

Castilleja Cotton Quilting Tips and Techniques

This page has tips and techniques for making Castilleja Cotton's quilt patterns.

Reduce appliqué stiffness

- In some of our patterns, some appliqué pieces are fused on top of another appliqué piece. To reduce the stiffness. Cut out the center of the template on the fusible web leaving ¼" seam allowance on both sides of the drawn line.
- Then fuse as normal.
- This will give a softer feel to the quilt.

Temporary Basting Spray

- We use a temporary basting spray 505 Temporary Fabric Adhesive to secure the quilt top to the batting. We also use the spray to secure the quilt top/batting to the backing. The spray eliminates the need to pin the layers together and makes it easier to stitch around the appliqué pieces.

Reduce background showing through templates

- Some fabrics will show background even with the fusible web on the back of it. For example in the Santa faces if the hat band fabric is too light then the hat can show through. One way to eliminate this is to use a light weight fusible interface. Fuse the interface first to the appliqué piece and then add the fusible web.
- Another way to eliminate show through is fuse another appliqué piece to first appliqué piece of the same fabric.
- Other patterns where this technique can be used is for light colored snow folk on a dark background.

Sewing Accurate ¼" Seam

- Use the side of machine foot as a guide. However, this may not give you an exact 1/4 in. seam allowance.
- For an accurate ¼" seam, cut 3 pieces of fabric 1 ½" by 5". Sew the first strip to the second strip along the long side. Then sew the third strip to the first strip on the other side. Press all three strips the same direction. Measure the width.
If width measures 3 ½" then great.
- If not, try again with 3 new strips the same size. Adjust the fabric to the right of the foot if the strip set measures less than 3 ½". Adjust the fabric to the left of the foot if the strip measures more than 3 ½".

Sewing Strip Sets

- Alternate starting end when sewing strips together to get straight strips. The bottom teeth gobble up more of the fabric. If you always start from the same end then the strips will start to curve.
- In order to keep track of the end you started, leave the threads long on the start end and cut them short on the finished end.

Pressing strips

- Press seam on the wrong side first to soften and then press on the right side, usually towards the darkest fabric.

Unsewing

- It is easier to remove the bobbin thread when removing stitches.
- Use a different colored thread in the bobbin to easily identify the bobbin thread.

Interfacing larger blocks before machine appliqué pieces

- On quilt tops where one dimension is greater than 16", it is best to blanket stitch the appliqué pieces before layering on the batting. Sometimes sewing machines don't like to do the blanket stitch on a single layer of fabric.
- To solve this problem, fuse a lightweight fusible interfacing to the back of the block. Blanket stitch around the appliqué pieces.
- Layer the quilt top on the batting and batting. Quilt around the pieces using invisible thread in the needle.