

Reverse Appliqué Primitive Cat Quilt

by Cathie I. Hoover

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Materials

Finished Size: 9" x 11"

Machine wash and machine dry all fabrics, then heavily spray starch, air dry, and press.

- 11" x 13" background fabric
- 8" square for cat appliqué
- 4¼" x 2¼" stripe for belly
- 4" x 8" turquoise cotton for zigzag accent
- 12" x 14" batting
- 11" x 13" backing
- fat quarter binding
- 4" x 8" paper-backed, iron-on fusible (I used Pellon® Wonder Under®.)
- Stabilizer for appliqué (I used Sulky® Totally Stable™.)
- Light box or sunny window for tracing
- Appliqué patterns for cat and zigzags (last 2 pages)
- Water-soluble fabric-safe marker

The benefit of this technique is all the embellishing on the cat is done before it is reverse appliquéd into the background.

Note: *The decorative stitches available depend on your sewing machine brand and model. Choose similar stitches to those on the sample or personalize your appliqué by using totally different stitches.*

This reverse appliqué method creates a raw edge in the background fabric it is sewn into. The raw edge is covered by a blanket stitch. Unlike typical appliqué, the width of the stitch is sewn on the background, not the appliqué. This placement visually increases the appliqué size, making it more prominent.

Whenever possible, use batik fabric as the background in which to reverse appliqué. The higher thread count in batiks makes them ideal for a beginner learning this technique. The handwoven Guatemalan striped fabric for the cat's belly adds an unusual design element to the Primitive Cat design. Here the black blanket stitches add an additional "wild" look to the small quilt.

Decorative Stitching

Use this technique for all decorative stitching on cat except for the eye and dots on the tail.

- On the right side, begin stitching at the left side of a marked line, just outside the stay-stitched line around the appliqué. Continue the decorative stitch until you cross the stay-stitching line at the opposite side of the appliqué.
- Embellish other areas of the cat such as the tail and neck.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Trace the cat onto the 8" square; pattern on last page.
2. Iron on or pin stabilizer to wrong side of cat fabric, and staystitch the perimeter of the cat and the diamond shape on the cat's chest.
3. Trace the diamond shape onto the striped fabric, fussy cutting as desired. Place, centered, on the

staystitched diamond, right side of the stripe to the wrong side of the cat fabric.

4. Staystitch the diamond again, through the cat and striped fabrics. Turn over and trim excess striped fabric around the diamond to a scant $\frac{1}{4}$ ".
5. Cut away the cat fabric to expose the striped fabric below first by separating the purple fabric center from the diamond appliqué and clipping a small slit in the purple without cutting into the appliqué below it. Then, trim close along the staystitch line, without cutting into it. Hold scissors with cutting blades horizontal, not vertical.
6. Blanket stitch around the diamond. See tips at right.
7. Sew lines of decorative stitches on the tail, above the legs, and around the neck. Create the eye and tail dots by drawing a circle and free-motion stitching with straight stitch, starting at the outer edge of the circle and spiraling slowly into the center, fully covering fabric within each circle. Take several stitches in the center before removing work from machine. Clip beginning and ending threads. Trim excess fabric from around the cat appliqué to a scant $\frac{1}{4}$ ".
8. Place the cat appliqué on the background; measure from the edge of the quilt to the staystitching line on the cat's perimeter. (figure 2)

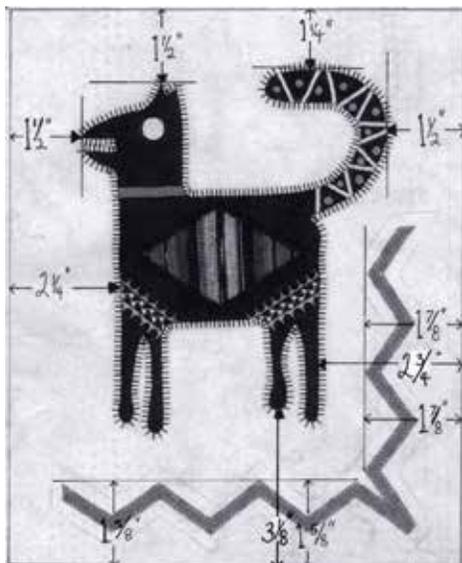


figure 2

Blanket Stitch on Reverse Appliqué

- Machine setup: Open-toe appliqué foot, 90 Topstitch needle, needle in the far-right position, blanket stitch (BERNINA #1329) at 3.5mm wide by 2.5mm long, and black thread top and bobbin.
- The 3.5mm width stitch will be on the background (in this section of this project, the cat's body). The 2.5 length is a forwarding movement of the stitch along the edge of the appliqué. Keep the sole of the presser foot parallel to the raw edge you are stitching along.
- Place tear-off stabilizer on wrong side; iron or pin in place.
- Start the blanket stitch at any deep angle on the appliqué, and stitch in a counter-clockwise direction. Pivot at all angles and curves when needed to keep the presser foot in correct alignment with the appliqué edge.

Tip: Start stitching blanket stitch in any corner when stitching in a closed shape. This avoids irregular spacing between the beginning stitch and the last stitch. In a corner, stitches come from different angles and intersect rather than meet with an irregular stitch length. (figure 1)



figure 1

- When you are halfway around appliqué, pause with the needle down. Carefully flip to the wrong side of the work. Pull the beginning top thread to the back. Knot it with the bobbin thread and trim the ends.
- Continue stitching around the appliqué just until you meet the beginning stitches. Pull the top thread to the back and knot it off with the bobbin thread. Trim thread tails. Remove stabilizer.

9. Place straight pins in the background at 5 registration points just off the edge of the cat appliqué for the tip of tail, vertical side of tail, point of upper lip, tip of far-right paw, and outer right side of cat's leg.
10. Flip the background fabric over, right side down. Place the cat appliqué right side down against the background fabric. Align the cat appliqué registration points with registration pins just inserted.
11. Sew the appliqué to the background. Use a 1.6mm straight stitch just inside the staystitched line on the cat appliqué.
12. Flip the quilt top to the right side. Carefully cut away the background fabric, exposing the decorated cat.
13. Place tear off stabilizer on the backing; iron or pin in place.
14. Blanket stitch the cat in place.

Tip: Sew very slowly around the curves of the cat appliqué.

15. When blanket stitch is complete, tie off the threads. Do not remove stabilizer yet.
16. Trace 2 zigzags on the paper side of the fusible—pattern at right. Fuse to the wrong side of the turquoise fabric. Cut each zigzag out on design line and peel off the paper backing.
17. Fuse the zigzag accents to the side and bottom. Blanket stitch around all edges of the zigzags—I used variegated thread. (figure 3) Remove stabilizer.

Finishing

1. Layer backing, batting, and quilt top; baste. Quilt as desired. Quilt shown was echo quilted around the zigzags in contrasting thread and stippled in the background with yellow thread.
2. Trim the quilt to 9" x 11".
3. Cut 3 (2¼" x 20") strips of binding fabric and sew into 1 continuous strip. Bind as desired. ■

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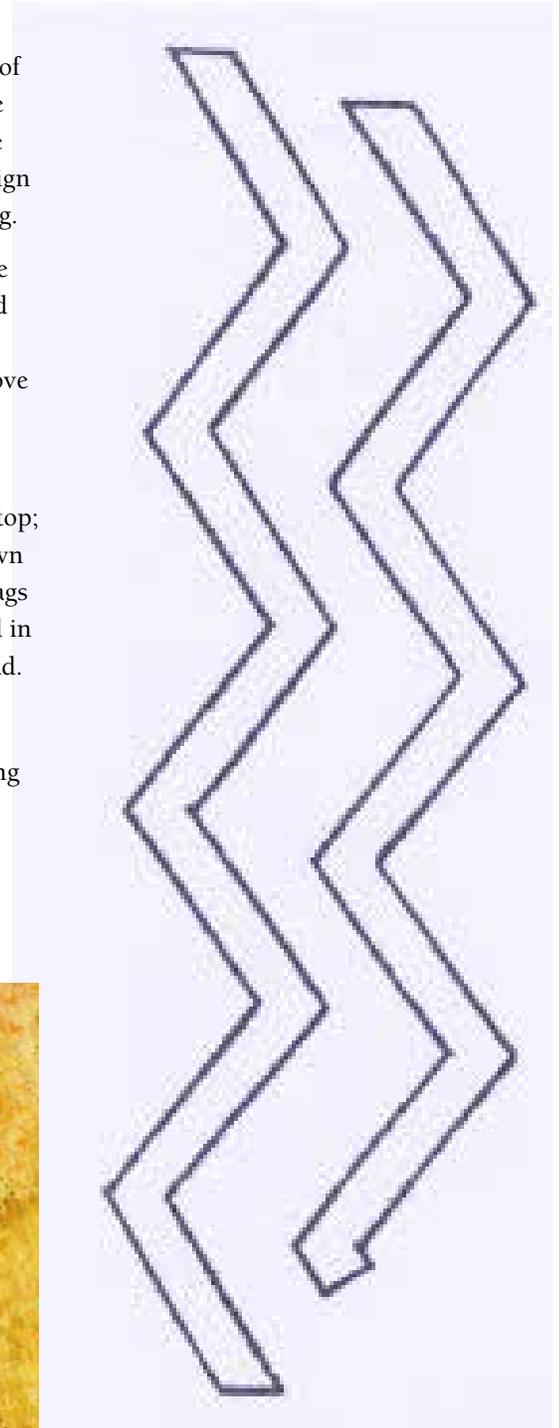


figure 3

