



BUSTLE & SEW

LOVE TO SEW AND SEW WITH LOVE



Tea Cups Applique

At last ... a stack of lovely china cups and no washing up to be done!



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A stack of lovely vintage china tea cups - waiting for the washing up? Or waiting to be filled with that favourite of all drinks for the English - a nice cup of tea?

Either way this is a lovely simple freestyle machine applique project and is great for using up all those pretty scraps that you simply can't bear to throw away.

Finished size 21" x 7"

Tea Cups Applique



Materials

- 10" x 24" piece of medium weight linen or cotton/linen mix fabric
- Assortment of quilting weight or lighter cotton scraps for the applique. They should measure between 4" - 6" . Choose colours that will work well together - add at least one plain fabric - stripes and florals also work well together. The patterns should be quite small as otherwise the effect will be lost.
- Small amount of white felt for the insides of the cups
- Bondaweb
- Embroidery foot for your machine.
- Black thread in machine needle and light coloured thread in the bobbin.
- Temporary fabric marker pen if you want to draw in the shading on the tea cups before you stitch - if you are confident with this technique then you probably won't need to draw your lines before stitching.
- Staple gun
- Fabric adhesive tape



Method:

Applique:

- Take your rectangle of base fabric and fold it in half lengthways. Press fold and then open fabric out again. This will give you a straight vertical line to follow when positioning your applique shapes - you don't want your teacups to lean to the side!
- The templates on the following pages are given actual size. Place Bondaweb over each teacup shape and trace (I have reversed the templates for you so your cups will be the same way round as mine - but it doesn't really matter which way round you make them).
- When tracing your shapes allow a little extra for them to underlap - think about how the cups fit inside one another, so the cups at the top will be overlapped by the cups lower down the stack.
- Before ironing your Bondaweb to the back of your fabric, make a cut into each shape. This will make it much easier to peel off the paper backing - just fold along the cut and then you'll easily be able to get hold of the edge of the paper and peel it away.
- Peel off the backing and begin to position your stack. The bottom cup should be positioned centrally and 3" up from the bottom edge of your fabric.
- Work your way up the stack, fusing each set of shapes into place when you're happy with their positioning. Be sure to keep your stack centred on the centre fold you ironed at the beginning.
- When your shapes are all positioned and fused it's time to machine stitch them into place. Draw on the shading and shaping lines with your temporary fabric marker if using - use the photographs at the front of the pattern as a guide.

- Fit your embroidery foot to your machine and drop the feed dogs. (Your instruction manual should tell you how to do this).
- With black thread in your needle and a lighter thread in your bobbin machine twice around the edge of each shape - not too neatly - you want a sort of scribbled effect. Using a lighter thread in the bobbin means that your lines won't look too harsh and solid.
- Stitch the shaping and shading then press your work on the reverse.

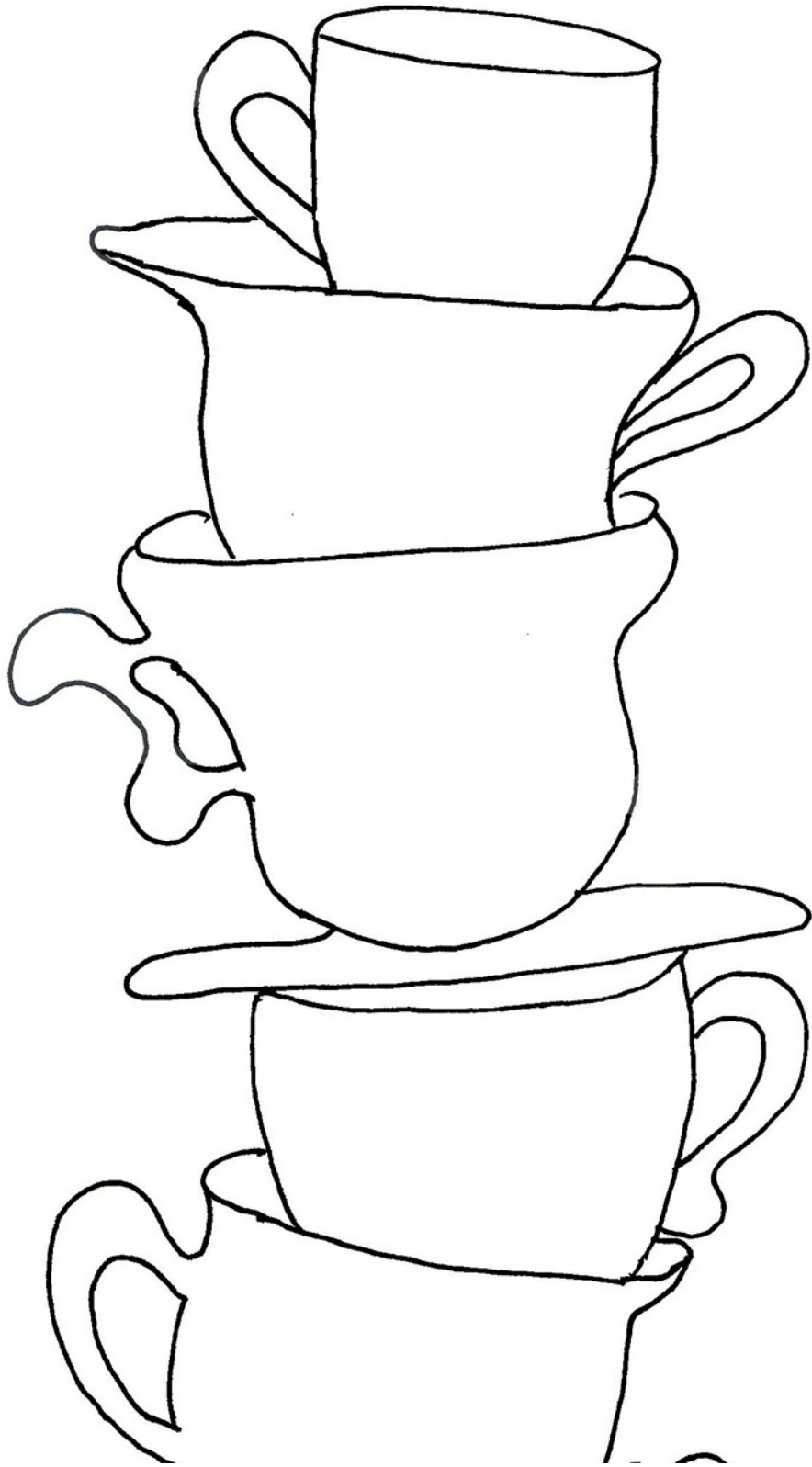
Mount your panel:

- Position your work centrally on your prepared panel or canvas block. When you're happy with its positioning, turn the edges to the back of the block and secure into place with your staple gun.
- Do the two long sides first, starting in the centre of each side and working towards the corners.
- Repeat with the shorter sides and mitre the corners, trimming away excess fabric. Pull the panel taut, but don't stretch the fabric too much as it will pucker and distort.
- Trim the edges neatly at the back and then cover with adhesive fabric tape.
- FINISHED!











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Why do we love to stitch? After all you can purchase mass-produced textile items at many high streets stores for very little cost. These days handmade means something special - a unique item created with love, a gift from the heart, not one that can be bought. Hand stitching is also a great way to personalise an item, or perhaps to breathe new life into an old favourite that has seen better days.

[Bustle & Sew](#) offers my own unique patterns, designed to appeal to all skill levels and bring out all your natural creativity. And you

can keep up to date with all the latest news from Devon where I live as well as the newest patterns and much more over on the [Bustle & Sew Blog](#).

But none of this would mean anything without YOU, the stitcher. And it's lovely to be able to share hints, tips, techniques and patterns with other like-minded people. So

PLEASE SHARE THE LOVE



I am happy for you to circulate this free pattern as widely as you wish with just two conditions:

- Firstly, that you leave all links to my website, blog and other pages in place and ...
- Secondly - it is NOT a commercial publication and must not be reproduced for commercial use including resale in any form.



PS If you love stitching, then you're sure to enjoy my Bustle & Sew Magazine. It's delivered by email to your in-box each month and is crammed full of ideas, projects, features, articles, patterns and more to inspire you. Your family and friends will soon be queuing up to take delivery of your new Bustle & Sew creations. To learn more please visit the [Bustle & Sew website](#).

Helen xx

