

## Flower Applique with satin stitching



Satin Stitch is something that needs a little attention when sewing. To get a smooth satin stitch you must have a stabiliser on the back of your fabric, otherwise the stitch will end up making a ridge which will distort the background fabric. Satin stitch is made with a zig-zag stitch which most machines have.

For this block you will need:

A 12 ½ inch square of plain background fabric

Two or three patterned fabrics for the flower

Bondaweb or Steam a Seam or something similar

Stabiliser ie either lightweight fusible vyliene or freezer paper

I like to mark the centre of the block by folding corner to corner. You do not need to do this but it helps with placing the pieces.

Trace the pattern pieces onto your bondaweb or steam a seam and iron onto the wrong side of your patterned fabrics. Cut out on the line; you do not need to have a seam allowance.

Remove the paper backing and place your pieces on your background fabric and arrange to your liking. Place the stem first, and then put the main flower head onto the stem followed by the smaller flower head. Make sure that the petal divisions are placed opposite to the main flower head. See example below. Iron on the rest of the pieces. Do not start sewing just yet.



Take a piece of scrap fabric and attach a piece of your chosen stabiliser and sew a line of satin stitches. Make sure that your bobbin thread does not show. If it does, then reduce your top tension one of two points. I normally sew with tension 4.6, but for satin stitch I use 4.2. Adjust your stitch length and width to suit you. Make a note of the settings once you have your preferred stitch length/width.

Start to sew from the base of the stem and work upwards, go around the leaf and then continue up the stem until you reach the large flower head, stitch across the join between the stem and the flower and then go around the flower head, across the stem join again and then come down the other side of the stem, round the second leaf and down to the edge. Now stitch the smaller flower and the rounds. When stitching your shapes, always stop with your needle on the outer edge of a round convex shape (extending outwards) before turning your fabric, and on the inner side of a concave (u shape or curving inwards) curve. For points, stitch just past the point with needle down on the opposite side to the point, turn fabric and stitch a few stitches, turn and repeat until you have turned the point.

If you are using freezer paper, you can remove this now. You do not need to remove the vyliene.

Your applique shapes are on the following two pages.



