

Patchwork Monkey Appliqué Tutorial

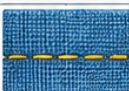
Step by Step – Measurements in CM



Materials Needed

- Cotton fabric (various prints)
- Fusible web (optional)
- Fabric for background
- Thread
- Polyester filling (optional for cushion)
- Scissors
- Pins or clips
- Sewing needle
- Sewing machine
- Fabric marker or pencil
- Iron

Basic Sewing Methods Used



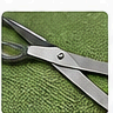
Straight stitch



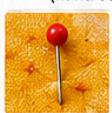
Backstitch (hand sewing)



Blanket stitch (appliqué)



Cutting fabric



Pinning pieces

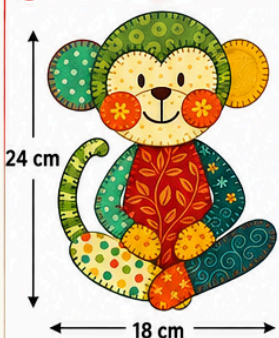


Ironing



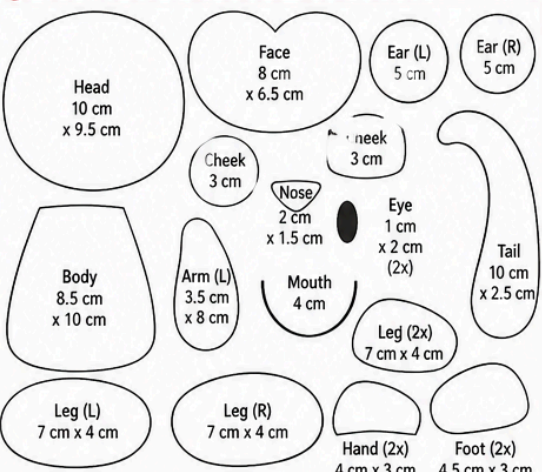
Layering

1 Finished Size



The finished monkey measures 24 cm (height) x 18 cm (width). Perfect for quilt blocks, cushions, bags or wall panels.

2 Fabric Templates and Measurements



Head 10 cm x 9.5 cm
Face 8 cm x 6.5 cm
Ear (L) 5 cm
Ear (R) 5 cm
Cheek 3 cm
Nose 2 cm x 1.5 cm
Eye 1 cm x 2 cm (2x)
Tail 10 cm x 2.5 cm
Body 8.5 cm x 10 cm
Arm (L) 3.5 cm x 8 cm
Mouth 4 cm
Leg (2x) 7 cm x 4 cm
Leg (L) 7 cm x 4 cm
Leg (R) 7 cm x 4 cm
Hand (2x) 4 cm x 3 cm
Foot (2x) 4.5 cm x 3 cm

3 Cut the Fabric Pieces



Use the templates to cut all pieces in the chosen fabrics. Add 0.5 cm seam allowance if you will sew the pieces with seams. For appliqué, you can cut the exact size or add a small margin.

4 Create the Face Details



Sew or applique the eyes, nose and mouth on the face piece. Use blanket stitch or straight stitch. Attach the cheeks.

5 Make the Head



Place the face piece on the head and applique around the edge using blanket stitch.

6 Prepare the Ears



Cut two ear circles and applique stitch their edges. Attach them behind the head.

7 Sew the Arms and Hands



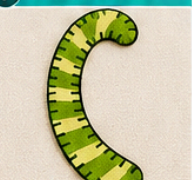
Sew the hand pieces to the arm ends. Applique with blanket stitch.

8 Sew the Legs and Feet



Join the foot pieces to the leg pieces and applique the edges.

9 Attach the Tail



Fold the tail piece, stitch and applique the edges.

10 Attach the Body



Position the arms, legs and tail behind the body and applique in place with blanket stitch.

11 Assemble the Monkey



Place the head on the body and sew all pieces with applique stitch. Check alignment and reinforce stitches.

12 Finished Monkey



Your patchwork monkey is ready! Use it in quilts, cushions, bags, wall hangings and more.

Color and Fabric Suggestions



Choose cotton fabrics with coordinating colors and prints. Use contrasting fabrics to highlight the details.

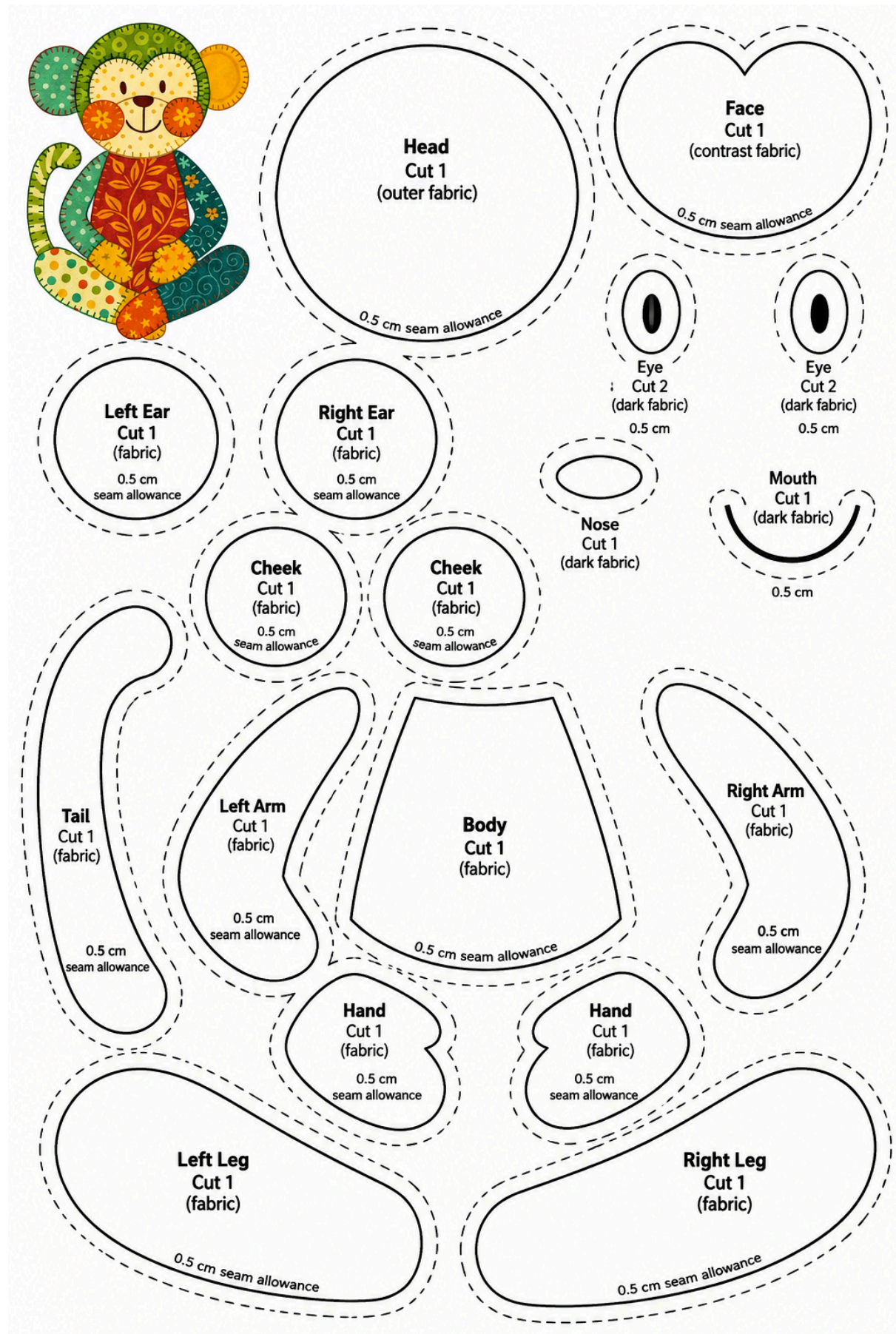
Tips for a Perfect Finish

- ★ Use 100% cotton fabric.
- ★ Iron the pieces before sewing.
- ★ Use fusible web to make appliqué easier.
- ★ Use blanket stitch for a handmade look.
- ★ Keep your stitches even.
- ★ Add quilting around the monkey for extra detail.
- ★ This block can be used in pillows, quilts, totes and more.

Project Variations



Change the colors and fabric prints to create different monkeys!



Patchwork Monkey Appliqué Tutorial



This cheerful Patchwork Monkey Appliqué is a colorful sewing project that works beautifully for quilts, cushions, tote bags, nursery décor, wall hangings, and fabric panels. The design is built from simple fabric shapes and finished with visible appliqué stitching, giving it a warm handmade look.

Following the measurements and construction sequence shown in the tutorial chart, the finished monkey is approximately 24 cm high × 18 cm wide. The project is suitable for confident beginners as well as experienced sewists who enjoy using small pieces from their fabric stash.

The instructions below use common U.S. sewing terminology while keeping all measurements in centimeters (CM), as shown in the original tutorial.

Step 1: Gather the Materials and Prepare the Fabric

Before cutting anything, prepare all of your materials. Having everything ready makes it much easier to coordinate prints and assemble the monkey without accidentally losing one of the smaller pieces.

Materials Needed

You will need:

- 100% cotton fabric in several coordinating prints
- Fabric for the background
- Fusible web, optional but highly recommended for appliqué
- Coordinating sewing thread

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- Embroidery or decorative thread for visible blanket stitching
- Polyester filling if you want slightly padded elements
- Fabric scissors or a rotary cutter
- Cutting mat if using a rotary cutter
- Straight pins or sewing clips
- Sewing needle
- Sewing machine
- Fabric marking pencil or erasable fabric marker
- Iron and ironing surface
- Printed monkey templates

Choose fabrics with plenty of contrast. The original project combines green, teal, yellow, orange, cream, and deep red, but the design can be adapted to any palette.

Prewash the cotton fabric if you normally prewash quilting fabrics. Press every piece thoroughly before tracing the templates. Flat, wrinkle-free fabric produces much more accurate appliqué shapes.

If you are using fusible web, follow the manufacturer's directions because pressing temperatures and times vary between brands.

Step 2: Understand the Finished Size and Template Measurements

The completed monkey shown in the tutorial measures approximately:

Height: 24 cm

Width: 18 cm

These measurements make the appliqué large enough to become the main feature of a cushion, quilt block, tote bag, or wall panel.

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The chart provides the following approximate template measurements:

Head: 10 cm × 9.5 cm

Face: 8 cm × 6.5 cm

Left Ear: approximately 5 cm

Right Ear: approximately 5 cm

Cheeks: approximately 3 cm each

Nose: approximately 2 cm × 1.5 cm

Eyes: approximately 1 cm × 2 cm each

Mouth area: approximately 4 cm

Body: 8.5 cm × 10 cm

Arms: approximately 3.5 cm × 8 cm

Tail: approximately 10 cm × 2.5 cm

Legs: approximately 7 cm × 4 cm each

Hands: approximately 4 cm × 3 cm each

Feet: approximately 4.5 cm × 3 cm each

The shapes in the printed template should take priority over measurements when cutting curved pieces. The dimensions are useful for checking that your printer has not accidentally enlarged or reduced the pattern.

For pieces that will be sewn with a traditional seam, the chart recommends adding approximately 0.5 cm seam allowance. For raw-edge or fused appliqué, pieces can generally be cut directly on the template line or with only the margin required by your preferred technique.

Step 3: Trace and Cut the Fabric Pieces

Begin by deciding which fabric will be used for each part of your monkey. One of the charms of this design is that the fabrics do not have to match.

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Trace the templates onto your fabric or onto the paper side of fusible web. Remember that fusible appliqué pieces may need to be reversed when tracing if orientation matters.

Cut the head from your main green fabric. Cut the lighter heart-shaped face section from a cream or pale yellow print.

Next, cut two ears. Using different fabrics for the ears emphasizes the playful patchwork appearance. The example uses a dotted green fabric for one ear and warm yellow-orange fabric for the other.

Cut the body from a strong contrasting print. A red or rust-colored fabric with a botanical motif works particularly well because the body is one of the largest sections.

Cut the two arms from contrasting fabrics. Then prepare the two hands, two legs, two feet, tail, cheeks, eyes, nose, and mouth details.

Arrange everything on a flat surface before sewing. At this stage, your monkey should look almost like a fabric puzzle.

Step 4: Create the Monkey's Face

The face contains the smallest pieces, so assemble it separately before attaching the entire head to the project.

Position the light-colored face appliqué over the larger green head piece. Make sure the two rounded upper sections are centered underneath the top of the head.

If you are using fusible web, lightly fuse the face in place.

Position both eyes symmetrically. The eyes are narrow vertical oval shapes in the original design.

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Place the nose between and slightly below the eyes. The nose is a small horizontal oval or rounded shape in a dark brown fabric.

Create the smiling mouth underneath the nose. You can use a narrow fabric appliqué, hand embroidery, or machine stitching. Extend a short vertical line downward from the nose before forming the curved smile.

Finally, position the two approximately 3 cm cheeks on either side of the muzzle. The original design uses bright orange circles decorated with flower motifs.

Stitch around the facial appliqué pieces. A blanket stitch creates the characteristic handcrafted appearance shown in the tutorial, although a narrow zigzag or straight stitch can also work.

Step 5: Make and Finish the Head

Once the facial details are secure, finish the outer edge of the face.

Use a contrasting thread so that the stitching becomes part of the design rather than disappearing into the fabric. Dark green, brown, or another strong coordinating color works particularly well.

Work slowly around the curves. Shorter stitch lengths make curved appliqué edges easier to control.

If hand sewing, keep the blanket stitches evenly spaced. Insert the needle close to the raw edge and maintain approximately the same depth throughout the curve.

Press the completed head gently from the wrong side when possible. Avoid excessive heat if fusible adhesive has already been applied.

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Do not attach the head permanently to the body yet. Keeping these sections separate makes the next stages easier.

Step 6: Prepare and Attach the Ears

Cut one left ear and one right ear according to the templates.

The ears can deliberately use different prints. Patchwork designs often look more interesting when they are slightly asymmetrical.

Finish the visible edges with blanket stitch. If using a sewing machine, test the stitch on a fabric scrap first so you can adjust the stitch width and length.

Place the ears behind the head, with enough of each circle showing to reproduce the appearance in the chart.

Pin, baste, or fuse them temporarily.

Secure the ears to the head. Check the monkey from the front before completing the stitching to ensure the ears are reasonably balanced.

Step 7: Sew the Arms and Hands

Prepare the two long curved arm pieces.

The original monkey uses contrasting fabrics for the arms, reinforcing the scrap-friendly patchwork style.

Position one approximately 4 cm × 3 cm hand at the bottom of each arm.

Join or appliqué the hand pieces to the arms. Finish the visible edges using blanket stitch.

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If you want the monkey to have slightly raised hands, a tiny amount of polyester filling can be placed underneath before the final edge is closed. This is optional.

Set both completed arm units aside while preparing the lower portion of the monkey.

Step 8: Sew the Legs and Feet

Prepare two leg pieces measuring approximately 7 cm × 4 cm.

The legs can use different fabrics. In the chart, this asymmetry is an intentional part of the design.

Prepare two feet approximately 4.5 cm × 3 cm.

Place a foot at the end of each leg and check the direction before stitching. Both feet should naturally point outward once the monkey is assembled.

Appliqué or sew the feet to the legs.

Finish the visible edges using the same blanket stitch used elsewhere so the entire project maintains a consistent appearance.

Step 9: Prepare the Curved Tail

The tail is one of the most distinctive elements of this pattern.

Use the template to cut a curved tail approximately 10 cm long × 2.5 cm wide.

The chart suggests folding and stitching the tail before attaching it. Depending on your chosen construction method, you can create a flat appliqué tail or sew it as a narrow turned fabric piece.

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For a simple appliqué version, fuse the tail directly to the background and blanket stitch around its perimeter.

For a dimensional version, place two tail pieces right sides together, stitch around them while leaving an opening, carefully turn the piece right side out, and press.

The tail curves upward beside the monkey's body. Position it before attaching the body because part of the tail should appear to sit behind the body.

Step 10: Prepare and Attach the Body

Cut the body approximately 8.5 cm × 10 cm.

Center it on your background fabric, leaving sufficient room above for the head and below for the crossed legs.

Before securing the body, position the arms, legs, and tail underneath or alongside it according to the reference image.

This layering order is important because it creates the impression that the limbs naturally emerge from behind the torso.

Pin or temporarily fuse all pieces.

Once you are satisfied with their positions, secure the body with blanket stitch around its perimeter.

Check continuously for puckering. Appliqué should lie flat without pulling the background fabric inward.

Step 11: Assemble the Complete Monkey 🐒

Now bring all of the prepared sections together.

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Position the completed head above the body. The lower portion of the head should slightly overlap the upper body so there is no awkward gap between the pieces.

Check the ears, arms, hands, legs, feet, and tail.

Look at the project from a short distance before permanently sewing the head. This makes alignment problems much easier to notice.

Pin or fuse the head into position and stitch around the outer edge.

Inspect every appliqué piece and secure any remaining loose edges.

For the handcrafted finish illustrated in the chart, continue using visible blanket stitching around the major shapes. Straight stitch can be used for small decorative details, while backstitch works particularly well for hand-sewn facial lines.

Step 12: Press and Finish the Appliqué

After all of the pieces are attached, inspect the entire monkey.

Trim loose threads carefully.

Press the project according to the requirements of your fabric and fusible web. Press rather than aggressively sliding the iron over the appliqué, since excessive movement can distort the shapes.

If the monkey will become part of a quilt, layer the finished appliqué top with batting and backing fabric.

You can then quilt around the monkey to emphasize its silhouette. Echo quilting around the outside of the design can make the appliqué stand out beautifully.

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For a cushion or bag, continue constructing the final project only after the appliqué has been completely secured.

Your Patchwork Monkey Appliqué is now ready! 🎉

Basic Sewing Methods Used

Blanket stitch: This is the primary decorative appliqué technique shown throughout the project. The stitch catches the edge of the fabric while creating regularly spaced perpendicular stitches around the shape.

Straight stitch: Useful for simple construction, securing certain details, or adding decorative lines.

Backstitch: Particularly useful when sewing details by hand because it creates a strong, continuous-looking line.

Fusible appliqué: Fusible web holds the fabric shapes against the background before decorative stitching. This can make the project considerably easier for beginners.

Layering: The order in which pieces are positioned creates visual depth. The tail and limbs are arranged before the body, while the head overlaps the upper body.

Pressing: Pressing after major construction stages keeps the appliqué smooth and professional-looking.

Tips for a Beautiful Finished Monkey

Use 100% cotton quilting fabric whenever possible because it is stable, easy to cut, and works very well for appliqué.

Press every fabric before tracing and cutting. Even small wrinkles can alter the dimensions of little pieces such as the cheeks and eyes.

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Consider using fusible web for the face, cheeks, body, hands, feet, and other curved shapes. It prevents pieces from shifting while you sew.

Keep your blanket stitches reasonably even, but don't worry about making the project look machine-perfect. The visible stitching is part of the handmade personality of this monkey.

Choose contrasting fabrics. A pale face against a dark head, bright cheeks, and contrasting limbs make each individual section easy to see.

For an especially polished result, quilt around the completed monkey after adding batting and backing.

Color and Fabric Variations

You do not have to reproduce the exact green, yellow, orange, teal, and red combination shown in the chart.

A pink monkey could combine rose, blush, burgundy, cream, and floral prints. This could work beautifully for nursery décor.

A blue monkey could use navy, aqua, turquoise, pale yellow, and white fabrics.

For a traditional scrap-quilt appearance, make every body section from a different leftover fabric.

You can also create several monkeys in different palettes while keeping the same template. Arranged together, they could become individual blocks for a playful children's quilt.

Whether you use it on a quilt, cushion, bag, fabric panel, or wall hanging, the most important part is maintaining the recognizable shapes and layering sequence while having fun with the prints. The combination of colorful fabric and visible

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blanket stitching is what gives this Patchwork Monkey Appliqué its cheerful handmade character.