

# Free VOTE

## BANNER INSTRUCTIONS

*These instructions assume hand appliqué, but you can easily adapt them for fusible and machine appliqué.*

- 1. Select fabrics.** We encourage you to select fabric colors and values that provide strong contrast between the appliqué and the background fabrics. Appliqué is successful when the shape of each piece can be seen easily against the background from a distance. Choose a variety of appliqué fabrics that will all contrast with your chosen background.
- 2. Cut background fabric.** Cut the background fabric about 2" larger, in both directions, than the desired finished size of your quilt. This allows for less-than-perfect placement or other adjustments.
- 3. Trace the Applique Pattern** onto another piece of paper to preserve the master pattern.
- 4. Align the pattern on the background fabric.** Finger press horizontal and vertical folds in the background fabric to establish the center for appliqué placement. Line up the fold lines in the background fabric with the folded center lines on the pattern page. Pin the fabric and pattern together around the edges, so they will not shift as you mark the placement lines.
- 5. Mark appliqué placement on background fabric.** Rather than tracing all the pattern lines, we suggest you mark a line 1/4" inside each shape as a placement guide. These lines will not show after you have appliquéd the shapes, but they will assist you in placing each shape in its proper position.
- 6. Cut appliqué fabric.** The paper pattern pieces are the finished size of each appliqué shape, no turn-under allowance has been added. Using your preferred method, cut the appliqué fabric pieces adding your turn-under allowance.  
**Suggestions:** We believe 3/16" is the perfect turn-under for appliqué — it turns easily, does not require a lot of clipping, and will not fray. If you are frustrated with 1/4" or 1/8" turn allowance, give 3/16" a try.
- 7. Appliqué.** The appliqué pattern pieces are numbered in the stitching order. Position and pin or baste each piece in place and stitch in numerical order. Use a thread color that matches the appliqué fabric, and use your preferred appliqué technique. Our preference is needle-turn appliqué.
- 8. Assemble quilt layers.** Tape the backing fabric, right side facing down, to a table. Lay the batting on the backing. Place the quilt top on the batting, right side facing up, and tape to the table. Thread baste, pin or tack the layers together.
- 9. Quilt.** Whether quilting by hand or machine, we suggest you quilt *in the ditch* around the appliqué shapes, then add more quilting to enhance the details of the design. Let your fabrics and appliqué design inspire your quilting decisions.
- 10. Embellishments.** For your feathers consider embroidery and or quilting using embroidery floss, metallic threads, pearl cotton or whatever makes you happy. This is a fun place to be really creative.
- 11. Trim quilt to desired size.** After the quilting is complete, cut the quilt down to its finished size.
- 12. Bind.** Bind your quilt using the method and the fabric of your choice. Choose either a contrasting color to frame the quilt, or use the background fabric to complete the edge.

Visit our website where you will find additional appliqué and Hawaiian quilt patterns, fabric, fabric kits, Aurifil thread, instructional videos, notions, and more. Order by phone, email or on our website.

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