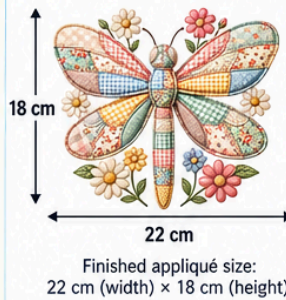




Patchwork Dragonfly Fabric Appliqué Tutorial

Step by step to create this beautiful fabric appliqué using easy sewing techniques. Perfect for quilts, cushions, wall panels and more!

Finished Size



Materials



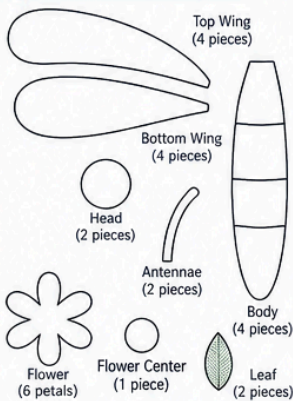
- Cotton fabric (various prints)
- Fabric for background
- Fusible interfacing (optional)
- Thread to match fabrics
- Embroidery thread (optional)
- Scissors and rotary cutter
- Pins or fabric clips
- Sewing machine
- Hand sewing needle
- Iron and ironing board
- Stuff for quilt or cushion

1 Fabric Selection



Choose cotton fabrics in different prints and colors. Use fabrics in small patterns for a delicate look.

2 Templates



Add a 0.7 cm (1/4") seam allowance around all template pieces.

3 Cutting the Fabric



4 Prepare the Pieces



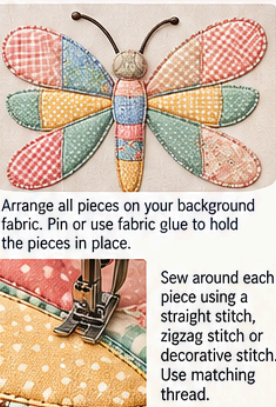
5 Assemble the Wings



6 Make the Body



7 Appliqué the Pieces



8 Add the Flowers and Leaves



9 Final Touches



Key Sewing Methods

Straight Stitch



Strong and simple stitch to secure pieces.

Zigzag Stitch



Great for appliqué edges.

Blanket Stitch (hand sewing)



Decorative stitch for a handmade look.

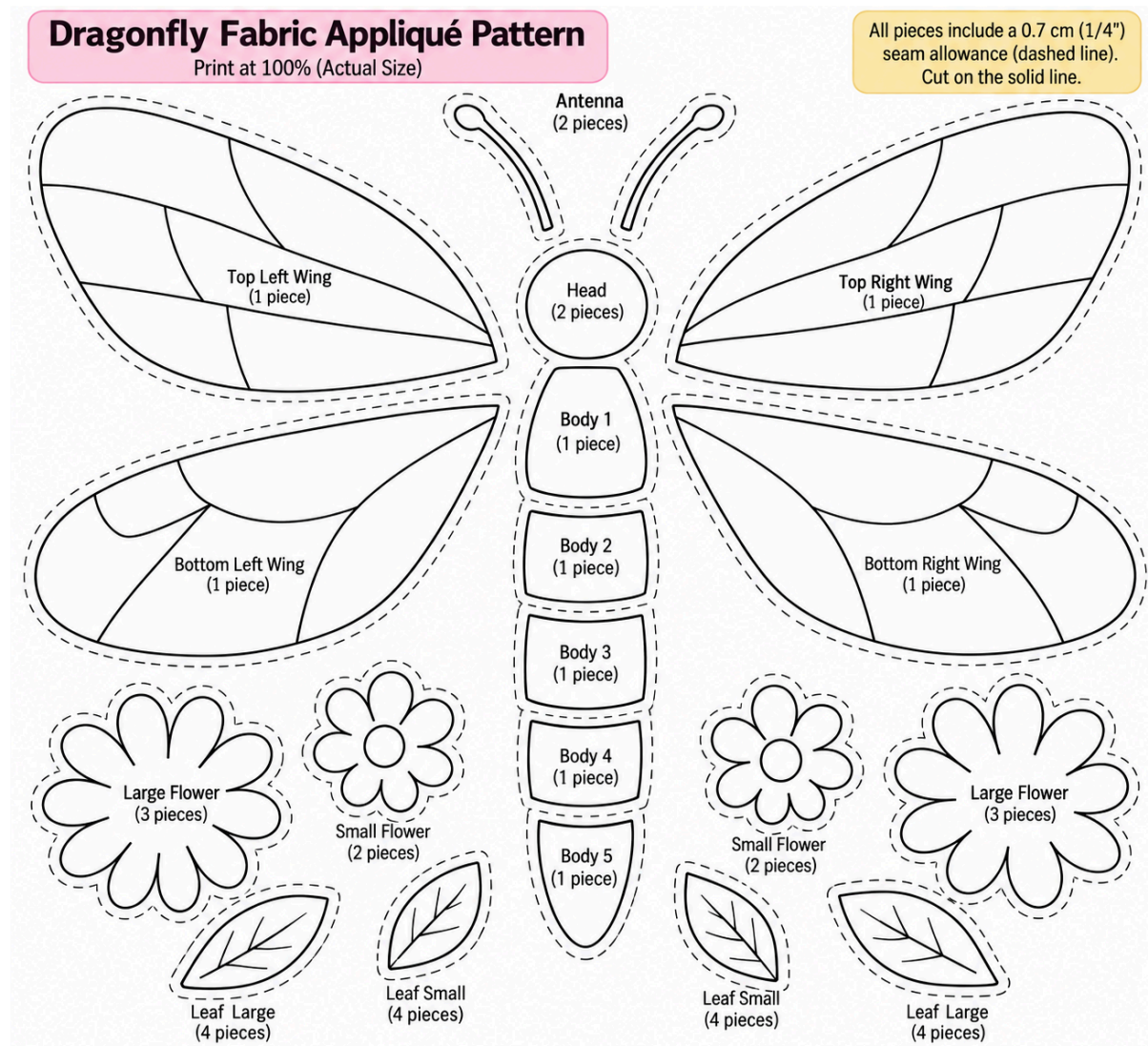
Topstitch



Stitch close to the edge for a neat finish.

Fabric Measurements (cm)

Piece	Quantity	Finished Size (approx.)
Top Wing (each)	4	10 cm × 4.5 cm
Bottom Wing (each)	4	8 cm × 3.5 cm
Body Segment (each)	4	3.5 cm × 2.5 cm
Head (each)	2	3 cm diameter
Antenna (each)	2	5 cm × 0.7 cm
Flower Petal (each)	6	3 cm × 2 cm
Flower Center (each)	1	2 cm diameter
Leaf (each)	2	4.5 cm × 2 cm
Finished Appliqué	1	22 cm × 18 cm



Patchwork Dragonfly Fabric Appliqué Tutorial

This Patchwork Dragonfly Fabric Appliqué is a charming sewing project that combines small pieces of cotton fabric, traditional appliqué techniques, decorative stitching, and floral details. Based on the tutorial graphic, the finished design measures approximately 22 cm wide × 18 cm high.

The design is especially suitable for using fabric scraps, since the wings and body are divided into small sections. Floral prints, gingham, polka dots, checks, and soft coordinating

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solids work beautifully together. Once finished, the dragonfly can be appliquéd onto a quilt block, cushion cover, wall hanging, tote bag, table runner, or another fabric project.

The instructions below follow the construction shown in the graphic, including the 0.7 cm (approximately 1/4 inch) seam allowance, patchwork wings, segmented body, appliqué stitching, flowers, leaves, and final pressing.

Step 1 – Choose and Prepare the Fabrics

Begin by selecting several lightweight or quilting-weight cotton fabrics. The original design has a soft vintage appearance, so small floral prints, gingham checks, tiny dots, and coordinating pastel fabrics are excellent choices.

You can use approximately 8–12 different fabric prints to create the patchwork effect. There is no need to purchase large cuts of fabric because most pieces are quite small. This makes the project ideal for using leftover quilting cotton.

For a balanced appearance, combine busier floral prints with simpler checks or dots. For example, alternate pink florals with blue gingham, yellow checks, muted green prints, and neutral cream fabrics.

Before cutting, press all fabrics with an iron. Removing wrinkles is important because even a small crease can affect the shape of a tiny appliqué piece.

You will also need a larger piece of background fabric if the dragonfly will be permanently appliquéd onto a quilt block or decorative panel. A neutral cream, white, beige, or very pale pastel background allows the patchwork colors to stand out.

If your fabrics are particularly lightweight, prepare fusible interfacing as well. This is optional, but it can make the pieces

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easier to handle and give the finished appliqué additional stability.

Step 2 – Gather the Materials

Prepare the following supplies before beginning:

- Assorted quilting cotton fabrics; background fabric; lightweight fusible interfacing (optional); coordinating sewing thread; embroidery thread (optional); fabric scissors or rotary cutter; cutting mat; pins or fabric clips; sewing machine; hand-sewing needle; iron and ironing board; fabric glue or fusible web (optional); polyester stuffing if you want slightly raised dimensional sections; and your printed dragonfly, flower, and leaf templates.

For machine appliqué, use a standard presser foot or an appliqué foot if available. An open-toe appliqué foot can make it easier to see the edge of each piece while sewing.

Thread can either match the individual fabrics or provide subtle contrast. Matching thread produces a softer finish, while contrasting thread emphasizes the patchwork construction.

Step 3 – Prepare the Templates

The project consists of four main visual components: upper wings, lower wings, segmented body/head, and surrounding flowers and leaves.

According to the tutorial graphic, each upper finished wing is approximately 10 cm × 4.5 cm, while each lower finished wing is approximately 8 cm × 3.5 cm.

The head is approximately 3 cm in diameter. The body is made from several small sections, approximately 3.5 cm × 2.5 cm

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each, although the lower sections should gradually taper to create the characteristic long dragonfly abdomen.

The antennae are approximately 5 cm × 0.7 cm each. Because these pieces are narrow, they can also be created with fabric-covered cord, embroidery thread, narrow bias strips, or another suitable decorative method.

For the floral decoration, the graphic suggests petals around 3 cm × 2 cm, flower centers around 2 cm in diameter, and leaves approximately 4.5 cm × 2 cm.

Trace the templates onto paper or template plastic. Keep the left and right wing pieces organized separately so the final dragonfly remains symmetrical.

Step 4 – Add the Seam Allowance

The tutorial uses a 0.7 cm seam allowance, which is approximately 1/4 inch.

When tracing pieces that will be sewn together traditionally, add this allowance around the appropriate edges. Mark both the stitching line and cutting line if that helps you maintain accuracy.

If you are using raw-edge fusible appliqué rather than turned-edge appliqué, you may not need the same allowance around every decorative piece. However, to remain consistent with this project, use the 0.7 cm allowance for the patchwork wing sections that are joined together.

After tracing, carefully cut the pieces with sharp fabric scissors or a rotary cutter.

Accuracy matters particularly around the wings. Small cutting errors can accumulate when several patchwork sections are joined.

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Keep each group together and label it temporarily if necessary: Upper Left Wing, Upper Right Wing, Lower Left Wing, Lower Right Wing, Head, Body, Flowers, and Leaves.

Step 5 – Cut the Patchwork Wing Sections

Each wing is constructed from several differently patterned pieces rather than one solid piece of fabric.

Lay the paper wing template on your work surface and decide where each print will appear. Arrange your fabrics before cutting so that neighboring pieces have enough contrast.

For the upper wings, distribute the floral, gingham, dotted, and neutral fabrics along the length of the wing. Try to avoid placing identical fabrics directly beside one another.

Repeat this process with the lower wings. The lower pair can use some of the same fabrics as the upper pair, which helps visually connect the entire dragonfly.

Cut each section accurately, remembering the required seam allowance wherever two sections will be joined.

Arrange all cut pieces back over the paper template before sewing. This simple check helps prevent pieces from accidentally being reversed.

Step 6 – Assemble the Upper Wings

Begin with one upper wing.

Place the first two neighboring fabric sections right sides together. Align their edges carefully and pin or clip them.

Sew the seam approximately 0.5–0.7 cm from the edge, depending on how you prepared your templates. Use a short, secure straight stitch.

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Open the joined pieces and gently press the seam. Continue adding the remaining sections in their correct order until the entire upper wing has been assembled.

Place the completed patchwork unit over the full wing template and check its shape. Trim minor irregularities if necessary without cutting excessively into the seam allowance.

Repeat the same process for the opposite upper wing. The colors do not have to be perfectly mirrored; a slightly varied patchwork arrangement creates the handmade character seen in the reference design.

Step 7 – Assemble the Lower Wings

Construct the two lower wings using the same basic method.

Arrange the cut fabric sections in the desired order first. Join neighboring pieces with straight stitching, opening and pressing each seam as you work.

Avoid pulling the fabric while sewing curved seams. Let the machine feed the fabric naturally.

After assembling the complete wing, press it from the wrong side. A pressing cloth can protect delicate fabrics.

The finished lower wings should measure approximately 8 cm × 3.5 cm each, based on the tutorial graphic.

Compare the two lower wings before proceeding. Their outlines should be reasonably symmetrical even if their individual fabric prints differ.

Step 8 – Finish the Wing Edges

The reference project has beautifully defined rounded wing edges.

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If you are making dimensional wings, place each patchwork wing right sides together with a backing piece. Stitch around the perimeter while leaving a small turning opening.

Clip the seam allowance carefully around curves without cutting through the stitching. Turn the wing right side out and gently shape the rounded edges.

Press the wing flat and close the opening with a small hand stitch or machine topstitching.

For a flatter appliqué version, position the wing directly on the background and finish the perimeter with blanket stitch, zigzag stitch, or narrow appliqué stitching.

A line of topstitching close to the outside edge adds the handcrafted definition visible in the tutorial image.

Step 9 – Construct the Dragonfly Body

The body is made from several small fabric sections.

Choose contrasting fabrics and arrange them vertically. Checks, florals, dots, and small prints can be alternated to create the patchwork appearance.

Sew the body sections together one at a time using a narrow seam allowance. Press each seam before attaching the next section.

The upper body should be wider, gradually becoming narrower toward the bottom.

Shape the final segment into a softly rounded or pointed end. This creates the elongated abdomen typical of a dragonfly.

Once assembled, press the complete body carefully and check that it is straight.

Step 10 – Make the Head and Antennae

Cut two head pieces using the approximately 3 cm diameter head template.

Place them right sides together and sew around the curved edge, leaving a small opening. Clip the curves, turn the head right side out, and gently shape it.

A very small amount of polyester stuffing can be inserted if you want the head to have the softly padded appearance shown in the graphic. Do not overfill it.

Close the opening with an invisible hand stitch.

Create two antennae approximately 5 cm long. Narrow fabric tubes, cord, embroidery thread, or another flexible textile material can be used.

Position the antennae behind the head and secure them firmly with several stitches.

Step 11 – Arrange the Dragonfly

Place your prepared background fabric on a flat surface and press it thoroughly.

Position the four wings first. The two upper wings should extend upward and outward, while the lower wings angle slightly downward.

Place the body vertically through the center. Position the head directly above it.

Check the entire silhouette before securing anything. The finished dragonfly should be approximately 22 cm wide × 18 cm high.

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Use pins, fabric clips where practical, a tiny amount of fabric glue, or fusible web to temporarily secure the components.

Make sure both sides remain visually balanced.

Step 12 – Appliqué the Dragonfly to the Background

Now sew around each component.

A straight stitch can be used when the edges are already neatly finished. Stitch approximately 2–3 mm from the edge for clean topstitching.

A narrow zigzag stitch is useful for raw-edge appliqué because it helps cover and secure the exposed fabric edge.

For a traditional handmade appearance, use blanket stitch around the wings and body. This can be worked by hand with embroidery floss or by machine if your sewing machine includes an appropriate stitch.

Work slowly around curves. Stop with the needle down whenever you need to rotate the fabric.

Secure the wings first, followed by the body and head. This layering helps reproduce the natural appearance of the dragonfly.

Step 13 – Make the Fabric Flowers 🌻

The flowers surrounding the dragonfly give the project its garden-inspired appearance.

Prepare flower templates with approximately six petals per flower, following the style shown in the tutorial. Individual petals may measure approximately 3 cm × 2 cm.

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Trace the shapes onto your selected fabrics and cut them carefully.

The flower centers can be approximately 2 cm in diameter. Yellow, gold, beige, or contrasting fabrics work particularly well.

Arrange the flowers around the dragonfly before sewing. Avoid placing every flower at exactly the same height; varying their positions makes the arrangement look more natural.

Secure the flowers using appliqué stitches. Additional embroidery around the centers can add texture.

Step 14 – Add the Leaves and Stems

Cut leaves approximately 4.5 cm × 2 cm.

Green quilting cotton works naturally, but small floral or checked prints can also be used for a more whimsical interpretation.

Position the leaves beside the flowers and angle them toward the stems.

Stems can be embroidered using a stem stitch, sewn with a narrow fabric strip, or created with decorative machine stitching.

Sew around the leaves with straight stitch, blanket stitch, or narrow zigzag stitching.

For additional detail, sew a central vein through each leaf and add two or three smaller diagonal veins.

Step 15 – Add Decorative Stitching

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Decorative stitching is one of the features that gives this design its cozy handmade appearance.

Use straight stitch for structural seams and simple outlining. It provides a clean, understated finish.

Use zigzag stitch around raw appliqué edges. A relatively narrow stitch works particularly well on small pieces.

Use blanket stitch when you want the appliqué edges to become part of the decoration. This is particularly attractive around flowers, leaves, and wings.

Use topstitching approximately 2–3 mm from finished edges to emphasize the wing outlines and patchwork sections.

Embroidery thread can also be used to add small details around the flower centers, body sections, and wing seams.

Step 16 – Final Pressing and Finishing

Inspect the entire appliqué carefully.

Trim loose threads from both the front and back. Check every wing section, body seam, flower, and leaf to make sure it is securely attached.

If you used fusible products, follow the manufacturer's pressing instructions. Avoid excessive heat on delicate fabrics.

Press the completed project gently from the wrong side whenever possible. Using a pressing cloth is recommended.

Reshape the wings and flowers with your fingers after pressing if you created dimensional or lightly stuffed components.

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Finally, check the overall measurements and symmetry. Your completed Patchwork Dragonfly Fabric Appliqué should be approximately 22 cm × 18 cm.

Quick Sewing Method Guide

Straight Stitch: Use it for joining patchwork pieces, securing finished edges, and creating clean structural seams.

Zigzag Stitch: Ideal for securing raw-edge appliqué and helping prevent fraying.

Blanket Stitch: Excellent for a decorative handmade-style outline around wings, flowers, leaves, and body sections.

Topstitch: Sew close to a finished edge to reinforce the piece while creating a neat decorative outline.

Hand Appliqué: A good choice when you want softer, nearly invisible attachment stitches.

Machine Appliqué: Faster and especially useful when making multiple dragonfly blocks for a larger quilt.

Approximate Fabric Measurements

For consistency with the tutorial graphic, use approximately 10 × 4.5 cm for each finished upper wing, 8 × 3.5 cm for each finished lower wing, 3.5 × 2.5 cm for individual body sections, and 3 cm diameter for the head.

Make each antenna approximately 5 × 0.7 cm. Flower petals can be approximately 3 × 2 cm, flower centers approximately 2 cm in diameter, and leaves approximately 4.5 × 2 cm.

Remember that these are finished approximate measurements. Where the pieces are sewn traditionally, add the 0.7 cm (1/4 inch) seam allowance before cutting.

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Once complete, the project can become the centerpiece of a quilt block, cushion, wall hanging, tote bag, nursery decoration, table runner, or framed textile artwork. The combination of small floral prints, gingham, patchwork construction, and visible decorative stitching is what gives this dragonfly its distinctive handcrafted character.