

Jersey/Knit Applique

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<http://www.burdastyle.com/techniques/jersey-knit-applique>



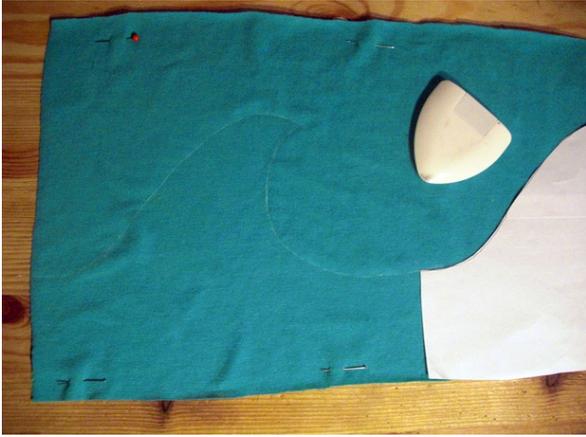
This is the technique I used to make the applique shape on my Wave Dress. It was inspired by the Threads article "Go Graphic With Knits" in May 2009. It involves top stitching a design and trimming close to the stitching. This technique can be used for any knit as long as it does not ravel too much. A jersey or anything firmer is a good choice. It is best for low-stretch areas, i.e. avoid the front bust region. Choose two fabrics of comparable weight, drape, and stretch. Two identical fabrics are best.

Step 1 — Assemble your materials



The bottom/garment fabric should be cut or traced in the pattern piece. The applique material should be at least 1" larger than the final shape is to be. **Important** Make sure the grain of both materials is the same. Make a paper template for the shape you wish to sew. If the pattern is continuous and will meet at a seam, make sure that the design works out evenly. You may wish to sew the applique on after the garment has been partially constructed. You will also need chalk, pins, and a good pair of scissors.

Step 2 — Pin and Trace



Pin the layers together along the edges to keep them in place. Trace the template with your chalk all the way around the garment/piece.

Step 3 — Pin the Stitching Line



Pin the layers together along the stitching line. I use pins in a perpendicular-parallel-parallel way to prevent the layers from moving either side-to-side or forward-and-back. Such close pinning is only necessary if your fabric is slippery, very stretchy, or you are not very familiar with sewing knits.

Step 4 — Sew the Layers



Using a straight stretch stitch, sew along the design line. The stretch stitch option is probably a dial somewhere at the upper right end of your sewing machine. Mine is marked "norm -----stretch". You should experiment with this or other stitches to find out which is best for your fabric. The degree of stretch will determine what you use. Other options are a small zig-zag with a short stitch length, or the stretchiest of all, the / / / stitch.

Step 5 — Trim



Carefully trim the top (appliqué) layer away about 1/16" from the stitching line. Be very careful not to nick the garment layer. I find that appliqué scissors (as pictured) aid in this.

Step 6 — Trim the Back (optional)



Turn the piece over and trim the garment layer away. Cut about 3/8" (1 cm) from the stitching line. This step is optional. On my wave dress, I wanted the hem to have some weight so I left both layers and hemmed each separately.

Step 7 — Finished!



Doesn't it look great!

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