

APPLIQUÉ BY HAND OR MACHINE - THE LEAVES

Learn how to hand and machine appliqué the leaves with turned edges. Discover the versatility and the forgiveness of appliqué. We can mix hand and machine appliqué or choose one method while making the Last Roses of Summer wallhanging.

Method 1: Freezer Paper Templates

We will want to make several leaf templates. Cut the 36" piece of freezer into fourths. On one section of the freezer paper, trace as many leaves as you can. Iron the four pieces of freezer paper together to make several leaf templates. Cut out the leaves on the lines drawn on the top of the freezer paper stack, trying to make the edges as smooth as possible. Iron the freezer paper leaves, shiny side down, onto the wrong side of the leaf fabrics, leaving $\frac{1}{2}$ " between the leaves to allow for turn under allowances. Cut out the leaves approximately $\frac{3}{16}$ " (less than $\frac{1}{4}$ ") beyond the freezer paper. When Bonnie named this quilt, Last Roses of Summer, she was thinking about the changing colors in the leaves so feel free to use a variety of colors and fabrics for the leaves.

The edge of the freezer paper makes it easy to fold the leaf edge over the paper for a smooth finish. This paper can remain in the leaves until all the appliqué is finished.

Method 2: Quick Laminate Templates

Another way to make the templates is to use Quick Laminate. Adhere one piece of the Laminate to the top of a sheet of leaf patterns. Adhere another sheet to the back. Cut out the leaves. This is a quick way to have laminated patterns.

Method 3: Mylar Templates

Trace the leaf pattern onto a piece of heat-resistant Mylar material. Cut out the leaves on the drawn lines. The Mylar can withstand the heat from the iron while pressing the fabric over the edge, especially if you use the starch turned-edge method.

Method 4: Lightweight Interfacing

Another method is to trace the leaf designs on the wrong side of the leaf fabrics. Place the leaf fabric, right side down, on lightweight interfacing. Stitch on the drawn line of the leaf. Cut out the leaves, with a $\frac{3}{16}$ " seam allowance (less than $\frac{1}{4}$ "). Make a cut into the center of the interfacing large enough to turn the leaf right side. Roll the edges so the interfacing does not show on the front of the leaf; press the leaf. This is an easy way to prepare the leaves when you plan to machine stitch them in place.

Method 5: Glue Stick

Lay the leaf template on the wrong side of fabric; secure with small dot of glue stick. Apply glue on the turn under allowance. Fold tip down and then fold edges over the template. It is easy to pull up and refold if necessary. Press. When glue is dried, remove template, press, and appliqué to block.

Placing the Leaves on the Background:

Position the leaves on the background by pinning the vinyl pattern over a background block on which the stems have already been appliquéd in place. Slide the leaves under the vinyl and when you have positioned them according to the vinyl pattern, pin the leaf to the background. But don't get too fussy! Mother Nature does not make every leaf identical. There is no right or wrong when placing the leaves. If you want to tip a leaf one direction or the other, just do it!

Hand Appliqué:

Appliqué the leaves to the background by hand using the needleturn appliqué method or the starch turned-edge method. You may be surprised to learn that this quilt has both hand- and machine-appliquéd leaves.

Demonstration of hand appliqué using the needleturn method.

Demonstration of hand appliqué using the starch turned-edge method.

