

High Tea in the Garden at the Craft & Quilt Fair 2020

Pelargonium

by Liz Newton



This photo tutorial describes one way to create lifelike flowers and leaves, in this case one pelargonium floweret. Techniques used include fusing fabric layers with embedded wires and free-motion machine stitching. Use actual petals or leaves as the initial templates and study their markings as a guide to the colours and stitching. Larger shapes might need added stiffening to hold their form. By Elizabeth Newton



Trace the petal shapes onto template plastic. Mark the required number of shapes on the fabric in a line and iron fusible web to the back.



Make holes at the base of each shape with a large needle. Insert 10-15cm lengths of about 28-gauge wire behind the shapes.



Layer the marked fabric over matching fabric. Position the wires behind the centre of each shape and fuse them together one at a time.



Set up the machine for free-motion stitching. Sew just inside each shape with matching thread. Add veins or petal markings as needed.



Cut out the shapes on the marked lines close to the outer line of stitching, keeping the lengths of wire emerging at the base of the shapes.



Form stamens if needed for your flower using 24-gauge wire. You can thread tiny seed beads on the ends if they suit your flower type.



Assemble the flower in sections by twisting the wires together at the base of the petals. Study your flower to work out how to group them.



Next, put the stamens and petals together and twist all the wires together firmly for about 2cm or your stalk length. Don't trim the excess wire.



Using green or brown thread, zigzag stitch over the twisted wire stalk section. For this calyx, a diamond shape of green fabric was added.