

Wool Applique

Essential Guide for Beginners

From OneCreativePenguin.com



Wool Applique Supplies:

Needles, Thread, Wool for Applique, Wool or Cotton Background, Fabric Scissors, Paper Scissors, Freezer Paper or Fusible Web, Pencil, Iron, Stapler, Pins, and Pattern.



Needles

A sharp chenille 22 is a good needle to start with. A good sharp needle that easily goes through wool is going to help keep your hands from cramping up as you stitch. If the needle starts to get caught or is giving you resistance, it's time for a new needle. Get a few so you have some on reserve.

Thread

I love working with wool thread. The stitches melt right into the wool. This is perfect if you want to add embellishments after completing the applique. If you would like your stitches to show I would recommend a size 8 perle cotton in a contrasting color.

Wool for Applique

This is what you will be cutting the shapes out of. It is best to work with 100% wool that has been felted. Wool that is already felted won't fray and gives a cleaner finished look. There are a variety of options including different colors and textures. Hand dyed wool can be more expensive but adds a nice look to the finished product.

Background Fabric

This is the fabric that you'll be putting your cut shapes onto. Commonly, wool or cotton backgrounds are used.



Fabric Scissors

These scissors are special sharp scissors that are only used to cut fabric. They give very nice crisp points when cutting through wool. Do not cut paper with these! Paper will quickly dull and ruin the scissors. If you only use them to cut fabric they will last years.

Paper Scissors

These can be any regular household scissors. They will be used to cut the freezer paper we'll use to transfer the pattern.

Freezer Paper

This can be found in the grocery store or at local quilt stores in printed sheets. When tracing, the pattern is traced on to the dull side of the freezer paper

Fusible Web

This is a fusible that adheres the applique pieces to the background. When tracing the pattern you will trace onto the side of the fusible without glue on it.

NOTE: You need either Freezer paper OR Fusible Web, not both. You only need a stapler if you're using freezer paper.

Stapler

A regular household stapler is used to staple the applique pieces into place on the background before you stitch them in place

Pins

Pins can be used instead of staples to hold the freezer paper pieces in place.

Iron

A good quality iron with no steam is important and necessary to press the pieces.

Patterns

I highly recommend a pattern for your first project.

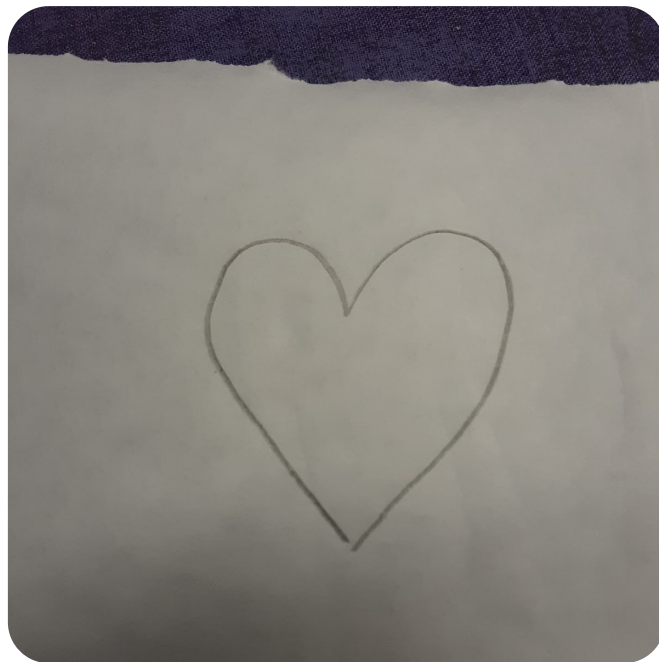
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How to Create Your Project

Step 1: Read The Pattern

Read the entire pattern before starting so that you have a plan in place for how to work. Most patterns are designed with the assumption that you have basic knowledge of wool applique. This guide will help you fill in any blanks!



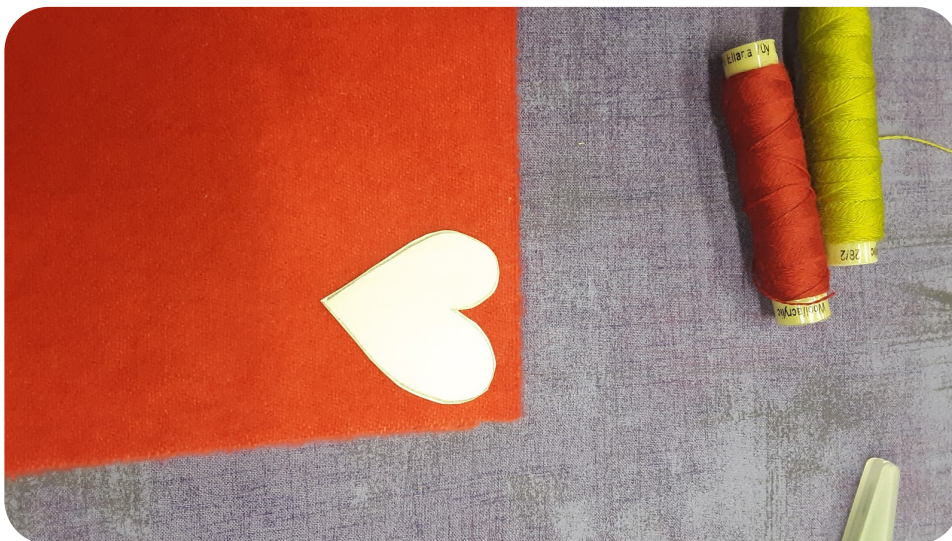
Step 2: Trace the Pieces

Trace the pattern pieces from the pattern onto either freezer paper or fusible web. Your pattern will offer the templates either "right way", "reversed", or both. The "right" way goes with freezer paper and the "reversed" goes with fusible web. It's important to get this right so that your pattern isn't accidentally reversed. Label your pattern pieces as you are tracing.



Step 3: Cut Out Pattern Pieces

If you used freezer paper in step 2, cut out all shapes with paper scissors right on the lines you traced. If using fusible leave about 1/8" around each piece when cutting.

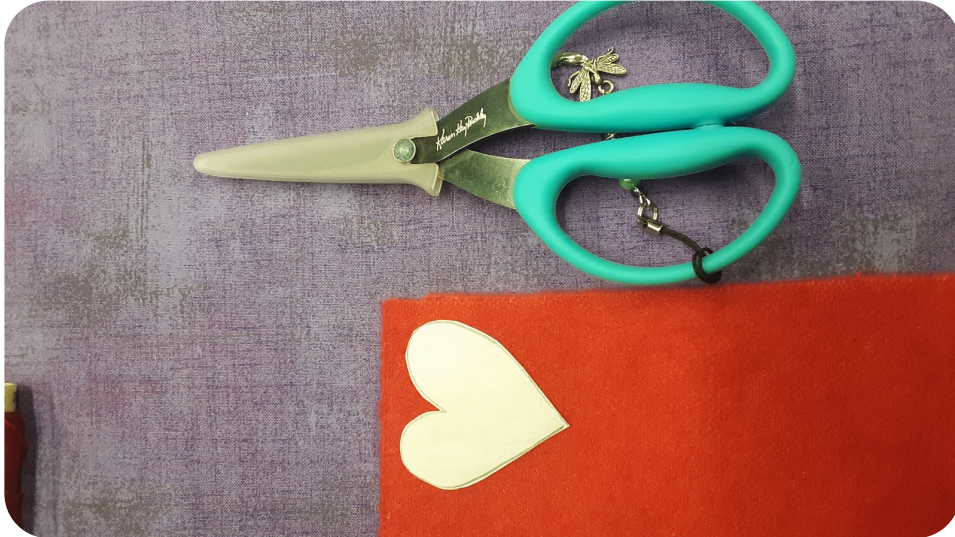


Step 4: Iron The Pieces to the Wool

Freezer Paper: Using an iron on medium to medium-high heat, iron the shiny side down to the right side of the wool. Move the iron continually for about 10 seconds. Let it cool for 2 minutes and then check to be sure it's stuck down. If it isn't, iron again.

Fusible Web: Follow the package instructions for iron temperatures. The pieces need to be placed on the wrong side of the wool and then ironed.

NOTE: There isn't actually a right or wrong side of the wool, both sides are usable, however many wools have color variations on each side, so you'll need to choose which side is YOUR right side.



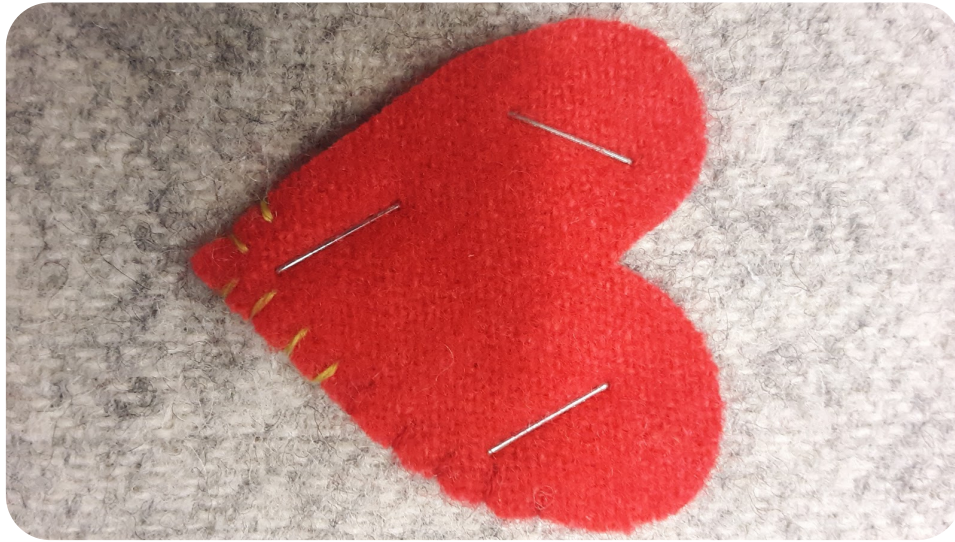
Step 5: Cut Out Applique Pieces

Cut out your applique pieces using your good fabric scissors. If you are using freezer paper, cut right outside of the paper and be sure to cut as accurately as possible. This will give you the best finished look. If using fusible web, cut right on the line, this will not ruin your fabric scissors, but cutting paper will!

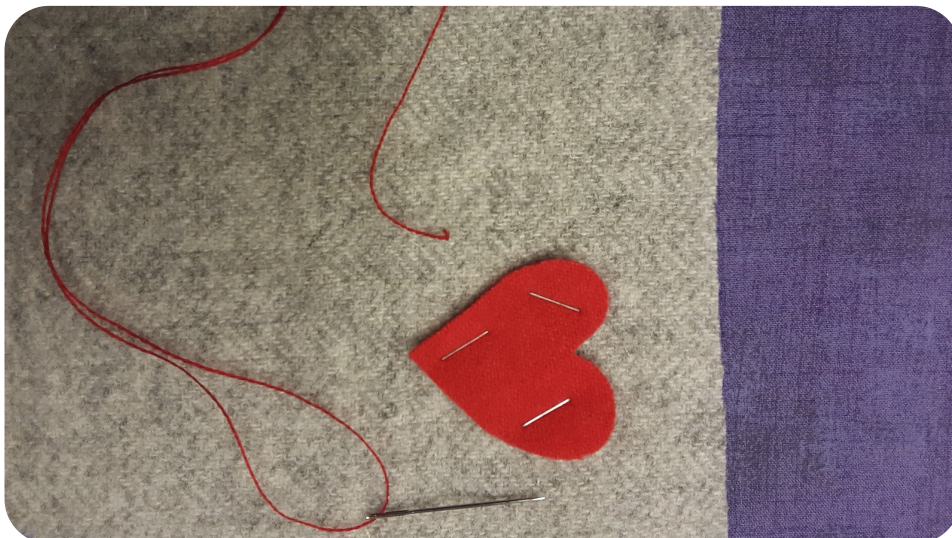


Step 6: Lay Out Your Pieces

Lay all pieces out onto the background using the pattern picture. Using Freezer Paper: Once pieces are where you like them you will pin or staple them in place. Unattached pieces may shift a bit while you're pinning or stapling. That's ok, just adjust them back into place.



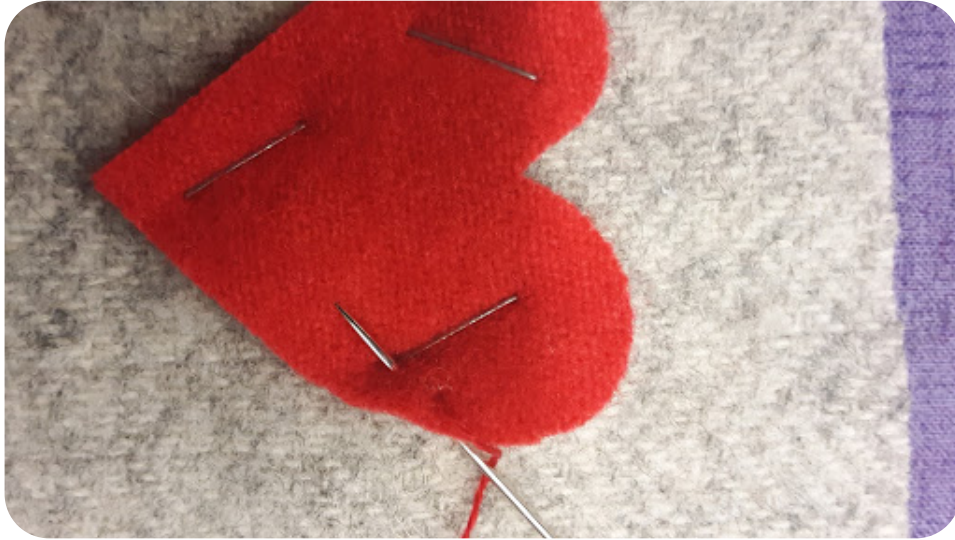
Using Fusible Web: I recommend laying everything out on the background, right on the ironing board. This way you don't have to move it once everything is in place. Iron according to the manufacturer's instructions. I like to press down to make sure heat gets through all of the layers. Once all of the pieces are attached, flip the whole thing over and give a quick press from the back.



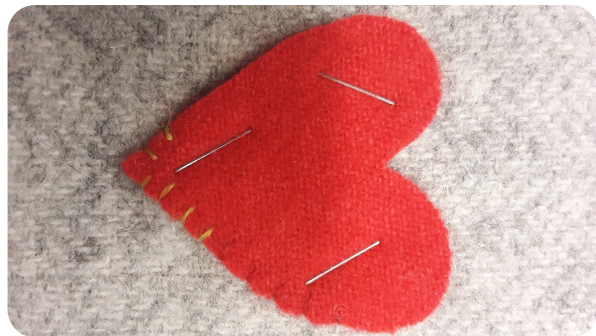
Step 7: Start Stitching!

Cut a length of thread that is approx. 18-20" long. Thread your needle and tie a knot at the end. Pick a point to start stitching that is not at the tip of a point.

Come up from the back into the applique. Go straight out from the stitch into the background.



Stitches should be about 1/8 inch apart and 1/8 inch long.



Step 8: Embellish as Desired

