

LOVE-LY FABRIC VALENTINES



HOLIDAY ESSENTIALS **LOVE** Stacy Iest Hsu

Valentine Size: 3"x5"



SUPPLIES:

(1) Charm Pack of Love by Stacy Iest Hsu (20750PP)

Scrap fabric or orphan blocks also work great for this project!

Glue stick - Any craft glue stick works, or a fabric glue, or pins if you prefer

Coordinating Thread for top-stitching

Peltex 72F - A firm double sided adhesive stabilizer

3"x5" Cardstock for back to write note

OPTIONAL:

Batting scrap at least 4"x6" - If you are going to truly 'quilt' your Valentines, it adds a nice texture.

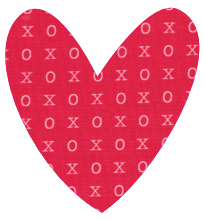
Buttons/Trims/Ribbons - The world is your oyster! Truly this is a project just to have fun using what you have on hand.

Fusible web of choice - A glue stick alternate if you prefer to applique with a bit more stability to your fabric.

A NOTE ON SEWING MACHINES & STITCHES:

For Valentines to hand out, it isn't strictly necessary to enclose your edges. A basic top-stitch will do nicely.

If you want to make actual mailable postcards, you'll want to make sure your sewing machine can do a zig-zag stitch or other decorative stitches to secure and enclose your edges!



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MAKING YOUR DESIGN

1. Lay out your design. You can keep it as simple as one charm square for background, and a cut heart to stitch down on top, or have fun with more cut shapes or piecing. No rules, just have fun!

2. When cutting & sewing your fabric, make sure to leave 1/8" to 1/4" around all 4 sides for your finishing top-stitching.

3. Once your layout is decided, lightly apply glue to the back of any applique shapes to keep from shifting.

4a. Top stitch around edges of applique shapes. If you go around 2-3 times (not worrying about the stitches lining up exactly) rather than just once, you'll end up with a nice freehand or doodle look to your applique.

4b. Optional - If you want to truly quilt your postcard, this is where you'd layer the fabric with a batting scrap and quilt. If you do quilt, make sure your fabric is a bit larger than 3"x5", as it tends to 'shrink' a bit in the quilting process. If you're doing applique shapes AND quilting, you do not have to topstitch unless you want the look—just make sure you have enough quilting density to secure the fabric to the card.

MAILING POSTCARDS

If you want to put cards in the mail like any other postcard, change your finish size to 4"x6" rather than this Valentine size. Consider using an old postcard for your card backing! These can go in the mail as-is with postage and an address, or you can protect them using an envelope.

FINISHING

1. Make your Valentine sandwich. Stack your fabric, Peltex stabilizer, and note card, right sides facing out.

2. Using a hot iron, press until the adhesive is fully activated (about 8 seconds, check manufacturer instructions). Flip to the other side and press again to make sure the heat gets both sides. Don't worry, your paper should be fine!

3a. Top-stitch approx. 1/8" around the edges of your postcard to secure. Like with the applique stitches, making a few passes without lining up your stitches exactly makes for a fun look. If you're not mailing the cards, consider trimming the edges with pinking shears for an extra detail.

3b. For a more secure finish, enclose the edges with a tight zig-zag stitch or other decorative stitch on your sewing machine. On your machine, take down the stitch length to 0.5-1.0, and put the width up to approx. 4-4.5, depending on your available settings. Make sure to align your needle so that the the outside stitch runs just along side the card rather than through the fabric. Backstitch at beginning and end. To get a denser 'satin stitch' look, make 2 passes around the card rather than just one.

