

Appliqued onesies

It's a good thing onesies usually come in packs of three or four. These are easy to make and very addictive. I guarantee you can't stop at one!



Materials Needed:

- Onesies
- Fabric scraps
- A sewing machine that can do the zig-zag stitch
- A drawing of the shape you wish to applique
- Fusible web (In this tutorial, the directions are based on using Steam-A-Seam 2, which I have had great results with. Unfinished edges do not fray, it will not gum up your needle when you sew through it, and the webbing is repositionable until you iron it on. If you use a different brand, follow the instructions on the packaging.)



Useful tips:

Before you begin, make sure to preshrink the onesies and fabric. You DO NOT want your appliqué to pull away from the onesie once it is sewn on.

If you have an appliqué foot, use it. It's transparent and enables you to see your stitches better as you sew. If you don't have one, your regular foot will work too, you'll just have to concentrate a little more.



Fusible web is essentially heat activated glue sandwiched between two pieces of paper. One piece of paper pulls away easier than the other. Pull off this piece and discard it. Put the other piece, webbing side down, on the shape you wish to trace. It will adhere a little bit, which is good, because then it won't shift as you trace your shape.



Remove the fusible web (both the glue and paper) from the master shape and place it once again, webbing side down, on the wrong side of the fabric. As you smooth it out, it will adhere to the fabric and will not shift as you cut around your shape. No pinning required!



Carefully remove the paper part of the fusible web, leaving the webbing on the fabric. Position it, webbing side down on the onesie. When you get it in the right position, iron it using the cotton setting for 10 – 15 seconds. Rather than glide your iron over the appliqué, it is preferable to pick it up and set it down to keep the appliqué from shifting.

If you like this look, you are done. Your appliqué is now permanently bonded to the onesie and will not lift or fray (so say the folks at the fusible webbing company). I'm not so crazy about this unfinished look, so on to zig zagging!



You will be zig zag stitching around the perimeter of your shape. Depending on the look you are going for, you can set it to a wide or narrow zig zag. I prefer to start with the buttonhole stitch and adjust upwards. I find that smaller stitches are better for dealing with curves. Practice on some scrap fabric until you figure out what you like.



Do not zig on the appliqué and zag on the onesie. All zigs and zags may extend to the edge of the appliqué, but should not leave it. Onesies are typically thin and stretchy—a combo that has a tendency to get sucked down into the bobbin, so be careful.

Make sure that you move the back of the onesie out of the way when you are sewing. When you need to turn, keep the needle down, raise the presser foot up, and turn your fabric. Lower your presser foot to continue sewing. Resist the urge to tug and pull at your fabric. Steering it this way will cause puckers.



When you've made it all the way around your shape, reinforce your stitches by backstitching. Congrats! Now you are done.

Don't forget that you can embellish with buttons or embroider by hand. You can also achieve different effects by layering fabric, combining fabrics, experimenting with various machine stitches or using different colored thread. The possibilities are endless!