

# 3-D Technique

## Don't Be Satisfied With A One Dimensional, Flat Appliqué

By James Raymer, *Dalco Home Sew*

Don't be satisfied with a one-dimensional, flat appliqué.

Enhance your projects with this versatile 3-D technique that is fast, fun, and easy!

Bring your appliquéd designs to life with this versatile 3-D technique that adds dimension and action to any shape. Birds, insects, and flowers are ideal for applying this method, which is guaranteed to add interest to any finished piece.

The 3-D look is achieved by sewing a separate, extra piece to the base appliqué. The base is whatever appliqué design you sew down first that you are going to enhance. In our example, first, we create a second wing appliqué and then we hoop the material the design will go on and sew a hummingbird appliqué. This second, separate wing is placed over the original wing of the base appliqué to create the illusion of a bird in flight. Other examples where this could be effectively incorporated are butterflies, angels, dragonflies, and fairies. Any flower also could be enhanced by adding 3-D petals that could flutter with movement.

This technique is fast and easy. The photo essay will walk you through the process step by step, but in brief, you are cutting an extra piece of the desired shape—such as a wing or pedals—and choosing an appropriate spot to tack it onto the appliqué that has already been applied. You want to create the extra piece first so that you do not have to sew the base appliqué and then take it off the machine to create the extra piece, and then put the base appliqué back on the machine to attach the extra piece.

Where your creativity comes into play is in choosing the type of fabric, the fabric color or pattern, thread color, and the placement. Whether or not



To be the most efficient, it's important to create the 3-D appliqué piece first. Otherwise you have to sew your base appliqué, take it off the machine, sew the 3-D appliqué piece, then put the base appliqué piece back on the machine to attach it. If you make the 3-D piece first, then you can leave your base appliqué on the machine until you are finished. In our example, a predigitized disk sews the outline of the wing that will be attached separately. If you have a predigitized disk or a custom digitized appliqué design, you should be able to just sew out the portion of the design you want to add for a 3-D effect. It might be a wing, a flower pedal, or a leaf.



This photo shows the completed 3-D appliqué wing that will be added to the base design. It was created with a predigitized sewout disk that is part of a kit. It features embroidered details of the wing. If you are designing your own from scratch, you may want to digitize details such as the pattern on a butterfly's wing, etc.



Once the 3-D appliqué piece is completed, you remove it from the hoop and using appliqué scissors or any small, sharp scissors, carefully trim around the edges. You want to get as close as possible without cutting the embroidery thread.



The wing and the tail of the base hummingbird appliqué are sewn down and the embroidered details are added.



The hummingbird base appliqué piece is sewn down and the embroidered details are added. This completes the process for the base appliqué.

# Brings Appliqués To Life

the back of the 3-D appliqué piece is going to show should influence your decision. In the case of the hummingbird

wing, we used a piece of white fabric because the back is not very visible. If the wing or flower pedal was going to stand up revealing the back, it would be more important that the back of the fabric match or coordinate with the base appliqué.

For example, if you were adding wings to a fairy, you may want to add a 3-D wing made out of sheer fabric such as organza instead of a solid to create an ethereal effect.

The 3-D appliquéd piece is created by using a satin stitch to outline the desired shape. In our case, our example is part of a kit, which includes a predigitized disk that automatically sews the outline and the details of the wing. If you are doing this project from scratch,

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you may want to digitize details yourself such as veins in a leaf or the markings of a butterfly's wing. The piece is trimmed along the outside edge of the satin border. Carefully choose a place to attach the extra piece with a satin or fill stitch that will be as inconspicuous as possible.

Once the shape of the 3-D appliqué piece is determined, some designs may require a tab to sew it to the base appliqué and others will not. Use your own judgment. The hummingbird wing comes to a tip at the bottom, and this provided an appropriate place to sew it down without a tab.

Before tacking down the finished piece, lay it against the base appliqué to make sure it aligns appropriately. Once you are satisfied with the placement, you can tack it down with a fabric glue stick

or a few stitches, check it again, and then sew it down firmly with a satin or fill stitch. You may still want to use your finger while sewing to hold it in position.

There are limitless possibilities to make designs become moving, eye-catching pieces. Look at almost any design in your library and think about how you might incorporate this technique to enhance your projects. ❖



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The first step in attaching the 3-D wing appliqué is to put a touch of adhesive from a fabric glue stick in the area where you will be attaching this appliqué to the base.



With the 3-D appliqué piece firmly in place, use a satin or a fill stitch to permanently affix the wing in place. Ideally, you want to make it fit in with the rest of the design and not be obvious.



Once you have applied the glue, attach the 3-D appliqué to the appropriate area. Another option would be to tack it down with a few stitches holding it in place with a finger.