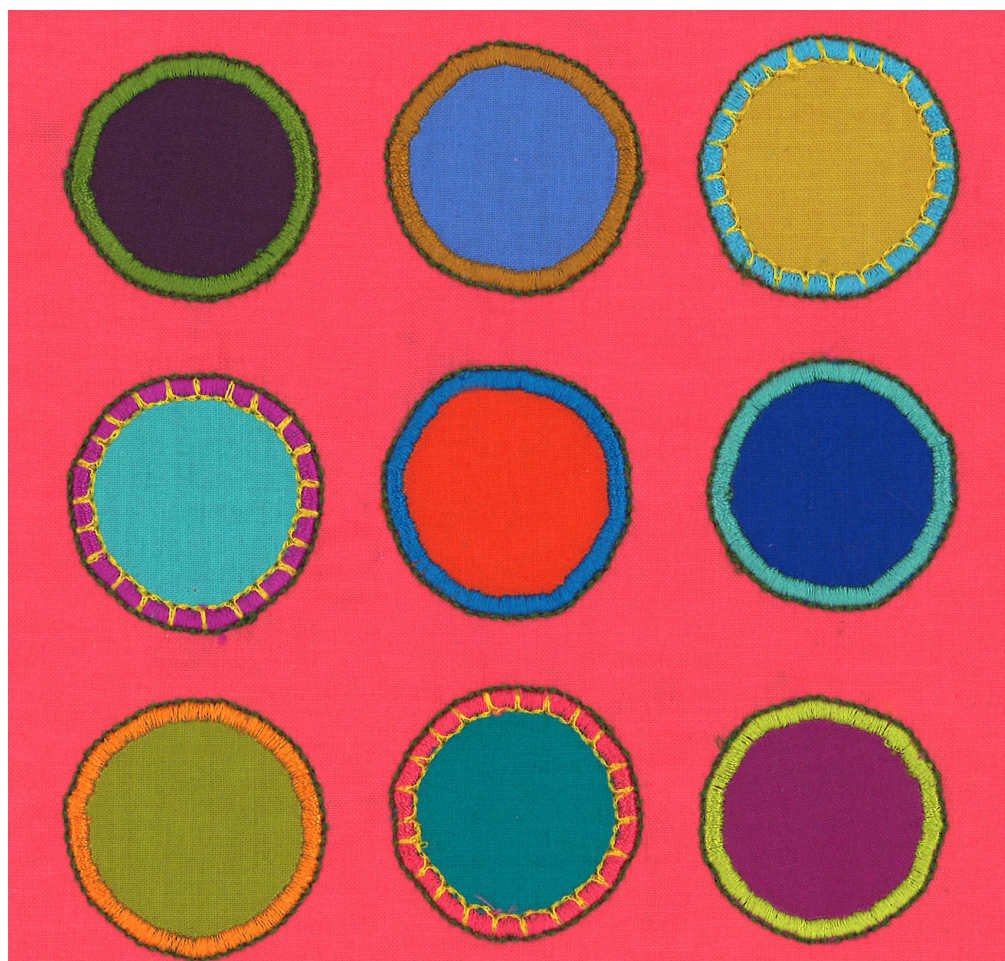


Sarah Smith

9-Circle Applique Block

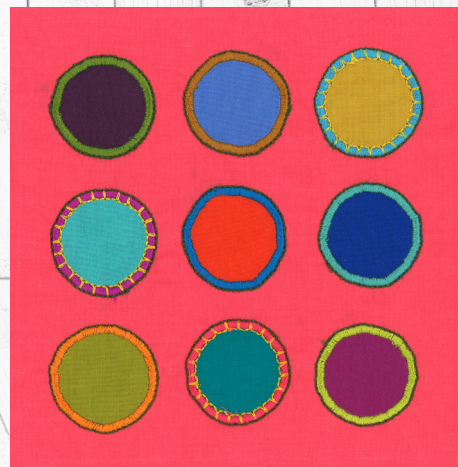


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WHAT'S NEXT

— a story in every stitch —

by Sarah Smith
www.SarahAnnSmith.com



Instructions:

Fused Blocks: You can fuse your fabric for each block or, as Sarah does, just fuse up a chunk of fabric large enough to yield all that you will need for the fused blocks in your project. You can always use leftovers in another project!

9-Circles Applique: (Refer to manufacturing instructions.)

- Apply fusible web to the back of nine 1 1/2" or larger squares of fabric.
- Cut out 1 3/8" circles. (Sarah used a plastic template. Check the spools of thread and other round stuff in your house if you do not have a template or a compass to draw a circle this size.)
- Cut out a 7" square of the Lipstick fabric. Since decorative stitching can shrink a block, it is safer to cut it a bit large and trim at the end.
- Place the darkest fabric in the center of the background square with about 1/2" clearance.
- Place a 6" square of tear-away stabilizer or one to two layers of freezer paper under your block.
 - Use a dense satin stitch (a very short zigzag) to sew the circles. You will need to use the open-toe applique foot which has a small groove on the under side of the foot which permits the stitching to pass underneath the foot. Your stitch length will be determined by the thread you use and how tightly packed you like your stitching. Sarah likes a really dense satin stitch; with 40-wt trilobal (shiny) polyester thread, she used a 3.0 stitch width and a .30 stitch length with a size 14/90 Topstitch needle.
 - Sarah chose to use a different color of thread on each circle. She selected threads that match or blend with the colors in the range of solid fabrics, then mix and matched them throughout this project.
 - When sewing around a curve, stop and pivot frequently. Pivot with the needle down on the OUTSIDE of the curve to prevent gaps in stitching.

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- On three of the circles, Sarah added a layer of stitching OVER the satin stitch using a buttonhole stitch. Set the width of the buttonhole stitch to slightly wider than your satin stitch, in Sarah's case 3.1 or 3.2. Always do a test stitch out on a stabilized scrap of fabric.
- Finally, Sarah used the triple-straight-stitch (in the utility stitch section on your machine) in the ditch on the outside of each circle. On this block, Sarah used the same thread color for all nine circles, a darker teal. If your satin stitch isn't quite perfect, this is a great way to not only add an accent, but to disguise any small imperfections in stitching.
- When stitching is complete, remove tear-away stabilizer and press. Be CAREFUL to lower the temperature of your iron from cotton to synthetic if you have used synthetic thread, or you may melt it.
- Trim the block to 6 1/2" x 6 1/2".

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