

# Machine Applique Tips



*This series is written by guest blogger, Pamela Cox. Pamela is an expert embroiderer, designer, digitizer and all around wonderful girl! We are so happy to have her contributing to the Sulky Blog!*



Design: Sulky Embroidery Club's #684 Owl with Heart

## Machine Applique Tips

Applique designs are one of the quickest, most fun methods of machine embroidery. Quick, because fabric takes the place of fill stitches (check out the difference in thread count!).

PREMIER™ 2 Embroidery Ultra



Information

1845	↔	83.7 mm
3	↓	81.8 mm

Color Select

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3		

Fabric "fills" the design



Information

7293	↔	85.3 mm
1	↓	83.8 mm

Color Select

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1	
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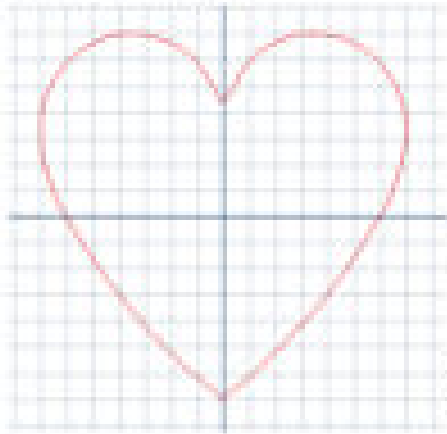
And fun because fabric color, print, and even texture combinations are endless!



[Owl with Heart: Sulky Embroidery Club #684](#) – [American Sweetie Pie: Sulky Embroidery Club #762 \(free download\)](#) – Heart and Megaphone: Original design

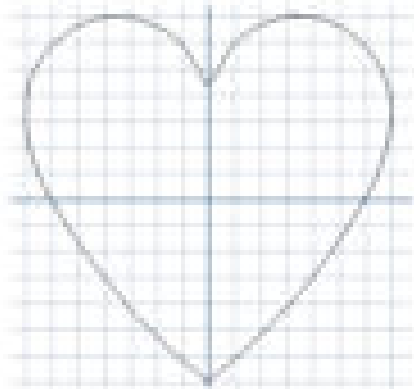
Basic steps are involved with every applique. Although, the sequence may differ to accommodate additional applique pieces or to add decorative accents.

### Basic Steps of an Appliqué



1. Stitch outline on fabric foundation

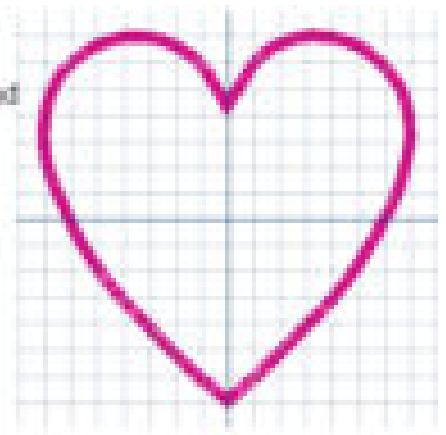
2. Cover area with contrasting fabric



3. Tack appliqué fabric in place

4. Remove hoop from machine and trim outside the stitching line

5. Add decorative outline stitch



Therefore, it is very important to read the instructional PDF file that is included with your design to understand when to add or trim fabric pieces.

## Color Sequence Chart

### Owl with Heart

Size: 3.44" x 4.10"

Stitches: 8941



1		1177	Amazulu	Rayon	40cm
Apply applique after color 1					
2		1177	Amazulu	Rayon	40cm
Then apply input after color 2					
3		1177	Amazulu	Rayon	40cm
4		1288	Aqua	Rayon	40cm
5		1054	Dr. Owllet	Rayon	40cm
6		1050	Green Beards	Rayon	40cm
7		1024	Coloured	Rayon	40cm
8		1014	Owllet Blue	Rayon	40cm
Apply applique after color 8					
9		1014	Owllet Blue	Rayon	40cm
Then apply input after color 9					
10		1014	Owllet Blue	Rayon	40cm
11		1000	Black	Rayon	40cm
12		1060	Marine Aqua	Rayon	40cm
13		1000	Light Blue	Rayon	40cm

It is also very important not to change the stitching order of the design nor to combine colors. The various color stops within an applique design pause the machine to allow placement

and trimming of applied fabric pieces.



It is a bit difficult to state exactly what sewing supplies are needed because of all the possible combinations of fabrics plus the variety of available [Sulky®](#) Threads. However, a new [Schmetz® Topstitch Needle](#) will penetrate multiple fabric layers quite nicely and handle all thread types – including any [Sulky Metallic Threads](#). Gauge will depend on fabric weight:

Foundation Fabric/ Applique Fabric	Needle Size
med wt cotton/lt wt cotton	80/12
med wt cotton/med wt cotton	90/14
fleece or terry cloth/ med wt cotton	90/14
fleece or terry cloth/fleece	100/16

## Stabilizers

[Sulky Stabilizers](#) offer several options that will all work equally well underneath the foundation fabric.





[Sulky Soft 'n Sheer™](#) (a cut-away stabilizer) or [Sulky Tear-Easy™](#) (as its name implies) are the two I reach for most often. However, [Sulky Sticky+™](#) is perfect for holding the foundation fabric securely, yet easily tears away from the embroidered stitches.



[Sulky Fabri-Solvy™](#) is another option for applique projects that are completely washable since this stabilizer is removed by rinsing.

Napped fabrics require a top stabilizer and Sulky offers [Solvy™](#) (a wash-away stabilizer) or Sulky [Heat-Away Clear Film™](#) (an iron-away stabilizer).



These stabilizers keep the outline stitches of the applique sitting on top of the napped fabric and also prevent the nap from accidentally being cut while trimming applique pieces.



There are also two more Sulky products that should be on hand when appliqueing:

- [Sulky Soft 'n Sheer Extra™](#), an iron-on fusible stabilizer. This can be applied to the wrong side of applique fabric pieces to prevent fraying and add extra body.



- [Sulky KK 2000™ Temporary Spray Adhesive.](#) Lightly spray the wrong side of applique pieces and finger-press in place. The fabric will now remain securely in place for the stitching process, while keeping fingers safely away from the stitching area.



## Supplies for above:

- Foundation Fabric: Cotton terry cloth
- Applique Fabric: light-weight cotton
- Design: [#684 Owl](#) from Sulky Embroidery Club
- Thread: [Sulky 40 wt. Rayon](#)
- Needle: [Schmetz® Topstitch 90/14](#)
- Stabilizers: [Sulky Tear-Easy™](#) – hooped foundation stabilizer
- [Sulky Heat-Away™ Clear Film](#) – protective top
- [Sulky Soft 'n Sheer Extra™](#) – for the back of the cotton applique pieces
- *NOTE: Machine speed was slowed down by half*

Now that we understand the basics of appliqué designs, stay tuned for Applique Part 2, as we explore some fun ways to expand our applique skills.



Original heart design

## **Credits:**

Sulky products available at [www.sulky.com](http://www.sulky.com)

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[www.sulkyembclub.com](http://www.sulkyembclub.com)