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Scrappy Union Jack

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This Union Jack applique is a great way to use up your scraps - even the tiniest pieces will work with this simple technique.

And why stick to just the classic red, white and blue? Pink, white and mint would give a pretty, girly look, whilst for a more sophisticated result try black, white and grey.



Materials

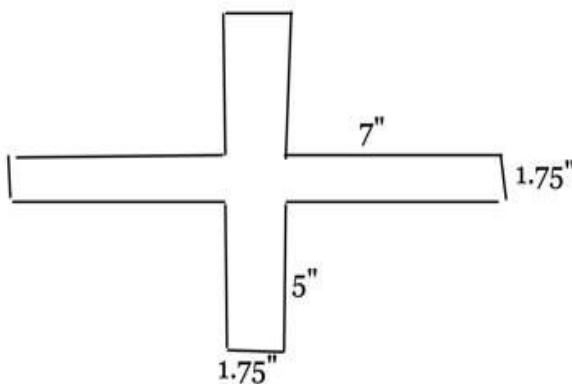
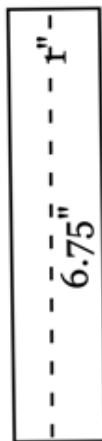
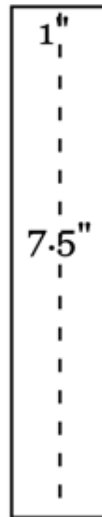
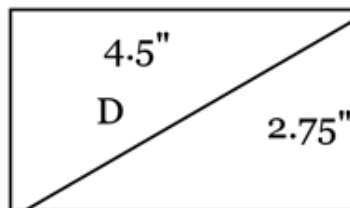
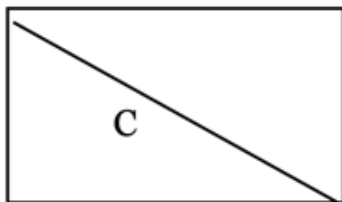
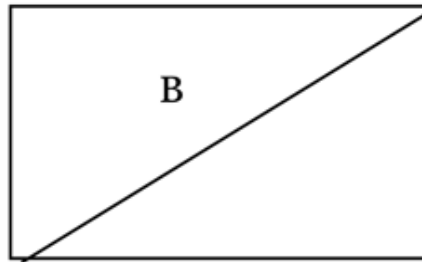
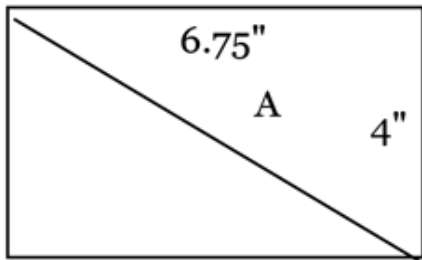
I've mounted my finished applique on a 12" x 16" artist's canvas block, using a staple gun to secure the fabric at the back of the block.

But your Union Jack would look just as good on a tote bag or cushion .. the limit really is your imagination!

You don't need expensive supplies to make this design, just a heap of cotton scraps in

two different colourways, a piece of background fabric measuring 16" x 20" (to allow for turning to the back of the frame) and some cotton sheeting (cut from an old pillowcase - or any lightweight fabric at all really as this won't be seen).

You'll also require some spray fabric adhesive and a fairly thick felt tip pen - oh .. And your sewing machine of course!



On your thin cotton sheeting draw six rectangles to the dimensions shown on the left. Use your thick felt tip pen - you want the lines to show through to the back of the fabric.

Draw diagonal lines across 4 rectangles (A, B, C and D) as shown.

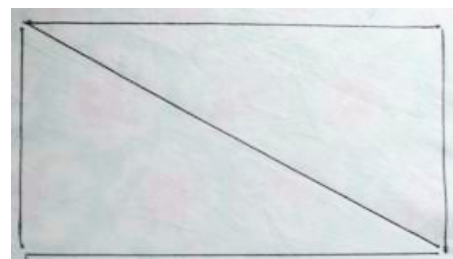
Make sure that you have two diagonals starting at the top left corner and two diagonals starting at the top right corner. The triangles formed will be the blue triangles on your Union Jack.

The long narrow rectangles will be the diagonal red stripes on your flag.

Then measure and draw the cross of St George on your cotton sheeting in the same way. The dimensions are shown in the sketch below.

When drawing your shapes be sure that your corners are right angles or your flag will look a bit wonky!

Hint: If you don't have any cotton sheeting to hand, then you could use newspaper if you are not planning to wash your completed project.



One of my rectangles drawn onto some waste sheeting.



- Start with rectangles A to D. Spray with temporary fabric adhesive and cover with your blue fabric scraps. Use small-ish scraps - frayed edges look good or cut some edges with pinking shears if you have them. Don't worry about neat edges as you're going to be cutting out these shapes.
- When you're happy with the positioning of your scraps and there is no more background fabric showing, machine all around the edges of the scraps to hold them in place. Just go around once - I used black thread, but the choice is yours!
- Then turn your fabric over. You should be able to see your felt tip lines.
- Cut out your 8 triangles along these lines and put to one side for the moment.
- Repeat this process with the St George's cross and the two long narrow rectangles. Cut the long narrow rectangles in half

lengthways as shown by the dotted lines on the diagram on the previous page.



- Now take your background fabric and fold in four to determine the centre. Place on a clean, flat surface, right side up. Spray the back of your St George Cross with temporary fabric adhesive and position at the centre of the panel using the folded lines as a guide. Machine stitch into place around the edges.



- Repeat with the blue triangles.

- Then position your thin red rectangles, cutting the ends at an angle as shown on the right. Remember that the Union Jack has a right and a wrong way up! The image on the right is the right way up

- When you've attached all your pieces, then turn your work over and press on the reverse. To mount on a canvas block, centre over the block then fold the edges under. Start with one long edge and working from the centre outwards secure the fabric in place with your staple gun.

- Repeat with the opposite side and then the other two sides. Mitre the corners, trimming away any excess fabric. If liked, you can cover the staples with self-adhesive fabric tape.

- FINISHED!!



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 Somerset where I live as well as the newest patterns and much more over on the [Bustle & Sew Blog](#).

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Helen xx



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