

Aurifil June Design Project

Rose Ring

I chose a simple machine appliqued block as my project. I love machine applique, as you can see in my new C&T book, *The Ultimate Applique Guidebook*. In my book, I demonstrate my machine applique technique in photography format – so you can see how I place my hands and where the stitch should be placed at the edge of the applique and the presser foot. Machine applique is my preferred technique.

Because this project is small – one block size – it's quick and easy. I chose to frame mine, which I have been doing lately. It's a cool way to showcase some beautiful quilting using Aurifil threads!

Rose Ring materials you will need:

Print the applique template PDF

Paper-backed fusible web (I use Soft Fuse by Shades Textiles)

A #2 pencil

Clover Fine Line White Marking pen (the marks will disappear when they are touched by a hot iron)

Scissors

Iron and ironing board

Fabrics:

One fat quarter of background fabric

Scraps of fabrics for applique detail:

-for flowers (magenta and purple)

- flower centers (yellow)

- orange peel (orange)

- leaves (green)

- interest dots (turquoise)

Aurifil thread to match your fabrics, with corresponding bobbins wound with your thread colors.

17" x 17" piece of batting

one fat quarter of backing fabric

one fat quarter for binding

For Framing:

½ yard of fabric for frame matting

one 16"x16" frame

one yard of 1" wide rickrack

17" x 17" piece of batting

Applique glue

Double sided- permanent Scotch tape

To create the Rose Ring:

With sheets of fusible web and a pencil,
Trace 4 flowers and flower centers
Trace 16 Orange Peel shapes
Trace 8 interest dots
Trace 16 leaves

Cut out shapes, leaving 1/8" allowance OUTSIDE of your traced lines. Then, cut across the drawn line to cut away the INSIDE of your applique shapes, leaving 1/8" allowance on the inside.

Now, fuse the shapes to the WRONG side of your chosen applique fabrics.
Cut ON the traced lines and remove the fusible release paper.

Using the Clover White pen, draw a ring in the center of your background fabric. I used a large dinner plate and drew around it to create my ring. The ring you're making is the placement lines for your applique.

BEFORE FUSING:

Following the photograph of the Rose Ring for reference, Place your Orange Peel shapes first, starting at 12:00 and 6:00, then 3:00 and 9:00.

Now place your flowers with the centers on top.

Place the leaves.

If you have trouble moving them in place as you like, use the tip of a pin to grab the shape and align it so it is pleasing to you.

Once you have all of the above shapes in place, touch them gently with a hot iron. Make sure that all of the edges are fused down.

Add the interest dots to the Orange peels now and fuse in place.

Now you can use the whole sole plate of the iron to fuse the shapes firmly. I often fuse from the wrong side of the background fabric too.

Once fused in place, stitch around each of your applique shapes using a Blanket Stitch, a zigzag stitch or an adjusted Blind Hem.

Once you have stitched around each of your appliques, sandwich your top with batting and backing. Pin baste together and machine quilt. You can see the detail of how I machine quilted my piece, using little swirls of free motion quilting. I wanted to do plain straight-line cross-hatching but the applique didn't lend itself to straight lines. Thus, the swirly lines worked much better.

After quilting, trim your block into a circle using a compass to draw it, or the old-fashioned way: get a piece of string and pin one end in the center of the block. Tie your white marking pen to the other end and draw your trimming line in a circle.

Prepare bias binding by cutting 2-3 strips of 2 ½” wide bias (45 degree angle cuts) from your fat quarter. Sew ends together to create one long binding strip and press in half, wrong sides together. Sew binding to block edge with a ¼” seam allowance. Flip binding to the back and whip stitch in place, by hand.

To create the framing:

Remove packaging and set glass aside. (I didn’t use the glass for my finished piece, although if you’d like to use this framed piece as a serving tray rather than on the wall, replace the glass once your quilted piece is securely in place.)

Glue batting piece to back board of the frame and trim the excess with your rotary cutter.

Lay batting covered board on the wrong side of your matting fabric.

Lay strips of the double-sided permanent Scotch tape along the edge on the back side of the back board, pull matting fabric taut and secure to the tape. Once in the frame, your matting fabric will lay perfectly.

Now, set covered back board inside the frame and secure all of the glazing points to hold the board.

Lay your quilted circle block inside the frame, centering it.

Carefully lift the edge of your circle block up and lay a bead of applique glue down on top of your matting fabric 1” from the edge, so the glue isn’t visible.

After you have secured your block with the glue, go back around the edge just under the binding and lay down another bead of glue – a few inches at a time, and at the same time, set the rickrack in place halfway under the binding so only a scalloped edge will show.

When finished, hang your beautiful creation on the wall, display it in a wrought iron photo stand, or use it as a serving tray (with the glass back in the frame).