

OMA-Applique Oma's Way

Have you never done machine applique before? Then you are in for a treat! J If you have done applique before you may find that we do it just a bit different from others.

1. About Oma's Place's applique designs

First of all, we **never** use any **automatic** function to accomplish applique designs. All our designs are manually punched and each layer of the applique is carefully and individually placed. The end result is a reliably smooth edge that will not tear out with the first wash of the garment or embroidered item.

Our fabric **tackdown** stitches are a **triple bean stitch**. That means when you need to cut close to the fabric, you can without fear that you will cut into the stitches and lose hold on the applique fabric.

Our **applique edge** sometimes is a satin stitch, other times a satin stitch combined with a **decorative stitch**. Also, our underlay for the applique edge is always a layer of lighter density satin stitch, not just a running stitch. This keeps the fabric more securely in position.

With some of our blanket labels and towel designs, we include a **layer of stitching under the applique fabric** to flatten out the pile of the fabric to be embroidered. This helps in keeping down the pull of the pile on the edges of the applique. You can easily skip this step where you find it, if you think you don't need it. When this is part of your design, it will be stated in the design's description on the website.

2. Some Helpful Tips

Have you ever wondered why some applique designs look great when you buy them, but seem wrinkly and unattractive after the first wash? And then there are those that maintain their attractiveness even after months of wearing and washing. The secret lies most probably in the way the applique design was adhered to the embroidered item.

I recommend that you use a layer of **double sided Steam a Seam 2 LITE or Heat n Bond LITE** underneath your applique fabric.

Fuse the Steam a Seam 2 Lite to the back of your piece of applique fabric, following manufacturer's instructions. When the directions/color stitchout instructions call for the placement of the fabric, place the prepared applique piece over the stitched guideline. The Steam a Seam 2 Lite has a slightly sticky back and will adhere nicely to the item. Your machine will then proceed to tackdown the fabric and after that you will then trim away the excess fabric.

After you are done with your stitchout, remember to **use the iron from the back of your embroidery and gently press** from the back, making sure that the piece of fabric adheres to the item you embroidered. That's the secret to a good appliqued piece.

Don't have Steam a Seam 2 Lite or similar? Please press and starch your fabric before using it in the embroidery.

Apply temporary spray adhesive to the back of the fabric before placing it over the stitched guideline/outline. Some also use regular washable school glue to lay down the fabric.

In the least you should secure the fabric with a couple pieces of painter's tape before tackdown of the fabric. The more securely you place your applique fabric, the less wrinkles you will get and the more professional the outcome of your design.

Another important part of a professional looking applique are the **scissors** you use for trimming away the excess fabric. My preferred choice are small curved blade Fiskars scissors, as shown below in our actual stitchout photos. Have the curved blades point upwards as you go around the applique edge and **trim close**. Remember, you can do so with our designs because we have that triple bean stitch holding the fabric in place. If you cut a small nick into those stitches, the fabric will still be secure. Others may find other scissors helpful; this is what works well for me and gives me excellent results.

Are you a **visual learner**? Then you might like to watch my video tutorial on "Applique – Oma's Way" at <http://www.omasplace.com> (look under "tutorials").