

Decorative Techniques

Reverse Appliqué

Reverse Appliqué is a very old technique, which has been used by many cultures throughout the world in the production of their traditional textiles. An example is the Cuna Indians from Panama and Columba who used the technique in the production of the Mola, the traditional colourful bodice worn with their garments. The number of layers of fabric will depend on your design and the thickness of the fabrics. (The thicker the fabric the more difficult, experiment first). It is suggest for small pieces three is the maximum)

1. Two or more fabrics are layered and tacked together around the edges, leaving a space for the design.
2. The top layer, which will be the largest section of the design, is cut away allowing a 3mm seam allowance.
3. If the shape is curved or has a corner- clip where appropriate, ie at the corners for square shapes or around curved edges.
4. Tuck edges underneath, pin and fine hem. For large pieces of work the machine can be used.
5. Repeat for second layer, and then continue for all other layers.



Ridging

Ridging is a method of achieving texture, evolving randomly pinching the fabric and stitching the edge of the fold. The fabrics to use are with sheen or with pile such as satin, taffeta, velvet, corduroy or brocade. The finished effect is to use the interplay of light and shadow to enrich the surface of the finished piece. It is ideal for patches, and to vary the surface of a piece of work.

1. For each ridge, pinch the fabric to fold the cloth. The direction needs to be varied to get the best effects.
2. Stitch along fold, varying the width for the desired amount, but should be no more than 3mm wide.
3. Full ends of thread through to the wrong side and tie off with knots.



Thanks for all your valuable contributions.....Ros Rennie

Spot Stuffing - Trapunto

Spot stuffing (also known as Trapunto) is the technique of stuffing small sections of a design to give a raised effect on the right side of the piece of work.

1. Tack two layers of fabric together, the outside fabric needs to be relatively strong and the lining fabric is a finer but strongly constructed fabric.
2. Mark design on the wrong side of the piece of work. The design can be part of a larger decorative piece that does not need stuffing.
3. Stitch around area to be stuffed
4. Tie off threads with strong knots.
5. On the back fabric insert a small 'slit' towards one end of the design section to be stuffed.
6. Using small pieces of stuffing gently ease the stuffing through to achieve the desired design. Be careful not to over stuff and pull the front surface out of shape.
7. Mend the 'slit' either by herringbone stitching the edges together or placing a matching patch and hem stitching to close 'slit'.



Fast Patches

1. Decide on shape of patch
2. Iron on Visa Fix (a stiffing to hold patch in place)
3. Remove paper of Visa fix and iron patch to background fabric.
4. Choose thread, can be matching or contrast to patch
5. Use zig zag foot and a medium stitch length (you can experiment with size of thread and stitch length)
6. Begin at one corner of fabric and sew down side close to edge, continue stitching off the fabric for 1cm.
7. Turn fabric with needle in fabric and sew 2mm from first row.
8. Sew to end of fabric and then continue for 1cm to match other end
9. Continue sewing rows to the other side of fabric.
10. Final row should stop at the corner of the fabric
11. Repeat above to sew cross rows starting at the corner as in first row.
12. Complete work by finishing of loose threads with knots on back of fabric.

