

# Step-by-Step Tutorial: Patchwork Labrador Portrait

Techniques Used: US Appliqué & Free-Motion Quilting (CM Measurements)

## Step-by-Step Tutorial: Patchwork Labrador Portrait

Techniques: US Appliqué & Free-Motion Quilting (with CM Measurements)

**Materials Needed:** Assorted b/w fabrics, fusible web (e.g., HeatnBond), thread, scissors, sewing machine, base fabric, batting.



### Step 3: Precise Cutting.

Cut fabrics along the exact lines of your template pieces (e.g., the gingham piece 'C').



Fuse all pieces onto a cotton background fabric (15cm x 15cm).

### Step 6: Free-Motion Quilt

Layer fabric with batting. Use a free-motion darning foot to stitch texture over the entire piece, following patterns.

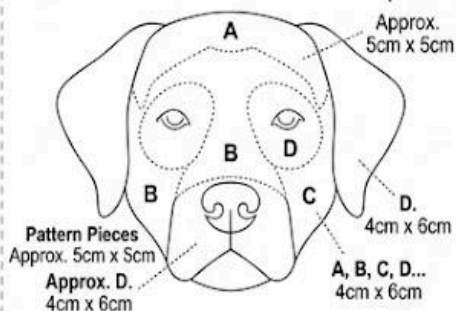


### Step 7: Trim & Finish.

Trim edges neatly with pinking shears (Approx. 0.5cm edge allowance) for a frayed look.

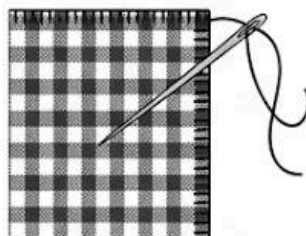
### Step 1: Create Your Template.

(15cm x 15cm base size)  
Print or trace the dog head outline and individual fabric section shapes.



### Step 4: Securing and Texturing.

Sew around each fabric piece with a close-together blanket stitch or zigzag stitch (approx. 2.5mm wide).



### Step 2: Fusible Application.

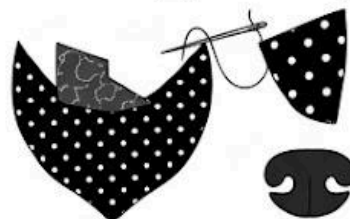
Apply fusible web to the back of selected fabrics.



Roughly cut out each pattern shape from the sock from the corresponding fabric.

### Step 5: Add Details.

Place and sew the black polka-dot bandana (Approx. 6cm length).



Add the nose (approx. 3.5cm wide) and free-motion stitch eye details.

### KEY: MAJOR SEWING & QUILT TECHNIQUES (US STYLE)

#### A: Fusible Appliqué (RAW-EDGE):

A method to adhere fabric to fabric with heat-activated film. Edges are left unfinished.

#### B: Securing Stitch (BLANKET/ZIGZAG):

Tightly spaced stitches to secure appliqué edges. Width approx. 2.5mm.

**C: Free-Motion Quilting:** Stitching textures in any direction, often used for adding intricate, continuous-line details.

**D: Free-Motion Thread Painting:** Using stitching like a paintbrush to build color, depth, and texture (e.g., eyes).

**E: Pinking/Fraying:** Trimming fabric edges with decorative or pinking shears and lightly teasing the fibers for a rustic, lived-in edge.

### Step 7: Trim & Finish

Trim edges neatly with pinking shears (Approx. 0.5cm edge allowance) for a frayed look.



## Materials Needed

Prepare all materials before starting to ensure a smooth workflow.

You will need:

- Assorted black and white cotton fabrics (polka dot, gingham, solids, small prints)
- Fusible web (for example: HeatnBond or equivalent)
- Cotton background fabric (15 cm x 15 cm)
- Cotton batting (same size as background)
- Sewing machine with free-motion capability
- Free-motion (darning) foot
- Sewing thread (black, white, and gray tones recommended)
- Fabric scissors
- Paper scissors
- Pinking shears
- Iron and ironing surface
- Printed or traced template of the Labrador portrait
- Pins (optional)

All measurements are in centimeters to stay consistent with the original tutorial.

## Step 1: Create Your Template

Start by preparing the foundation of your design.

- Set your base size to **15 cm x 15 cm**
- Print or trace the Labrador dog head outline
- Separate the design into individual fabric sections (labeled A, B, C, D)

Approximate section sizes:

- Section A: 5 cm x 5 cm
- Section B: 5 cm x 5 cm
- Section C: 4 cm x 6 cm
- Section D: 4 cm x 6 cm

These sections represent different areas of the dog's face and ears. Accuracy here ensures the final portrait looks balanced and recognizable.



Patchwork Labrador Template

## Step 2: Fusible Application

This step allows you to bond fabric pieces cleanly and securely.

- Iron fusible web onto the **wrong side** of each selected fabric
- Allow the fusible to cool completely
- Do not remove the paper backing yet

This technique is known as **raw-edge fusible appliqué**, where edges remain unfinished for texture and style.

## Step 3: Precise Cutting

Now transfer your template shapes to fabric.

- Place each paper template on the fusible-backed fabric
- Trace the shapes accurately
- Roughly cut out each piece, leaving a small margin
- Keep each fabric piece matched to its correct section (A, B, C, D)

Precision here helps all pieces fit together properly in later steps.

## Step 4: Securing and Texturing

This step locks everything in place and adds surface interest.

- Peel off the paper backing from each fabric piece
- Position all pieces onto the **15 cm x 15 cm cotton background**
- Press with an iron to fuse permanently
- Stitch around each piece using:
  - A close blanket stitch **or**
  - A tight zigzag stitch (approx. **2.5 mm width**)

This secures the appliqué and prevents lifting during quilting.

## Step 5: Add Details 🐾

Details bring the portrait to life.

- Cut and place the black polka-dot bandana
  - Approximate length: **6 cm**
- Sew it securely in place
- Add the nose:
  - Approximate width: **3.5 cm**
- Use free-motion stitching to add:
  - Eyes
  - Facial contours
  - Expression lines

Think of your sewing machine as a drawing tool during this step.

## Step 6: Free-Motion Quilting 🎨

This is where texture and depth are added.

- Layer the finished top with batting underneath
- Lower the feed dogs on your machine
- Attach a free-motion (darning) foot
- Quilt over the entire piece using:
  - Swirls
  - Echo lines
  - Directional stitching
- Follow the shapes of the dog's face to enhance dimension

Free-motion quilting adds movement and a hand-drawn effect.

## Step 7: Trim & Finish ✂️ ✨

Complete the project with a clean but artistic edge.

- Trim all edges using **pinking shears**
- Leave approximately **0.5 cm edge allowance**
- Slightly fray edges if desired for a rustic, textured look

Your Patchwork Labrador Portrait is now complete and ready to display, frame, or incorporate into a larger quilt project.

## Final Result

You now have a fully finished **Patchwork Labrador Portrait** using:

- US-style fusible appliqué
- Secure edge stitching
- Free-motion quilting
- Decorative raw-edge finishing

This project is perfect for wall art, mini quilts, gifts, or creative practice pieces.

<https://harmonythreads.dicasdorei.com/>

