

## Art Quilt Flowers Using Raw Edge Applique

This raw edge applique (REA) technique is different than ones you may be familiar with. Essentially, you build layers from the bottom up, then free-motion stitch your design, and then cut away in and around your design to reveal a layered collage. (Yes, kind of like a Mola.)

Here are ways to use this technique...



**Clothing** is a canvas...



**Placemats, hotpads, signs.** The paisley shapes, orange dots and outer black polka-dotted border are REA. I added a 2" colorful orange border, then wrapped the

backing to the front, half overlapping the border. Then I scallop-FMQ'd around the 4 sides to leave a little orange showing, and cut away the rest of the black wrap-around border.



The **backs** can be design elements, too.



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A 10"x10" block makes a cute **zipper bag**.



**Juuush up an antique.** (My friend found this chair at an estate sale for \$5, but she said it needed "something.") I used PatternEase as my base, layered, sewed, trimmed; then glued the design onto the back of the chair. She loves it!

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### How To Art Quilt Using REA

1. Pick out **motifs and colors** you want to use
2. **Imagine your “flower” or “collage” design** or sketch it out roughly...be OK that it's probably not going to look like what you drew/imagined when you're finished!
3. Make a **quilt sandwich** (backing, batting, top “canvas”)
4. Consider your top and bottom **thread colors**. They don't have to match.
5. **Cut motif “placeholders” bigger** than the final element you want. You will trim the fabric *after* it's FMQ'd. For ex., the purple leaves below started as bigger purple rectangles, like the one in the bottom right.
6. **Layer from the bottom up:** leaves and stems first, then petals, embellishments.
7. **Tip:** Keep layers away from the center or you'll have too much bulk to stitch thru.



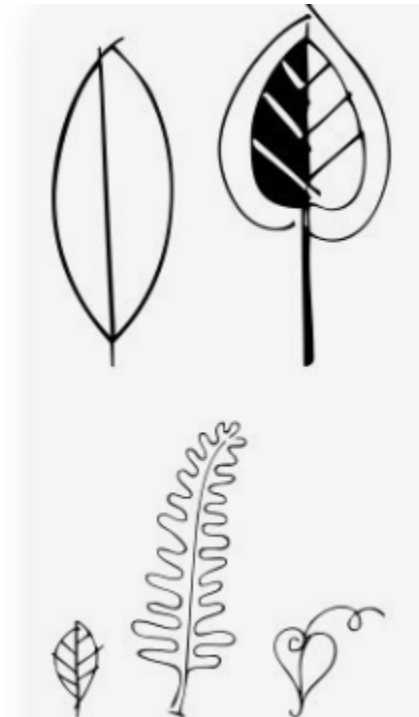
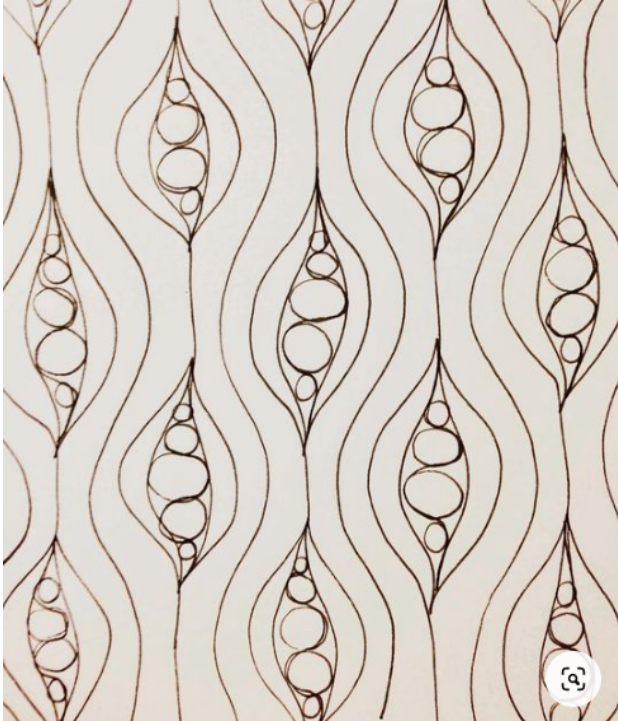
8. **FMQ your bottom layers first.** I echo stitch because it looks cool, unless I do a lot of veining, which also helps to stabilize the design. In the composition above, the “twig” on the bottom left is echo stitched; the tan “leaf” at top left has veining and is not echo stitched.
9. After stitching the bottom layer, **trim approx. 1/8” away from stitching.**
10. **Tip: Will it fray?** Of course! It's part of this technique's charm!
11. After trimming, **add the next layer** (ex.: the red flower above).
12. **Tip:** This is **NOT a fussy-cutting project**. Even tho it looks like I fussy cut the red flower, it's just rough cut. I plan to stitch my own petals in the red area, then trim the flower around the edges of the petals. You will drive yourself crazy if you try to fussy cut and then stitch down your motif.

### Inspo Motifs from Nature...

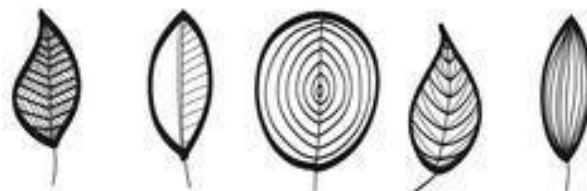
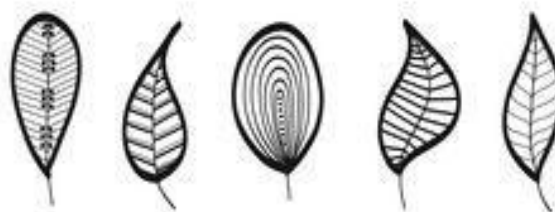
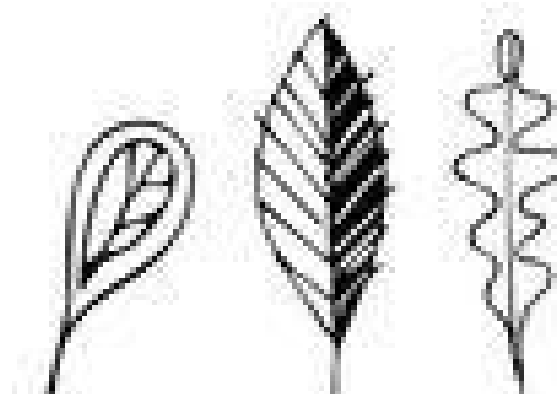
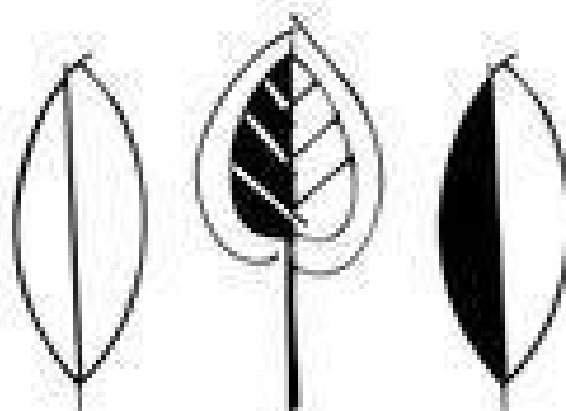
On the next few pages are flowers, leaves and pods that would make great motifs for this technique. I used the pods inspo for the zipper pouch on p. 2



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