

## How To Create The Basic Appliqué

This is a process for creating an appliqué without using automatic appliqué creating software. This can be done in any embroidery software that offers some basic digiting skills.

This design was embroidered on the back of a denim jacket. It is 10.25 inches wide and 10.5 inches high. I used a piece of silver metallic appliqué fabric for the appliqué that I purchased from one of the lettering houses and I used a metallic Silver thread for the satin stitch around the appliqué. I also used a metallic Gold thread for the bows on my packages. The remainder was all polyester thread.



**Step 1-** Create your finished embroidery design first. After your design is completed, add the run stitch for your applique placement line on the garment and then the tack down running stitch line. The placement stitch line is also the line for your pattern.

In our sample picture the **Red** line that is on top of the gray stitching is the placement and pattern line. This is only placed on top for our example. I want you to be able to see in 3 D exactly where the placement line and pattern line should be.



The **Blue** line is the tack down stitch line. Again, that is only placed on top because I want you to see the exact placement for your tack down run stitch. The width of the area of the satin stitch that sews down your appliqué is basically divided into 3 sections.

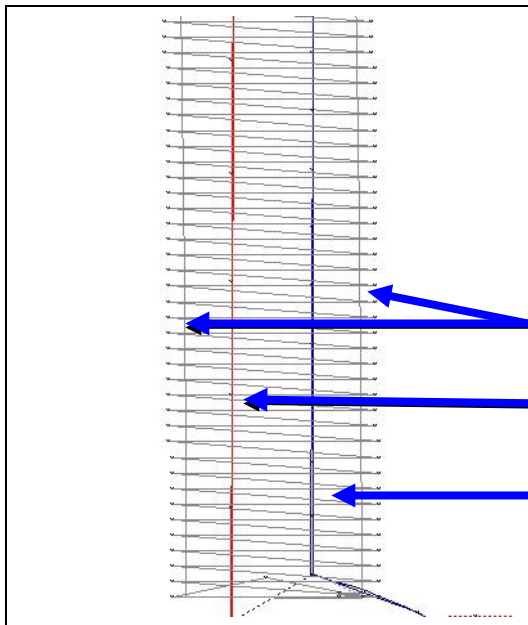
You have the outside edge of your satin stitch, the about 1/3 to the inside is your placement line, then about 1/3 of the way out to the finished inside edge is your tack down line and then another third is the inside edge of your satin stitch.

The actual measurements I cannot give you. It all depends on the size of the satin stitch that you are using to sew down your appliqué.

The average size is 4 millimeters, but if it is a small applique piece you will want to use about 3 millimeters. Three millimeters is the minimum size that you can use and have it work correctly. If it is a large appliqué you will use about 5 millimeters. I have found it best not to go over 6 millimeters, this is a quarter of an inch. The size for my satin stitch for this applique is 5 millimeters.

The red and blue line can be programmed into the machine the same color as the satin stitch. I separate them with color changes to signify that they are to be treated

separately. You can program a STOP in the software after the placement stitch runs so that your machine will stop for you to place down your appliqué piece.



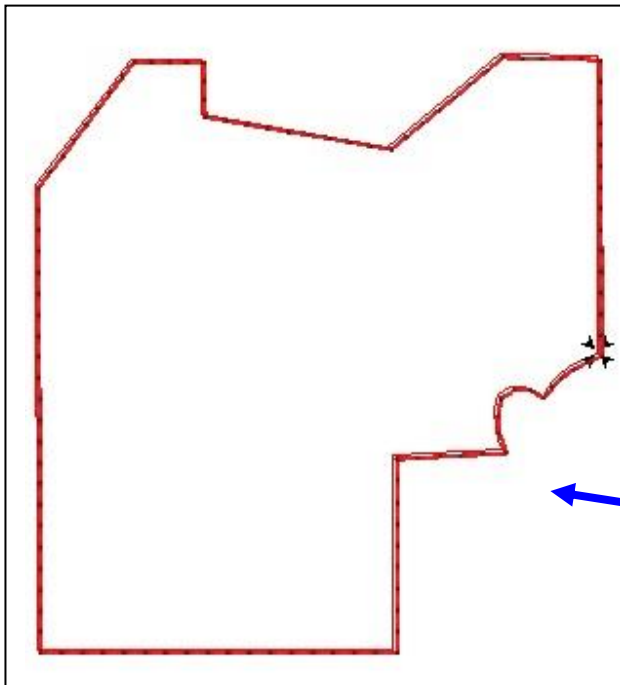
I have added the drawing to the left that is a zoomed in sample of the way that all of the stitches are laid down. This drawing did not appear in the article for the magazine.

**Satin Stitch**

**Placement Stitch**

**Tack down Stitch**

**Step 2** – I copied the placement stitch onto another worksheet in my software and reversed it to create the actual pattern that I use to cut out my appliqué. I will print this pattern out and press it onto the back of my fabric.



When you are pressing it onto your fabric make sure that you have the fabric and pattern piece covered with a sheet of Teflon. If you do not have Teflon, a piece of aluminum foil will work.

Cut it out on the outside line of the printout and spray it lightly with embroidery spray glue and set it aside. To the left is the pattern that I used to cut out the appliqué piece.

If you are going to be sending your appliqué pattern to a cutter, then you will create an appliqué cut pattern with the extension that will go to your cutter. In the Pulse software, it is a .dxf file. You will need to check with your software or your cutter to find out which file extension you will need for this application.

**Step 3** – Hoop your garment and start your design. If your appliqué is your first item, and it is in my design, the run stitch for your placement line will run and then you stop the machine. You can manually stop your machine or digitize a stop in the software.

Place your glued appliqué fabric piece down inside of your placement line making sure that it is in exactly the correct spot. If it is not perfectly placed, the tack down stitch may not catch as it is tacking down your fabric piece. Press it with your fingers to make sure that it is secure or press it with an appliqué iron.

You may need to move out your pantograph to place down your fabric piece. On the Tajima machine, press the Offset key and it will move your pantograph back to the perfect location for you to continue.

**Step 4** – Run the tack down stitch to firmly hold your appliqué piece in place and finish your total embroidery design.

**Step 5** – After all of the embroidery is finished, press your appliqué piece down firmly with a heat press machine or a hot iron. This will give it a finished look and prolong the life of the appliqué.

## **Tips**

1. I have found that it is best to use the actual lettering or appliqué fabric that you can purchase from the lettering houses, such as Stahls, Liebe, Dalco or several others. If you do not have this fabric or want to use a different type of fabric, it works best if you adhere a welding or bonding film to the back of the fabric first before applying your pattern.
2. When sewing on top of a heavy denim seam, place several layers of topping at the edge of the seam. This will give the embroidery a smoother transition from the lighter or thinner area to the heavier area. Many times when it is going over several layer of fabric like a heavy seam, it will skip stitches or even get stuck in one spot. This will help to prevent that from happening.
3. Make sure that you are using tearaway backing. You may be tempted to not use backing since this is a heavy fabric. This is a must as your denim will stretch if it is not held securely in place.
4. I used a metallic fabric for my appliqué. If you are using a metallic fabric, you will need a heavy density. I have found that it is also very helpful to use a firm underlay. If you do not, your metallic fabric has a tendency to unravel over time.



5. Polyester thread works best for appliqués if it is one that is going to be washed a lot such as on a uniform type of fabric. On a piece of denim, it would not be necessary, but it is extremely important on Uniform fabrics.

## **Finished Jacket Back Appliqué**

