



rose of sharon

Cushion with Traditional Appliqué
by Julie Hodges

REQUIREMENTS

Size: 16" square * *

100% cotton fabric:

- 1m - background
- Fat ¼ green - leaves and stems
- 10" square - flowers
- Fat ¼ - flower centres and border
- 18" square for cushion back

Other:

- 18" square butter muslin
- 18" square wadding
- Thread to match fabrics
- 2, 19mm buttons, (I used buttons that you cover yourself)

- 2m of size 2 piping cord, pre-washed

Equipment:

- Zipper foot for adding piping
- Cereal packet for templates
- Freezer paper
- Tracing paper
- ¾" bias maker
- HB pencil for marking fabric
- Masking tape
- Pritt stick
- Sheet of sandpaper
- Usual sewing kit

Pattern

1. Trace the pattern given full size in the *Pattern Section*, to give the complete design.
2. Cut 12½" square of background fabric. Fix design to table with masking tape, lay background fabric centrally on top and lightly trace the design.
- 3a. Trace separate templates
- b. Roughly cut round 'fabric cutting' and 'pressing' templates, glue them on cereal packet and once dry, cut out accurately. Label pieces.

Appliqué

Stems:

- 1a. Using bias maker and stem fabric make 8, 3" lengths of ¾" wide bias.
- b. Appliqué into position.

Flowers and leaves:

1. When tracing flower and leaf appliqué shapes, place fabric on top of sandpaper, to prevent slippage when tracing round cardboard

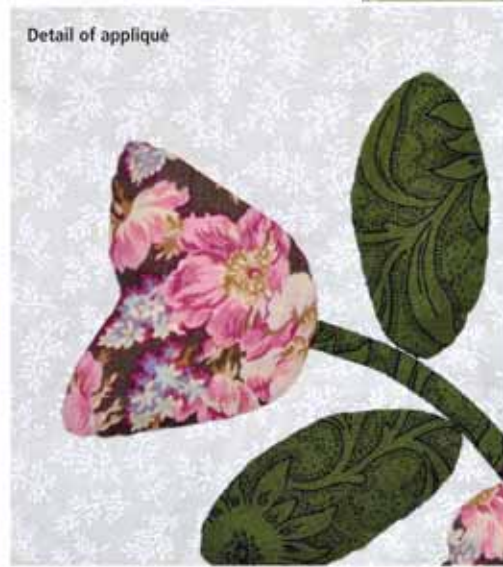
templates.

- 2a. From leaf fabric, cut 12 leaf shapes.
- b. From flower fabric cut 4 outer flower shapes and 1 centre flower.
- c. From centre fabric, cut 1 shape.
- 3a. To make a smoother edge to leaf, outer flower or flower centre shape, sew a line of running stitches close to edge. Do not fasten off.
- b. Place pressing template in middle of leaf shape and pull up running stitches over edge of e card.
- c. Press thoroughly and remove card. Press again.
4. Repeat with outer flowers and centre of centre flower. You now have perfect leaves, outer flowers and a flower centre.
- 5a. Place outer flowers in position on background and when you are happy with the position, pin or tack in place.
- b. Appliqué in place by your preferred method, hand or machine.
6. Repeat with leaves.

Centre flower:

- 1a. Trace round centre flower

Detail of appliqué



template on dull side of freezer paper.

- b. Cut out exactly on drawn line and iron it shiny side down onto the wrong side of the fabric.
- c. Cut round it leaving a ¼" seam allowance.
- d. Peel freezer paper off fabric and place it shiny side up on wrong side of fabric, pin in position and using side of an iron nudge the seam allowance of fabric over on to freezer paper, easing the fullness a little at a time, taking care not to create pleats.
- e. When pressed well peel off the freezer paper, leaving the curve edges in place. If necessary give an extra iron.
2. Position in centre of block and appliqué in place.
3. Position the centre of this flower and appliqué in place to complete the design.

Border

- 1a. From border fabric, cut 4, strips 2½" x 12½"
- b. From background fabric, cut 4, 2½" squares.
2. Add two border strips to sides of block and press seam towards border.
- 3a. Stitch a 2½" square to either end of remaining two borders strips and press seam towards border.
- b. Add to top and bottom of block and press seam towards border.

Quilting

- 1a. Iron butter muslin and lay right sides down on table, add wadding, then cushion top, right side up..
- b. Pin layers together, then tack in a grid formation.



- 2a. Hand quilt close to appliqué shapes to make design stand proud.
- b. Quilt in the ditch round outer border. (Machine quilt if you prefer)

Piping

General:

1. To make piping cord, cut 2 strips 1⅛" across width of background fabric, stitch together to give one long strip.
- b. Change foot on sewing machine to zipper foot and normal length stitch.
- c. Lay piping cord down centre of wrong side of fabric and fold fabric in half.
- d. Run side of foot along side of



The pretty appeal of a traditional appliqué block



Piping detail

piping cord, making sure position of needle is about 1/4" away from cord. e. Stitch to end, dia. 1a.

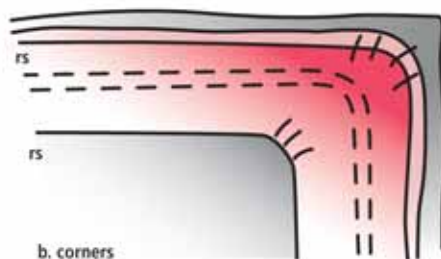
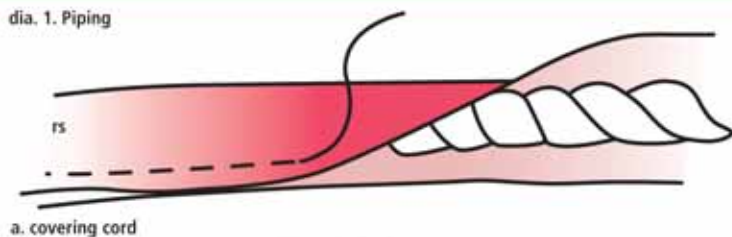
Adding to cushion:

- 1a.** Find centre of one of sides of cushion and lay start of piping cord there, matching edges together and pin in place.
- b.** Pin along sides of cushion until reaching a corner.
- c.** To go round corner, make a few small nicks in the fabric so that cord will bend round the corner, pin in place, dia. 1b.
- d.** Carry on for whole cushion.

Do not cut off any surplus piping cord, the ends will be finished together.

DIAGRAMS FOR ROSE OF SHARON

dia. 1. Piping



2. Tack piping cord in place.

Joining ends:

1a. Undo stitching on surplus end of piping cord and lay fabric flat. Lay start of cord in centre of this.

b. Cut surplus piping cord away so that two ends butt together. Trim off some of surplus fabric and fold raw edges over.

c. Fold fabric in half and tack in place, *dia. 1c.*

It now looks as if your piping cord is continuous.

2a. Keeping needle in same position as 'Piping: General, step 1d', machine stitch in place.

b. Remove tackings.

Cushion back

1. From background fabric, cut 2 pieces $16\frac{1}{2}'' \times 1''$.

2. Make a 1'' double hem along 1 long edge of each piece.

3. On one background piece make 2 buttonholes within the double hem.

4. Take the two backing pieces and lay them together

so that hems overlap. Pin in place.

5a. Lay cushion front on table, right sides up, with join of piping cord at the bottom.

b. Lay cushion back in position, making sure buttons are lined up with centre of cushion, with the right sides facing, *dia. 1d.*

c. Pin all edges together making sure all edges are aligned and tack in place.

6a. Move needle position to as close to the piping cord as possible.

b. Running edge of zipper foot along edge of cord, machine round edges of cushion.



Button back

c. Remove tackings.

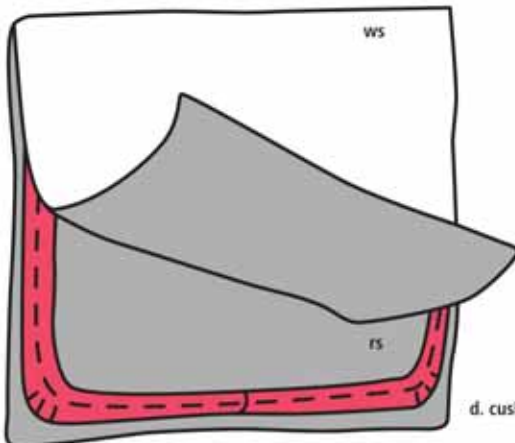
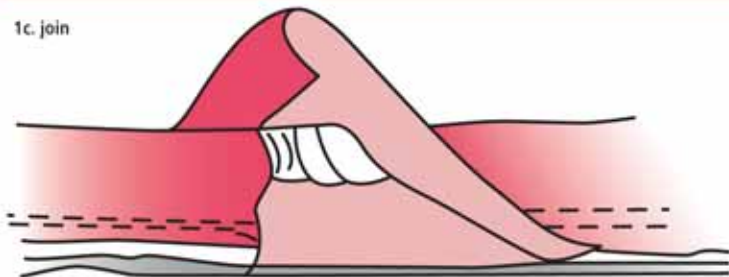
7. Turn cushion right sides out and check that stitching is tight to the cord all the way round. If not, restitch that area so there is no surplus fabric showing.

8. When all is correct, turn cushion inside out, cut seam allowance back to $\frac{1}{4}''$, trim off corners and zig zag edges together.

9. Turn right sides out, stitch buttons in place to complete your cushion.

DIAGRAMS FOR ROSE OF SHARON

1c. join



d. cushion back