

October Raffle Block – Applique Autumn Maple Leaf

Due: Tuesday, October 5, 2010

Inspiration: Marya Lowe offered a pieced maple leaf about 5 years ago as the October raffle block. I recall it was a very popular pattern. It is time to offer another autumn leaf, and I have decided to offer an applique pattern, to engage many of you who love applique, and to challenge myself because it is the most difficult technique for me. The pattern comes straight from EQ7.

Size: 7 ½ by 7 ½ inches unfinished

Colors: Any batik fabric in autumn tones, for both the back ground, and the motif. I made the back ground lighter than the motif, but it doesn't need to be that way. Simply choose two luscious batiks of good contrast that complement each other for your block. Apply enough spray starch to the fabrics to make them almost as stiff as paper.

Cutting Directions: Print out the PDF pattern of the maple leaf and stem. (When you get to the print page, look under the "page scaling" menu and click "none" to get the right size) Add seam allowance if you are doing the needle turn applique technique. Trace the pattern onto the motif fabric and cut out. Do the same for the stem using a dark batik of your choice, making sure you add a little extra to tuck under the bottom edge of the leaf.

Sewing Directions: Arrange the leaf and stem on a piece of back ground fabric 7 ½ by 7 ½ inches, tucking one end of the stem under the bottom edge of the leaf. Place it wherever is appealing to you. The motif fits best if you point the stem toward a corner. Centering it is not important, as long as there is a least ¼ inch seam allowance beyond the edge to the motif. This will give the blocks a more "organic" look. Sew the block to the back ground using your favorite applique technique. I dug out my notes from Susan Nichols' class in April, and did my best to follow her fusing and machine applique instructions. It was fun and quite fast.

Questions? Call or email me. I'm around. Anne Standish - 644-5031 or atstan@pwshift.com