

Floral Applique Embellishment



This simple, yet bold floral applique can transform a basic skirt from ordinary to something really eye-catching! The main flower and flower center applique elements are cut using your crafting machine, then stitched onto the skirt using your sewing machine. The applique shown was made from silk taffeta and metallic organza, but you can use other fabrics as desired. Because this applique is quite large, it is easiest to add it to a skirt you make yourself as compared to placing it onto a purchased garment, because you can lay the partially-sewn skirt flat. The finished size of the flower applique shown is approximately 16" (41cm) in diameter, but you can adjust the size as desired.

What you need

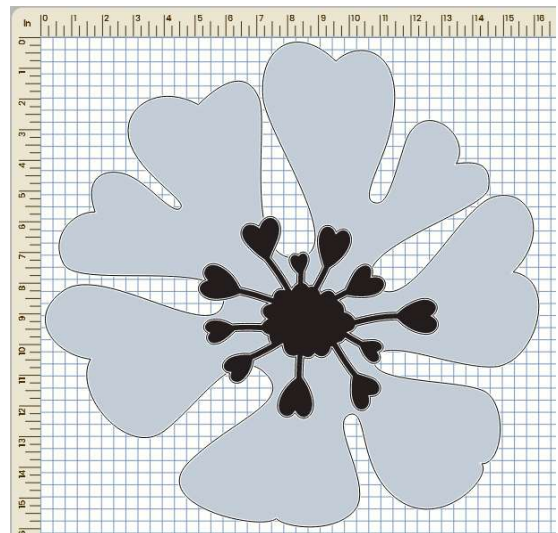
- Basic Skirt (simple A-line or straight skirt)
- Fabric for Main Flower: 20" x 20" (50cm x 50cm)
- Fabric for Flower Center: 10" x 10" (25cm x 25cm)
- Fusible Web for Main Flower: 20" x 20" (50cm x 50cm)
- Fusible Web for Flower Center: 10" x 10" (25cm x 25cm)
- Lightweight Tear-away Stabilizer 20" x 20" (50cm x 50cm)
- Standard Grip Mat 24" x 24"

- Rotary Blade
- Brayer
- Sewing Machine
- Open Toe Foot for Sewing Machine
- Decorative Thread for Appliques (rayon or metallic)
- Painter's Tape
- Pressing Cloth (or similar, for pressing appliques)

Directions

Note: Due to the large size of this applique, it is easiest to add to a skirt you make yourself, as compared to placing it onto a purchased garment. By sewing the skirt yourself, you can leave one side seam open for adding the flower to the side where the seam has been sewn, giving a flatter surface to work on. After the applique is finished, you can then sew the other side seam and resume construction of the skirt.

1. Apply fusible web to the wrong side of the fabric for the main flower, following fusible web manufacturer's recommendations for application. Next, apply fusible web to the wrong side of the fabric you are using for the flower center.
2. Open the project in Canvas. Adjust the size of the flower as desired for your skirt.
3. Place the fabric for the main flower onto the Fabric Grip Mat. Use a Brayer to smooth out any bubbles or wrinkles. It is recommended to use painter's tape to help secure the fabric onto the mat, taping at the edges to help eliminate any shifting due to the large size.
4. Cut out the main flower. When finished, set it aside. Place the fabric for the flower center onto the Fabric Grip Mat. Use a Brayer to smooth out any wrinkles, then use painter's tape to help hold the fabric in place for cutting.
5. Place your skirt onto a flat surface. Remove the paper backing from the main flower applique, then position onto the skirt as desired. Fuse in place.
6. Thread the sewing machine bobbin with all-purpose sewing thread. Thread the top of the machine with the decorative thread you want to use for your applique edges.



Set the machine for a zig zag stitch, then set the stitch length to 1.5mm and the stitch width to 2.0mm. Attach the Open Toe Foot, which will provide a clear view of the stitching area as you go.

7. Place tear-away stabilizer underneath the skirt, making sure it is positioned under the area of the applique. Using the tear-away stabilizer will help prevent fabric from puckering as you stitch. Stitch around the main flower, taking your time as you negotiate the curved areas.



8. Remove the paper from the back side of the flower center fabric piece that has been cut out. Position the flower center over the main flower as desired. Fuse in place.



9. Stitch around the flower center. When all stitching is finished, carefully remove the excess tear-away stabilizer from the back side of the skirt. Press carefully, using a pressing cloth.



10. Resume construction of your skirt according to your skirt pattern directions.