

Deep Peace

Road to Florida

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For one 12" x 12" square

Technique

Directions are for raw-edge machine applique and machine quilting, but you could use turned-edge applique and hand quilting.

You can also use piecing – with the possible exception of the swirls at the top, which may be more easily appliqued. *

Materials

Miscellaneous scraps of cottons and other fabrics of your choice

Cotton backing fabric, at least 15" x 15"

Thread, colored and invisible. I used YLI invisible thread, with neutral colored bobbin thread by The Bottom Line.

Black marker, Ultra-fine point

Scissors

Pins

Rotary cutter

Ruler

Cutting mat

Template material. I use Sulky Totally Stable.

Fusible batting

Design wall. For an impromptu design wall, you can pin a piece of flannel to the wall.

Design can also be done on a table.

Preparation

1. Enlarge the pattern from a 6" square to 12".
2. Find the center and mark it.
3. Pin pattern to the design wall.
4. Cut fusible batting or fusible fleece at least 16" square.
5. Find the center of the batting and mark it with a pin.
6. Pin the batting, fusible side facing you, to the design wall near the pattern.
7. Put a piece of Totally Stable over the entire pattern, shiny side facing you.
8. With ultra-fine black marker, trace around all the shapes. (I finished the edges of the finished piece with simple zigzag stitching, but if you plan to sew the square to other squares or borders, add ¼" around the outside edges.)
9. Number all the pattern pieces.

Cutting

1. Cut out one template shape, following lines precisely.
2. Play with the fabrics to decide what you like best for this piece.
3. Lightly press the template onto the back of your first chosen fabric.
4. Cut it out exactly on the pattern lines. (If piecing or using turned edge applique, add 1/4")
5. Remove the template.
6. Pin the piece onto the batting, using the center as a guide.
7. Repeat the process until the design is complete, testing various fabrics until you find the one you like best for each. If you find you don't like a fabric after you've cut it out, just put that one to the side and try again until you find the perfect fabric. Be sure the pieces fit smoothly against each other with no batting showing between them.
8. You may want a border. If so, borders can also be fused.
9. Iron the pieces down, preferably with a mini iron. This is just to secure them.
10. Transfer the batting from the design wall to the ironing board and press completely with a regular iron. It is best to have a protective ironing cloth over the top to protect the iron in case a bit of adhesive comes through.

You may want to experiment with adding sheer accent fabrics to the top of the completed square. Here are two options:

Cut out the accent piece A (optional) in sheer fabric, such as organza or tulle. Play with various placements until you find what pleases you. Baste and then sew around the edges. Add accent fabrics if desired.

To accentuate or outline a piece (as I did toward the bottom of Deep Peace of the Flowing Air) cut out that whole pattern piece in the accent fabric you desire, then cut away the part you do not need. Pin down the accent pieces and baste lightly. Then secure by sewing around the edges with buttonhole or zigzag stitch.



