

Projects > Swimsuit Cover-up with Lacy Appliqué

This month we are featuring an appliqué design for our Free design of the month. Instead of stitching it in the traditional manner we used a reverse appliqué technique. It's easy to apply this technique to a knit fabric such as this swimsuit cover up, or to another garment such as a knit dress or t-shirt. We'll show you step-by-step how to decorate a garment with these beautiful lacy appliques.

Materials and Supplies

- [Brother](#) Embroidery Machine with 4-inch hoop.
- [SA520](#) Water-Soluble stabilizer for top side of embroidery
- [SA5931](#) Fusible Cut-Away stabilizer for lighter weight knits.
Note: Please see end of instructions for details on using this.
- [Brother Embroidery and Bobbin Thread](#)
- Brother Free Design of the month, **Lacy Floral Appliqué**
- Low tack tape for attaching water-soluble to fabric
- Soft lace yardage, one piece measuring 8-inches square for each embroidery motif.
- Ready-made knit swimsuit cover-up or a similar knit garment.

Instructions for Embroidering the Reverse Appliqué Design

1. Please read all instructions before you begin. Transfer free design to machine. Decide on placement for your garment. We used three cascading motifs beginning at the shoulder and continuing toward the hem, spacing them approximately 6-inches apart.
2. Follow the steps used in our example below to stitch each design.
 - Hoop lace with garment, having the right side of the lace against the wrong side of the fabric.



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- Embroider the first color stop, the **Appliqué Material**. *See **Figure #1**. For a standard appliqué this outline shows the area you need to cover with your applique fabric. For our reverse appliqué technique this outlines the area for our cut out piece.



- Carefully remove hoop from machine and place on a flat surface. Make sure you touch only the outer edge of the hoop to avoid misalignment of fabric in hoop. Gently pinch center of the appliqué piece and trim fabric, leaving a margin of approximately 1/16th of an inch.



- Place hoop back on machine and stitch the **Appliqué Position**. *See **Figure #2**. For a standard appliqué you would now trim around the outer edge of the appliqué fabric. For our reverse appliqué technique this stitch serves to re-enforce the cut edge.
- Next, stitch the **Appliqué**. This stitch finishes off the raw edge of the appliqué. *See **Figure #3**.



Figure #1

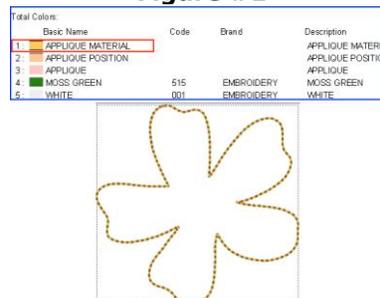


Figure #2

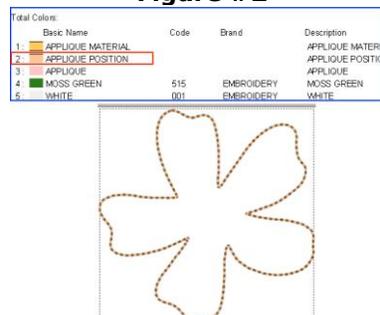
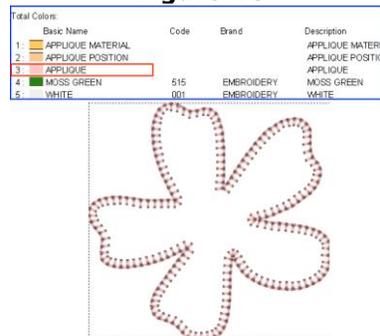


Figure #3



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- Place a piece of water-soluble on top of fabric before stitching the last two colors.



- Embroider the rest of the design using your desired thread colors. *See **Figure #4**. Remove fabric from hoop. Carefully tear away excess water-soluble. The remainder will dissolve with washing.



- Trim excess lace on wrong side of the garment. Repeat all steps for each motif on your garment.



Note: This technique works best on medium weight knit fabrics without a great deal of stretch. If your fabric is slightly thinner or more stretchy we recommend using Brother [SA5931](#) fusible cut away stabilizer. Begin by lightly fusing a large section of stabilizer in place on wrong side. Follow basic instructions for the embroidering reverse appliqué technique, then lift and trim away excess when embroidery is finished. Permanently fuse the stabilizer as a final step. *See **Figure #5**.

Figure #4

Total Color	Basic Name	Code	Brand	Description
1	APPLIQUE MATERIAL			APPLIQUE MATERIAL
2	APPLIQUE POSITION			APPLIQUE POSITION
3	APPLIQUE			APPLIQUE
4	MOSS GREEN	515	EMBROIDERY	MOSS GREEN
5	WHITE	001	EMBROIDERY	WHITE

Figure #5

