

Peek-A-Boo Backgrounds

Pre-Meeting Demo

Using a peek-a-boo background is an easy way to add interest and movement to the background of an applique project.

You will need:

Equal amounts of 3 colors of fabric

Sharp, pointed small scissors

Seam ripper

Procedure:

- 1) Iron all fabrics
- 2) Layer fabrics **RIGHT SIDES UP**. The fabric you would like most visible, should be the top layer, accent layers below.
- 3) Pin all layers together, well.
- 4) Sew edge to edge through all layers with intersecting lines of thread to form a loose grid-like structure. The stitch lines should intersect in such a way, as to create a pattern that will coordinate with your applique theme. The pattern needs to be rather open (do not place the stitch lines too close to each other.) Your thread can either blend with your top fabric or contrast with it, your choice.
- 5) Decide where you would like the lower fabric layers to **PEEK THROUGH**.
- 6) With a seam ripper, carefully lift one or two threads of the top fabric layer near the center of the **PEEK THROUGH** area. Cut these threads to form a small hole.
- 7) Insert your scissors into the hole and carefully snip away the top layer of fabric approximately 1/8"-1/4" from the stitching lines which surround that area. You will now have a lower layer of fabric **PEEKING THROUGH** the topmost layer.
- 8) If you would like to cut down to lower layers, after creating the small hole with your seam ripper, open that hole a bit more with your scissors and use the seam ripper to create a hole in the next layer down (as in step 7.) Then cut away both fabric layers with the scissors (as in Step 8).
- 10) Carefully continue removing sections. Don't get carried away opening too many windows. Your background could get very busy. Reveal a few areas and step back for a good overall view. It is **VERY** hard to un-remove fabric. But you can always remove more quite easily.

Creative Hints:

- 1) Try using an ombre or gradation fabric for one underlayer.
- 2) Make your own ombre layer by joining several fabrics to form one of the layers.
- 3) Underlayers with the same value as the top layer (all lights, all darks or all mediums) will produce a subtle effect.
- 4) Remember, the fabric you remove and the resulting window, will be smaller than the area outlined by the stitches. Plan accordingly when top stitching.