



## Two Cats with Heart Appliqué

### Step-by-Step Sewing Tutorial

#### Materials

- Fabric 1**  
Cat 1 (dark)  
20 cm x 25 cm
- Fabric 2**  
Cat 2 (light)  
20 cm x 25 cm
- Background fabric**  
30 cm x 30 cm
- Border fabric**  
4 strips  
6 cm x 30 cm

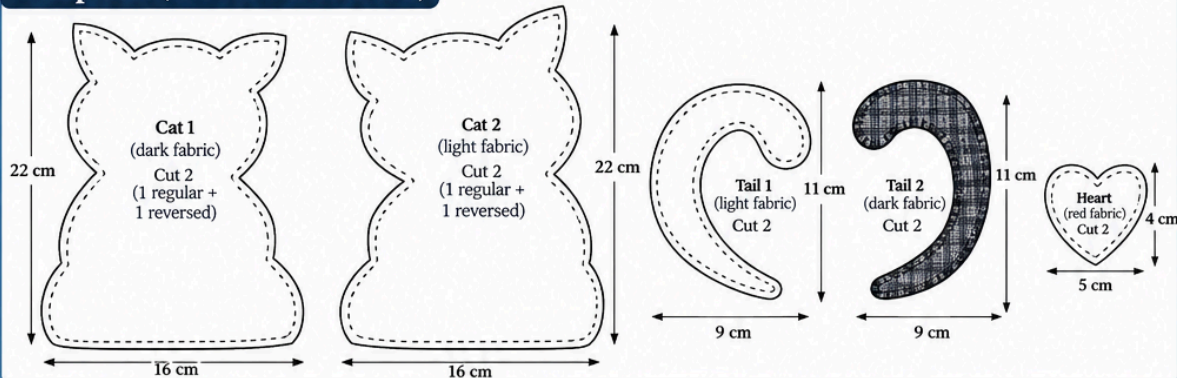
#### Tools

- Fabric scissors
- Pins
- Rotary cutter (optional)
- Fabric marker
- Ruler
- Sewing machine
- Hand sewing needle

#### Main Sewing Methods Used

- Running stitch (for basting)
- Blanket stitch (for appliqué)
- Straight stitch (sewing pieces)
- Quilting (background)

#### Templates (with 0.5 cm seam allowance)



#### 1 Cut the fabrics



Use the templates to cut all pieces in the chosen fabrics. Cut 2 of each piece (mirror image) with 0.5 cm seam allowance.

#### 2 Prepare the appliqué pieces



Apply fusible web to the wrong side of the fabrics, trace the templates and cut the pieces. Remove the paper and place the pieces on the background fabric.

#### 3 Arrange the design



Position the cats, tails and heart in the center of the background fabric (30 cm x 30 cm). Adjust until you're happy with the layout.

#### 4 Baste the pieces



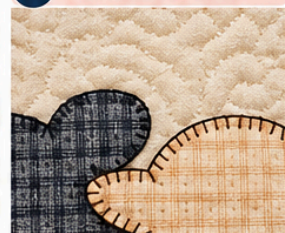
Pin or use a temporary fabric glue to hold the pieces in place. You can also use a few basting stitches around the edges.

#### 5 Sew the appliqué



Using a hand sewing needle and embroidery thread (or machine with appliqué stitch), sew around all the pieces with a blanket stitch.

#### 6 Quilt the background



Quilt the background fabric with a free-motion or straight-line quilting. This adds texture and keeps the layers together.

#### 7 Add the borders

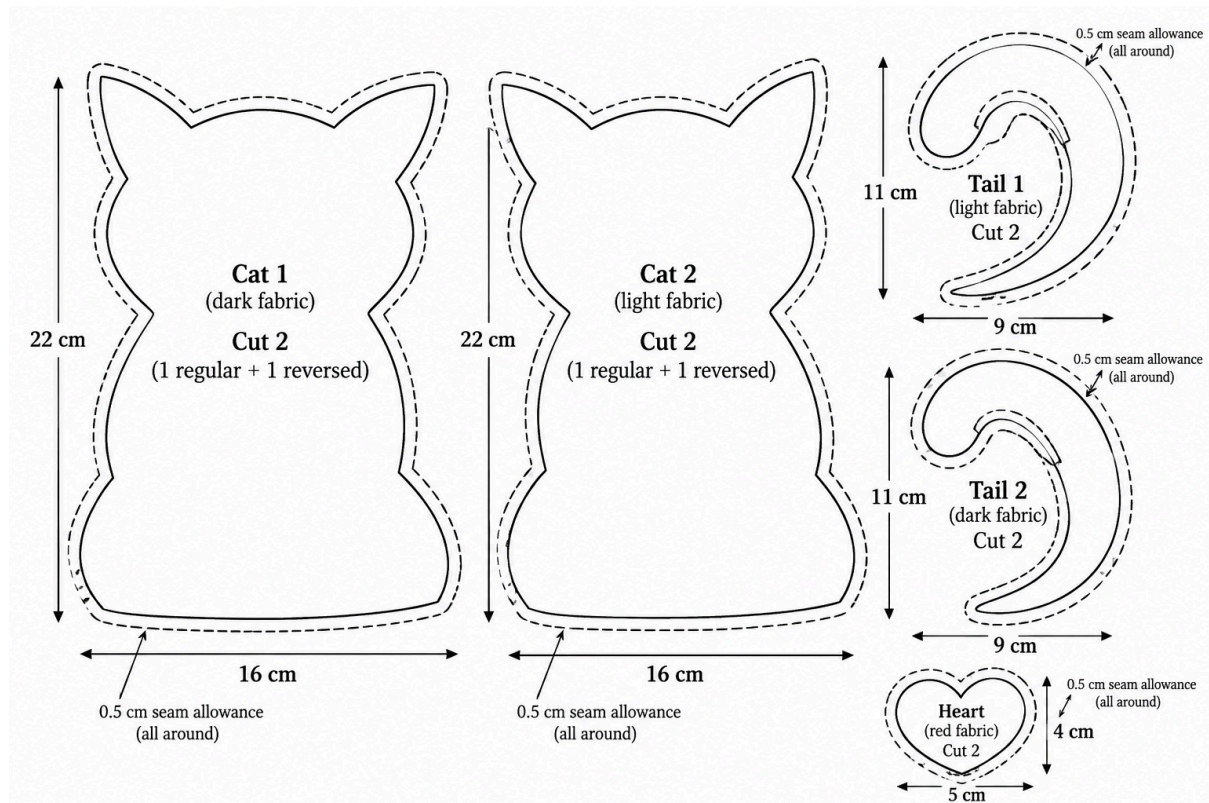


Cut 4 strips of 6 cm x 30 cm for the border. Sew the side strips first, press, then sew the top and bottom strips. Press again.

#### 8 Finished project



Your Two Cats with Heart Appliqué is complete! You can use it as a wall hanging, cushion panel or as part of a larger quilt.



## Two Cats with Heart Appliqué – Complete Sewing Tutorial

This Two Cats with Heart Appliqué project creates a charming fabric panel featuring two sitting cats whose curved tails meet to form a heart. Based closely on the tutorial graphic, the finished design uses a 30 cm × 30 cm background, contrasting plaid fabrics, blanket-stitch appliqué, simple quilting, and a decorative fabric border.

The project works well as a wall hanging, cushion front, decorative quilt block, or part of a larger quilt. The instructions below use centimeters to remain consistent with the pattern graphic.

### Step 1 – Gather the Materials and Tools



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Before cutting anything, prepare all of your fabrics and sewing supplies.

For the fabrics, you will need:

- Dark fabric for Cat 1: approximately 20 cm × 25 cm
- Light fabric for Cat 2: approximately 20 cm × 25 cm
- Background fabric: 30 cm × 30 cm
- Border fabric: 4 strips measuring approximately 6 cm × 30 cm
- A small piece of red fabric for the heart
- Lightweight fusible web for the appliqué pieces
- Lightweight batting if you want the background quilted
- Backing fabric if you are making a quilted panel

You will also need fabric scissors, pins, a fabric marker, ruler, sewing machine, hand-sewing needle, embroidery thread, iron, and ironing surface. A rotary cutter and cutting mat are optional but useful for cutting the straight border strips.

The graphic uses two contrasting plaid fabrics. A dark navy or charcoal plaid works beautifully for the first cat, while a cream, beige, or pale peach plaid provides contrast for the second cat.

For the appliqué stitching, choose embroidery thread that is noticeably darker than the light fabric. The visible blanket stitch is an important decorative feature of this design.

## Step 2 – Prepare the Printable Templates

The pattern consists of five main shapes: Cat 1, Cat 2, Tail 1, Tail 2, and a small heart.

According to the tutorial graphic, each cat template is approximately:

22 cm high × 16 cm wide

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The tail templates are approximately:

11 cm high × 9 cm wide

The small heart is approximately:

4 cm high × 5 cm wide

The template graphic also indicates a 0.5 cm allowance around the pieces.

Print or trace the templates and check their dimensions with a ruler before cutting your fabric. If your printer automatically uses “Fit to Page,” the dimensions can change, so verify the scale before proceeding.

The two cats face one another. Therefore, orientation matters. Pay attention to the regular and reversed shapes when transferring the templates.

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

Press all fabrics before cutting. Removing wrinkles makes tracing and cutting much more accurate.

Place the appropriate template over the wrong side of your selected fabric. Trace around it carefully with a removable fabric marker.

Cut Cat 1 from the dark fabric and Cat 2 from the light fabric. Prepare the corresponding contrasting tails so that the light tail overlaps the dark cat and the dark tail overlaps the light cat.

This color reversal is what makes the heart-shaped tail arrangement visually clear.

Cut the small heart from red fabric. The red heart is optional from a construction standpoint, but it is part of the finished

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design shown in the tutorial and provides a lovely accent above the cats.

Keep every piece flat after cutting. Avoid stretching the fabric around the ears, tail curves, and other narrow sections.

#### **Step 4 – Apply the Fusible Web**

Fusible web makes the appliqué much easier to position and helps prevent the fabric pieces from shifting during stitching.

Following the manufacturer's directions, apply the fusible web to the wrong side of the appliqué fabrics.

Use a dry or steam iron according to the instructions supplied with your particular fusible product. Different brands require different temperatures and pressing times.

Allow the pieces to cool completely before removing the paper backing.

Once cooled, carefully peel away the backing paper. The adhesive side should now be ready to fuse to the background.

Do not permanently fuse the pieces until you have tested the complete arrangement.

#### **Step 5 – Prepare the 30 cm × 30 cm Background**

Cut your background fabric to approximately 30 cm × 30 cm, as shown in the tutorial.

Press it thoroughly.

If you are creating a quilted panel, prepare a simple quilt sandwich using the background fabric, batting, and backing fabric.

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The original tutorial demonstrates a softly quilted neutral background. This gives the panel texture without competing visually with the cats.

You can quilt the background with straight lines or free-motion quilting. Gentle curves, loops, or a simple meandering design work particularly well.

If you prefer an easier project, you can complete the appliqué first and quilt around the cats afterward.

## **Step 6 – Arrange the Two Cats 🐱**

Place Cat 1, the dark cat, toward the left side of the background.

Position Cat 2, the light cat, toward the right.

The cats should sit close together without completely covering one another. Their heads should angle toward each other, creating the affectionate composition shown in the tutorial.

Leave enough space around the outer edges for stitching and the border.

Now position the tails.

Place the light-colored tail over the dark cat and the dark-colored tail over the light cat.

Rotate and adjust them until their curves visually create a heart in the center.

This arrangement is the focal point of the entire project, so spend some time adjusting the pieces before securing anything permanently.

Finally, position the small red heart above and between the cats.

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## **Step 7 – Secure and Baste the Appliqué Pieces**

Once you are satisfied with the layout, secure the pieces temporarily.

If you are using fusible web, carefully press each appliqué according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Start with the larger cat bodies and then secure the tails and heart.

You may also use pins, temporary fabric adhesive, or running stitches to keep the pieces in place.

The tutorial identifies the running stitch as the primary method for basting.

If hand basting, make long, easily removable stitches around the pieces. These stitches are temporary and only need to prevent movement while you complete the permanent appliqué stitching.

Check the tail alignment again after securing everything. The two curves should remain balanced and create a recognizable heart.

## **Step 8 – Sew the Blanket-Stitch Appliqué**

The decorative blanket stitch is one of the defining features of this project.

Thread a hand-sewing needle with embroidery thread. Knot the end securely on the back.

Begin along a relatively straight section rather than at an ear tip or tight curve.

Work the blanket stitch around the entire outside edge of the appliqué. Try to maintain consistent spacing between stitches.

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**Around the ears and sharper corners, shorten the stitch spacing slightly. This allows the stitching to follow the shape without creating awkward gaps.**

**Around broad curves, maintain an even rhythm.**

**Repeat the process around both cats and both tails.**

**Pay particular attention to the inner curves of the tails. Smaller stitches are easier to control in these areas.**

**Finish by blanket-stitching around the red heart.**

**If you prefer machine appliqué, you can use your sewing machine's blanket-stitch setting instead. Test the stitch width and length on scrap fabric before sewing the actual project.**

## **Step 9 – Quilt the Background**

**If you have not already quilted the background, you can do so after completing the appliqué.**

**Layer the panel with batting and backing.**

**Baste the layers together using pins, spray baste, or long running stitches.**

**Quilt the exposed background areas while avoiding stitching directly over the decorative blanket stitches.**

**A free-motion quilting pattern provides a handmade, textured appearance similar to the example.**

**For beginners, simple straight-line quilting is an excellent alternative. Parallel lines or a gentle grid can produce a very attractive result without requiring free-motion quilting skills.**

**Keep the quilting relatively subtle because the two cats should remain the visual focus.**

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When quilting is finished, trim the panel carefully so that the edges are straight and square.

## **Step 10 – Add the Fabric Borders**

The tutorial calls for four border strips approximately 6 cm × 30 cm.

The finished example actually uses contrasting borders, which adds more depth to the project. You can recreate this appearance with a narrow warm-toned inner border and a wider dark plaid outer border, or keep the construction simpler with one border fabric.

Begin with the side strips.

Place one border strip against one side of the panel with right sides together. Pin or clip it into position.

Sew using a consistent seam allowance.

Press the seam carefully.

Repeat on the opposite side.

Next, measure the new width of the panel before cutting or adjusting the top and bottom strips. This is more accurate than assuming the dimensions have remained exactly the same during construction.

Attach the top and bottom borders using the same method.

Press all border seams neatly.

## **Step 11 – Finish the Panel**

At this stage, inspect the entire project.

Check that all appliqué edges are secure.

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**Remove any visible basting stitches that are no longer required.**

**Trim loose threads from the front and back.**

**Give the finished panel a gentle final press. When pressing appliqué, it is often safer to press from the back or use a pressing cloth over the front.**

**If you are making a wall hanging, add a backing and hanging sleeve.**

**For a cushion, use the completed panel as the cushion front and construct an envelope or zippered backing.**

**For a quilt, incorporate the finished block into your larger quilt layout.**

## **Main Sewing Methods Used**

**The tutorial graphic highlights four important techniques.**

**Running Stitch:** Used primarily for temporary basting. Long running stitches hold the appliqué pieces in place before permanent stitching.

**Blanket Stitch:** Used around the cats, tails, and heart. This is both a structural and decorative stitch and gives the appliqué its recognizable handcrafted appearance.

**Straight Stitch:** Useful for assembling the border and other structural seams. It can also be used for simple background quilting.

**Quilting:** Adds dimension and texture to the background while joining the top fabric, batting, and backing into one stable panel.

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## **Tips for a Cleaner Result**

**Press the fabric at every major stage instead of waiting until the end. Accurate pressing makes an enormous difference in appliqué work.**

**Always test your blanket stitch on scrap fabric first. Try to establish a comfortable stitch size before working around the actual cats.**

**When sewing tight curves, use shorter stitches. Longer stitches are more suitable for gentle curves and straight areas.**

**If using a sewing machine for the appliqué, slow down around the ears and tails. Stop with the needle down whenever you need to pivot slightly.**

**Choose fabrics with enough contrast. The dark-and-light combination shown in the original graphic makes the overlapping heart-shaped tails immediately visible.**

**Most importantly, arrange the complete design before fusing anything permanently. Small changes in the angle of either tail can dramatically improve the heart shape.**

## **Final Project Measurements and Use**

**The central background begins at approximately 30 cm × 30 cm before the borders are attached. Because border width, seam allowances, trimming, and quilting can alter the final dimensions, measure your completed piece rather than relying on a predetermined finished size.**

**Once finished, your Two Cats with Heart Appliqué can become a decorative wall panel, cushion cover, quilt center, tote-bag panel, or handmade gift.**

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The combination of contrasting fabric, visible blanket stitching, quilted texture, and intertwined heart-shaped tails gives the design its distinctive character. By completing the project in stages—templates, cutting, positioning, basting, appliqué, quilting, and borders—even a newer sewist can build the design from beginning to end while staying consistent with the original tutorial graphic.