flower remains symmetrical and that no unwanted puckers develop in the background.

### **Step 6: Add and Sew the Inner Petals**

Position the medium petals over the first layer, overlapping the lower portions of the outer petals. This overlapping construction creates the full, dimensional appearance.

Stitch these pieces using the same method as the first layer. You can use matching thread for subtle outlines or coordinating contrasting thread for the decorative handcrafted effect shown in the graphic.

Add progressively smaller petals toward the center. Keep their pointed ends visible rather than burying them completely beneath neighboring pieces.

The smallest petals should create a compact focal point without covering all the interesting fabrics behind them.

Press carefully between layers if necessary. Do not flatten the project aggressively; a little natural dimension helps the petals look more lively.

After completing the center, inspect the entire flower head and reinforce any loose corners or pointed tips.

### **Step 7: Make and Attach the Calyx**

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The calyx is the small green section immediately beneath the flower. In the graphic, it measures approximately 4.5 × 2.5 cm.

Cut one calyx piece from green cotton. A dark green polka-dot or small-print fabric creates a nice transition between the colorful petals and the stem.

Turn under the 0.5 cm seam allowance, or prepare the piece using your chosen fusible appliqué technique.

Position the calyx over the lower ends of the petals. Its purpose is not only decorative—it also neatly covers the meeting point where many petal edges come together.

Pin or fuse the calyx into position and stitch around its visible edges using blanket stitch, whip stitch, or machine appliqué.

Make sure its bottom center lines up naturally with the stem placement.

### **Step 8: Make the Curved Stem**

The stem shown in the tutorial is approximately 12 × 1.5 cm before final placement.

Cut one curved strip from green fabric. Because the strip is narrow, work carefully to maintain an even width along the curve.

Fold the long edges toward the back. Press them into position so the unfinished edges are hidden.

Place the stem beneath the calyx and allow it to curve gently toward the bottom of the design. Avoid forcing it into a perfectly straight line; the curve gives the flower a more natural appearance.

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Secure it to the background with pins or fusible web and stitch down both long edges. Straight stitch works particularly well for this component.

For an additional handmade detail, add a decorative line of running stitches through or alongside the stem.

### **Step 9: Prepare the Leaves**

The main leaf template is approximately 10 × 4.5 cm, and the tutorial calls for two leaves.

Cut the leaves from contrasting green fabrics. For example, make one from dark olive polka-dot fabric and another from a lighter green floral print.

Turn the 0.5 cm seam allowance toward the back and press. If using fusible appliqué, prepare the leaves according to the fusible manufacturer's directions instead.

Before attaching them, consider adding the decorative central veins. A simple curved or slightly diagonal line following the shape of the leaf works beautifully.

Use straight stitch, running stitch, or decorative machine stitching for the veins. Contrasting thread makes these lines more visible.

Press both leaves once more so they lie neatly against the background.

### **Step 10: Attach the Leaves to the Stem**

Position one leaf on each side of the curved stem. They do not need to be perfectly symmetrical.

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Allow the narrow base of each leaf to meet or slightly overlap the stem. This makes the components appear connected rather than floating independently on the background.

Pin the leaves securely or fuse them temporarily.

Sew around each leaf with the same stitch used on the flower petals. Blanket stitch is particularly effective because it emphasizes the leaf outline.

If you have not already stitched the veins, add them now. Keep these stitches gentle enough that they do not pull or distort the background fabric.

Check the entire composition before finishing. The stem should visually connect the flower, calyx, and leaves into one continuous design.

## **Step 11: Understanding the Main Appliqué Stitches**

Blanket stitch is the most decorative technique featured in this project. It produces small perpendicular stitches along the fabric edge and is especially attractive around petals and leaves.

Whip stitch provides a simpler hand-sewn finish. Small diagonal stitches secure the turned edge to the background and can become nearly invisible when matching thread is used.

A machine appliqué stitch is ideal for sewists who want speed and consistency. A narrow zigzag, machine blanket stitch, or specialized appliqué setting can secure the pieces efficiently.

Straight stitch is particularly useful on the stem and for adding decorative veins to the leaves.

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You do not have to use the same technique everywhere. For example, you can blanket-stitch the petals, straight-stitch the stem, and use subtle whip stitches around the leaves.

Whichever method you choose, consistency matters more than perfectly tiny stitches. Maintain an even rhythm around each piece.

## **Step 12: Final Pressing and Finishing**

When all pieces are attached, inspect every petal, leaf, and section of the stem. Secure any loose corners before pressing.

Remove visible marking lines and stray threads according to the instructions for the marking product you used.

Press the project from the wrong side whenever possible. This helps protect the dimensional appliqué and prevents the iron from flattening the decorative stitching.

If you want to turn the appliqué into a quilted panel, place batting behind the background fabric and add a backing layer. Baste the three layers together.

Quilt around the flower to emphasize its silhouette. Echo quilting or simple background quilting can make the layered petals stand out beautifully.

Trim and square the finished panel only after the appliqué and optional quilting are complete.

## **Tips for a Professional Result ✨**

Use 100% quilting cotton whenever possible because it presses cleanly, holds its shape well, and is easy to appliqué. Pre-press every fabric before tracing the templates.

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Keep the 0.5 cm seam allowance consistent when using turned-edge appliqué. Uneven allowances can change the dimensions of small petals considerably.

Use fusible web when you need additional stability. With so many overlapping pieces, temporary adhesion can prevent the flower from shifting during sewing.

Mix different prints, but maintain a coordinated palette. The example works particularly well because the petals share related pink, red, coral, peach, cream, and orange tones.

Blanket stitch is an excellent choice when you want the stitching itself to become part of the design. For a cleaner contemporary appearance, use matching thread and a subtle machine appliqué stitch.

Most importantly, arrange the entire flower before permanently sewing the pieces. The overlapping order determines the depth and balance of the finished appliqué.

## **Finished Fabric Flower Appliqué**

Your finished Fabric Flower Appliqué should measure approximately 23 cm high × 20 cm wide, although small variations are completely normal with handmade appliqué.

The layered petals should spread outward from the central calyx, moving visually from larger outer petals toward smaller inner petals. The contrasting colors and prints give each layer definition.

The green calyx should conceal the lower petal edges, while the curved stem creates a smooth visual connection between the flower head and leaves.

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Once finished, the appliqué can become the centerpiece of a quilt block, wall panel, decorative pillow, tote bag, table runner, placemat, or framed textile project.

You can also enlarge or reduce the templates while keeping their proportions. For a larger wall hanging, enlarge every template by the same percentage rather than changing individual pieces independently.

With careful cutting, balanced color placement, smooth curved edges, and consistent stitching, this project creates a beautiful American-style quilt appliqué flower that looks intricate while being constructed from straightforward sewing techniques.