

Freak in the Room Hat

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It's years since my brother had this "Freak in the Room" cap, which was one of his favorites. The border and fruit logo is a play on "Fruit of the Loom", and he loved it.

In one of our recent conversations he asked me whether I remembered the cap (I did) and hinted that such a thing would be a welcome gift for Christmas.

As a pun, this isn't bad, and of course I couldn't resist making a replacement cap.



To make the patch, I stitched the design in 4" size onto white felt backed with two layers of tear-away stabilizer. Then I trimmed it carefully, leaving a tiny border of white felt all around the edge, and fixed it to the hat using a patch-attach glue.

I got busy and digitized my own version of the logo, which I wanted to stitch in 4" size.

It's too large to fit in my hat hoop, but I decided to sew it on white felt as an applique, which I could then sew to the hat.



Here the hat sits on a balsa wood milliner's block. You can see the pins holding the applique in position while the glue dries.

I've had this block for many years, having picked it up at a yard sale for the princely sum of 75 cents. I don't make a lot of hats, but this sure comes in handy when I'm working on a project like this. The hat keeps its shape, and the pins are easily inserted right into the block.



Fabric glue is usually enough to hold the patch in position, but for extra security I decided to stitch it down as well. You could do this by hand, but I decided to work by machine.

It took a bit of fiddling to fit the hat underneath the presser foot, but with a bit of patience I managed it, then stitched around the edge of the felt just outside the green border, using invisible (nylon) thread.

Ta-da! A surprise for my brother that I know he'll love.