# Technical Help Series

## APPLIQUE INSTUCTIONS

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# Technical Help Series

## APPLIQUE INSTRUCTIONS

These instructions are designed for sewers who are new to machine embroidery appliqué and would like to see how it is done and how easy and fun it can be.

The instructions go through the process of doing a simple machine embroidery appliqué design from Bunnycup Embroidery's Rock On Applique embroidery design set.  You can purchase the particular design at http://www.bunnycup.com/viewset.aspx?designset=403 if you would like to work through the particular design.  The principals apply to any appliqué embroidery designs purchased at Bunnycup Embroidery.

With Bunnycup Embroidery's appliqué designs – in addition to these instructions, each design also includes a txt color chart which also has further instructions and the actual needle color changes.  All of Bunnycup Embroidery's appliqué designs are manually punched so that each step of the appliqué process is recognized as a distinct color change to ensure that your machine stops between each step.  Some digitizers will put the steps of the appliqué process in the same color meaning that your machine will not automatically stop at each step.

An example of a text color chart follows this tutorial.

### *Getting Started*

The first step of any project is to make sure you have the right materials.  Suggested materials include:

- Embroidery machine
- Embroidery threads
- Your item to fabric you want to appliqué to
- Appliqué machine embroidery design
- Small pieces of fabric for the appliqués
- Sharp small or curved scissors (I prefer sharp curved nail scissors as they get in the curves and trim well)
- Stabilizer
- Spray on adhesive (optional)

Properly stabilize and hoop your fabric. In this tutorial, the background fabric has been hooped with two pieces of medium stabilizer.

In this design the placement line is needle one.

Stitch out the placement line as documented in the text color chart. This stitches out a template which you will lay the appliqué fabric over.

Usually we recommend using the same color as the appliqué stitch (in this design hot pink) to prevent any color showing through but we have used black in this example to better illustrate in the photos.

Cut out a piece of fabric (your appliqué fabric) that will over the placement line. Place the fabric over the line you stitched.

Some might like to spray the back of the appliqué fabric with spray on adhesive to prevent the fabric moving during the following steps.



In this example, needle two is the cutting line.

Stitch the cutting line (as detailed in the text color charts).

Carefully remove the hoop from the machine. DO NOT UNHOOP the fabrics. Using appliqué scissors (curved ones work very well), trim the appliqué fabric as close to the line as possible without cutting the stitching.



Replace the hoop in the machine.

In this example, needle three is black and is detail in the design. Stitch out needle three which is the a decorative border that sits under the appliqué stitching.



In this example, needle 4 is the appliqué stain stitch. Stitch out needle 4 and this will cover the appliqué fabric edges.

In this example needle 5 is again black and is decorative stitching on top of the appliqué stitching. Stitch out needle 5.



In this example needle 6 is white and is some decorative sparkles on the design. Voila – a beautiful peace sign!

## Color Charts

Appliqué designs typically come with a JPEG color chart and a text color chart. The JPEG color chart will show the digitized colors – but as each appliqué step is digitized in a different color to ensure your machine automatically stops at each appliqué step, you will also need to refer to the text color chart. The text color chart also includes some useful information as to the appliqué process. For this reason I have included an example of the text color chart for this particular design.

**Rock On Appliqué 6 Text Color Chart**

Rock On Appliqué 6

Applique Information

You will see some colors that may be repeat colors, or many color changes in appliqué designs. It is important that you do not change the order to attempt to reduce the color changes. Many of the color changes are not actually color changes, rather are placement lines or cutting lines. These are critical to the structure and success of your appliqué design.

You will use the color of the appliqué stitch or a light plain color for placement and cutting lines rather than the color that shows up on your machine, software or that listed below.

Where the needle below says placement line - these stitches will stitch out a template on your fabric to show you where to place your appliqué fabric (ie on top of your other fabric). Please use the appliqué stitch color or a light color for these lines.

After sewing out a placement line, place your appliqué fabric on top of your other fabric. It is suggested that you use a light spray adhesive to attach the two fabrics together so that the appliqué fabric does not slip when the cutting line stitches out.

Where the needle below says cutting line, this is a line around which to cut your appliqué fabric. It is recommended that you use a pair of nail scissors which will cut close to the cutting line. These can be purchased from embroidery shops or from pharmacies. Trim as close to the cutting line as you can without cutting the stitches.

Where the needle below says appliqué stitch - this will stitch out the satin or blanket stitch forming the visible stitching of the appliqué.

If there is no notation against the color below, the color noted should be used as it is an object in the design. Please note that from time to time, an object color will show in between steps in the appliqué - this is necessary detail that will show on your appliqué fabric.

6 Colors

Needle 1,White - Placement Line (use satin stitch color - per needle 4)

Needle 2,Silver - Cutting Line (use satin stitch color - per needle 4)

Needle 3,Black

Needle 4,Hot Pink - Appliqué Satin Stitch

Needle 5,Black

Needle 6,White