

An Apple for the Teacher Brooch

By Sarah Ann Smith

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It's that time of year when you start looking forward to crisp air, a crunchy apple, the start of school and a new teacher. This very quick and easy little pin to wear took less than an hour and just a few supplies.

Skill Level: Beginner

Sewing Time: 1 Hour

Finished size: approx. 2" x 3"

Janome Supplies Required:

HMC9400QCP (Or any Janome machine with a buttonhole applique stitch.)

Open-Toe Applique foot F2

Fabrics Required:

Felt

Red, 2" square

Green, Scrap for leaf

Brown, Scrap for stem

Oatmeal, 4" square for background

Supplies Required:

Black Thread

Pin Back, available at craft/sewing stores

Step 1: Cutting

Print out Pattern Sheet (page 3). Measure the 1" square to make sure your print-out is close to accurate. (Being exact isn't necessary for this project!) Cut out your apple, stem, and leaf from the felt.



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Step 2: Preparing to Sew

Apply a little bit of adhesive fusible web (I used Mistyfuse, but any brand will work) to the back side of your felt pieces.



Fuse them in place on the square of oatmeal/background felt.



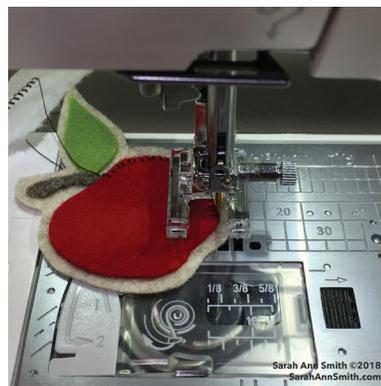
Note: • DON'T do what I did! I trimmed my background first. If you leave the excess, it will be easier to stitch the stem and tip of the leaf. Trim oatmeal felt AFTER sewing!

Step 3: Sewing

Select the buttonhole stitch that makes one stitch between the “zigs” to the left. I used the default settings on my machine of width 2.5 and length 2.5.



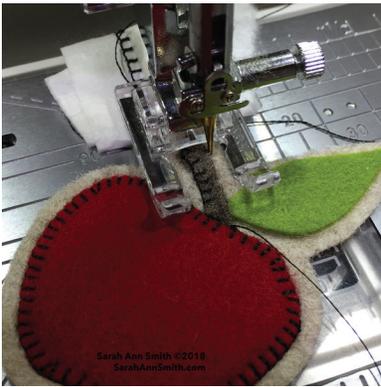
Set your machine to stop with the needle down. With the buttonhole stitch, you want the forward stitch to be on the background right next to the applique. You want the “zig” to be at 90 degrees / a right angle to the forward stitch and edge of the applique. This means you will need to pivot frequently.



Pivoting Notes: I love using the knee lift for this type of sewing. I stop with the needle down, press the knee-lever just enough to lift the presser foot, then adjust slightly so that the next forward stitch will be exactly next to the edge of the applique and the next “zig” will be at right angles.

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When you reach the stem, reduce the stitch width or the stitches will overlap in the center. If this skinny stem is too much fuss for you, you could use a satin stitch (a very short zigzag stitch) in brown thread instead.



Please note that I trimmed my oatmeal felt first. Don't do that! However, if you ever DO find you have done something similar, you can fold up some paper and tuck it under the back of the presser foot. It's a lot easier if you don't trim off the felt!

Step 4: Trimming

Trim about 1/8" away from the apple. Unlike mine, yours will be done the smart way, with the stitching finished before trimming!



Step 5: Finishing Up

Sew the pin back to the back side near the top of the apple by hand.



Give to your favorite teacher and/or wear with pride!

Apple Brooch Pattern

