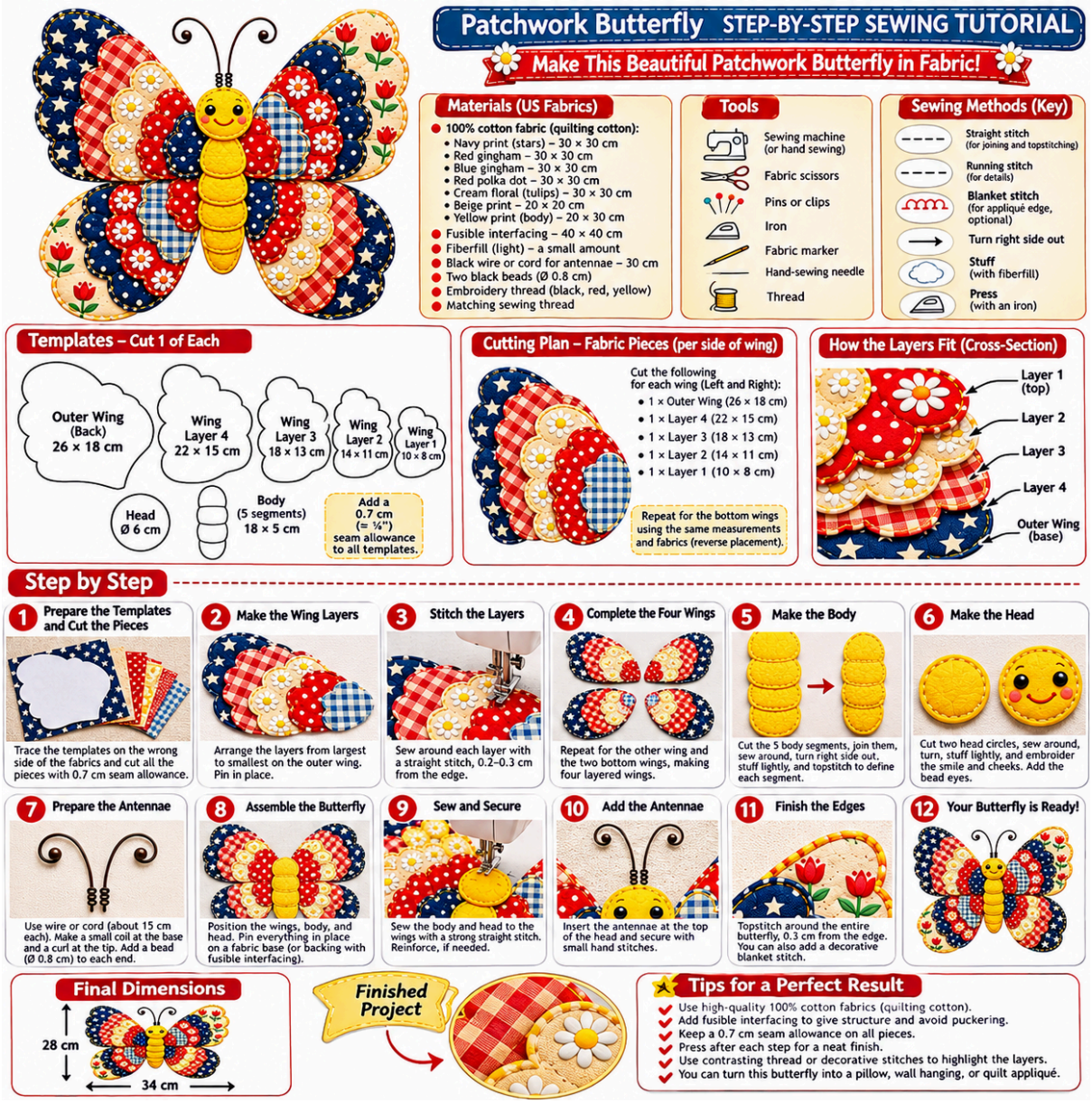
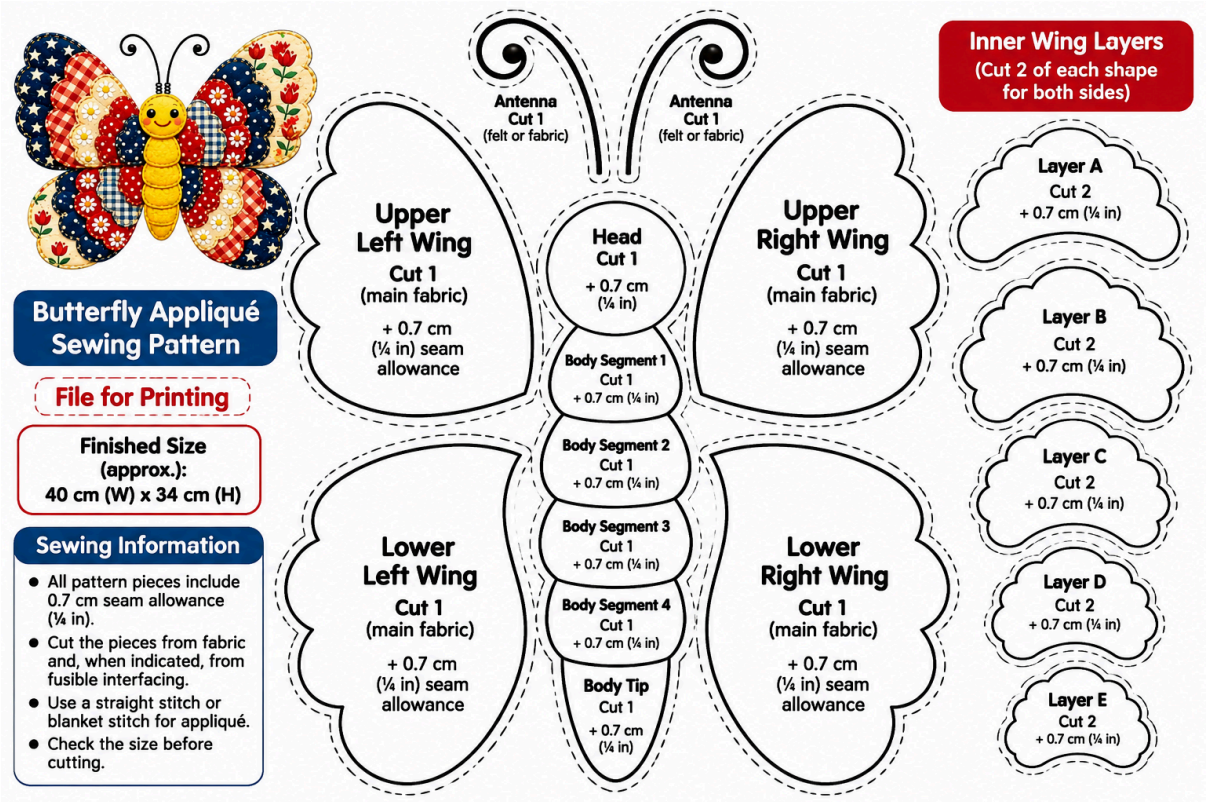
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Patchwork Butterfly – Complete Step-by-Step Sewing Tutorial 🦋

Create a beautiful, colorful Patchwork Butterfly using cotton fabrics, layered wings, decorative stitching, and simple appliqué techniques. This beginner-friendly sewing tutorial follows the illustrated pattern, explaining how to prepare the templates, cut the fabric, assemble the wings, sew the body, and finish the butterfly with embroidered details.

The finished butterfly measures approximately 34 cm wide × 28 cm tall, including its decorative shape. It can be used as a wall hanging, quilt appliqué, pillow decoration, nursery ornament, or handmade gift.

This project combines traditional American quilting fabrics with basic sewing methods. You can complete it using a sewing machine or sew it entirely by hand.

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Step 1: Gather Your Materials and Sewing Tools

Before beginning your Patchwork Butterfly Pattern, prepare all the materials and organize your workspace.

Fabric materials

Use 100% quilting cotton for the wings and body. Cotton is ideal because it is easy to cut, press, sew, and layer.

The original design uses the following fabrics:

Fabric	Suggested amount
Navy blue fabric with white stars	30 × 30 cm
Red gingham fabric	30 × 30 cm
Blue gingham fabric	30 × 30 cm
Red fabric with white polka dots	30 × 30 cm
Cream floral fabric with tulips	30 × 30 cm
Beige floral print	20 × 20 cm

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Yellow cotton for the body and head	20 × 30 cm
Fusible interfacing	40 × 40 cm
Lightweight polyester fiberfill	Small amount
Black wire or cord for antennae	Approximately 30 cm
Two black beads for eyes	Approximately 0.8 cm diameter
Embroidery thread	Black, red, and yellow
Matching sewing thread	As needed

The fabric quantities are suggested amounts from the chart. Actual consumption depends on fabric placement, cutting efficiency, and whether you create both sides of the butterfly.

Essential sewing tools

- Sewing machine or hand-sewing needle
- Sharp fabric scissors
- Straight pins or sewing clips
- Iron and ironing board

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- Fabric marking pencil
- Measuring tape or quilting ruler
- Paper for making templates
- Turning tool or blunt pencil
- Embroidery needle

Sewing methods used in this project

Straight stitch: Used to join fabric pieces and secure the butterfly's body.

Running stitch: Useful for temporary basting and small decorative details.

Blanket stitch: An optional decorative stitch for finishing appliqué edges.

Topstitching: Visible stitching that secures fabric layers and highlights their shapes.

Turning: Sewing fabric pieces with right sides together, then turning them right side out.

Pressing: Using an iron to flatten seams and create a professional finish.

Light stuffing: Adding a small amount of fiberfill to give the butterfly's head and body a soft, dimensional appearance.

Step 2: Prepare the Butterfly Templates

The butterfly consists of four layered wings, a segmented yellow body, a round head, and two curled antennae.

The illustrated pattern uses five different wing templates.

Wing template measurements

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Template	Dimensions	Quantity per wing
Outer wing (base)	26 × 18 cm	1
Wing Layer 4	22 × 15 cm	1
Wing Layer 3	18 × 13 cm	1
Wing Layer 2	14 × 11 cm	1
Wing Layer 1	10 × 8 cm	1

The measurements describe the overall template dimensions, not rectangular pieces. Each wing must have the rounded, scalloped butterfly shape shown in the original diagram.

Drawing the wing templates

1. Place a sheet of pattern paper on a flat surface.
2. Draw the outline of the largest wing, measuring approximately 26 cm wide and 18 cm tall.
3. Create softly rounded, scalloped edges to reproduce the butterfly shape.
4. Draw the four progressively smaller wing templates.

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5. Label each template according to its size.
6. Cut out the paper templates carefully.

Important: Add a 0.7 cm seam allowance around all templates if the measurements represent finished outlines. If you are tracing directly from the chart, add the allowance outside the drawn lines.

Prepare the body and head templates

The butterfly's body is approximately 18 × 5 cm, divided visually into five rounded segments.

Prepare five oval or rounded body segments that fit together within this overall length. Slightly overlap the segments when positioning them to create the caterpillar-like body appearance.

For the head, draw a circle measuring approximately 6 cm in diameter.

If you plan to sew and turn the head, cut two fabric circles with the additional 0.7 cm seam allowance.

Mirror the wing templates

The butterfly requires symmetrical wings.

Trace the upper and lower wing shapes for the left side, then flip the templates to create matching pieces for the right side.

This ensures the two sides have the same dimensions while allowing the printed fabrics to face outward correctly.

Step 3: Cut the Fabric Pieces

Once the templates are ready, prepare your fabric.

Prepare the cotton

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Wash and dry the cotton fabrics beforehand if you normally prewash quilting materials. This helps reduce unexpected shrinkage.

Press each fabric until it is smooth and wrinkle-free.

Place the fabric right side down and position the templates on the wrong side.

Trace the outlines using a fabric marker.

Cut the layered wings

For each of the four wings, prepare:

- **One outer base layer, 26 × 18 cm**
- **One Layer 4 piece, 22 × 15 cm**
- **One Layer 3 piece, 18 × 13 cm**
- **One Layer 2 piece, 14 × 11 cm**
- **One Layer 1 piece, 10 × 8 cm**

This produces 20 visible wing-layer pieces for the entire butterfly.

The diagram uses navy star fabric for the largest outer layer, red gingham for the next layer, floral fabrics for the middle sections, and bright patterned cotton for the smaller inner layers.

You may reverse the arrangement on the bottom wings, as shown in the original design.

Prepare the backing fabric

Cut backing fabric to match the overall wing shapes.

If you want a sturdier butterfly, cut fusible interfacing pieces for the wing bases.

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The original materials list includes 40 × 40 cm of interfacing. For the complete butterfly, you may need additional interfacing depending on how many sections you reinforce.

Follow the manufacturer's instructions when fusing the interfacing.

Cut the yellow body

Trace the five rounded body segments onto the yellow cotton.

Cut the pieces with a 0.7 cm seam allowance wherever they will be sewn and turned.

Prepare two yellow circles for the head.

Keep all pieces organized by wing position and layer number.

Step 4: Arrange the Patchwork Wing Layers

The layered wings are the most recognizable feature of this butterfly.

Each wing consists of several colorful fabric shapes arranged from largest to smallest.

Arrange the upper wings

Place the largest navy star-print wing on your work surface, right side facing up.

Position Layer 4 on top, leaving a visible border of the navy fabric.

Add Layer 3, followed by Layer 2 and Layer 1.

Adjust the pieces until each fabric print remains visible.

The layers should create a stepped, scalloped appearance rather than completely covering one another.

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Arrange the lower wings

Repeat the process for both lower wings.

The original illustration shows the lower wings with a slightly different distribution of colors, including floral cotton, red polka dots, and navy fabric.

Keep the same five-layer construction, but reverse the print arrangement where needed to match the reference design.

Secure the layers

Once you are satisfied with the arrangement, use sewing clips or pins to hold the pieces in place.

Check that the fabric is flat and that no layer is twisted.

For more accurate sewing, use a temporary running stitch or a small amount of washable fabric glue to prevent shifting.

Step 5: Sew the Decorative Wing Layers

The original graphic uses a narrow straight stitch to secure the visible wing layers.

Set your sewing machine to a straight stitch with a stitch length of approximately 2.0–2.5 mm.

Stitch the smallest layer first

Begin with the innermost wing layer.

Position it on the next larger fabric shape and sew around the edge, approximately 0.2–0.3 cm from the finished edge.

Continue adding and stitching the larger layers until all five visible sections are secured.

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If using raw-edge appliqué, make sure the fabrics are stable and use a suitable edge finish to minimize fraying.

For a more durable result, you can turn the edges under before topstitching, or construct each layer separately with a backing, turn it right side out, press it, and then stack it.

Sew around curved edges

The wing templates contain several rounded curves.

Sew slowly and guide the fabric gently.

When approaching a tight curve:

1. Stop sewing with the needle down.
2. Raise the presser foot.
3. Rotate the fabric slightly.
4. Lower the presser foot.
5. Continue sewing.

Avoid pulling the fabric because this may distort the wing shape.

Repeat for all four wings

Complete the two upper wings and the two lower wings using the same technique.

Press each finished wing gently with an iron, protecting any dimensional stitching.

The result should be four individual wings with colorful, layered fabric sections.

Step 6: Make the Yellow Butterfly Body

The butterfly's yellow body consists of five rounded segments.

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The segments create a soft, dimensional center that visually connects the four wings.

Prepare the segments

Place the yellow fabric pieces right sides together with their matching backing pieces.

Sew around each segment using a 0.7 cm seam allowance, leaving a small opening for turning.

Trim excess fabric from the curved seam allowances without cutting through the stitches.

Turn each segment right side out.

Add the fiberfill

Insert a small amount of polyester fiberfill into each segment.

Do not overstuff. The pieces should remain soft enough to lie against the butterfly's wings.

Close the openings using a ladder stitch or small hand stitches.

Assemble the body

Arrange the five segments vertically.

Slightly overlap the edges so the body resembles the original illustration.

Use a needle and matching yellow thread to join the segments securely.

Topstitch around each segment if you want the raised outlines to be more visible.

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The finished body should measure approximately 18 cm long and 5 cm wide.

Step 7: Make and Embroider the Butterfly Head

The butterfly's head is a cheerful yellow circle with black eyes, pink cheeks, and a smiling mouth.

Sew the head

Place the two yellow head circles right sides together.

Sew around the edge with a 0.7 cm seam allowance, leaving a small opening.

Clip the curved seam allowance carefully.

Turn the circle right side out and smooth the edges.

Add a small amount of fiberfill to create a slightly rounded head.

Close the opening with a ladder stitch.

Add the eyes

Position the two black beads symmetrically near the upper half of the face.

Sew them securely using strong thread.

For a child's toy or nursery item that may be handled, embroider the eyes instead of using beads, because small detachable parts can create a choking hazard.

Embroider the smile

Use black embroidery thread to create a gently curved smile.

A backstitch or stem stitch works well for this detail.

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Add two small pink or red cheek circles using embroidery or fabric appliqué.

You can also stitch small highlights around the face to reproduce the friendly expression in the diagram.

Step 8: Prepare the Curled Antennae

The original butterfly features two decorative black antennae with spiral-shaped tips.

Each antenna extends upward from the top of the head.

Cut the antenna material

Cut two pieces of black craft wire or cord, approximately 15 cm each, for a total of 30 cm.

If using wire, choose a flexible craft wire that can be shaped easily.

Form the curls

Use round-nose pliers or your fingers to form a spiral at the upper end of each antenna.

Make the two curls symmetrical.

Leave the lower ends straight so they can be attached to the head.

Secure the antennae

If using wire, cover or fold any sharp ends so they cannot protrude through the fabric.

The original design shows three small black rings near the base of each antenna.

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These can be recreated using embroidery, wrapped thread, or securely attached decorative details.

For a soft decorative piece intended for children, use embroidered or stitched cord antennae rather than exposed wire.

Set the antennae aside until the butterfly is assembled.

Step 9: Assemble the Four Butterfly Wings

Place the four completed wings on a large flat surface.

Arrange the two upper wings at the top and the two lower wings beneath them.

The largest rounded portions should extend outward.

The narrow inner ends should meet at the center, where the yellow body will eventually cover them.

Check the symmetry

Make sure the left and right wings are balanced.

The upper wings should sit at similar angles, while the lower wings should spread outward and slightly downward.

The original pattern has a finished width of approximately 34 cm.

You may need to overlap the wing sections to achieve these final dimensions.

Prepare the backing

Place the assembled wings on a suitable backing fabric.

If making a wall hanging or appliqué panel, you can use a single cotton backing reinforced with fusible interfacing.

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Pin the wings to the backing in their final positions.

Secure the wings

Sew the inner wing edges to the backing using a strong straight stitch.

Reinforce the center where the four wings meet.

Check that the layers are secure before attaching the body.

Step 10: Attach the Body and Head

Position the yellow segmented body vertically over the center of the butterfly.

The body should cover the inner wing ends and create a clean connection between the four wings.

Sew the body in place

Pin or baste the body carefully.

Use matching yellow thread to sew through the body edges and into the wing assembly.

A narrow straight stitch or small hand stitches work well.

Reinforce the top and bottom attachment points.

Avoid flattening the stuffed body segments.

Attach the head

Place the yellow head at the top of the body.

The head should overlap the uppermost body segment slightly.

Sew around the lower edge of the head, securing it to the body and wings.

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Use invisible hand stitches where possible to keep the face neat.

Attach the antennae

Insert the prepared antenna ends behind the upper part of the head.

Secure them with several strong hand stitches.

If using wire, ensure the attachment is stable and all ends remain safely enclosed.

Check the butterfly from the front to confirm that the head, body, and antennae are centered.

Step 11: Finish the Butterfly Edges

Finishing the edges is essential for a neat, durable project.

The original diagram recommends topstitching approximately 0.3 cm from the outer edge.

Topstitch the outer wings

Use a matching or contrasting thread.

Sew carefully around the outer contours of the butterfly wings.

Keep the stitching consistent as you follow the rounded scallops.

This reinforces the fabric and emphasizes the decorative shape.

Add optional blanket stitching

If you prefer a more traditional handmade appearance, finish selected fabric edges with a blanket stitch.

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Use embroidery thread in a color that complements the fabric.

Keep the stitches evenly spaced.

Press the completed butterfly

Place the butterfly on your ironing board.

Press the fabric wings gently, avoiding direct pressure on the stuffed head and body.

A pressing cloth can protect delicate appliqué details.

Inspect the entire butterfly for loose threads, uneven stitching, or areas that need reinforcement.

Step 12: Complete Your Patchwork Butterfly 🦋

Your colorful butterfly is almost finished.

Lay it flat and compare its shape with the original tutorial illustration.

The completed project should have four layered wings, a segmented yellow body, a smiling head, and two curled antennae.

Final dimensions

Butterfly Fabric Appliques - Etsy

APPROXIMATE FINISHED SIZE

34 × 28 cm

Width × height

A decorative butterfly suitable for quilting, wall hangings, and fabric crafts.

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The exact finished dimensions may vary slightly depending on fabric thickness, seam allowances, wing overlap, and stuffing.

Final quality checklist

Before displaying your butterfly

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All four wings are securely attached and balanced.

The five fabric layers are visible on each wing.

The yellow body is centered and firmly stitched.

The head, embroidered smile, and eyes are secure.

The antennae are firmly attached with no exposed sharp ends.

All loose threads have been trimmed and the edges are finished.

Helpful Tips for a Professional Finish

Choose high-quality quilting cotton. Fabrics with a stable weave are easier to handle and provide cleaner stitching around curved shapes.

Use fusible interfacing. Lightweight interfacing helps prevent the wings from becoming floppy or distorted.

Maintain a consistent seam allowance. The pattern uses 0.7 cm for sewing and turning fabric pieces.

Press after each major sewing step. Pressing helps the fabric lie flat and makes layered appliqué more attractive.

Use contrasting thread strategically. Decorative stitching in yellow, white, navy, or red can highlight the scalloped wing edges.

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Work slowly around curves. Careful stitching is especially important on the smaller wing layers.

Keep the design symmetrical. Arrange all four wings before permanently sewing the body into place.

Creative Ways to Use Your Finished Butterfly

Your Patchwork Butterfly can be adapted for several sewing projects.

Wall hanging: Attach a fabric hanging loop to the backing and display the butterfly in a sewing room, craft studio, or bedroom.

Quilt appliqué: Sew the butterfly onto a larger quilt panel. Use decorative quilting stitches around the wings to enhance the layered appearance.

Decorative pillow: Attach the butterfly to the front of a cushion cover before assembling the pillow.

Fabric wall panel: Add flowers, leaves, and embroidered details around the butterfly to create a spring-inspired scene.

Handmade gift: Choose fabric colors that match the recipient's favorite colors or home décor.

Frequently Asked Questions

Is this Patchwork Butterfly suitable for beginners?

Yes. Beginners familiar with basic straight stitching, cutting fabric, and simple hand sewing can complete the project. The most challenging part is keeping the wing layers aligned while sewing around curves.

Can I make this butterfly without a sewing machine?

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Absolutely. Use small running stitches, backstitches, and blanket stitches to assemble the wings and body by hand. Hand sewing takes longer but produces a beautiful result.

Do I need to use the exact fabrics shown in the diagram?

No. The original design uses navy stars, gingham, florals, and red polka dots, but you can substitute other quilting cotton prints. Choose contrasting colors so each layer remains visible.

Why is fusible interfacing recommended?

Interfacing adds structure to the fabric, helps the wings retain their shape, and reduces puckering during sewing.

Can I resize the butterfly?

Yes. Enlarge or reduce all templates by the same percentage. Remember that the body, head, and antennae should also be adjusted proportionally.

Should I stuff the wings?

The illustrated project uses layered fabric wings and lightly stuffed body pieces. You generally do not need to stuff the wings. If you want additional dimension, use thin quilt batting rather than loose fiberfill.

How do I prevent the fabric edges from fraying?

Use turned edges, blanket stitching, or a narrow zigzag stitch. You can also apply a suitable fusible stabilizer to raw-edge appliqué pieces.

Can I wash the finished butterfly?

If the butterfly contains exposed craft wire, beads, or delicate decorations, spot cleaning is preferable. A fully fabric version

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with embroidered details may be washable, depending on the materials and construction.

Conclusion

Creating this Patchwork Butterfly is a wonderful way to practice fabric layering, appliqué, curved stitching, and decorative embroidery.

By following the illustrated pattern and the detailed instructions above, you can transform colorful cotton scraps into a cheerful handmade butterfly with beautiful layered wings and a dimensional yellow body.

Take your time when cutting the templates, arranging the fabrics, and stitching the curved edges. These small details make a significant difference in the finished appearance.

Whether you use your butterfly as a wall decoration, quilt appliqué, or decorative pillow accent, this sewing project offers plenty of opportunities to explore color, texture, and traditional patchwork techniques.

Happy sewing, and enjoy your beautiful handmade Patchwork Butterfly! 🦋🧵