

Opulent Overlay

by Lisa Walton

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Host Susan Brubaker Knapp with Lisa Walton

Materials

- 2 (12") square fabrics for front and back (*I often use hand-dyed fabrics with a tight weave and not too patterning.*)
- 12" square batting
- 2 (12") squares fusible web (*I use Mistyfuse®.*)
- 10" design printed onto tracing paper or lightweight copy paper. (*I used a copyright-free image from EGYPTIAN DESIGNS by Pepin Press; they have a CD with all the designs included which you can adjust to the exact size you want.*)
- Opaque fabric paints the consistency of thickened cream (*I use Australian-made Gem Paints straight out of the bottle. Other similar paints: Jacquard® Lumiere® or PRO™ Chemical & Dye PRObrite Pearlescent Paint.*)
- Small paintbrushes, sizes 2–6
- Pins or basting spray
- Sewing machine with free-motion capability
- Fine-pointed tweezers

Have you ever finished a quilt only to think it needs more 'something'? One option is to add paint to the finished piece. It can be pretty scary but once you try this technique on a small sample piece, I am sure you will be hooked and want to attempt something larger.

The overall effect is reminiscent of intricate appliqué that draws the viewer in closer to your work. This technique will also help you improve your free-motion skills by tracing drawn lines on the machine. Basically, you are back in kindergarten—tracing and coloring in!

INSTRUCTIONS


1. Fuse the front and back fabrics to the batting with the fusible web to create a firm quilt sandwich.

Note: *Using fusible allows a pin-free surface to attach the paper design.*

2. Pin the paper design to the top of the quilt sandwich.
3. Set up your sewing machine for free-motion stitching. Stitch through all layers of the design using small stitches. Do this slowly and carefully, focusing on the line ahead of you.

Tip: *Pick the easiest route and double back over your stitching to reduce starts and stops.*

4. Remove the paper by tearing it away from the stitched lines. Use the tweezers to pull the paper from underneath the stitches. Be careful as you do this so you don't pull the stitches too much.

5. Bury or cut off any loose threads.
6. Paint the quilt top. Work as close as you can to the quilting lines without painting on them.
7. After you get comfortable with the technique, move on to bigger and bigger quilts! 

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Thread tips for success

- 12wt or 28wt is thicker thread and shows the outline best, but any weight thread will do.
- I like to use a contrasting thread color.
- If the design has straight lines or gentle curved lines such as the outline circles in this design, use a walking foot or straight stitch foot with a dual feed to get accurate stitches. Reducing the stitch length to 2–2.5 to get small stitches will help make the paper removal easier.
- Always do a test piece first to see how your paints work. Do not add water as the paint will run.