



Butterfly and Bee Fabric Appliqué Panel

Step-by-Step Tutorial

Materials (U.S. Fabric & Tools)



- ☐ 100% cotton fabric (quilting fabric)
- ☐ Variety of fabric scraps
- ☐ Background fabric (35 cm x 45 cm)
- ☐ Batting (35 cm x 45 cm)
- ☐ Backing fabric (35 cm x 45 cm)
- ☐ Embroidery floss or perle cotton
- ☐ Sewing needle (hand sewing)
- ☐ Fabric scissors
- ☐ Pins or fabric clips
- ☐ Iron and ironing board
- ☐ Optional: fabric glue, marking pen

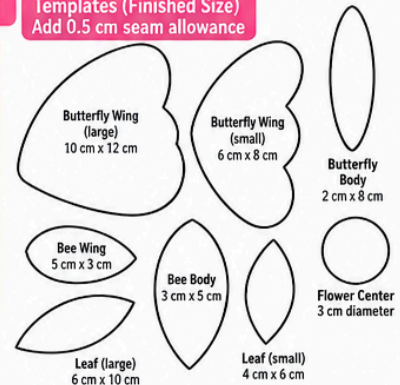
Basic Sewing Stitches Used



Finished Panel Size

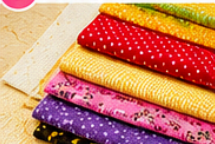


Templates (Finished Size) Add 0.5 cm seam allowance



Step-by-Step Instructions

1 Prepare the fabrics



Choose cotton quilting fabrics in coordinating colors. Cut the background, batting and backing fabric to 35 cm x 45 cm.

2 Trace the templates



Print or draw the templates. Trace each piece on the wrong side of the fabric.

3 Cut the pieces



Cut all pieces following the templates. Remember to add 0.5 cm seam allowance when cutting.

4 Prepare the background



Layer background fabric, batting and backing fabric (35 cm x 45 cm). Quilt or baste to keep layers together.

5 Arrange the pieces



Place all pieces on the background to find the best composition. Adjust the position before sewing.

6 Sew the flower



Sew the flower petals using blanket stitch. Add the center with French knots or a small yo-yo/crocheted circle.

7 Sew the leaves and stem



Appliqué the leaves and stem using blanket stitch. Add leaf veins with back stitch or straight stitch.

8 Sew the butterfly wings



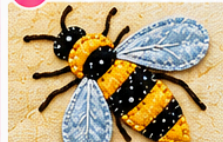
Sew each fabric piece of the wings using blanket stitch. Layer the pieces and attach to the background.

9 Add the butterfly body



Sew the butterfly body with blanket stitch. Add antennae with embroidery floss and small beads or knots.

10 Make the bee



Sew the bee body and wings using blanket stitch. Add legs and antennae with embroidery floss. Use French knots for the eyes if desired.

11 Add details



Use back stitch or French knots to add details, such as dots on the wings and texture to the bee.

12 Quilting (optional)



Quilt the background with free motion or simple swirls using a sewing machine or by hand.

13 Add the border



Cut 2 strips of 4 cm x 40 cm (sides) and 2 strips of 4 cm x 30 cm (top/bottom). Sew the strips to the panel and fold to the back. Hand stitch or machine stitch.

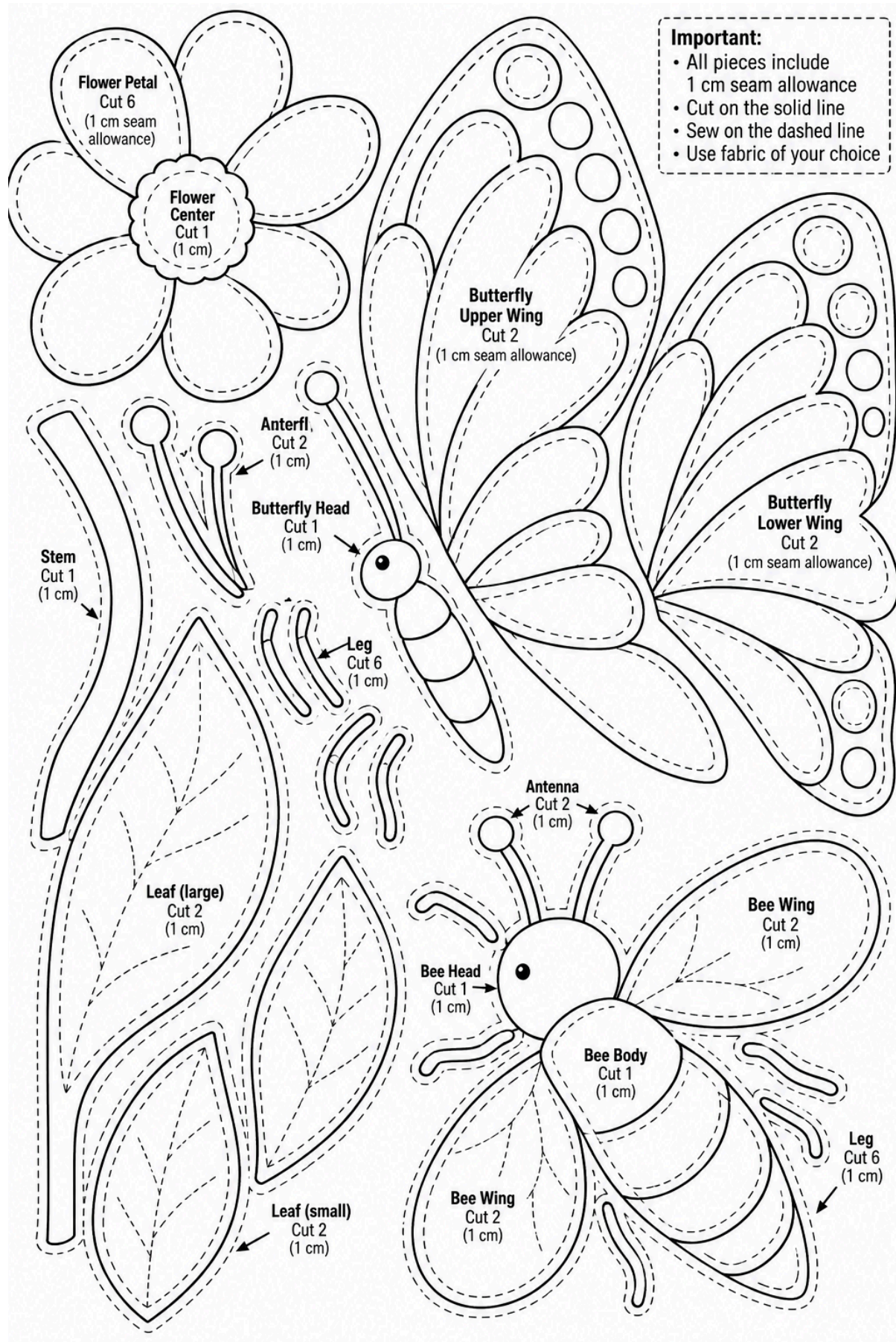
14 Finished panel



Your beautiful fabric appliqué panel is ready! You can use it as wall decor, a quilt block, a cushion front or a bag panel.

Tips for Success

- ✓ Use 100% cotton quilting fabric.
- ✓ Iron the pieces before sewing.
- ✓ Use a contrast thread for details.
- ✓ Take your time with the composition.
- ✓ You can sew by hand or machine (appliqué stitch).
- ✓ Experiment with different color combinations.
- ✓ This design can be adapted for pillows, bags, table mats and quilts.



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Butterfly and Bee Fabric Appliqué Panel – Complete Step-by-Step Tutorial

This Butterfly and Bee Fabric Appliqué Panel is a cheerful scrap-fabric project that combines traditional appliqué, hand embroidery, simple quilting, and a fabric border. Following the tutorial graphic, the finished panel measures approximately 30 cm × 40 cm. The design features a large multicolored butterfly, a small bee, a red-and-orange flower, and layered green leaves.

The project is especially useful for using leftover 100% cotton quilting fabric scraps. Small floral prints, polka dots, tone-on-tone fabrics, and contrasting colors can all be mixed together. Because most appliqué pieces are relatively small, even scraps that seem too small for another quilting project can become butterfly feathers, leaves, flower petals, or bee details.

You can complete the appliqué by hand, by sewing machine, or with a combination of both. The instructions below stay consistent with the illustrated tutorial while adding enough detail for a beginner to work from start to finish.

Step 1: Gather Your Fabrics and Sewing Supplies

For the main background, cut one piece of 100% cotton quilting fabric measuring 35 cm × 45 cm. A cream, beige, pale yellow, or other lightly patterned fabric works particularly well because it allows the colorful appliqué pieces to remain visually prominent.

Cut a piece of batting measuring 35 cm × 45 cm and another piece of backing fabric at the same 35 cm × 45 cm size. These three pieces will eventually form the quilt sandwich. The

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additional material around the finished 30 × 40 cm area gives you room for trimming and squaring.

Collect a generous assortment of colorful fabric scraps. For the butterfly, use combinations of red, orange, yellow, pink, green, purple, cream, and dark brown or black. Mixing small-scale florals, dots, and tonal prints creates the lively patchwork appearance shown in the graphic.

For the flower, prepare red and orange scraps plus yellow fabric or yellow embroidery thread for its center. For the foliage, gather several shades of green rather than using only one green. The variation helps individual leaves remain visible when they overlap.

You will also need embroidery floss or perle cotton, a hand-sewing needle, fabric scissors, pins or fabric clips, an iron, and an ironing board. A washable or removable fabric-marking pen is helpful for positioning and quilting guidelines. Fabric glue or a temporary appliqué adhesive is optional.

The principal stitches shown in the tutorial are running stitch, blanket stitch, backstitch, French knot, and straight stitch. Running stitch can be used for basting, blanket stitch finishes appliqué edges, backstitch creates detailed lines, French knots form dimensional accents, and straight stitch works well for leaf veins, antennae, and other narrow details.

Step 2: Prepare and Trace the Templates

Press all fabric before cutting. Flat fabric is considerably easier to trace and produces more accurate appliqué shapes. Avoid stretching the fabric while ironing, particularly when working with small pieces cut partially on the bias.

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The graphic provides representative finished-size templates. The large butterfly wing is approximately 10 cm × 12 cm, while the smaller wing section is approximately 6 cm × 8 cm. The elongated butterfly body is about 2 cm × 8 cm.

For the bee, use wing pieces of approximately 5 cm × 3 cm and a body around 3 cm × 5 cm. The larger leaf is approximately 6 cm × 10 cm, and the smaller leaf is approximately 4 cm × 6 cm. The flower center is about 3 cm in diameter.

When making turned-edge pieces, add approximately 0.5 cm of seam allowance around the finished template. If you prefer raw-edge appliqué with blanket stitching, you may work closer to the finished outline, depending on the method and stabilizer you use.

Place each template on the wrong side of the selected fabric and trace carefully. Pay attention to the direction of printed motifs. Small floral patterns and dots can face almost any direction, but directional fabrics should be positioned intentionally.

Before cutting everything, arrange several scraps beside one another. Try to avoid placing nearly identical colors next to each other. The butterfly is most successful when neighboring pieces have enough contrast to make the layered wing structure easy to see.

Step 3: Cut and Organize the Fabric Pieces

Cut each traced piece carefully with sharp fabric scissors. Smooth curves are important, especially around butterfly wings, leaves, and flower petals. Instead of opening and closing the scissors with many tiny cuts, use longer controlled cuts whenever the shape allows.

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Create multiple elongated, petal-like inserts for the butterfly wings. These pieces can vary slightly in shape and size. The graphic uses layered scraps to create a feathered appearance rather than making each internal section identical.

Cut the dark outer butterfly wings separately. A dark brown or black fabric with yellow or light-colored spots creates a strong outline. This outer layer becomes the visual frame for all the brighter internal wing pieces.

Prepare the flower petals using alternating red and orange fabrics. The illustrated flower contains approximately six main petals. Cut a circular center or plan to build the center with French knots or another dimensional embroidery technique.

Cut several leaves from different green prints. Having light, medium, and dark greens will make the foliage more interesting. You can also cut a narrow curved stem from green fabric or create the stem later with embroidery.

Keep all components organized in groups: butterfly, bee, flower, and foliage. Small appliqué pieces disappear easily on a busy sewing table, so placing each group in a shallow tray or resealable bag can save considerable time.

Step 4: Prepare the 30 × 40 cm Panel Background

Lay the 35 × 45 cm backing fabric wrong side up on a clean surface. Position the 35 × 45 cm batting over it, followed by the background fabric right side up.

Smooth the three layers from the center toward the edges. Remove wrinkles without stretching the fabrics. Pin, baste, or temporarily secure the layers if you intend to quilt the background before adding all of the appliqué.

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The final visible project should measure approximately 30 cm wide × 40 cm high. Mark this finished area lightly so you know where the eventual border will sit.

The tutorial shows subtle swirling quilting across the background. You can reproduce this effect with free-motion quilting, gentle machine-sewn curves, or hand quilting. Keep the quilting understated because the appliqué should remain the focal point.

Another option is to complete most of the appliqué before quilting. This can be helpful for beginners because the final quilting can then travel around the butterfly, bee, flower, and leaves.

Press the prepared panel gently. It should now be flat, stable, and ready for the composition.

Step 5: Arrange the Complete Composition Before Sewing

Do not begin sewing immediately. First place every major appliqué component on the background.

Position the large butterfly toward the upper-right or central-right portion of the panel. Leave enough room for its antennae and for the wing tips without allowing them to disappear beneath the border.

Place the flower toward the upper-left area. Allow some leaves and stems to extend downward from it. The flower provides visual balance against the much larger butterfly.

Position the bee beneath the butterfly. Angle it slightly instead of making it perfectly horizontal. This creates a more natural sense of movement.

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Arrange larger leaves around the lower and side edges. Overlap some leaves while keeping others separated. The original composition uses foliage to frame the insects without making the center overcrowded.

Photograph the arrangement with your phone before moving any pieces. This gives you an instant positioning reference. Once satisfied, pin or lightly glue the pieces that will form the bottom layers.

Step 6: Sew the Flower

Begin with the flower because it sits independently from most of the butterfly construction. Arrange approximately six petals around the center.

Secure each petal with blanket stitch. Use embroidery floss that contrasts slightly with the fabric so the handmade stitching remains visible.

Work slowly around curved edges. Keep stitch length reasonably consistent, but do not worry about absolute perfection. Slight variation contributes to the handmade character of appliqué.

Alternate red and orange petals to recreate the warm color palette shown in the tutorial. Small printed fabrics can be mixed with more subtle tone-on-tone fabrics.

For the center, create a circle using yellow fabric, small gathered fabric pieces, or numerous French knots worked close together. French knots produce a particularly attractive raised texture.

After completing the flower, check that every petal edge is secure before continuing.

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Step 7: Appliqué the Leaves and Stem

Position the stems first because the leaves will overlap portions of them. Secure fabric stems with small blanket stitches or use dense embroidery if you prefer a stitched stem.

Place the largest leaves around the lower and outer areas of the design. Sew around each leaf using blanket stitch.

Add smaller leaves between the larger shapes. Vary their direction so they appear to grow naturally instead of forming identical rows.

Use backstitch or straight stitch to embroider a central vein from the base toward the tip of every leaf.

Add several shorter diagonal veins extending from the center. A contrasting green embroidery thread works beautifully for these details.

Continue adding foliage until it frames the design without overwhelming the butterfly and bee. You do not need perfect symmetry.

Step 8: Build the Multicolored Butterfly Wings

Place the dark outer wing sections first. These pieces establish the butterfly's overall silhouette.

Inside each wing, arrange the elongated colorful scraps. Begin near the butterfly body and work outward, overlapping the bases slightly.

Use blanket stitch around the individual fabric shapes. White, cream, yellow, or another contrasting thread can emphasize each piece.

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Alternate colors rather than grouping all reds, yellows, or greens together. A sequence such as orange, yellow, green, pink, floral cream, and red produces the lively patchwork effect shown in the graphic.

Add yellow or cream oval spots around the dark outer portions of the wings. These can be tiny fabric appliqués or embroidered shapes.

Before permanently sewing the final pieces, step back and inspect the color distribution. Adjust any area that appears too heavily dominated by one color.

Step 9: Add the Butterfly Body, Antennae, and Legs

Place the brown butterfly body over the inner bases of the wings. This conceals their meeting points and visually joins the wing sections.

Secure the body using blanket stitch. Brown, dark gold, or black embroidery floss will work well.

Create the head from a small circular fabric piece. Add a French knot, bead, or embroidered dot for the eye if desired.

Embroider two curved antennae using backstitch or another firm outline stitch. Small knots can be placed at their tips.

Create the butterfly's legs with dark embroidery thread. Keep them narrow and slightly irregular so they complement the organic appliqué design.

Inspect the wing-to-body connection carefully and reinforce any loose edges.

Step 10: Make the Fabric Bee 🐝

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Build the bee from yellow and black fabric sections. The finished body is approximately 3 × 5 cm, although you can adjust it slightly to suit your composition.

Alternate black and yellow bands across the body. Secure the sections with small blanket stitches.

Add a black head and create the eye with a French knot.

Cut two wings approximately 5 × 3 cm each from pale blue, gray-blue, white, or another light fabric. Sew them to the body using blanket stitch.

Use straight stitch or backstitch to add wing veins. A pale contrasting thread keeps these lines visible without making them too heavy.

Finally, embroider the bee's antennae and legs with dark floss. Angle the legs slightly differently to give the insect a lively handmade appearance.

Step 11: Add Embroidered Details

Now examine the entire appliqué and identify areas that would benefit from extra definition.

Use backstitch to reinforce important outlines and create narrow decorative lines.

Add French knots to the flower center, butterfly details, or insect eyes.

Straight stitch is useful for the butterfly antennae, leaf veins, and wing veins.

You can also add small embroidered dots or short decorative marks to the dark butterfly border.

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Keep embellishment balanced. The colorful fabric scraps should remain the dominant feature.

Step 12: Quilt the Background

If you have not already quilted the panel, this is the time to do it.

The graphic uses simple swirls and free-motion curves across the light background.

Machine quilters can lower the feed dogs and use a free-motion quilting foot, provided they are comfortable with that technique.

Beginners can instead sew slow, broad curves with a regular machine setup or quilt by hand.

Avoid stitching directly through important appliqué details unless that is part of your desired design.

Once quilting is complete, flatten the panel and square it carefully to approximately 30 × 40 cm.

Step 13: Add the Fabric Border

For a border similar to the illustrated example, prepare two strips approximately 4 × 40 cm for the sides and two strips approximately 4 × 30 cm for the top and bottom. Depending on your preferred border construction and seam allowances, cut them slightly longer and trim after sewing for better accuracy.

The graphic uses a warm yellow border that coordinates with the bee, flower center, and butterfly markings.

Sew the side strips first, keeping the seam straight and consistent. Press the seams neatly.

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Add the top and bottom strips. Check the corners carefully so the border remains square.

You may hand stitch or machine stitch the border. If this project will become a wall hanging, you can also add a hanging sleeve to the back.

Step 14: Finish and Display Your Panel ✨

Inspect every appliqué edge and repair any loose stitches. Trim stray threads from both the front and back.

Give the panel a gentle final press. When pressing raised embroidery, place the project face down on a soft towel so the dimensional stitches are not flattened.

Your finished Butterfly and Bee Fabric Appliqué Panel should measure approximately 30 × 40 cm and feature the multicolored butterfly as its main focal point.

The same design can be adapted into a quilt block, cushion front, tote bag panel, table mat, or decorative wall hanging.

For a more traditional look, choose coordinated quilting cottons. For a scrap-quilt appearance, use many unrelated prints while repeating a few colors throughout the butterfly, flower, and foliage to visually connect the design.

Most importantly, treat the measurements as a consistent framework rather than a restriction. The charm of this project comes from combining fabric scraps, visible blanket stitching, embroidery, layered appliqué, and quilting into a piece that looks intentionally handmade.