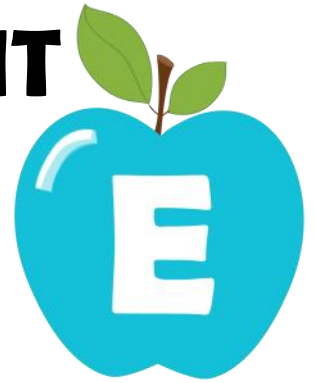


EMBELLISHMENTS PERMIT



Non functional fabric additions

This tutorial is provided for free. It is for personal use, but may be shared in a social sewing group or public school to teach others. It is not to be distributed online.

It may not be used as learning material in a paid sewing lesson.

Direct others to the Pattern Orchard website to obtain their own copy.

The information provided in this tutorial is general in nature. Different terminology may be used by sewers from different backgrounds and the sewing equipment used is based on commonly purchased items available in 2017 in Australia. Some older or newer equipment may have settings or options that differ from the examples given.

Please share the www.patternorchard.com link with anyone who is interested in learning to sew or furthering their sewing skills. There are free Learning Patterns available on the website for personal use or donations for charities.

Tag #PatternOrchard on social media when sharing photos of items made from a Pattern Orchard pattern to spread the word about this free resource.

This tutorial is suitable for most kids over the age of 8 with adult supervision for all sewing practice. Never leave kids unsupervised around sharp objects or machines.

Plain language is used to gradually introduce some basic sewing terminology.

Read through this document and complete the check list on page 10 to achieve your Embellishments Permit. Only pages 9 & 10 need to be printed.



EMBELLISHMENTS PERMIT

Topics covered

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Before you start

Learning something new can come naturally or be a fun challenge. Approach every lesson without worries at the back of your thoughts, with a clear workspace, full stomach and well rested. Remind yourself that every skill takes time and patience to learn well. Your first attempt is practice so use scrap fabrics first.

You choose what to sew. Stick to items you know you can achieve or challenge yourself with new fabrics, techniques or tools. Learn as much as you want to learn.

Each of the Pattern Orchard sewing permits teaches a different set of skills.

Start with the Learners' Permit, then move on to any of the other S.E.W.I.N.G. Permits. They do not need to be completed in order. Choose the skills that you want to focus on. Read through "Pick a Pattern" on the website to help you choose a suitable sewing pattern to start with after finishing each Permit.

Sewing can be a relaxing, creative and productive outlet. Enjoy.

Embellishments

Types

Embellishments are decorative additions to give your sewn projects a little extra detail. They can be notions which are non-fabric additions or you can embellish one fabric by adding pieces of other fabrics, called applique. Using threads to decorate a fabric is called embroidery.

We will go through some common notions, applique types and embroidery over the next few pages.

There are many more embellishment types that are not covered in this tutorial that you can research too. Beading, dyes, paints, sequins, diamantes, rhinestones, metal spikes, non-functional buttons, fringe trims, buckles and webbing are all ways you can embellish a fabric.

For info about notions that perform a function such as zippers and buttons, see the Notions Permit on the website at www.patternorchard.com.

Fabric Features

There are also ways to embellish a fabric by using fabric to create a feature. Decorative pleats, gathering, ruffles and more are ways that you can embellish an item with fabric features.

These can be functional aspects of a design or they can be purely decorative additions that can be added or omitted without affecting the items usability.

For this reason they are not always considered to be embellishments.

Notions

Types & Tips

Decorative non-functional additions to fabric. The following list covers a few of the most commonly used notions.

Ribbon: Can be sewn onto the top of fabric, into seams, used as loops for buttons and many more ways.

Ric Rac: Can be sewn into a seam or added on top of fabric. The zig zagged shape can be sewn in place with a straight stitch down the centre.

Broderie Anglaise Lace Trim: This trim is actually a cotton fabric with machine embroidered decorations on one edge. It can be sewn into a seam or behind a hem for a decorative edge.

Crochet Lace Trim: This trim is crocheted and can be sewn onto fabric either in a seam or on a hem.

Lace Trim: can be added in a seam or on a hem. It is light and commonly made from synthetic fibres. You can get elasticated laces for use with stretchy fabric.

Pom Pom Trim: These little pom poms are attached to a strip of knitted edge that can be sewn onto the hem or into a seam. They can be bulky to sew. A zipper foot can make this easier to work with.

Piping: Is a thin rope like cord that sits inside a fold of fabric. It is then added into a seam of another fabric to give body to the seam.

Embroidered Patches: Are made by a digital embroidery machine. They can have an adhesive back or be sewn in place.



Applique

Types & Tips

Applique is the addition of one fabric on the top of another. Woven fabrics should be appliqued onto woven fabrics and stretchy fabrics should only be appliqued onto stretchy fabrics.

The edges of your appliqued design can be left raw and secured with topstitching to prevent fraying or the edges can be turned under before the folded edge is neatly stitched into place without any visible topstitching.



Machine sewn zig zag edges - Hand sewn blanket stitch edges.

Securing the new fabric to the main fabric can be done by pinning or basting. Basting is done by loosely tacking a few stitches around the new fabric to hold it temporarily in place. Remove these tacking stitches at the end.

Another method of securing the new fabric is by using either a fabric glue or an adhesive webbing. Some adhesives have paper on one side to make ironing the adhesive sheet onto the fabric easier. If you are using a webbing that does not have a paper backing you need to place a piece of grease proof baking paper between the webbing and your ironing board when fusing together to ensure you don't get any on your ironing board cover.

Once the new fabric has been pinned, tacked or glued to the main fabric, the edges of the applique need to be secured to prevent fraying.

Embroidery

Types & Tips

Embroidery is the addition of threads to decorate a fabric. It can be hand sewn or machine sewn.

An embroidery machine is able to stitch out very detailed images, words or patterns onto fabric that is held firmly in a hoop. The hoop clips onto a moving arm of the machine that is able to move the hooped fabric in any direction to stitch the design onto the fabric by the fabric moving, not the needle. Embroidery designs for these machines are usually digital files that can be created to stitch out designs as detailed as photographs or as plain as text.



Stitched by an embroidery machine.

Small embroidery machines like the one pictured above can only hold one spool of thread. Each thread colour change is done manually. Larger machine can hold many colours to stitch out the design without pausing for thread changes.

A stabiliser is used to hold the fabric in place when stitching out the design to strengthen the fabric as the needle will be piercing the fabric a lot. Stabiliser looks, behaves and is applied quite similar to interfacing which is discussed in more detail in the Interfacing Permit. It can be fused to the back of the fabric being embroidered or remain separate.

Many modern digital sewing machines include a few decorative stitches that can be used to applique or embroider.

Tools of the Trade

Machine Feet

A very handy machine foot for sewing appliques, stretchy fabrics, multiple layers and more is a walking foot. This foot can be attached to a standard sewing machine and acts as a top set of feed dogs much like the bottom feed dogs that pull your fabric along under the needle.

A walking foot can help you get a neater result when sewing applique edges whether doing free motion applique, a zig zagged edge or appliqueing on a stretchy fabric.



For freehand embroidery where you can move the fabric around to create a unique stitch pattern you do not need the feed dogs to control the fabric. In this case an embroidery foot is used that has a small base area. The feed dogs of the machine can sometimes be disengaged to allow you greater control of the fabric.



An applique foot has an open front 'toe' section that allows you clear visibility of the applique edge underneath to better direct the foot along the edge of your applique.



To make sewing piping on, a pipng foot has raised channels underneath that allow the piping cord to pass under the foot while keeping pressure on the fabric to allow the feet dogs to pull the fabric through properly.



While these feet can make sewing these tasks much easier, a standard machine foot or zipper foot can often do a suitable enough job without the need to purchase extra feet.

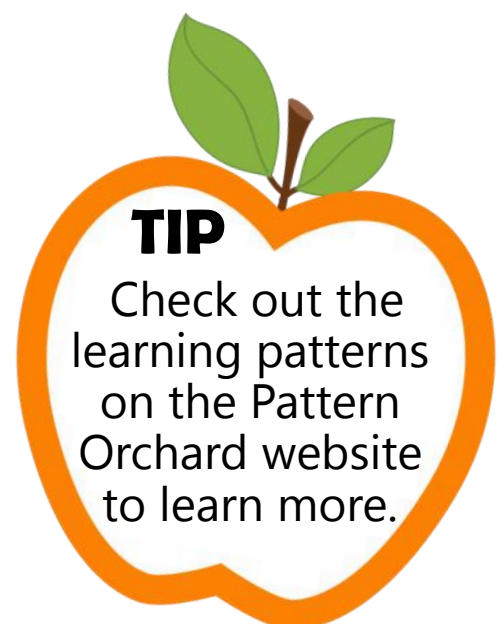
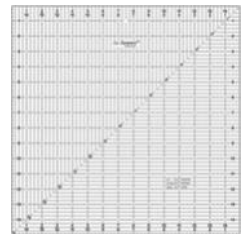
Helpful Gadgets

A thimble is a metal cup that is placed over the end of your finger to prevent the needle sticking into your finger when hand sewing. If you are doing hand embroidery or applique this can be a very helpful tool to have 'on hand'.



Fabric glue can come in a bottle or as a quick dry stick. It can be used to stick fabrics to each other or stick trims to the fabric to hold them in place while you sew them on. You will still need to sew the fabrics together as glue will not hold enough.

Using a clear quilting ruler to help line up an applique or other embellishment allows you to check that the decoration is where it should be. Sometimes a decoration may appear to be central and straight, but checking the alignment with a ruler or guide ensures greater accuracy. They are also very helpful for cutting out straight shapes to get a neat edge.



Embellishments Permit

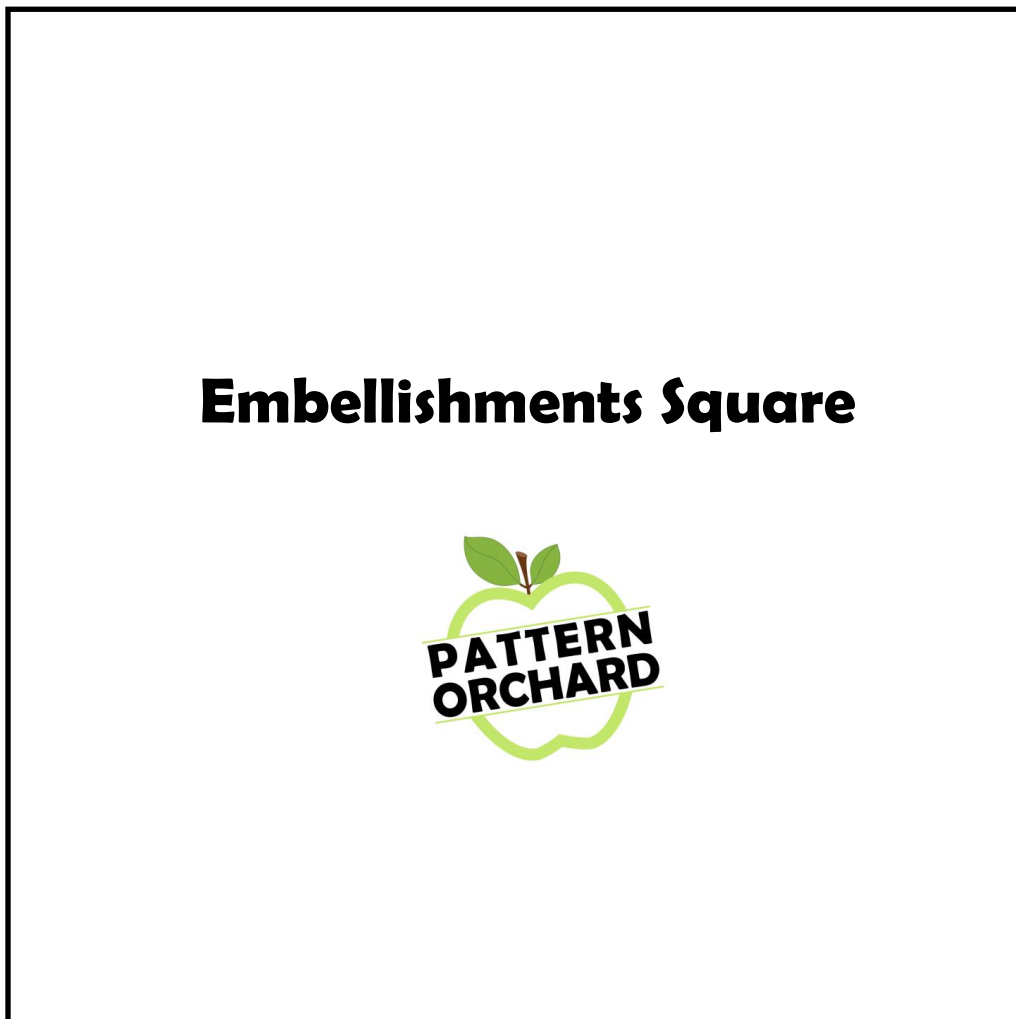
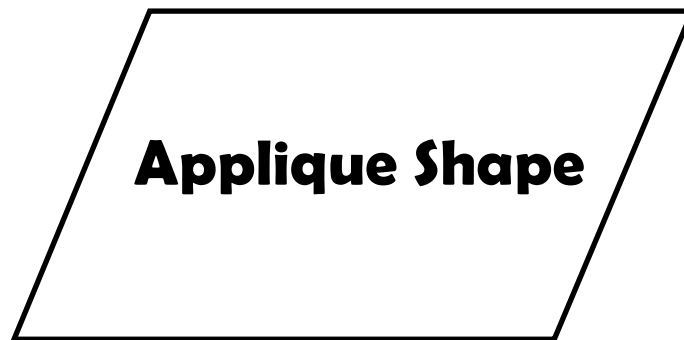
Practice

Print this page.

Cut out both of the shapes from quilting cotton.

Adhere the smaller to the larger using one of the methods from page 5.

Zig zag stitch around the shape to secure the two together.



Embellishments Permit

Check list



Read & understand the entire Embellishments Permit document



See how many different types of embellishments you can find on the clothing, bags and homewears around you.



Cover the descriptions, then name the notions on page 4



Watch online videos of the machine feet from page 7 in action




Complete the page 9 practice paper sewing sheet



Once all of the above have been ticked, you are now ready to attempt your first sewing project! Head to www.patternorchard.com to find more information about choosing a good first pattern as well as free patterns for you to try.

You can now fill out your name and the date on your Embellishments Permit license card below. Cut it out and keep it to remind you of how long you have been sewing for. Congratulations!

Embellishments Permit



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