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Flower Vase Quilt

by Terri Stegmiller

I love flowers! I tend to create many pieces of art that use a flower motif. I don't, however, always create realistic flowers. Many times I'll just draw out a flower that I would picture in a fantasy garden and the flowers in this quilt are in a shape that I often refer to as fried egg flowers.

To create your quilt, place some Mistyfuse between two sheets of parchment paper and lightly press with your hot iron. Once cool, remove one of the parchment sheets. This will give you a paper-backed fusible for your pattern pieces.

Choose your fabrics. You will need a background, vase, leaf, and flower fabric and also a fabric for your quilt back.

Using your paper-backed Mistyfuse, either trace the pattern pieces provided or draw your own on the paper side of the fusible. You have permission to enlarge or reduce the pattern pieces provided (for your own personal use) to achieve the quilt block size you want.

Once your lines are drawn on the paper-backed Mistyfuse, roughly cut around the shapes leaving about 1/4" fusible around the drawn shape. Place these cut out shapes on the wrong side of your chosen fabrics and press to adhere the fusible to your fabric.

After the shapes have cooled, cut out the fabric shapes on your drawn lines.

On the pattern piece for the vase, you will notice that I've drawn a dashed line along two sides. I normally cut these sides of the vase larger so that I have some playing room when placing the vase on the background fabric.

Cut a piece of batting or stiff interfacing about 2 to 4 inches larger than your finished size. If I'm making a wall hanging, I prefer to use a heavy duty, stiff inter-

Supplies

- Fabric
- Mistyfuse
- Batting or stiff interfacing
- Beads
- Fibers



facing such as Timtex or Peltex as my middle layer. Traditional quilt battings are fine to use as well, but you'll want to use one that has a low loft. Cut a piece of background fabric and Mistyfuse the same size as your batting.

Lay your batting on your ironing surface. Place a piece of Mistyfuse on top of your batting. Then place your background fabric on top of the Mistyfuse. You should have three layers on your ironing surface at this time; bottom-batting, middle-Mistyfuse, and top-background fabric. Press these layers with your hot iron to fuse

the background fabric to your batting. At this point you can trim your background piece to the finished size or you can leave it oversized until you are ready to finish the edges of your quilt.

Next, remove the paper backing from your flowers, vase, and leaves. Start placing these pieces onto your background and position them where you like. Once you are happy with the placement of your pieces, fuse them down with your iron. If you've already cut your background to size, you will want to trim away any vase fabric that hangs over the background edges.

Now it's time to do some stitching. Start with the flower stems. Choose a thread for your stems and set your machine for a wide zigzag stitch. You will want to shorten the stitch length. It's always a good idea to have a scrap of fabric close by to test your stitch width and length to find a setting you like.

If you are more comfortable, use a chalk line to draw your stems before you stitch. Stitch your stems.

For the leaves I use a narrower zigzag and stitch around each leaf. Then with a straight stitch I add a stem down the middle of the leaf.

On the vase I simply use a zigzag stitch and stitch around.

The stitching on the flowers is done a bit differently. If you prefer you could do the same type of zigzag stitching you've done, but I like the flowers to be a bit more fun and have chosen to do a free motion straight stitch. I used two shades of thread color that coordinate with the flower fabric. Using a curvy motion I stitched around the edges of the flowers. (See details in photo at top right).

Once all the stitching is done, you can add some beads and fibers for the flower centers.

If you desire, you can add some quilting lines in the background areas.

To finish your quilt, fuse a backing fabric to the back side of the quilt. Trim your quilt edges if you've left your quilt oversized. Bind your edges using your desired method. You can also add a hanging sleeve to the back at this time.



Here is another version of this same quilt that I did using a different backing fabric. This version shows more contrast with the color choices.

This design would also look nice if used as a repeated block in a larger quilt. Enjoy!



