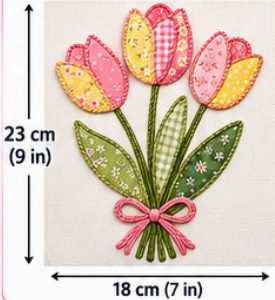




Tulip Bouquet™ Fabric Appliqué Panel

Step by Step Tutorial

Finished Size (approx.)



23 cm (9 in)

18 cm (7 in)

Materials

- Cotton fabric (assorted prints)
- Background fabric: 25 cm x 30 cm
- Lightweight fusible web (optional)
- Embroidery floss or perle cotton
- Stuffing for slightly padded applique (optional)
- Matching sewing thread

Main Pieces and Measurements (Cut with 0.5 cm seam allowance)



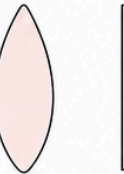
Large Petal
6.5 cm x 10 cm
(3 pcs)



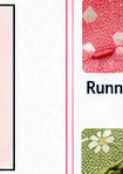
Small Petal
5.5 cm x 9 cm
(3 pcs)



Leaf
5 cm x 12 cm
(3 pcs)



Center Leaf
3.5 cm x 11 cm
(1 pc)



Stem
1.5 cm x 15 cm
(5 pcs)

Stitching and Sewing Methods Used



Running stitch



Backstitch



Blanket stitch



Padded applique (stuffing - optional)



Stem stitch (for stems)



Chain stitch (for bow)



Whip stitch (edges)



Applique with fusible web (optional)

1 Cut the Fabric Pieces



Use the templates to cut all pieces with 0.5 cm seam allowance. Cut 3 large petals, 3 small petals, 3 leaves, 1 center leaf and 5 stems.

2 Prepare the Petal Pairs



Place two petal pieces right sides together. Sew around the edge, leaving a small opening. Trim, turn right side out and press. Repeat for all petals.

3 Turn and Press



Turn the petals right side out and gently press with an iron. You can add a small amount of stuffing to give a padded effect (optional).

4 Sew the Petal Edges



Use blanket stitch or whip stitch around each petal with embroidery floss or perle cotton, as shown in the photo.

5 Make the Leaves



Sew the leaf pieces, turn right side out, press and stitch around the edges. Make 3 leaves and 1 center leaf.

6 Create the Stems



Fold each stem strip in half lengthwise and sew. Turn right side out, press and topstitch or use stem stitch for a textured effect. Make 5 stems.

7 Arrange the Flowers



Overlap the petals to form each tulip. Hand stitch or glue in place. Attach the stems to the back of each flower head.

8 Arrange the Leaves



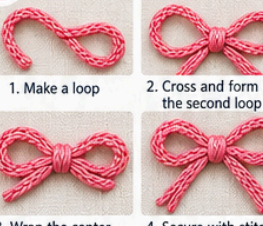
Position the leaves below the flowers. Place the center leaf in the middle and the side leaves on each side.

9 Assemble the Bouquet



Arrange the flowers and leaves on the background fabric. Pin in place and hand stitch or use fusible web to secure.

10 Make the Bow



1. Make a loop
2. Cross and form the second loop
3. Wrap the center
4. Secure with stitches

11 Attach the Bow

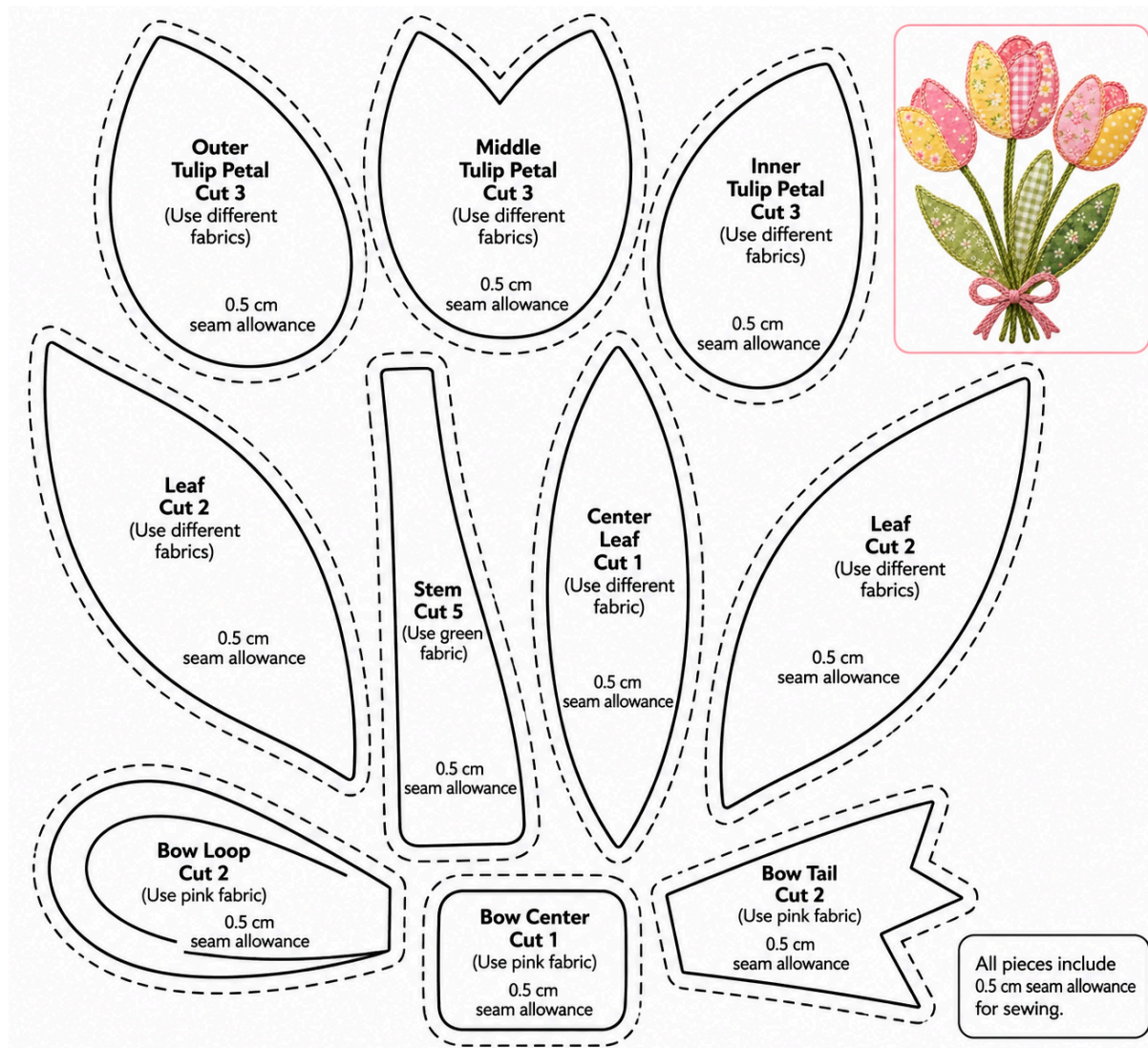


Sew the bow at the base of the stems using hand stitches.

12 Finishing Touches



Check all pieces, reinforce the stitches and press. Your Tulip Bouquet Fabric Appliqué Panel is ready!



Tulip Bouquet Fabric Appliqué Panel – Complete Step-by-Step Tutorial 🌷

The Tulip Bouquet Fabric Appliqué Panel is a cheerful sewing project that combines floral cotton fabrics, simple appliqué shapes, decorative hand stitching, padded details, and a dimensional cord bow. The finished panel shown in the tutorial measures approximately 18 cm wide × 23 cm high (7 × 9 inches), making it a lovely size for a small wall hanging, framed textile picture, seasonal decoration, or handmade gift.

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This tutorial follows the construction shown in the reference graphic from beginning to end. All measurements are given in centimeters, while familiar U.S. sewing terminology is used throughout. The design includes three tulip flowers, three main leaves, one center leaf, five stems, and one decorative bow.

This is an approachable project for confident beginners because the individual pieces are relatively simple. The most important skills are accurate cutting, careful pressing, neat edge stitching, and taking a little time when arranging the bouquet before permanently attaching anything.

Step 1 – Gather Your Materials and Tools

Before cutting the fabric, gather everything you need. Having all the materials ready makes it much easier to keep the appliqué pieces organized.

For the project shown, you will need:

- Assorted cotton fabric prints for the tulip petals and leaves
- Background cotton fabric measuring approximately 25 × 30 cm
- Lightweight fusible web, optional
- Embroidery floss or perle cotton
- A small amount of stuffing, optional for padded appliqué
- Coordinating machine-sewing thread
- Fabric scissors
- Pins
- Sewing machine and sewing-machine needle
- Hand-sewing or embroidery needle
- Fabric marker
- Iron and ironing board
- Turning tool or another blunt tool for shaping curves

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Choose several coordinating prints rather than using one fabric for every piece. Pink, yellow, red, and floral fabrics create the colorful tulips seen in the example, while different shades of green work well for the leaves and stems.

For the background, a light neutral fabric is especially effective because it allows the colorful appliqué to remain the focus. Press the background fabric before beginning so you are working on a completely flat surface.

Step 2 – Prepare the Main Pattern Pieces

The graphic uses five basic template shapes. The listed dimensions are the approximate finished cutting dimensions, with the graphic instructing you to cut with a 0.5 cm seam allowance.

Prepare:

Large Petal:

6.5 × 10 cm — cut 3 pieces

Small Petal:

5.5 × 9 cm — cut 3 pieces

Leaf:

5 × 12 cm — cut 3 pieces

Center Leaf:

3.5 × 11 cm — cut 1 piece

Stem:

1.5 × 15 cm — prepare 5 pieces

The petal templates should have a rounded lower section that gradually narrows toward a softly pointed top. The leaves are more elongated and pointed at both ends.

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If you are drawing your own templates from the measurements, fold paper vertically before drawing half of each symmetrical shape. Cut through both layers and unfold the paper. This gives you a balanced template.

Transfer the templates onto the wrong side of the selected fabrics with a removable fabric marker. Keep your markings light and accurate.

Step 3 – Cut All the Fabric Pieces

Cut the fabric carefully around the transferred shapes, remembering the 0.5 cm seam allowance indicated in the original tutorial.

The three tulips can each use different combinations of fabrics. For example, combine a pink floral petal with a yellow floral petal, or pair gingham with polka dots. Mixing prints is one of the features that gives this bouquet its patchwork appearance.

For the leaves, choose several green prints. Small florals, gingham, dots, and tone-on-tone patterns work particularly well.

Cut the five stem strips from green fabric. These strips need to be narrow because they will be folded lengthwise and stitched to form the slender stems visible behind the flowers.

Keep each group of pieces together after cutting. Separating petals, leaves, and stems into small piles prevents accidentally mixing pieces during assembly.

Step 4 – Prepare the Petal Pairs

The reference tutorial creates dimensional petals by sewing fabric pieces right sides together.

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Place two corresponding petal pieces together with their printed or right sides facing inward. Match the outer edges and secure the layers with a few pins.

Sew around the curved edge using the designated seam allowance, but leave a small opening for turning.

When sewing around the pointed top, reduce your speed as you approach the point. Stop with the needle down, raise the presser foot, pivot the fabric, lower the presser foot, and continue.

After stitching, carefully trim excess bulk around the seam. Small clips can be made along strongly curved sections, but never cut through the stitching.

Repeat this process for the remaining petals.

Step 5 – Turn and Press the Petals

Turn each sewn petal right side out through the opening you left in the seam.

Use a blunt turning tool to gently shape the curved edges and pointed tip. Avoid pushing too aggressively because this can distort the fabric or puncture the seam.

Roll the seam gently between your fingers until it sits directly along the outer edge. Once the shape looks even, press it with an iron.

The graphic also suggests adding a small amount of stuffing if you want the flowers to have a softly padded, dimensional appearance.

Only a very small quantity is necessary. Too much stuffing can make the appliqué bulky and difficult to stitch to the background.

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Close the turning opening with small hand stitches or incorporate it into the decorative edge stitching.

Step 6 – Add Decorative Stitching Around the Petals

One of the most attractive details of this project is the visible stitching surrounding each petal.

The reference design suggests either a blanket stitch or whip stitch, using embroidery floss or perle cotton.

Blanket stitch creates a decorative line along the perimeter and is particularly suitable for appliqué. Keep the spacing between stitches as consistent as possible.

A whip stitch produces a slightly simpler wrapped effect along the edge and is another good option for beginners.

The tutorial also identifies running stitch and backstitch as useful sewing methods. Running stitch can be used for subtle decorative accents, while backstitch provides a stronger continuous line.

Use thread that contrasts slightly with the fabric if you want the stitching to become part of the visual design.

Step 7 – Make the Leaves

Construct the three larger leaves and one narrower center leaf using essentially the same method as the petals.

Place the matching fabric pieces right sides together and sew around the perimeter while leaving a turning opening.

Trim and clip the seam allowance where necessary. Turn each leaf right side out and carefully shape the pointed ends.

Press every leaf until it lies smooth and flat.

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Add decorative stitching around the outside edges. The reference image uses prominent stitching that gives the leaves a handcrafted outline.

Make three leaves measuring approximately 5 × 12 cm and one center leaf measuring approximately 3.5 × 11 cm.

For an especially attractive bouquet, use several related green fabrics instead of making every leaf identical.

Step 8 – Create the Five Fabric Stems

Cut five green strips measuring approximately 1.5 × 15 cm.

Fold each strip lengthwise and press it. Depending on your preferred construction method, the raw edges can be turned inward before stitching.

Sew along the strips to create narrow stems.

Turn them right side out if you constructed them as miniature tubes, then press them flat. For such narrow pieces, a tube-turning tool can be useful.

The reference graphic also identifies stem stitch as the decorative embroidery method for the stems. You can add stem stitching after positioning the fabric strips if you want a more textured, embroidered appearance.

Prepare all five stems before arranging the bouquet so you can adjust their positions together.

Step 9 – Arrange the Three Tulip Flowers

Place the pressed background fabric on a large flat surface.

Begin arranging the petals near the upper half of the background. The design contains three tulips: one on the left,

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a slightly taller flower near the center, and another flower on the right.

Overlap the petals to create recognizable tulip heads. Do not permanently attach them immediately.

Move the petals around until their proportions look balanced. Slight overlapping creates much more depth than positioning every piece separately.

Once you are happy with the arrangement, pin or temporarily secure the petals.

Attach the stems behind the flower heads so they appear to grow naturally downward toward a shared point near the bottom of the bouquet.

The graphic suggests either hand stitching or fusible web for securing the appliqué.

Step 10 – Position and Attach the Leaves

Now place the three larger leaves below and around the flowers.

Position one leaf toward the left, one toward the center/right area, and another toward the outside right of the arrangement. The leaves should angle upward naturally rather than forming a perfectly symmetrical fan.

Place the narrow center leaf approximately in the middle of the bouquet.

Allow some of the stems to remain visible between the leaves. This creates the layered appearance found in the reference design.

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Pin the pieces temporarily and stand back from your project. Looking at the entire composition from a distance can reveal uneven spacing that is difficult to notice when working close to the fabric.

When everything looks balanced, secure the leaves with hand stitching or fusible web.

Step 11 – Assemble and Secure the Complete Bouquet

With the petals, stems, and leaves positioned correctly, you can permanently assemble the appliqué.

If using fusible web, follow the manufacturer's directions because temperature and pressing times vary between products. Avoid sliding the iron across the pieces because this can shift the arrangement.

For a more traditional handmade appearance, pin the pieces securely and attach them with hand stitches.

Work from the lower layers toward the upper layers. Secure stems first where they sit behind leaves or flowers, followed by the leaves and finally the visible flower petals.

Check each component as you work. The fabric should remain smooth, and the appliqué should not pull or distort the background.

If necessary, lightly press the panel from the reverse side once the appliqué has been completed.

Step 12 – Make the Decorative Bow

The pink cord-style bow is an important finishing feature because it visually gathers the stems at the bottom of the bouquet.

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The graphic shows a simple four-stage method.

First, form a loop with the decorative cord.

Next, cross the cord to form the second loop.

Adjust both loops until they are approximately equal in size.

Wrap or knot the center so that the bow holds its shape, then leave two short tails extending downward.

The reference tutorial identifies chain stitch as an appropriate decorative method for the bow if you want to create it using embroidery instead of separate cord.

The goal is a small, neat bow that complements the flowers without overwhelming them.

Step 13 – Attach the Bow

Place the finished bow across the lower section where the five stems meet.

Adjust the bow until the loops extend evenly to both sides. The center knot should cover the stem intersection.

Secure the bow using discreet hand stitches through the center and, if necessary, through the underside of each loop.

Do not pull these stitches too tightly. The bow should retain some dimension instead of being completely flattened against the background.

Hide thread knots on the back of the panel whenever possible.

After attaching the bow, check that none of the stems have shifted.

Step 14 – Add the Finishing Touches ✨

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Inspect the entire Tulip Bouquet Fabric Appliqué Panel carefully.

Check the decorative stitching around every flower petal and leaf. Reinforce any loose sections with additional hand stitches.

Look at the stems and make sure they are securely attached, particularly where they disappear underneath the flower heads and leaves.

Check the bow and reinforce its center if necessary.

Remove visible temporary markings and loose threads. If you used water-soluble or heat-removable fabric markers, follow the manufacturer's instructions for removing them.

Give the completed panel a final gentle press. If the flowers contain stuffing, avoid crushing them directly with the iron. Press around them or work carefully from the reverse side.

The finished appliqué area should measure approximately 18 × 23 cm (7 × 9 inches).

Sewing Methods Used in This Project

Several traditional sewing and embroidery methods can be incorporated into this panel.

Running stitch consists of evenly spaced stitches moving in and out of the fabric. It works well for subtle decorative lines.

Backstitch creates a continuous, durable stitched line and can reinforce sections requiring additional strength.

Blanket stitch is particularly useful around appliqué edges. It simultaneously decorates and helps secure the fabric.

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Whip stitch wraps repeatedly over an edge and provides a straightforward alternative to blanket stitch.

Stem stitch produces a slightly twisted line that is particularly suitable for the green flower stems.

Chain stitch forms a sequence of looped stitches and can be used to recreate the decorative bow.

Fusible-web appliqué offers another way to hold the individual shapes against the background before or instead of extensive hand stitching.

Optional Padded Appliqué Technique

If you want the tulips to resemble the softly dimensional flowers in the graphic, add a very small amount of polyester stuffing before closing each petal.

Distribute the stuffing evenly rather than concentrating it in one location. The petals should feel softly raised rather than firmly stuffed.

Once you are satisfied with the shape, close the opening using small invisible stitches.

The padded technique is optional. Leaving the petals flat creates an equally attractive panel and can make the project easier for someone completing fabric appliqué for the first time.

You can also combine the two methods by padding only the three main flower centers and leaving the surrounding petals flat.

Tips for a Professional-Looking Result

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Accuracy matters most during cutting and pressing. Small variations become more noticeable once several pieces are layered together.

Press each component individually before assembling the bouquet. Trying to correct wrinkled petals after they have been attached is much more difficult.

Keep your decorative stitches relatively consistent, but don't worry about making them mechanically perfect. Slight variations are part of the handmade character of this style of appliqué.

Before attaching anything permanently, photograph your proposed arrangement with your phone. You can then move pieces while still having a reference for the arrangement you liked.

Finally, remember that the 18 × 23 cm measurement refers to the approximate finished design shown in the graphic. Keep enough extra background fabric around the bouquet if you plan to frame, bind, quilt, or otherwise finish the panel.

Final Result

Your completed Tulip Bouquet Fabric Appliqué Panel should now feature three colorful overlapping tulips, green fabric stems, layered leaves, decorative edge stitching, and a pink bow gathering the bouquet at its base.

The combination of cotton prints, blanket stitching, padded appliqué, stem details, and dimensional layering creates the handcrafted appearance shown in the original tutorial. Once you understand the basic construction, the same technique can also be adapted to different flower colors, seasonal fabrics, larger wall panels, quilt blocks, tote-bag decorations, cushions, or framed textile art.

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With careful cutting, gentle pressing, and patient stitching, even someone relatively new to appliqué can complete the project from the first template piece to the final bow.