Project: Budding Beauty

Use fusible and dimensional appliqué techniques to add textural petals.

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Materials
- 18×21" piece (fat quarter) red print (appliqués)
- 7×15" rectangle green batik (pincushion)
- Lightweight fusible web
- Clear monofilament thread
- 1"-diameter button: red
- 1½ cups crushed walnut shells or other pincushion filler

Finished pincushion: 6" square
Measurements include ¼" seam allowances. Sew with right sides together unless otherwise stated.

Cut Fabrics

Cut pieces in the order that follows in each section. The Petal Pattern is on *page 3*.

The pincushion is made using dimensional and fusible-web appliqué methods. To cut and prepare the upper petals, see Prepare Dimensional Petals, *right*.

To use fusible web for appliquéing the lower petals, complete the following steps.

1. Lay fusible web, paper side up, over Petal Pattern. Use a pencil to trace the pattern six times, leaving ½" between tracings. Cut out each fusible-web petal shape roughly ¼" outside traced lines.

2. Following manufacturer's instructions, press each fusible-web petal shape onto wrong side of red print; let cool. Cut out fabric shapes on drawn lines to prepare fusible petals. Peel off paper backings.

From red print, cut:
- 6 of Petal Pattern for fusible appliqué

From green batik, cut:
- 2—6½" squares

Appliqué Fusible Petals

1. Referring to **Appliqué Placement Diagram**, position six prepared fusible petals on a green batik 6½" square. Fuse all pieces in place following manufacturer's directions.

2. Using monofilament thread, machine-zigzag-stitch around each petal to make appliquéd foundation.

Prepare Dimensional Petals

To make a template of Petal Pattern, see Make and Use Templates, *page 4*. Add a ¼" seam allowance when cutting out fabric shapes.

From red print, cut:
- 12 of Petal Pattern for dimensional appliqué

1. Layer two red print petal pieces right sides together. Sew around pair using a ¼" seam allowance and leaving one end open (**Diagram 1**). Trim seam allowance to ⅛". Turn right side out to make a dimensional petal; press.

2. Make a small pleat in base of dimensional petal; tack pleat in place (**Diagram 2**).

3. Repeat steps 1 and 2 to make six dimensional petals total.

Appliqué Dimensional Petals

1. Referring to **Diagram 3**, sew dimensional petals together, overlapping at bases, to form a dimensional flower. Make several hand stitches on back of flower to secure petals.

2. Referring to photo, opposite, position dimensional flower on appliquéd foundation; secure flower with several hand stitches. Hand-sew red button to center of flower to make pincushion top.

Finish Pincushion

1. With right sides together, sew together pincushion top and remaining green batik 6½" square, leaving a 2" opening for turning. Trim corners.

2. Turn right side out. Fill with crushed walnut shells or desired filler. Whipstitch opening closed to complete pincushion.

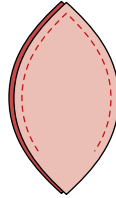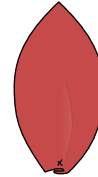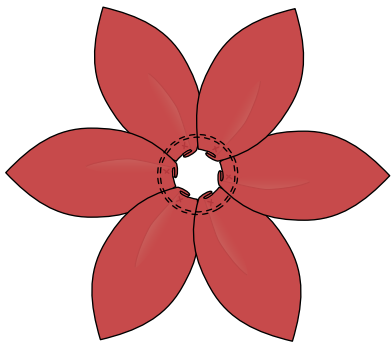## Project: Budding Beauty
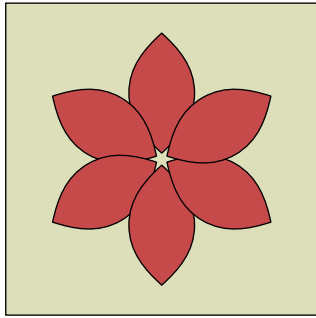
APPLIQUÉ PLACEMENT DIAGRAM

DIAGRAM 1

DIAGRAM 2

DIAGRAM 3

Budding Beauty
Petal Pattern
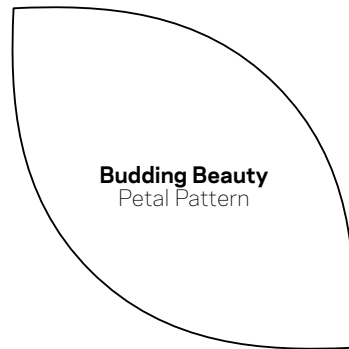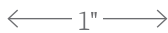
This box should measure 1".

← 1" →

✳ NOTE:

When printing a downloadable pdf, set Page Scaling preference to NONE to print patterns at 100%. Do NOT "Shrink to Fit" or "Fit to Printable Area."

Make and Use Templates

Make Templates

A template is a pattern made from extra-sturdy material so you can trace around it many times without wearing away the edges. Acrylic templates for many common shapes are available at quilt shops. Or you can make your own by duplicating printed patterns on template plastic.

To make permanent templates, purchase easy-to-cut template plastic, available at quilt shops and crafts supply stores. Lay the plastic over a printed pattern. Trace the pattern onto the plastic using a ruler and a permanent marker to ensure straight lines, accurate corners, and permanency.

For hand piecing and appliqué, make templates the exact size finished pieces will be (without seam allowances). For piecing, this means tracing the patterns' dashed lines.

For machine piecing, make templates that include seam allowances by tracing the patterns' solid and dashed lines onto the template plastic.

For easy reference, mark each template with its letter designation, grain line (if noted on the pattern), and block name. Cut out the traced shapes on their outside lines. Verify each template's shape and size by placing it over its printed pattern. Templates must be accurate; errors, however small, will compound many times as you assemble a quilt. To check templates' accuracy, make a test block before cutting the fabric pieces for an entire quilt.

Use Templates

To mark on fabric, use a pencil, white dressmaker's pencil, chalk, or a special fabric marker that makes a thin, accurate line. Do not use a ballpoint or ink pen; it may bleed if washed. Test all marking tools on a fabric scrap before using them.

To make pieces for hand piecing or appliqué, place a template facedown on the wrong side of the fabric and trace. Then reposition the template at least ½" away from the previous tracing (Diagram 1), trace again, and repeat. The lines you trace on the fabric are sewing lines. Mark cutting lines ¼" away from the sewing lines, or estimate the distance by eye when cutting out the pieces with scissors. For hand piecing, add a ¼" seam allowance; for hand appliqué, add a ³⁄₁₆" seam allowance.

Because templates used to make pieces for machine piecing have seam allowances included, you can use common tracing lines for efficient cutting. Place a template facedown on the wrong side of the fabric and trace. Then reposition the template without a space between it and the previous tracing (Diagram 2); trace again and repeat. Using a rotary cutter and ruler, cut pieces out, cutting precisely on the drawn lines.
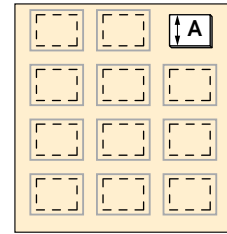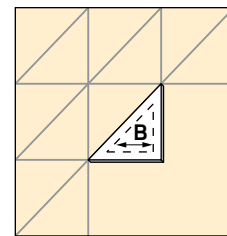

DIAGRAM 1

DIAGRAM 2