



Liz Hicks

It's always fun to add a little flair whenever you can to your crafting. One of my favorite projects that I have made (and still use to this day) is this colorful ruffled apron. I couldn't believe how easy it was to create this fun piece with my ScanNCut machine!

MATERIALS:

Brother™ ScanNCut machine, Brother™ sewing and embroidery machine, thread, apron, chalk, fabric, paint

step 1.

To begin, pick out fabrics that work well with together. (You will need about 5 or 6 different fabrics.)



step 2.

Using a pre-made apron, measure across the lap of your apron. You will need to cut pieces of fabric that are double the width of your apron and are anywhere from 6" to 9" wide. Usually, the width of a fabric bolt is enough to create the length for your ruffle. If this is the case, just have the counter clerk at your local fabric store cut your fabric to the right width. The fabric does not need to be exact, since this is artistic, and you can always trim it if need be. You will also want to make sure that you have some coordinating fabrics for your appliqué. These can even be fabric scraps if that works best.

step 3. To start your ruffle, you will want to create a French seam along the bottom hem, as well as along the left and right side. Starting on one of the sides, create your French seam and back stitch to secure into place. Do this for all of your fabric pieces, leaving the top of the fabric raw and ready to ruffle.

step 4. To create your ruffle, take the raw top edge of your fabric and run a large basting stitch across the top. (Make sure to back stitch the first stitch to keep your basting stitch in place.)



step 5. At the end of your stitching, do not cut your thread with your machine but instead pull out about 12" of thread and then cut.



step 6. Taking your top stitch, pull the thread through your fabric, gathering as you go. Do so gently as you do not want to break your seam. For thicker fabrics, you may want to use a heavier duty thread to ensure that it does not break as you gather your ruffle. Do this to all of your fabrics before laying them out on your apron.



step 7.

Once all of your ruffles are ready to go, take your apron and outline with chalk to figure out exactly where your ruffles will lay. When aligning your ruffles on your apron, make sure to have them overlap so that the seams will be hidden.



step 8.

After you have your ruffles figured out, take them one by one to your machine and attach them to your apron using a tight, small zigzag stitch. Take the bottom edge of your ruffle and attach it to your apron with a pin to hold down as you sew the opposite end.

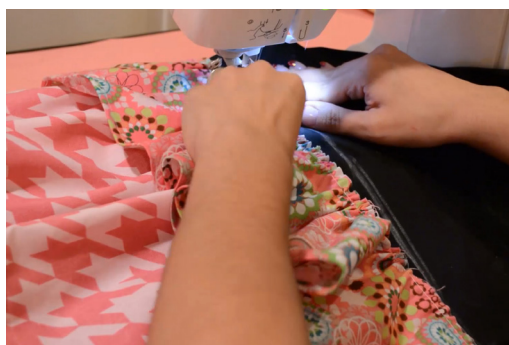


step 9.

From here, line up the stitch to the chalk mark and secure the ruffle down to your apron.



step 10.



Start from the bottom ruffle and work your way up to the top ruffle. Finish off the top ruffle with some trim.

- step 11.** To create your appliqué, use your ScanNCut machine to create your designs. (I used the built-in flowers to create my applique, applying different sizes of the same flower in various colors.) Using scraps of fabric, take your fusible and apply it to the wrong side of your fabric. (For this project, I used a light fusible.) When laying out the fabrics onto your mat for cutting with your ScanNCut, make sure to place your fusible facing up, as it preserves your mat and your fabric. In addition, if you have a design that requires to be oriented in a particular way, you can mirror image in the machine settings easily to compensate for using your fabric backwards.



- step 12.** Cut your designs from your fabric using the “Background Scan” function in your ScanNCut machine. (This allows you to use your scraps more efficiently.)

Note: Use the standard mat when working with fabric that has fusible backing.



- step 13.**



Once cut, take your flowers to your ironing station and prepare to iron down your designs.

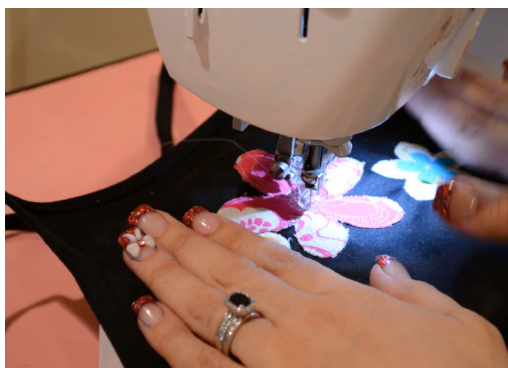
step 14. Once at your ironing station, take your flowers and arrange and layer them on your apron. Before ironing them down, make sure that your iron is on the appropriate settings.



step 15. Once intact, you can now stitch down the flowers to your apron.

step 16. Begin by choosing a color that works best for your appliqué. You may want to choose a few colors for artistic flair. For this project, I used three colors for the flowers and one for the leaves.

step 17.



Tack down your appliqué edge with a standard stitch or a tight zigzag stitch, using a lighter color thread.

step 18. Next, free motion stitch with different colors on the outline of your flowers, as well as the inside of your flowers. Create your leaves completely from free motion stitching. If you plan on using heavy stitching, you may want to use stabilizer to back your designs. To further accent your leaves, add some fabric paint to colorize.

