https://creative.craftsforlove.com/ - SEE THE BEST PATTERNS



SANTA WITH COCOA • FABRIC APPLIQUÉ TUTORIAL

Suggested finished motif: 28 W × 38 H cm • All measurements in cm

1 MATERIALS

- 40 × 50 background cotton
- 30 × 30 green coat cotton
- 25 × 15 green hat cotton
- 25 × 20 mustard cotton
- 25 × 25 white cotton
- 15 × 15 skin-tone cotton
- 15 × 15 black cotton
- brown scrap
- lightweight paper-backed fusible web
- stabilizer
- embroidery floss
- needle
- scissors
- iron

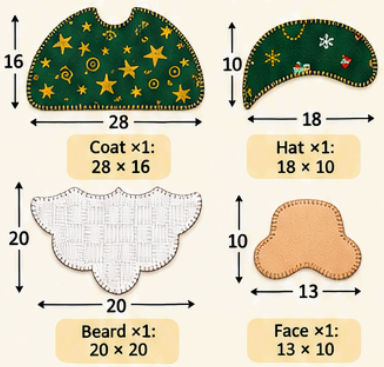
2 PREPARE

- Prewash and press cotton.
- Draw a 28 × 38 layout.
- Sketch pieces in the boxes below; test on paper.
- Mirror shapes when tracing onto fusible paper.
- Fuse to fabric wrong side (WS) following product directions; cool, then cut on outlines.
- Motifs: no seam allowance.



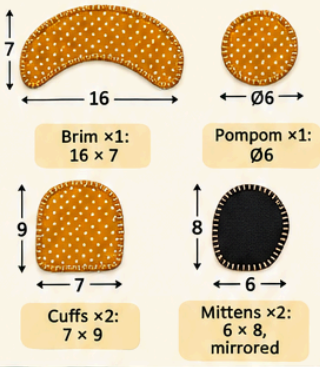
3 CUTTING GUIDE A

Shape guides — not full-size templates



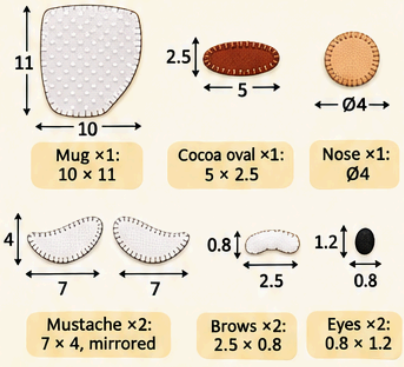
4 CUTTING GUIDE B

Shape guides — not full-size templates



5 CUTTING GUIDE C

Shape guides — not full-size templates



6 BASE LAYERS



Layer order: 1 Coat → 2 Hat → 3 Beard → 4 Face

- Center coat on background.
- Place hat behind head.
- Overlap beard over coat and hat base.
- Add face over upper beard.
- Leave background visible around motif.
- Pin paper layout first.

7 HAT & FACE



- Add curved brim over face and hat.
- Place pompom at left hat tip.
- Fuse in sections.
- Blanket-stitch exposed edges of each layer before covering them.
- Add brows and black eyes; embroider white eye highlights.

8 BEARD DETAILS



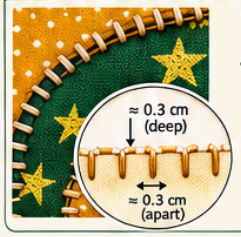
- Place mirrored mustache halves across lower face.
- Set round nose over their inner tips.
- Fuse and blanket-stitch.
- Keep nose flat.
- Use small even stitches around tight curves.

9 COCOA & HANDS



- Position mug on lower center coat.
- Add cocoa oval near mug top.
- Place mustard cuffs at both sides, then black mittens over cuffs and mug sides.
- Fuse and stitch each exposed edge.

10 STITCH & FINISH



- Support background with tear-away stabilizer.
- Hand blanket-stitch with 2 strands of floss, about 0.3 cm deep and 0.3 cm apart.
- Knot on back.
- Remove stabilizer gently and press from reverse.

11 DISPLAY



- Mount in a 40 × 50 frame or finish the background as a fabric panel.
- Check all fused edges are stitched.
- Decorative appliqué only; proposed sizes may be adjusted after paper fitting.

US SEWING KEY



Blanket stitch: edge loops with perpendicular bites; start at back, bring needle up, catch thread loop.

Running stitch: small in-and-out stitches for temporary basting.

Backstitch: return to previous hole for solid embroidered details.

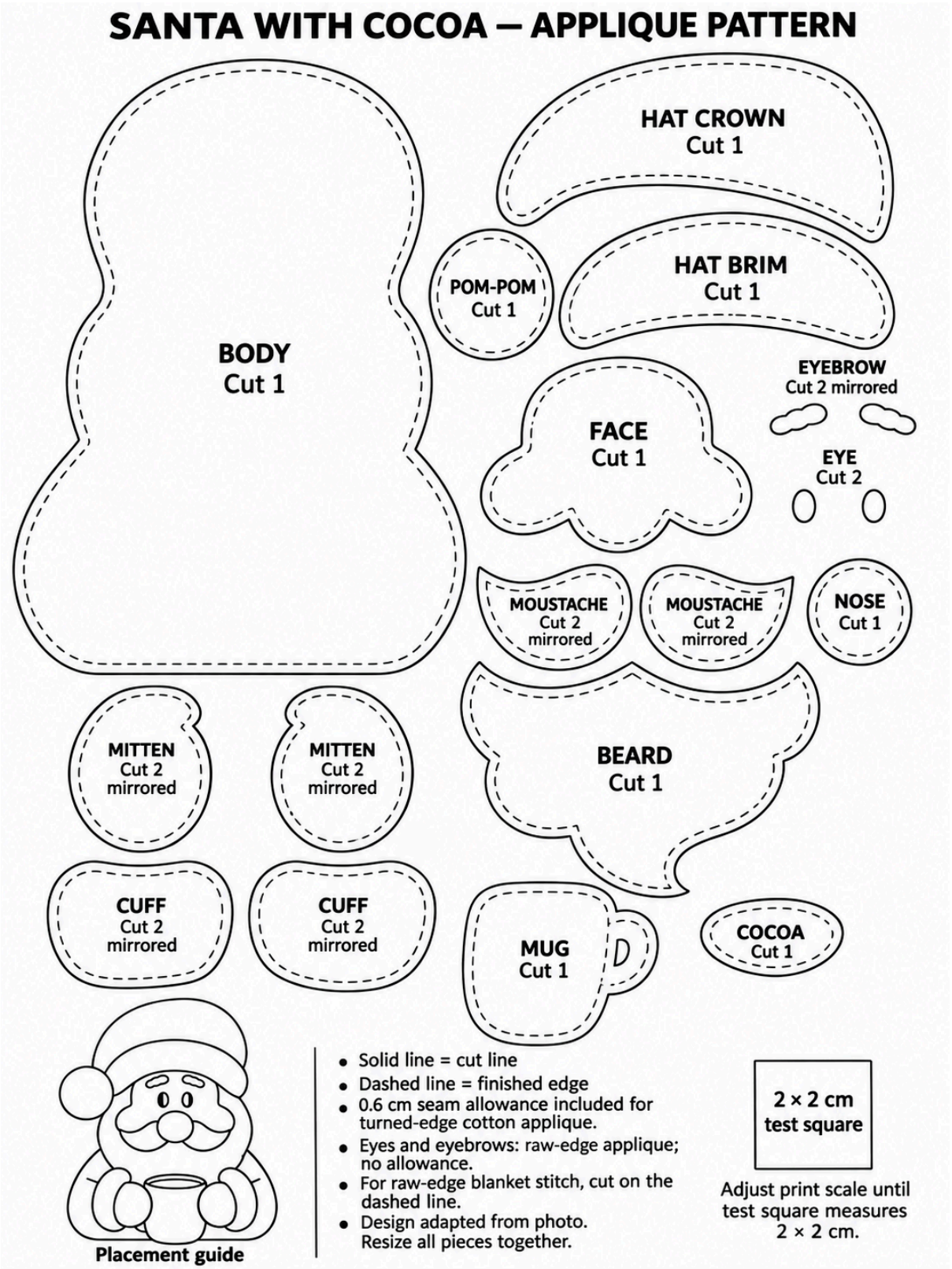


Satin stitch: close parallel stitches to fill eye highlights.

WS = wrong side • RS = right side • Fuse = bond with iron • Raw-edge appliqué = cut edge left unfolded

https://creative.craftsforlove.com/ - SEE THE BEST PATTERNS

SANTA WITH COCOA — APPLIQUE PATTERN



https://creative.craftsforlove.com/ - SEE THE BEST PATTERNS

Santa with Cocoa Fabric Appliqué Tutorial

Create a cheerful Santa holding a mug of cocoa using cotton fabrics, lightweight fusible web, and hand embroidery. This tutorial follows the measurements, construction sequence, and stitching methods shown in the reference graphic.

The suggested finished motif measures 28 cm wide × 38 cm high, arranged on a 40 × 50 cm cotton background. All measurements below are in centimeters.

This is a raw-edge appliqué project: the fabric pieces are fused to a background and stitched around their exposed edges. Do not add seam allowances to the appliqué pieces or turn their edges under. The shapes in the graphic are drawing guides rather than full-size printable templates, so you will first make and test a paper pattern.

Step 1: Gather Your Materials

Prepare the following cotton fabrics:

Material	Suggested fabric size
Background cotton	40 × 50 cm
Green cotton for Santa’s coat	30 × 30 cm
Green cotton for Santa’s hat	25 × 15 cm

https://creative.craftsforlove.com/ - SEE THE BEST PATTERNS

Mustard cotton for the brim, pompom, and cuffs	25 × 20 cm
White cotton for the beard, mustache, eyebrows, and mug	25 × 25 cm
Skin-tone cotton for the face and nose	15 × 15 cm
Black cotton for the mittens and eyes	15 × 15 cm
Brown cotton for the cocoa	Small scrap

You will also need:

- Lightweight paper-backed fusible web suitable for sewing through.
- Tear-away embroidery stabilizer.
- Embroidery floss in colors that coordinate with your fabrics.
- White floss for the eye highlights.
- A hand-sewing or embroidery needle.
- Paper, pencil, and a ruler.
- Paper scissors and fabric scissors.
- An iron and an ironing surface.
- Pins for testing the paper layout.

Choose a green print for the coat and hat, a mustard print for the trim, and a textured-looking white fabric for the beard if you want a result similar to the graphic.

Use lightweight cotton for the appliqué layers so the overlapping pieces remain easy to stitch.

Step 2: Prewash and Press the Cotton

https://creative.craftsforlove.com/ - SEE THE BEST PATTERNS

Prewash the cotton fabrics before applying the fusible web. This helps reduce later shrinkage and removes finishes that might affect bonding.

Dry and press the fabrics until they are smooth. Avoid stretching them while pressing.

Read the instructions supplied with your fusible web. Iron temperature, pressing time, steam settings, and cooling requirements vary by product.

Keep the fusible adhesive away from the iron's soleplate and your ironing surface. Use a protective pressing sheet if recommended by the manufacturer.

Step 3: Draw the Overall Layout

Draw a 28 × 38 cm rectangle on paper. This represents the suggested finished area occupied by Santa.

Sketch the complete design inside this rectangle before separating it into individual pattern pieces. Include the coat, hat, brim, pompom, beard, face, facial details, mug, cuffs, and mittens.

Use the measurements in the cutting chart below as starting dimensions for each shape. The pieces overlap, so their heights should not be added together to determine the finished height.

The graphic allows the proposed sizes to be adjusted after paper fitting. Make these adjustments now, before tracing onto fusible web.

For an evenly centered motif on a 40 × 50 cm background, a 28 × 38 cm layout leaves approximately 6 cm of background on each side.

https://creative.craftsforlove.com/ - SEE THE BEST PATTERNS

Step 4: Make the Paper Pattern Pieces

Draw and label the following pieces. Measurements describe each shape's approximate overall width and height.

Pattern piece	Quantity	Dimensions	Fabric
Coat	1	28 × 16 cm	Green
Hat	1	18 × 10 cm	Green
Beard	1	20 × 20 cm	White
Face	1	13 × 10 cm	Skin tone
Curved hat brim	1	16 × 7 cm	Mustard
Pompom	1	6 cm diameter	Mustard
Cuffs	2	7 × 9 cm each	Mustard
Mittens	2, mirrored	6 × 8 cm each	Black
Mug	1	10 × 11 cm	White

https://creative.craftsforlove.com/ - SEE THE BEST PATTERNS

Cocoa oval	1	5 × 2.5 cm	Brown
Nose	1	4 cm diameter	Skin tone
Mustache halves	2, mirrored	7 × 4 cm each	White
Eyebrows	2	2.5 × 0.8 cm each	White
Eyes	2	0.8 × 1.2 cm each	Black

Shape the pieces to match the reference:

- Coat: A broad, rounded body with curved shoulders and a gently rounded bottom.
- Hat: A curved, floppy cap that sits behind the upper head.
- Beard: A wide beard with rounded side sections and a tapered lower center.
- Face: A rounded upper section with softly projecting cheeks.
- Brim: A thick curved band that follows the forehead.
- Cuffs: Rounded pieces that sit behind the black mittens.
- Mittens: Rounded oval-like shapes, made as a mirrored pair.
- Mug: A slightly tapered cup with rounded lower corners.
- Mustache: Two curved halves with lifted outer tips.
- Eyebrows: Small, gently curved strips.
- Eyes: Small upright ovals.

https://creative.craftsforlove.com/ - SEE THE BEST PATTERNS

The mug in the graphic is a simple cup silhouette without a separate handle.

Cut out the paper pieces and arrange them together. Check that the face fits within the beard, the brim overlaps the forehead, and the mug fits between the mittens.

Step 5: Test the Paper Layout and Layer Order

Place the paper pieces on the background fabric and pin them temporarily.

Start with the four main layers in the order shown in the graphic:

1. **Coat**
2. **Hat**
3. **Beard**
4. **Face**

Center the coat in the lower portion of the layout. Position the hat behind the head area, then overlap the beard over the coat and the lower portion of the hat. Place the face over the upper beard.

Add the brim across the forehead and lower edge of the hat. Position the pompom at the left tip of the hat as viewed from the front.

Place the mug at the lower center of the coat. Arrange the cuffs beside the mug and the mittens over the cuffs, slightly overlapping the mug's sides.

Finish the paper arrangement with the mustache, nose, eyebrows, eyes, and cocoa oval.

https://creative.craftsforlove.com/ - SEE THE BEST PATTERNS

Check that the background remains visible around the entire motif. Adjust the paper pieces until the design looks balanced and fits the planned area.

Take a photograph of this arrangement to use as a placement reference.

Step 6: Trace the Shapes onto Fusible Web

Trace the paper templates onto the paper side of the fusible web.

Mirror the shapes when tracing. Fusing the traced shapes to the wrong side of the fabric reverses their orientation when viewed from the front.

For the mittens and mustache, make one left and one right piece. Label them clearly so you do not accidentally make two pieces facing the same direction.

Leave space between the traced shapes and roughly cut around them. Do not cut precisely on the final outlines yet.

Place each rough-cut fusible shape against the wrong side of its corresponding fabric, with the adhesive facing the fabric.

Fuse according to the manufacturer’s directions and allow the pieces to cool.

Once cool, cut each fabric piece accurately along its traced outline. Leave the paper backing attached until you are ready to position that piece.

Step 7: Prepare to Stitch the Appliqué

The graphic uses hand blanket stitch with two strands of embroidery floss around the exposed fabric edges.

https://creative.craftsforlove.com/ - SEE THE BEST PATTERNS

Aim for stitches approximately:

- **0.3 cm deep, measured inward from the fabric edge.**
- **0.3 cm apart, measured along the edge.**

Use these measurements as a guide. Slightly closer spacing may help around tight curves and small details.

Work in sections. Fuse and stitch lower layers before adding pieces that would cover them. This keeps the stitching accessible and avoids sewing through unnecessary layers.

Support the area being stitched with tear-away stabilizer behind the background fabric. Keep stabilizer clear of any adhesive that could bond to it.

To make blanket stitch:

1. **Bring the needle up through the background immediately beside the appliqué edge.**
2. **Insert the needle through the appliqué approximately 0.3 cm inward from the edge.**
3. **Bring the needle back up beside the edge, keeping the working thread beneath the needle.**
4. **Pull gently so the thread forms a loop along the cut edge.**
5. **Repeat at even intervals.**

Pull only firmly enough to settle the stitch. Excess tension can curl the appliqué edge or pucker the background.

Step 8: Fuse and Stitch the Base Layers

Remove the paper backing from the coat. Position it on the background using your paper layout as a guide.

Fuse the coat according to the fusible-web instructions. Allow it to cool, then blanket-stitch its exposed perimeter.

https://creative.craftsforlove.com/ - SEE THE BEST PATTERNS

Position and fuse the green hat behind the head area. Stitch the portions of its edge that will remain visible.

Add the white beard over the coat and lower hat area. Check its position before pressing, especially the tapered lower section.

Fuse the beard and stitch around its exposed outer edge. Follow the rounded sections carefully, taking smaller stitches where needed.

Place the skin-tone face over the upper beard. Fuse it, allow it to cool, and blanket-stitch its exposed edges.

The face should cover the upper center of the beard while leaving white beard fabric visible around its sides and below it.

Step 9: Add the Hat Brim and Pompom

Position the mustard brim across the lower edge of the green hat and over the upper face.

Check that the brim follows the forehead and leaves enough space beneath it for the eyebrows and eyes.

Fuse the brim, let it cool, and blanket-stitch the exposed edge.

Position the mustard pompom at the left hat tip. Fuse it in place and stitch around its circular edge.

Use small, evenly spaced stitches around the circle. Rotate the work as you sew to keep the stitch direction comfortable.

Step 10: Add the Eyebrows and Eyes

Place the two white eyebrows beneath the hat brim. Angle them gently to create Santa’s expression.

https://creative.craftsforlove.com/ - SEE THE BEST PATTERNS

Position the black oval eyes below the brows, following the reference image. Check the spacing before fusing: small changes can noticeably alter the face.

Fuse the eyebrows and eyes in place.

Secure their exposed edges with small stitches suited to their size. Keep the stitching light so the narrow eyebrow pieces remain clearly defined.

Use white embroidery floss to add a tiny highlight to each black eye. The graphic's sewing key identifies satin stitch for these highlights.

Make a few short, closely placed stitches in the upper portion of each eye. Keep the highlights similar in size and position.

Step 11: Add the Mustache and Nose

Arrange the two mirrored white mustache halves across the lower face.

Their inner ends should meet beneath the future nose position, and their outer tips should curve outward across the beard.

Fuse the mustache halves and blanket-stitch their exposed edges. Use smaller stitches around the curved tips.

Place the 4 cm skin-tone nose over the inner ends of the mustache.

Fuse the nose and stitch around its edge.

Keep the nose flat, as specified in the graphic. Do not stuff it or gather it into a raised shape.

Check that the nose covers the mustache's central meeting point and that both mustache halves remain visible.

https://creative.craftsforlove.com/ - SEE THE BEST PATTERNS

Step 12: Position the Mug and Cocoa

Place the white mug at the lower center of the coat, beneath the beard.

Leave enough room on both sides for the cuffs and mittens. The mug should appear to be held in front of Santa's body.

Fuse the mug and stitch its exposed edge before adding pieces that would make the sides harder to reach.

Position the brown 5 × 2.5 cm cocoa oval near the top of the mug, leaving a narrow white rim visible above it.

Fuse the cocoa oval and stitch around it with small, even stitches. Its long axis should run horizontally.

The finished effect should resemble a cup seen slightly from above, with the cocoa visible inside the opening.

Step 13: Add the Cuffs and Mittens

Position one mustard cuff on each side of the mug.

The cuffs should sit behind the black mittens, with enough mustard fabric showing around the outside to suggest sleeve trim.

Fuse the cuffs and blanket-stitch their exposed edges.

Place the mirrored black mittens over the cuffs. Let their inner edges overlap the mug's sides slightly so Santa appears to be holding the cup.

Check both hands together before fusing. They should frame the mug without covering the cocoa oval.

https://creative.craftsforlove.com/ - SEE THE BEST PATTERNS

Fuse the mittens, allow them to cool, and stitch around their exposed edges. Sew through the overlapped layers carefully without pulling the background tight.

Step 14: Check All Stitching and Finish the Back

Inspect the entire appliqué in good light.

Check the brim, beard curves, mustache tips, nose, mug, cuffs, and mittens for loose or unstitched exposed edges.

Secure the embroidery threads on the back. Knot them neatly and trim the tails without cutting the background fabric.

Remove the tear-away stabilizer gently, supporting the stitches with your fingers as you work. Avoid pulling sharply against small details.

Press gently from the reverse, following the fusible-web instructions. Place the front face down on a clean, soft surface so the embroidery is not flattened unnecessarily.

Allow the panel to cool flat.

Step 15: Display the Finished Santa Panel

The graphic suggests mounting the finished 40 × 50 cm background in a 40 × 50 cm frame or finishing it as a fabric panel.

Before framing, check that the frame opening shows the complete motif and the surrounding background. Smooth the fabric without stretching it.

If you prefer a fabric panel, choose the backing, edge finish, and hanging method before trimming the background. Keep the appliqué centered as you finish the edges.

https://creative.craftsforlove.com/ - SEE THE BEST PATTERNS

Give the piece one final check to confirm that every fused edge is secured with stitching.

Your finished Santa should show the green coat and hat, mustard trim, white beard and mustache, flat round nose, bright eyes, and a cocoa mug held between two black mittens.

US Sewing Terms and Stitch Key

Term or stitch	Meaning in this project
WS — Wrong side	The back of the fabric; apply the fusible web here.
RS — Right side	The front or printed side of the fabric.
Fuse	Bond fabric layers with heat, following the adhesive manufacturer's directions.
Raw-edge appliqué	Fabric shapes applied with their cut edges left unfolded.
Blanket stitch	An edge stitch with perpendicular bites and a linked thread line along the appliqué edge.
Running stitch	Small in-and-out stitches that can be used for temporary basting.

https://creative.craftsforlove.com/ - SEE THE BEST PATTERNS

Backstitch	A continuous stitched line made by returning the needle to the end of the previous stitch; useful for embroidered details.
Satin stitch	Close, parallel stitches used here to fill the small white eye highlights.
Mirrored pieces	Opposite-facing shapes used to create matching left and right parts.

The main edge finish for this project is blanket stitch. Running stitch and backstitch are included in the reference key as supporting sewing methods; they do not need to replace the blanket stitching shown on the finished design.