

Apple Pincushions

Photo: page 50

The Quilted Apple had only been open a few months when a very engaging young mother brought in a small bushel basket of these dear apple pincushions. She asked if we would be interested in selling them in our shop. We ordered several dozen and waited for delivery. Finally, several apples arrived. We were disappointed to have received only a few. We ordered more and again only a few arrived. We told her that we would take all the apples she could make. "Even a hundred?" she asked. "Yes!" we answered. Again we waited patiently, and again only a few apples were delivered. Our customers loved them and we knew that we could sell many more.

Eventually, our "apple maker" moved away. Ginger Sanchez-Loupe, who has been working at The Quilted Apple for several years, adapted the pattern and became our in-house "apple maker." When it is time to make apples, Ginger and her four daughters form an assembly line and make a hundred or more at one time. The Quilted Apple sells "an apple a day" throughout the year. We are happy to share the pattern with you.

Materials

44"-wide fabric

For a small apple pincushion:

- 6" x 6" piece of red or green for apple
- 4" x 6" piece of green for leaf
- 4" length of $\frac{3}{8}$ "-wide green double-faced satin ribbon

For a large apple pincushion:

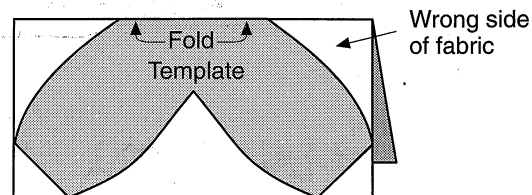
- 8" x 8" piece of red or green for apple
- 4" x 8" piece of green for leaf
- 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ " length of $\frac{3}{8}$ "-wide green double-faced satin ribbon

Polyester fiberfill
Off-white Knit-Cro-Sheen thread

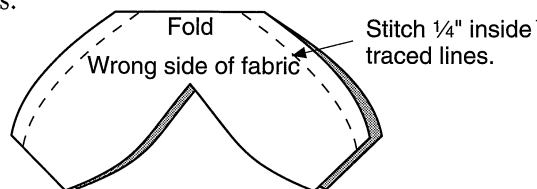
Fusible web
Tear-away stabilizer
5"-long doll needle
Hot-glue gun and glue

Directions

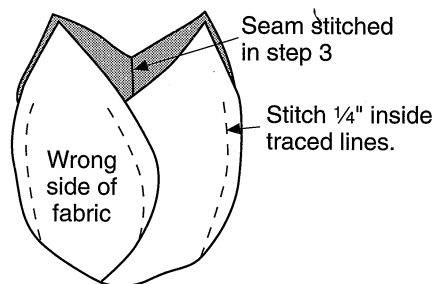
1. Make plastic templates, following the directions on page 84. Use the templates on pages 81–82. The templates include $\frac{1}{4}$ "-wide seam allowances.
2. Fold the red or green fabric square in half with right sides together. Align the template on the fold line as indicated. Trace around the template, then cut the apple out on the traced line.



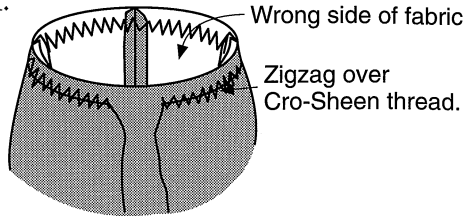
3. Fold the apple as shown with right sides together. Machine stitch $\frac{1}{4}$ " inside the traced lines.



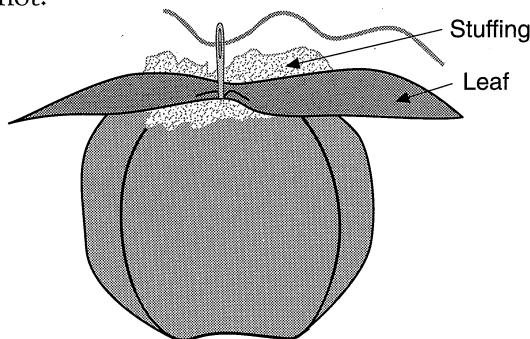
4. Refold the apple and stitch $\frac{1}{4}$ " inside the remaining 2 traced lines.



- Turn the apple right side out. Make a gathering thread around the top of the apple by laying an 18" length of Cro-Sheen thread $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the raw edge and zigzag stitch over the Cro-Sheen as shown.

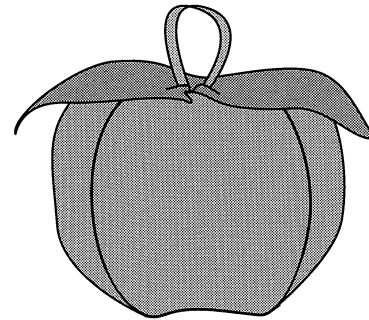


- Stuff the apple with the fiberfill until it is firm.
- Cut the piece of green leaf fabric in half lengthwise. Use fusible web to bond the 2 pieces with wrong sides together. Place the leaf pattern on the bonded fabric, draw around it, and cut the leaf out on the traced line.
- Place the leaf on top of a piece of stabilizer that has been cut to a size slightly larger than the leaf. Satin-stitch around outside edge of the leaf. Tear away the stabilizer.
- Thread a 5" -long doll needle with a 24" length of Cro-Sheen thread. Tie a knot at one end of the thread.
- Insert the needle through the center of the leaf and bring it through the bottom of the apple, leaving the knot on top. Take a $\frac{1}{4}$ " -long stitch and return it to the top of the apple. Pull the thread snugly to form a dimple on the bottom of the apple. Make another stitch through the center of the leaf. Make a knot next to the first knot.

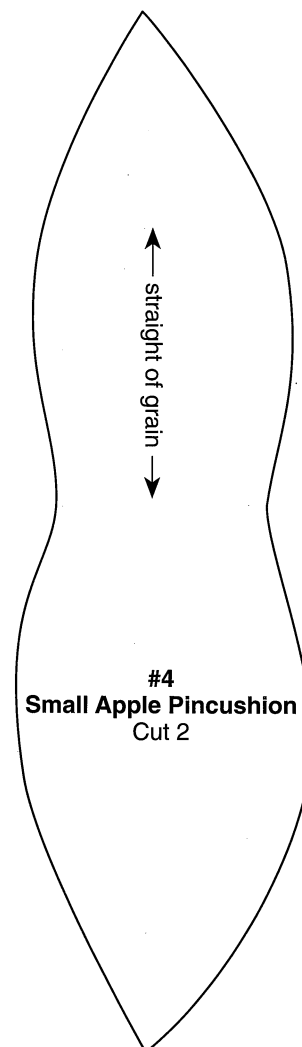


- To make the stem, fold the ribbon in half to form a loop. Glue the ends together. Glue the stem to the center of the leaf, covering the Cro-Sheen knots.
- Pull the ends of the gathering thread a little more, then add more fiberfill. Repeat until the apple is firm. As you gather the fabric, the top

raw edges are pulled down into the apple, and the leaf and stem stands up. Gather securely and tie under the leaf.



Creative Option: Make a batch of these apples for holiday decorations—ornaments on your tree or a basketful for a festive dining-table centerpiece. Use elegant velvets, silks, and brocades or some of the wonderful holiday printed cottons!



Apple Pincushions

