

Spinning Blooms Mini



designed by Anna Maria Horner
featuring Mod Corsage

I designed the Spinning Flowers Mini to highlight the floral features of my Mod Corsage quilting fabrics and to encourage those of you who maybe have never tried applique! This is a fun exercise in arrangement and color as the design only serves as one idea that you can run with! The featured quilt is made from the Future Colorway of Mod Corsage, but would be just as pretty in Past or Present.... and it would be amazing to create four of these spinning sections for a large scale quilt.

Use the following materials and details on this page and the subsequent templates and tips on the following two pages to get your own blooms in motion!

Finished size: Approximately 35" x 35"
Materials used: Fat Quarter collection of Future Colorway
1 yard Passage in Forest for Backing
1 yard Observations in Indigo for background
Scraps of Free Spirit Solids for binding
Quilt Batting of your choice

General Sequence & Guidelines:

1. Cut Background Fabric to be about a square 36"
2. Cut as many flower buds, leaves and stems as desired and begin arranging against the background. Take a picture with your phone to record your favorite layout.

A few notes about the structure of my design:

-The center is a medium circle with 3 curved stems spinning out, that end with smaller circles.
-The space between the stems is taken up with larger circles and leaves
-Many of the larger reverse applique circles have smaller circles in a contrast fabric appliqued on them

3. Decide which elements you would like to reverse applique (the only reverse applique in my quilt are the four largest circles) and determine their position. Follow tips on page 3 for reverse applique.

4. Using the photo of your original layout, begin putting all applique elements in place and use the tips on page two for sewing them in place. Or use your favorite method! Keep in mind that elements that are underneath others (i.e.stems passing under leaves) should be stitched down before the elements on top.

5. Once applique is finished (that was fast!) sandwich the batting between the wrong sides of backing and quilt top and baste either with large hand stitches for handquilting, or with safety pins for machine quilting. I used a sort of "echo" machine quilting technique around my shapes starting in the center and working my way out.

6. Sew ends of 2 1/2" strips of solids together to create a length of about 4.5 yards of binding. Attach binding to quilted and trimmed quilt using your favorite method.

Happy Patch-working! xo, Anna Maria

Leaves & Stems

Mod Corsage

isn't just a collection of fabric.....it's also a favorite style of quilting that I've been teaching for a few years. Combine some of these applique elements with straight forward patchwork to build beautiful bouquets! See my Mod Corsage Class on Creativebug.com to build your bouquet right alongside me! Here's the linky dinky:

<http://bit.ly/ModCorsageQuilt>



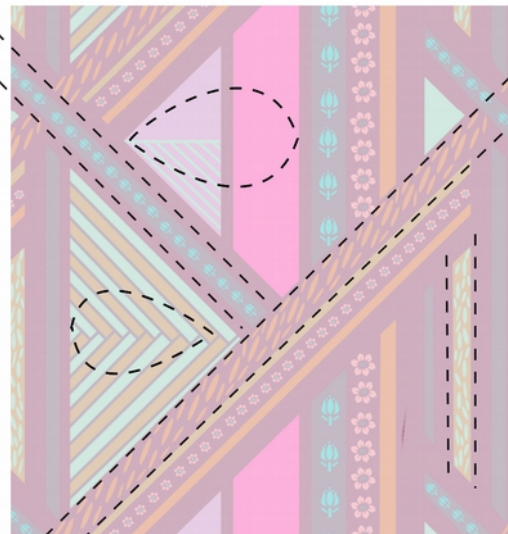
Hand Applique Tips

When making an applique shape, first trace the shape onto the fabric (black line) then cut it out 1/4" to the outside of the traced line (pink dotted line). Machine baste shape onto background fabric keeping your stitch line right on the traced line. Once you are ready to sew shapes in place, by hand, clip basting out as you go around the shape an inch or so at a time, before turning shape under to its wrong side for stitching. The removed basting stitches will leave holes perforating the edge where your fold should be.

This machine basting method is best for hand applique and eliminates getting poked by pesky pins. Repeat until someone makes you stop.

*You can shrink or enlarge these leaf shapes in your printer for more variety !

My "Passage" print is perfect for fussy cut leaves and straight or bias stems!



Bias Cut Stems

Cutting stems on the bias (45 degree) angle to the grain of the fabric will allow you to very subtly or pretty drastically curve the stem's direction when applying them in place- either by hand or by machine. My Passage print from Mod Corsage was created with this in mind and is a blast to cut up in every direction!



Machine Applique

I am of course partial to all of the pretty decorative stitches on my Janome sewing machines, however almost every machine has a zigzag that can be used. It's best if you can widen the stitch. My favorite stitch for machine applique is a blanket stitch.

Flower Buds

Use these 3 circles as templates for creating either reverse or regular applique by machine or by hand. Watch my Creativebug.com class called Folk Flower Block to watch my reverse applique techniques.

<http://bit.ly/FolkFlowerBlock>



Reverse Applique Tips

When making a reverse applique shape, first trace the shape (black line) onto the right side of the background fabric. Then trim out the center from the background fabric 1/4" away (pink dotted line) from the inner edge of the traced line. You can now carefully clip the seam allowance all around the inner curves right up to your traced line, but not through it. Turn the clipped seam allowance back against the wrong side, so that you are folding the shape opening right on the traced line. Press it smoothly all around to create a crease. Layer your desired fabric behind the opening in the background fabric, and pin it in place all around once in position. Stitch folded edge to the fabric behind either by hand or by machine. Repeat until you are thrilled with yourself.

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