




Eye of the Beholder

Quilt Design

original applique patterns inspired by the world around us



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Why are the Recommended Tools important?

Be ready for success!

The fabric and notions requirements listed in our patterns are specific for a reason - they work! They are the tools I use every day in my work and will help you to get the finished product you want, as well as making the journey easier. I've tried lots and lots of different products to find the ones that gives the best results, and save you the hassle of having to try lots that don't work! Our non-traditional reverse applique methods don't require many tools, but having the right tools will make all the difference in the world for your stitching pleasure and success. I would hate for you to be frustrated and discouraged because of the wrong tools.

Please be sure to order everything you need from our website or your local shop so you are properly prepared. Also, please check out our informative linked on our home page under [Technique Tutorials](#) and [Blogs](#). I want you to have the best possible experience with our patterns and methods.

All recommended materials can be found in the Notions section of our shop – click here or type into your browser: www.eobquiltedesign.com/notions?category=Notions

What Fabrics will work best?

Batiks or top quality hand-dyes are the requested fabric for our projects, particularly for hand work. The reason is they have a high thread count (220). The high thread count produces a tight weave which will give you a nice "hole" when you baste with the No. 7 Sharps needle and 28 wt. basting thread (see below), and minimizes the fraying as you cut and hand stitch. Occasionally I've run into a "hard" batik, but not too often. Batiks and hand-dyes are also beautifully colored fabrics, rich in color and design, generally irrelevant which is the right side. I recommend pre-washing fabric before beginning your project. The experienced stitcher may choose silks and other beautiful, challenging fabrics to create with.

What items will give me the best success for Hand Reverse Applique work?

The items below are my tried and tested notions to give you the best success in hand reverse applique – to make the process more enjoyable and create the professional finish you want. Read below to understand the reasons for each. Items can be purchased as a starter kit or individually.

- **No. 7 Sharps Needles (20 needles):** Our No. 7 Sharps are John James needles that we use for basting in our trace, baste, snip & stitch process for hand reverse applique. They are a thick needle that leave a big “hole” in the fabric because they separate the fibers of the fabric. We use this hole to see the sewing line as we remove the basting thread and replace it with the stitching line.
- **28 wt. Hand cotton quilting/ basting thread:** When basting we want a thick thread to baste with as it helps to make and keep that hole begun by the no. 7 Sharps needle in our trace, baste, snip & stitch process for hand reverse applique. It’s important to see those holes so you can stitch your design accurately. You want a thread in a contrast color to your top fabric. We have natural, white and red in stock.
- **80 wt. Aurifil cotton thread for applique:** This is my favorite thread for hand reverse applique and applique. I love it because it is super fine so it disappears in my fabric, yet it has fibers to grip the fabric as I sew. You want a thread in a matching color to your top fabric. We have an assortment of colors in stock.
- **No. 11 Milliner’s Needles:** These are our preferred type of hand stitching needles for hand reverse applique. They are similar to, but stronger than a straw needle, so don’t easily bend. All the Milliner needles we sell are coated so they glide through batiks easily, and are honed well so they have no burrs on them. The coating also cuts down on hand/ wrist fatigue. Recommended Needles are John James Gold n’ Glide, John James Signature, and Colonial Needle brand. My preference has been the John James gold n’ glides, but when they were impossible to get during covid, we have discovered the John James Signature Needles and Colonial Needle Milliner’s.
- **Kai 4” straight blade, slightly blunt-tipped scissors: An Eye of the Beholder EXCLUSIVE, specially designed for reverse applique processes and available only through us!** I use these scissors to clip my points and curves after trimming out. The slightly blunted tip gives you enough tip to cut deep into your corners, yet the blunted tip doesn’t catch on the background fabric when you are between your top and background fabric which minimizes boo-boos. These scissors open and close easily which cuts down on hand/ wrist fatigue, and the vanadium steel holds its edge. The straight shape helps to make my clips perpendicular to the basting line.
- **Kai 4” bent blade, slightly blunt-tipped scissors: An Eye of the Beholder EXCLUSIVE, specially designed for reverse applique processes and available only through us!** The bent-handled shape makes them the ideal scissor for trimming out your fabric to create your seam allowance- the blade and fabric can lay flat while the other hand cuts. Because the fabric is flat it minimizes boo-boos. The slightly blunted tip gives you enough tip to cut deep into your corners, yet the blunted tip glides along the fabric and doesn’t catch on the background fabric when you are between your top and background fabric which also minimizes boo-boos. These scissors open and close easily, cutting down on hand/ wrist fatigue, and the vanadium steel holds its edge. These are my go-to scissors beyond reverse applique, too.

Hand Accessory Kits 2 convenient start-up kits for hand reverse applique

- **Hand Accessory Kit 1:** includes 1 – pack No. 7 Sharps needles for basting; 1 – pack No. 11 Milliner’s needle for hand reverse appliqué; 1 spool natural color 28 wt. cotton thread for basting; Kai 4” bent-handled, slightly blunt-tipped scissors for hand work.
- **Hand Accessory Kit 2:** includes 1 – No. 7 Sharps needles for basting; 1 – No. 11 Milliner’s needle for hand reverse appliqué; 1 spool natural color 28 wt. cotton thread for basting; Kai 4” bent-handled, slightly blunt-tipped scissors for hand work.

How can I give my machine work that extra polish?

The following items will smooth your journey...

- **Soft Fuse:** A fabulous fusible. It is a double-sided, paper-backed iron-on fusible that is lightweight yet adheres well. When your piece is done and washed, it is so soft you can't tell there is any fusible in it. It comes 37" wide, so don't have to piece your fusible when making a large medallion. We sell it in the economical 3 yards x 37" wide roll or the roll of 18" x 3 – 1 yard pieces.
- **Terial Magic:** a spray-on stabilizer defined as Best Press on steroids, and the only stabilizer I use. We use it to stabilize our machine reverse applique pieces before stitching. Spray it on, let dry 15-20 min. and iron dry the rest of the way. Depending on how much you use it stiffens your fabric like paper so it won't pucker into your satin stitch. Also great for machine embroidery, applique or if you need to stabilize bias cut quilt pieces. When you are done it just washes out. Can also be used with 3-D art pieces.
- **Kai 4" bent-handled sharp-tipped scissors:** I use these scissors to cut out all my fused reverse applique pieces. The tips are so sharp I can poke right on the edge of the design, and their small size gives me great maneuverability and precision. The bent-handled shape keeps the blade and fabric flat on the table and my cutting hand off the piece as it cuts. These scissors open and close easily, cutting down on hand/ wrist fatigue, and the vanadium steel holds its edge. These are my go to scissors, using them to un-sew seams and satin stitches.

Machine Accessory Kit: A convenient start-up kit for machine reverse applique that includes: 1 – 37" x 1 yard piece of Soft Fuse; 1 – 16 oz. Terial Magic; Kai 4" bent-handled, sharp-tipped scissors for machine work.

Other helpful products

- **Desktop Needle Threader:** I use and rely on this device to thread my No. 11 Milliner's needles. It keeps me sewing.
- **Beam N' Read Personal Light and USB/AC Adaptor (items sold separately):** I use my Beam N' Read light every single day. The elastic neck strap adjusts for easy on/ off over my head and to situate the light once on. Flip up the hood and I have 6-LED lights shining on my project in the same direction as I'm looking at it without any shadows. It's lightweight, too, even with its 4-AA batteries powering it. Or I can save my batteries by plugging in with the USB/AC adaptor to an outlet or a USB port. Battery operated, it's great at the long arm, for when the power goes out or for reading in bed, too.
- **Frixion Gel Pens:** in Black or Blue these make tracing the pattern onto the wrong side of my background fabric a breeze. I would never mark the front of my quilt with these pens as they weren't designed for fabric, but the wrong side of my background fabric will be hidden away inside my quilt when the piece is all done.
- **Magic Thread:** Run your hand sewing threads through your pot of Magic thread before threading your needle and see how easily your thread glides through your fabric as you stitch. Magic Thread reduces static and moisturizes the thread so it tangles and knots less.
- **Pin Pals:** I use my Pin Pal to hold my Kai scissors. The Pin Pal stays in place by 2 magnets-one in front and one in the back. Of course you can also use it to keep your pins handy.
- **Perfect Piecing Foundation Sheets:** These are fabulous for paper-piecing as they are the weight of a lightweight interfacing. You can run them through your printer to print your foundation patterns on them. You can easily see through them for positioning your pieces, and when you are all done you can leave them in your block for added stability.

- **Roxanne's basting glue:** A must have product for holding the sashing strips in place when doing our quilt-as-you-go class. Also helpful for a fast method of doing bindings...temporarily glue first and then machine sew close to the seam. Heat sets it, and then it washes out.
- **Quilt-As-You-Go Handbook:** Explains the steps of Pauline Rogers' Quilt-As-You-Go method with all her experiential tips. She gives ideas for quilting and goes beyond the basics of quilting as you go, covering other uses for the sashers for making bias, trim and bindings. Handbook includes pages for making your own personal notes.
- **Sasher Collection – large set and medium set:** Make an assortment of sizes of sashings from 1/8" – 2 1/2" quickly for using in our Quilt-as-You-Go classes without burning your fingers. Large set has 10 different sasher sizes, and Medium set has 4 different sizes. Can also be used for making bias, bindings and trims.

Tell us all About it...

I love to see your works in progress, finished projects and hear your questions and discoveries – come join the conversation on Facebook or Instagram.

Find us here:

- **Facebook:** https://www.facebook.com/pages/Eye-of-the-Beholder-Quilt-Design/404428092950878?ref=br_tf
- **Instagram:** <http://instagram.com/eobquiltdesigns/>
- **Pinterest:** <http://www.pinterest.com/eobquiltdesign/>
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