

MACHINE APPLIQUÉ HANDOUT

Zigzag Stitch

Blanket Stitch

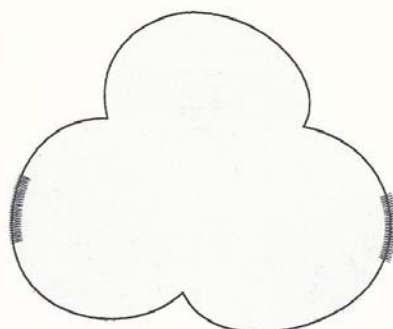
When to Use	For small, curved or detail shapes	For large shapes and gentle curves, or for a decorative look
Type of Thread	Regular weight, matching color	Topstitching or heavy** weight thread or you can use two strands of regular weight thread. This can be done in an accent color or matching thread
Bobbin	Regular weight	Regular weight
Needle Size	#9 or #10 to reduce fraying the edges of the appliqué shape	#12 to #16. If you are having trouble with skipped stitches, or breaking thread, try a larger needle. The heavier the thread, the larger the needle needs to be.
Stitch Width	Scant 1/8"	3/16" (between 1/8th and 1/4")
Stitch Length	1/16"	3/16" (between 1/8th and 1/4")
Presser Foot	I use an open toe-foot	
Tension	I always loosen the top tension a tiny bit – just so the thread “dots” appear on the back of the block and not the front. By loosening the top tension (and using the larger stitch length listed above), it also eliminates the need for a stabilizer.	
Options	Many machines have different options to help make the process easier, such as the needle-down button, mirror image, half-speed, double blanket stitch, etc.	
Securing	To secure your stitching when doing the small zig zag, you can do several stitches in place and then trim the ends. For the topstitching/heavy thread, leave the tails when starting and stopping and pull them to the back of the block. Tie a double knot and then trim.	

** I use the Heavy weight thread made by Dual Duty/Coats and Clark. It used to be called Topstitching thread.

ALIGNMENT OF STITCHING

To begin, align your stitching as shown, keeping the stitching almost entirely on the appliqué shape and going just over the edge into the ditch where the appliqué and background meet. The goal is to just barely cover the edge of the fabric, keeping the bulk of the stitching on the appliqué shape.

Correct

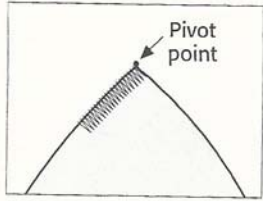


Incorrect

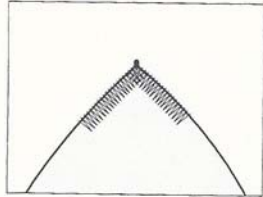
OUTSIDE POINTS

You will use a different approach for your points, depending on which stitch you are using.

For the Zigzag:

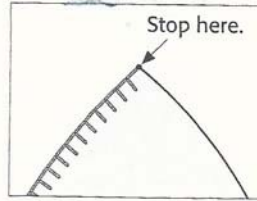


Stitch up to the pivot point.

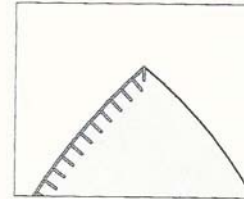


Pivot and continue stitching.

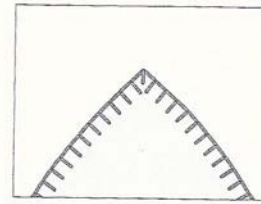
For the Blanket Stitch:



Stitch up to stopping point.



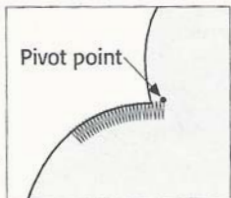
Pivot and take one stitc



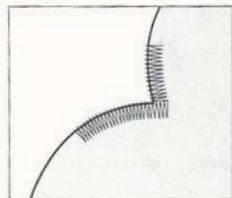
Pivot and continue stitching.

INSIDE POINTS:

For the Zigzag:

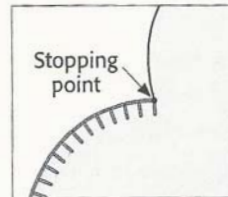


Stitch up to the pivot point.

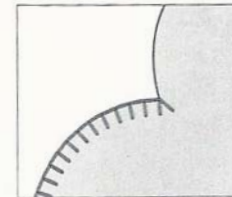


Pivot and continue stitching.

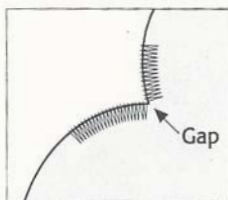
For the Blanket Stitch:



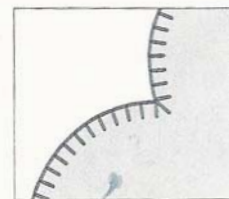
Stitch up to stopping point.



Pivot and take one stitch.



Gap indicates an error in pivot position.



Pivot and continue stitching.