

WOOL APPLIQUÉ WALL HANGING

by Lisa Shepard Stewart

Sewing to decorate your home means creating pieces with personal significance, like a wall hanging embellished with cultural symbolism. Here, Adinkra symbols from Ghana are cut as wool appliques on colorful Ghanaian batiks, all framed with a dimensional upholstery fabric. Finish the look with a tree branch as the rod to accent the mix of textures.

YOU'LL NEED:

- 3 - 16" squares of coordinating batiks
- 3 - coordinating colors of woven wool (www.MarcusFabrics.com)
- Upholstery fabric for background (approx. 50" long x 18" wide)
- Cotton batting (approx. 50" long x 18" wide)
- Backing/binding fabric, 1½ yds.
- Fabric for hanging tab (approx. 10" x 10")
- Fusible batting (approx. 8" x 8")

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. If desired, add texture to the wool by felting it: Machine wash on the hot cycle (or soaking it in hot water), then tumble dry for at least 30 minutes. This gives it a softer, more plush look and feel, and makes the wool even more resistant to fraying.
2. Cut wool shapes from appliqué patterns. Position wool shapes onto the batik squares as desired. Secure the pieces with a glue stick. Machine stitch around each of the shapes using a close zig-zag stitch, blanket stitch or other option.
3. To assemble the wall hanging, position each of the squares onto the upholstery fabric, spacing them evenly. Stitch randomly about ¼" from the raw edge, using straight or decorative machine stitching.
4. Place the backing fabric wrong side up; position batting in the center of the fabric, followed by the wall hanging with right side up, lining up the batting with the quilt top. Trim backing fabric 1" larger all around than the batting and wall hanging layers. Turn the backing fabric under ½" once, then again, to create a binding that covers the raw edges of the batting and wall hanging. Pin the binding edge in place; secure with a zig-zag stitch around all sides of the wall hanging.
5. To make the hanging tab, fuse the small piece of batting to the wrong side of the tab fabric, centering the batting. Turn in 1" on all sides of the fabric; hem with machine stitching or fusible tape. Fold the tab in half; press. Position the tab at the top center of the wall hanging, on the back so that it extends above the wall hanging. Stitch through all thicknesses.
6. Insert tree branch or hanging rod and hang on two nails in the wall.



Finding Appliqué Patterns...

Create appliqué patterns from your own artwork, from design books or from clip art resources online. Size them up or down as needed, photocopy and cut the pattern pieces out. I drew and cut my own stylized versions of these symbols:



AKOBEN — The War Horn—
symbol of vigilance & preparedness



DWENNIMMEN — The Ram's
Horns — symbolizing strength of
Body, Mind and Spirit



NKYINKYIN - Twistings —
symbolizing versatility and adapting
to new roles

Visit www.adinkra.org for more

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