

ITH Maple Leaf, Heart, or Star Applique Ornament

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This applique-style ornament sews over fashion fabric on a foundation of felt. Stitched with or without one of the included greetings, each makes a great stocking stuffer or annual ornament gift.

Coordinate the colours of the satin stitching to match or complement the colours of the fashion fabric underneath.

Each sews in a 4x4" hoop (100x100mm) in approximately 20 minutes.

Finished sizes are as follows:

Maple Leaf ornament measures approximately 3.4x3.9";

Heart ornament measures approximately 2.8x3.6"; and

Star ornament measures approximately 3.5x3.7".

For each ornament you will need

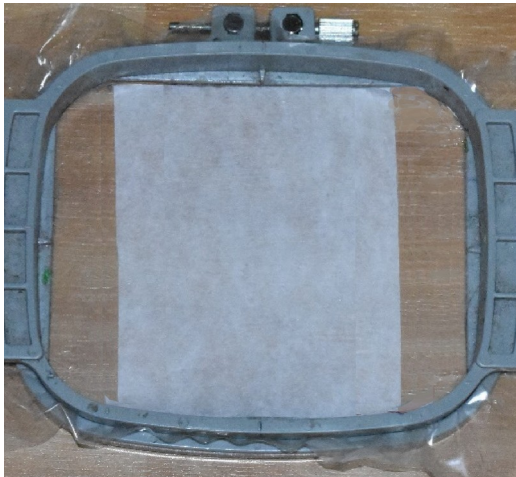
- One 4.5" square of fashion fabric or tartan
- One 4.5" square of white felt
- One 4.5" square of felt in a color to match your fashion fabric
- Medium weight tear-away stabilizer



ITH Maple Leaf, Heart, or Star Applique Ornament Instructions

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1. Hoop a single layer of Glad Press N Seal in the 4x4" hoop with the sticky side up. You can substitute regular plastic wrap or even a plastic bag. Make sure it's snug in the hoop.



2. Place a piece of tear-away stabilizer approximately 3.5 x 4.5" against the sticky Press N Seal in the center of the hoop, pressing to hold it in place. Lightly spray a second piece of stabilizer with temporary adhesive and place it on top of the first piece of tear-away.



NOTE: If you prefer not to use the plastic method, you can hoop a double layer of tear-away stabilizer instead, then continue as follows.

3. Turn the hoop face down. Place one 3.5 x 4.5" piece of tear-away stabilizer on the back of the hoop, centring it over the tear-away that's already on the front.

Note: I will be sewing the Maple Leaf ornament in the example, but the process is the same for the Heart and Star versions.



4. Turn the hoop right side up again. Lightly spray a piece of white felt with temporary adhesive and press it in place in the center of the hoop. You will now have three layers of stabilizer and one layer of felt.



5. Place the hoop in the machine and stitch the first colour. Pause the machine. Remove the hoop from the machine, but do not unhoop the design. I have used a dark thread for clarity.

Note: I'm using photos from two different stitch-outs.



6. Lightly spray a piece of the applique fabric you plan to use and position it on the felt so that it completely covers the maple leaf (or heart or star) portion of the outline stitch.



7. Return the hoop to the machine and stitch the next color. Pause the machine and again remove the hoop without unhooping the design.



Your design so far should look similar to the photo, depending on the fabric and shape you're using. You should be able to just make out the red outline stitch of the maple leaf.



8. Using curved scissors or sharp nail scissors, carefully trim away the excess felt and fabric from around the outside of the stitching line, cutting as close as possible to the stitching without cutting the stitches.



9. Turn the hoop over. Cut a 7" or 8" length of string and form a loop; knot the ends together. Position the string to the back of the design as shown in the picture; tape it in place so that it won't be caught in the stitching line. Tape down the top of the cord to the hoop so that it will stay out of the way of the needle.



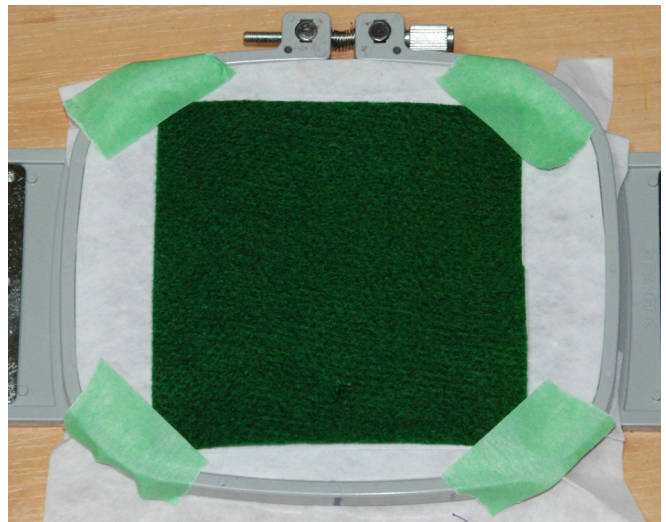
10. Return the hoop to the machine, working carefully so that the tape remains in place, and stitch the remainder of the design, pausing the machine just before the final colour.



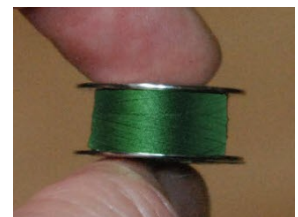
11. Remove the hoop, but do not unhoop the design. Turn the hoop face down. You can clearly see the stitch-out.



12. Lightly spray a 4.5" square of felt in a color that coordinates with your chosen applique fabric. Position it over the back of the design so that it none of the stitching can be seen.



13. Change the bobbin thread to match the colour of the felt backing, and carefully return the hoop to the machine for the final line of stitching.



Note: I like to use invisible thread in the needle for this final outline stitch, but you may prefer to use white. Either works.

14. Complete the final stitching and remove the hoop from the machine. What remains is to remove the tear-away stabilizer and trim the felt around the design.



15. You may find it easier to remove the stabilizer if you trim the back of the design first. With sharp scissors, carefully trim around the edge of the design, leaving a narrow felt border around the outer stitching line. Make your cuts as smooth as you can, since this will be the edge of your ornament. Be careful not to cut through the hanging loop.



16. With the back trimming completed, you will easily be able to remove the tear-away stabilizer from the design. Turn the design over and trim the front, leaving a narrow felt border. Be careful not to cut the hanging loop.



17. Your personalized ornament is ready to hang.

For a different look, try a small-scale print instead of the tartan, or skip the greeting to showcase a special fabric, like the sparkly net on the “Ursula” heart.



To get the colour-blocked effect on this “Geocacher” heart, I pieced the fabrics first and pressed the seams flat, then proceeded as described above.

Plain red – the colour of Santa’s suit -- makes a perfect background for his “Ho Ho Ho” greeting. A plain colour like this makes a perfect backdrop for the lettering. I used a light fleece as The applied star on this set of ornaments, but felt would serve as well, and would work on any of the shapes.

