

MIXED MEDIA APPLIQUÉ

KRISTA FLECKENSTEIN



Mixed media can be modern! Consider ways that you can use materials beyond traditional fabrics to add interest to your quilts. Leather and wool felt are two of my favorites to use in raw edge appliqué. A die cutter makes quick work of the cutting.

Materials Needed:

- Leather (deerskin or leather that is under 2 oz. in weight) or Wool Felt
- Fusible Web (I like Pellon Wonder-Under)
- Polyester Thread
- Non-Stick Sewing Machine Foot
- Leather Needle
- Background Fabric
- Iron

Optional

- Sizzix Die Cutting Machine
- Walking Foot

Cut Your Materials:

If using a die cutter machine:

1. Make a sandwich— cutting mat, die (face up), leather or felt (face up), cutting mat
2. Place the sandwich at the opening of the die cutter and feed it in gently, turning the handle clockwise to feed it through the rollers.

If using a template:

1. Create a template for your shape out of cardstock or thin cardboard. Trace your shape onto the back side of your leather or felt. Cut with a rotary cutter or scissors. (If you are using a shape that has a right side, be sure that the wrong side of the template faces up on the wrong side of the material before tracing.)

Stabilize:

1. Cut fusible web, 1/8" smaller on each side than your leather or felt.
2. Fuse to the wrong side of your material according the manufacturer's instructions. Do not iron directly on the face of the leather or felt.
3. Let cool and pull of the backing paper.

Set Up Your Machine if Using Leather:

When sewing with leather, there are just a few things to do to ensure success.

- Use a leather needle.
- Use a non-stick presser foot or walking foot to ensure that your leather does not stretch as you feed it through the machine.
- Use polyester thread (the oils of the leather will degrade cotton thread over time).



BLOCK PRINTING FOR QUILTERS

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- Test your tension with a scrap piece of leather and fabric before starting the appliqué. Adjust as necessary.

Topstitch Your Applique

1. Set your stitch length to 3.5.
2. Topstitch 1/8" from the edge of your appliqué pieces.

Other Ideas:

- Add interest to an already-quilted piece by adding wool or leather appliqué shapes on top of it.
- Cut letters and appliqué your favorite quote onto a pillow or quilt top.

To replicate the Leather Curves quilt from the show:

1. Cut (16) 5 1/2" squares of your background fabric (I cut 4 squares each from denim, chambray, ticking, and striped fabrics).
2. Using a die cutter or template, cut (16) 4" quarter circles from deerskin leather. (I used 2 different shades of deerskin to add interest.)
3. Apply fusible web, cut slightly smaller, to the back of each quarter circle. Let cool and remove the backing paper.
4. Place the quarter circles on to the background squares so that the straight edges are flush to the corner. Fuse the leather to the fabric by pressing from the back side of the background fabric.
5. Set up your sewing machine with a non-stick foot, polyester thread, and leather needle. Set your stitch length to 3.5.
6. Topstitch the leather to the background fabric along the curved edge. Repeat for remaining blocks.
7. Arrange your blocks in a 4 x 4 grid.
8. Sew together with a 1/4" seam.
9. Quilt and bind as desired!

ABOUT KRISTA FLECKENSTEIN

For other textile printing techniques and mixed media projects, pick up Krista's book [Beyond Cotton](#). Her work can also be found at www.spottedstone.com.

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PAINTBRUSH STUDIO



The following fabrics were used by Krista Fleckenstein:

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121-022 Haze

121-141 Curry

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