



## Cottage Quilt Designs Tutorials

### Transferring Applique Designs to Blocks

Materials Needed:

- Applique block design
- Light box or tracing paper
- Pencil
- Fabric background block
- Prepared applique shapes

You can use the light box or tracing paper with either prepared fusible web shapes or shapes prepared for hand applique.

#### Light Box

You can either use a light box sold by various quilting stores or catalogs or make one yourself. I find that I like to use a bigger lighted surface than the size of the light boxes you can purchase. I have an old window saved from when we put in new windows in our cottage home. I open the dining room table and remove one of the leaves. I put the window on top of the table centering it over the open space. Then I turn on a lamp on the floor under the window. After taping my design on the window so it won't move around I then put my block on the design sheet. I can then easily see the drawn lines through the fabric. You can also use a sheet of glass if you don't have an old window. You can also use this method to mark quilt tops before quilting.

#### Tracing Paper

With a pencil trace the block design onto a square of tracing paper. The square should be the same size of the fabric block so that you can line up the edges and get the design placed correctly on your

block. Center the design inside the square when you trace it. Pin the top of the paper to the block so that it can be flipped up and down to add pieces and stitch them down after you have drawn the design.

I like to use this method when there are multiple layers of shapes and the bottom ones hide the lines when a light box is used.

The first applique shape to be sewn down should be the one that is behind all the others. You will build your block one piece at a time adding each shape that goes on top of the last one. For an example: the stem of a flower is stitched on first. Then the leaves on the stem are added. Then the petals of the flower are added next with the flower center added last to the top of the flower.

Picking up the first shape to be stitched down, you will slide it between the tracing paper and the background block to the place where the shape is penciled on the paper. Pin the shape to the block with applique pins. Flip back the tracing paper and stitch down your shape. Repeat this method to add all the shapes in your block design. Remove the pins and tracing paper. Press the block upside down on a towel with an iron. Trim the block to it's finished size after the block is done.

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