

RAW-EDGE APPLIQUÉ FOR MODERN MEMORY QUILTS WITH GINNY ROBINSON

- Package instructions often call for ironing on the fusible interfacing before cutting out shapes, but when you're working with clothing, this may be difficult to do, especially if you're working with small pieces like baby clothes. In this case, cut the fabric into the appliqué shape you want, and then apply the shape to the first side of the fusible interfacing. Then put the interfacing fabric side up onto an ironing surface. Cover the whole thing (the piece of fusible and the shapes on top) with parchment. Iron. Then peel off the parchment and carefully cut out your shapes from the fusible backing. Throw away the leftover fusible - it cannot be used again.
- Don't be afraid to use smaller pieces of clothing in a memory quilt. It's best to talk about design with the person you're making the quilt for, especially if the quilt is being made from the clothing of someone who has passed, but I have found that the receiver recognizes even small bits of clothing and enjoys the non-traditional design of a more modern memory quilt. I've cut out shapes that have even chopped up words, and those pieces still conjure memories for the receiver.
- Use background fabric to create a more cohesive look to your quilt. Separate clothing by color and then choose a background that complements the appliqué pieces you have in each pile. Don't be afraid to use fabrics that don't behave like quilting cotton - the fusible interfacing does a great job of stabilizing most fabrics to make them easy to use for appliqué.
- Modern memory quilts can do two things at once: celebrate or honor a person and honor the modern aesthetic of the person it will go to!

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