



How to Make a Fabric Flower

Tutorial



The Preppy Owl

Note: This tutorial and pattern is for the use of the purchaser only. It is not intended for mass production. However, the purchaser may create individual fabric flowers to sell, made by one person, from their home. It would be very nice and kind that if you sell items created using my pattern, that you place a link to my patterns in your listing.

Supplies:

- Fabric
- Coordinating Thread
- Sharp Needle
- Low Temp Glue Gun & Low Temp Glue Sticks
- Small Piece of Felt (Approximately 3" x 3")
- Double-Sided Velcro
- Sharp Small Scissors (dull scissors don't work well when cutting fabric)
- Dritz Fabric Marker (pens and pencils can leave marks on fabric during cutting)
- Cover Button Kit (size needed is based on information within Table A)
- Flower Circle Template – .PDF File that was sent along with this tutorial - (flower template size to be used is based on dog collar neck size – see Table A)

How to Determine Flower & Cover Button Sizing

Table A

If Your Dog's Neck Size Range Is	Use Flower Template No.	Use Cover Button Kit Size	Actual Dritz Button Kit Item No.	Amount of Fabric You'll Need
7" - 11"	FT – SU01	1/2"	DR14.20	1/4 Yard
10" – 15"	FT – SU02	3/4"	DR14.30	1/4 Yard
12" – 19"	FT - SU02	3/4"	DR14.30	1/4 Yard
15" – 24"	FT – SU03	1 1/8"	DR14.45	1/2 Yard
17" – 29"	FT – SU03	1/ 1/8"	DR14.45	1/2 Yard

Shopping Guide:

Fabric: Any craft, fabric or online shop that carries quality cotton fabric, including:

<http://www.JoannFabrics.com>

<http://www.fabric.com>

Cover Button Kit: Any craft, fabric or online shop that carries sewing supplies, including:

<http://www.Michaels.com>

<http://www.JoannFabrics.com>

<http://www.Createforless.com>

Fabric Marker: Any craft, fabric or online shop that carries sewing supplies, including:

<http://www.JoannFabrics.com>

Double-Sided Velcro: Most craft stores, as well as fabric stores will carry this, including:

<http://www.Michaels.com>

Let's Get Started

Even if you think you can't sew, these fabric flowers are super-duper easy! Simply follow the instructions and pictures on the following pages, and before you know it you will have the cutest fabric flower in your hands!

If you don't have any fabric lying around you could use an old sheet, clothes that the kids or you have outgrown, aprons or dishcloths that have outlived their usefulness and anything else made from fabric.

Here's what you need to get started:

- Fabric – Note; do not use a heavy or thick fabric such as upholstery fabric. It will be too much fabric/bulk to create the flower.
- Coordinating Thread
- Cover Button Kit (size needed is based on fabric flower size chart - see Table A, Page 1)
Flower Circle Template – .PDF File that was sent along with this tutorial - (flower template size to be used is based on dog collar neck size – see Table A)
- Sharp Needle
- Sharp Small Scissors (dull scissors don't work well when cutting fabric)
- Dritz Fabric Marker (pens and pencils can leave marks on fabric during cutting)

Photo 1



Step One: Choosing Your Fabric

First choose the fabric you will use for the petals. I love how different patterns and colors looked mix-matched, as well as, using one particular pattern with an accenting center, as I did for this tutorial. Remember, this fabric flower should reflect what you like. Select the prints, patterns, solids, etc., that you like and make you feel good.

Next, print out the flower template that was emailed along with this tutorial. Based on Table A, (Page 1) determine which of the three sizes of flower templates you need to make to go on your pet's collar. For example, if you have a Wired-Fox Terrier with a neck size of 12", you would use Flower Template SU – 02, based on Table A.

Cut out the appropriate Flower Template circle. Using your fabric marker, trace the circle template onto your cotton fabric, as shown in Photo 2. You will need to trace a total of 5 circles onto your fabric.

Photo 2:



Step Two: Cut Your Fabric

Cut out all five (5) or six (6) of your circles (these will become your flower petals), as shown in Photo 3 below. In this tutorial I use 5 circles, however, using 6 circles to create the flower petals is easier. The reason I use 5 in this tutorial is because it has always been strongly stressed to me that nothing in nature is in even numbers. I will tell you that I prefer the look of 6 circles (petals)!

Photo 3



Step Three: Iron, Iron & Iron Again

Once you've cut your circles, iron, iron, iron! Believe me this really effects the look of your project. The picture below, Photo 4, shows how the fabric looks before it has been ironed.

Fabric is so much easier to work with when crisply ironed. Photo 5 below shows how the fabric will look after it has been pressed – you can see the difference.

HINT: Don't "drag" your iron across the fabric, but actually just press and lift, press and lift. Dragging will cause your fabric to stretch and be mis-shaped.

Photo 4



Photo 5



See? So much prettier!

Step Four: Fold and Press

Now you'll fold your circles in half as shown in Photo 6, and then in half again, (Photo 7) ***pressing*** after each fold.

Photo 6



Photo 7



Once you have all your petals folded and pressed, as shown below, it's time to stitch!



Step Five: A Stitch in Time

This is the point where you are going to start to stitch. When determining the amount of thread to use, you want the thread to be at least 10" long. This is due to the fact that you will be stitching all five of the petals, using that one piece of thread.

Start at the bottom corner of the curved side and make long gather stitches across the curve to the other side, as shown in Photo 8 and Photo 9.

Note: Remember to use coordinating colored thread. In this tutorial I have used a thread color that will accent so that you are able to clearly see the thread.

Photo 8



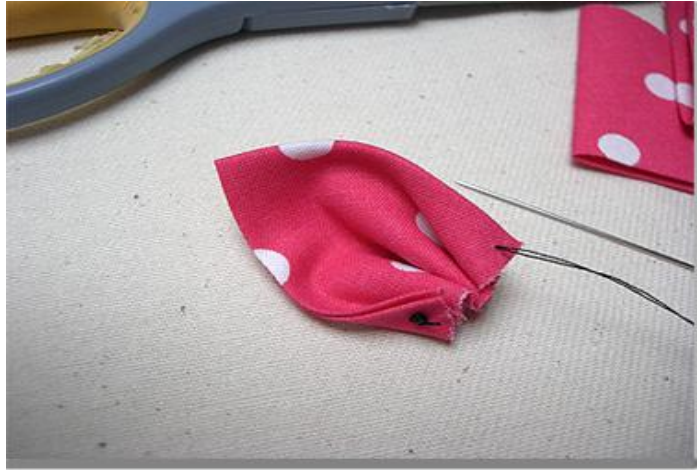
Photo 9



Step Six: Time to Gather

After you have made long gather stitches along the curve of the fabric, as shown in Photo 9, gently pull the thread to gather your petal, as shown in Photo 10.

Photo 10



Step Seven: Creating the Flower

Once you have gathered your first, let's begin the gathering stitches on the next petal. Remember, do not cut your thread, you are going to continue onto "gathering" your second petal, *without cutting the thread*, so the petals are connected. See Photo 11 below. Continue to add one petal at a time, repeating the process of long gathering stitches along the curve of the fabric and then gently pulling the thread to create a petal. You want to repeat that process until you have done all five petals, as shown in Photo's 11 – 15 below.

Photo 11



Photo 12



Photo 13

Photo 14



Photo 15



Step Eight: Creating the Center

Choose the fabric that you wish to use for the center of your flower and put it to the side. Locate your Dritz Cover Button Kit. Remember, the size of the flower center is based on the information located in Table A, on Page 1. You should have already identified what size Dritz Cover Button Kit you need.

Using the fabric that you selected for the center of the flower, follow the directions located on the back of your Dritz Cover Button Kit, to assemble the flower center.

Update/Revision – December 31, 2012

Recently we updated how you can secure the button flower center to the fabric flower, as well as, how the fabric flower can be attached to your dog collar. I will keep our original method (more difficult), while providing you with our updated method (much easier) so that you can select which method you prefer.

Our original method (more difficult) is done by hand-stitching the button to the flower.

Photo 16



Our revised method (much easier) is done by using a hot glue gun. Please note, as this tutorial has been updated as of 12/31/11; you will notice the fabric flower print is different from the previous print used in this tutorial. No reason for this except for the fact I did not have the same exact fabric on-hand during this revision.

Simply place some hot glue into the center of the flower (Photo 17) and then take your fabric button cover and place it on top of hot glue. Push down slightly to secure (Photo 18). Allow it to cool for approximately 2 minutes.

Photo 17



Photo 18



Step Nine: Finishing the Fabric Flower & Adding to Dog Collar

Original Method: To add your fabric flower to a dog collar, first, hand-stitch a small elastic band onto the back of the flower, with just a few secure stitches (Photo 19). Flower complete (Photo 20). Then slide the flower onto the collar and adjust its placement.

Photo 19



Photo 20



I use small elastic rubber hair bands that are available at any local pharmacy store, i.e., CVS, Walgreens, Rite-Aid, etc. You can also use groomer's elastic bands. Those are available for you to purchase online. As an extra security measure, you can attach 2 elastic rubber bands, vs. just one, in case one should break.

Revised Method: Locate your felt, and cut out a circle. Depending on which size flower you decided to make, determine the size of the felt circle you will need to cut. Below is a sizing guide for you:

Small Fabric Flower – Felt circle should be about the size of a dime.

Medium Fabric Flower – Felt circle should be about the size of a quarter.

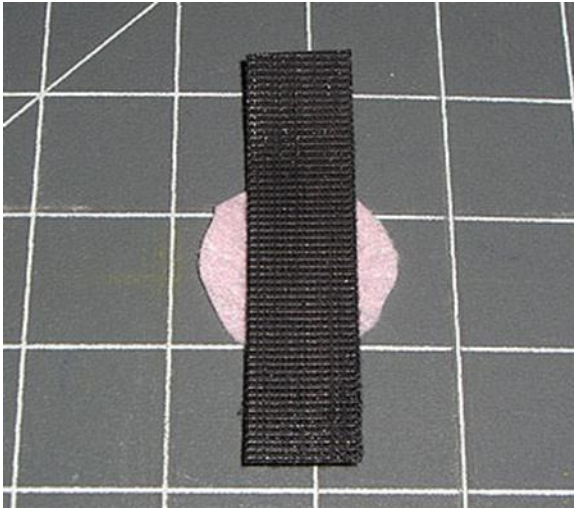
Large Fabric Flower – Felt circle should be about the size of a half-dollar.

Note: *You want your felt circle to cover the center part of the back of the flower. You do not want the felt circle to be too large and exceed the center. If the felt circle is too large, when the fabric flower is attached to the collar, the felt will be seen in between the petals and will not look very good.*

Once you have cut your felt circle, you will now want to cut a 3" strip of double-sided Velcro. **Another side note on this** *The double-sided Velcro comes in a ¾" width ... If you are making a small fabric flower; the current Velcro width is too large for the small fabric flower. What I do is once I have cut the 3" strip; I take the 3" strip and cut it down the middle so my width is much smaller!*

Now that you have cut your Double-Side Velcro and you have cut your felt circle, you want to stitch the Velcro onto the felt circle. Take a moment and feel both sides of your Velcro. You'll notice one side is soft and fuzzy and the other side has slight ridges. Place the soft fuzzy side of the Velcro on top your felt circle and make sure that your felt circle is located in the center of the Velcro, as shown in the photo below.

Photo 21



Using your sewing machine, secure the Velcro to the felt circle with a few stitches; as shown in Photo 22. I always use black thread when stitching the Velcro to the felt, as the black thread is not seen when the fabric flower is attached.

Photo 22



Now gather your fabric flower, your 3" Velcro w/felt strip and your glue gun. Take your glue gun and add hot glue to your felt circle. **Note:** *You'll want to use enough glue to cover about 80% of the felt. If you use too much hot glue, when you place the felt circle on to the back of the flower, the hot glue will exceed past the felt and get onto the fabric flower and the Velcro strip – this is not what you want!*

Photo 23



Once you have put hot glue onto the felt, take your fabric flower and place the back of the flower on top of the hot glue felt circle. Gently press down to secure the fabric flower to felt/Velcro strip. Allow to cool for approximately 5 minutes.

You should now have an attachable fabric flower that looks similar to Photo 24.

Photo 24



You have just completed your attachable fabric flower. This attachable fabric flower can be used on any standard nylon or fabric dog collar.



FLOWER SIZE TEMPLATES

