

APPLIQUÉ OPTIONS

The pieces can be sewn onto the quilt top by machine or by hand. They can also be embroidered on using a digitized embroidery design. See the following section for more information. For a standard machine applique process, which is how the applique on the coversheet was added to the quilt, use the following instructions.

1. **Clean and Oil the Machine before you Start.**
2. **A good stitch requires a new, sharp needle. I normally use a size 60/8 Microtex Sharp, but adjust it for the size thread you choose.**

NOTE - A Little Advice: Generally, the smaller the thread, the smaller the needle, the smaller the stitch, the better machine appliqué looks. But, this depends on experience and comfort level. If you choose to go bigger, it is up to you! Don't be afraid to experiment a little on a different piece of fabric!

3. **I recommend lighter weight threads, 60 weight and smaller. I have used cotton, polyester, rayon, and silk.**

NOTE - A Little Advice: Use what you like. There are many great threads on the market. I generally match the thread color to the fabric and use the same thread in the bobbin as on the top.

4. **I use a very small zigzag or very small blanket stitch. Decorative stitches are also great. Play around on your machine with stitches and stitch length and width until you are happy. Then, begin the appliqué process.**

► Settings for Invisible Machine Appliqué:

Blanket Stitch: **Width (.7-1.2)** Length (1.7-2.1)
Zigzag: **Width (.5-.9)** Length (1.3-1.5)

5. **Appliqué Foot:** An Open Toe Embroidery Foot is the most common foot used for Machine Appliqué.
6. **Object Placement:** When you start, the needle position should be set so it jumps on and off the folded-edge of the appliqué pieces. Stitch around each appliqué piece to complete the quilt.

DIGITIZED EMBROIDERY DESIGN BY FABRIC CONFETTI

Vanessa Fromm, from Fabric Confetti has created a digitized embroidery design that can be added to the Cactus Flower Applique. This pattern can be downloaded at Quiltworx.com, purchased directly from Quiltworx or Fabric Confetti website, or purchased from your local quilt shop.

Detailed information for preparing your applique pieces using the Stitch-N-Peel shapes is included in the Cactus Flower Embroidery Pattern by Fabric Confetti. Use of an embroidery machine is necessary in order to use these designs.

If you are planning to use this approach, please review her instructions before completing any of the cutting for your applique pieces on the previous Pages 12 and 13.

► Illustration 7

