

## Thread Painted Flower Appliqué

by Marcia Pollard

Marcia is a known thread artist who has done amazing free-motion embroidery for years! Her thread painted tulips on a silk jacket is an example of her artistry, but the best part is you too can be the artist! She created the tulips on a sheer fabric and then appliquéd them to the jacket. The stems were then drawn on the jacket itself and stitched onto the jacket surface. Here's how.....

### Sewing Supplies:

Pfaff Computerized Sewing Machine  
Pfaff creative Fabric Mover with Stitch Regulator  
Robison Anton Elegance Thread by Marcia Pollard  
Robison Anton Super Stitch Quilting Thread  
Robison Anton Variegated Colors 50 wt.  
Robison Anton Metallic Threads  
Sulky Ultra Solvy 8" x 8 yards Roll #140000748  
Sulky KK2000 Temporary Spray Adhesive  
Sharpie Black Permanent Marker  
Open-toe Free-motion Foot #820544096  
Schmetz size 90 Topstitch Needle  
Schmetz size 100 Topstitch Needle  
Chalk Pencil

Sheer color waver variegated organza with a bit of crinkled texture gives several different color tulips

Base fabric for project - jacket, pillow, etc.

1. Marcia uses a mix of cotton, rayon and metallic threads. Shading uses a lot of colors of thread, variegated, twister tweed etc. Insert a size 90 Topstitch needle for cotton and rayons and 100 Topstitch for metallics. It has a big eye but is a thin needle.
2. Marcia sketched the tulips first and has graciously shared her sketches. Thanks, Marcia! You can enlarge the sketch if desired on a copy machine.
3. Start with Ultra Solvy, heavyweight water soluble stabilizer. Use permanent Sharpie marker and



trace the tulip. Keep the color picture handy to use for color suggestions.

4. Take two layers of the sheer and spray with Sulky KK2000 Temporary Adhesive Spray. Stick together and place the traced Ultra Solvy on top and additional Ultra Solvy underneath.
5. Set-up your Pfaff creative Fabric Mover with Stitch Regulator on the machine following manufacturer's instructions. Set your machine for free-motion. Drop feed dogs and select straight stitch. Attach your Open-toe Free-motion Foot
6. Be sure to lower the presser bar to the free-motion position if your Pfaff does not do it automatically. Bring the bobbin thread up to the top and take a few stitches then clip the threads. As you begin to sew, if you see bobbin thread coming up to the top, you may need to lower the bobbin tension.
7. Stitch directional lines following the drawing and starting with the dark colors first. Move up and down and from side to side still following the directional lines in the flowers. Follow the curves as you go.
8. Thread with the next color and continue stitching in the same manner, stitching right to the edges of the flower. Try adding metallic threads for accent. Continue adding colors until you are pleased with the results.
9. Cut out the flower when done. Soak the embroidered tulip in warm water to remove the stabilizer. (You can still add more stitching at this point, if desired.)
10. Lay flower on base fabric (jacket, pillow top, etc.). Use chalk marker on silk, not a water soluble pen. Mark a stem and leaves onto the base fabric with your chalk marker.



11. Start with green variegated thread following the curves of the leaves. Then go back with a darker green. Stitch the stem and leaves.
12. Position the flowers as desired. Use pins or KK2000 to hold them in place while stitching. Appliqué the flower in place using a feathering motion around the edge - just catching the embroidery.
13. It's as easy as that. Start planning your next project!







