



Springtime Florals 'Raw Edge Applique' Tutorial

This Springtime Florals project is perfect for all abilities and to get started all you have to do is choose a floral fabric, roughly cut out the flowers and sew them onto your design.

Why not give it a go yourself with this simple tutorial...



In this special springtime project, Tilly Rose - a textile artist, tutor and guest presenter on Create and Craft TV, shows us a fabulous way of starting your journey with Raw Edge Applique.



Tilly feels that often sewers are put off creating designs as they feel they don't have the skills to draw a design. However, if you use the actual fabric as your inspiration and a little raw edge applique, you don't have to worry about sketching!

Raw edge applique takes away the worry of a perfect finish and yet produces the most gorgeous finish to your designs, simply by using a straight stitch. All you have to do then is sit back and enjoy exploring colours, patterns and a little gentle texture here and there...

Tilly's top tip: "I love to work on the wrong side of fabrics to add an element of vintage to my designs."

Requirements:

- 1 x cotton fabric 8" x 11" (Bottom layer)
- 1 x cotton fabric 7" x 10" (Top layer)
- Piece of wadding 8" x 6" (middle layer)
- Selection of cut fabric flowers
- Green yarn for stalks
- Sewing thread – green (stalks), silky white (flowers)



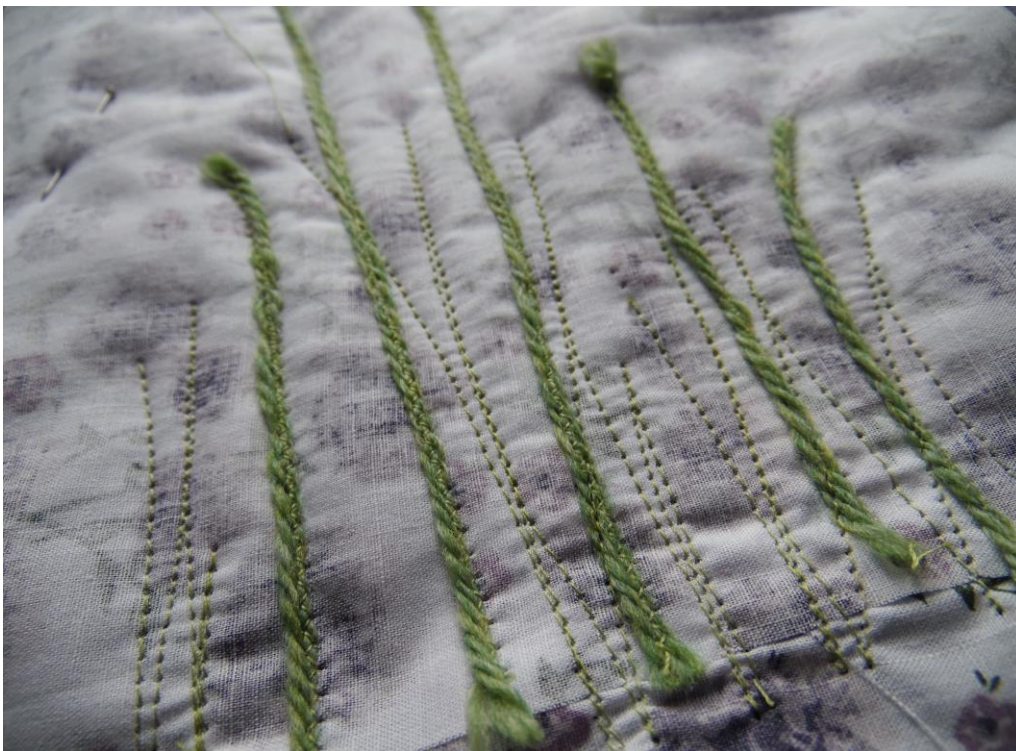
1. *Before you start to sew you need to prepare your quilt sandwich.*
Place the bottom layer fabric RS facing up.
Lay wadding on top.
Place top layer on top of wadding with WS facing.
Pin all three layers together with pins or clips to prevent any movement as you work. You can tack your sandwich together if you prefer.



2. Cut a selection of various lengths of yarn to sew on for stalks. (Test on a spare piece of fabric before stitching on finished piece if you have never sewn with yarn before)
Using a green top thread in your machine and a zig zag stitch setting, sew on each stalk. Experiment with the width and length settings to create various textures on your stalks.
There may be some movement of your yarn as you sew so keep the speed control on slow.



3. Change to a running stitch and add some grass detail in between the stalks. (This step is optional)



4. Change top thread to a decorative silky white to sew on the flowers.



5. Using a straight stitch, start with a circle in the middle of each flower. Continue to keep the speed control on slow. To create your shaping as you sew you will need to take your time moving around each flower design.
To turn, keep your needle in the fabric to stabilize your work, lift the presser foot up, turn the direction of your sewing slightly then lower the presser foot before continue sewing around each petal.
***Remember raw edge applique does not have to be neat and accurate. It adds an extra element to your design if your sewing line has a slight 'wobble'**
To add extra detail: you can sew around each flower motif a couple of times if you prefer.



6. Build up your picture using a variety of cut flowers. There are no rules...place a flower where you wish and get sewing!



7. To finish – sew around the edge of the inner panel to secure all three pieces of your quilt together. Don't worry if the fabric puckers slightly. This will simply add to the design.



Variations –

Try adding some hand embroidered or free motioned flowers for extra texture and colours.

Ideas for use –

Book cover, cushion panel, wall hanging, cardmaking, scrapbooking, bag decoration, framed picture