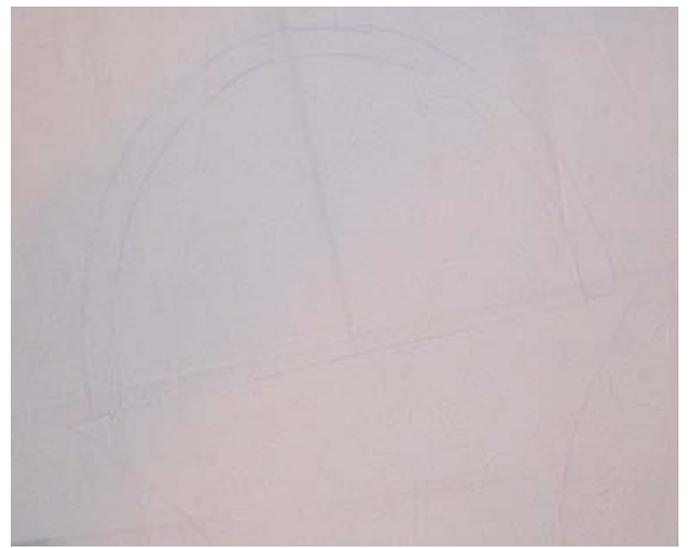


MIRKWOOD DESIGNS presents...

Back-Basting Appliqué

There are many methods to appliqué. When I am appliquéing small pieces, I use Elly Sienkiewicz's "freezer paper on top" method. For large pieces, such as this basket and handle, I prefer back-basting appliqué, as explained below.

1. Lightly draw the actual size of the appliqué piece on the wrong side of the background fabric. You can use a regular graphite pencil, or a chalk marker as I have at right. Draw the line as lightly as possible, just so you can see it.



2. Cut a piece of appliqué fabric large enough to accommodate the appliqué piece plus enough to turn under, and pin it to the background fabric so that the lines you drew on the back of the background fabric are facing you, and the appliqué fabric is face down underneath the background fabric.



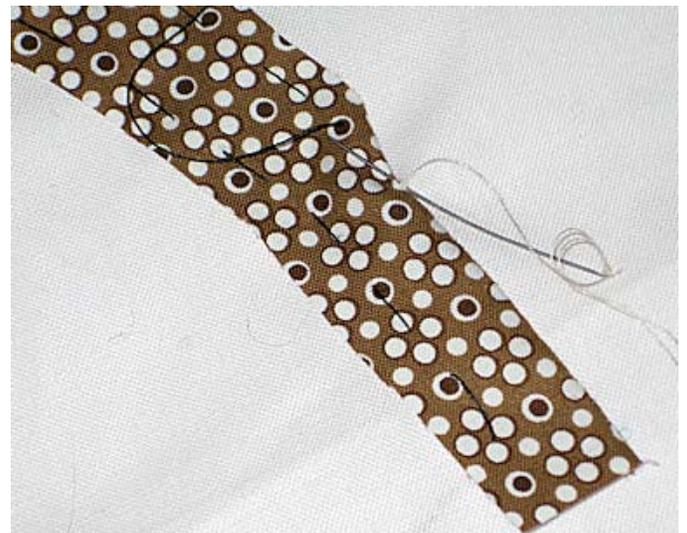
MIRKWOOD DESIGNS presents...

Back-Basting Appliqué

3. Use a running stitch to baste all along the lines you drew, temporarily securing the appliqué to the background. I like to use contrasting thread for the basting so I can see it more easily. Trim the appliqué fabric to about ¼ inch beyond the basting.



4. Turn the block so that the right side is facing you. Unstitch about a 1-inch area of the basting and turn the edge of the appliqué under with your fingernail. Using a neutral color of thread, or thread that matches the appliqué, begin stitching the appliqué using tiny stitches, catching only a thread or two of the appliqué with each stitch. (The stitching should not show on the right side of the block.)
Note: I use very fine thread for appliqué, and I prefer silk because it sinks into the fabric and becomes nearly invisible.



5. Continue unstitching the basting in small increments and sewing the appliqué to the background. Trim and clip the appliqué if necessary, especially around curves, to make sure there are no crinkles. All edges should be perfectly smooth.

