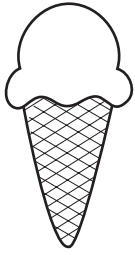


Block Exchange June 2006



ICE CREAM TREATS!

I scream. You scream. We all scream for ice cream! Our June treat is an ice cream social!

You may choose your favorite ice cream flavor -- blackberry, chocolate or maybe, pistachio -- and serve it in a crisp brownish "waffle cone" on a vanilla/light beige background. Yum.

Cut your background piece 9" square, complete your appliqued goodie, then trim your block to 8 1/2". You will need a 5" scrap for both your ice cream choice and your waffle cone fabric choice.

Your applique may be needleturned if you choose (no fusibles, please,) or you might like to try a technique that may be new to you...Dryer Sheet Applique. Used dryer sheets are a good size for this project, readily available and unlikely to damage your sewing machine unless you sew gallons of ice cream cones!

I have used them with great success for over 5 years with no negative comments from my Bernina repair guy. If you prefer, you may use a piece of purchased non-woven interfacing--the lightest weight you can find.

Prep the dryer sheet by pressing with a medium warm iron to straighten it out. Trace the patterns onto the dryer sheet with a permanent marker. Place the dryer sheet pattern on top of the right side of the ice cream fabric. Stitch all around the design on the pattern line on the dryer sheet. Cut out the design, leaving a 1/8" to 1/4" seam allowance. Snip any curves if needed and carefully cut a small slit in the dryer sheet only, turn inside out, work out the curves and press. You now have a finished edge to applique. Since the ice cream cone will be positioned under the ice cream, you will only need to sew down one side and up the other of your pattern, leaving the top open to turn. Snip any curves and press. Position your ice cream cone duo on the background square and hand applique, catching the dryer sheet at the seam line, instead of the fabric. After you have completed the applique you may choose to carefully trim out the extra background and the dryer sheet, leaving a 1/4" seam allowance. This is an optional step.

Looks almost good enough to eat, doesn't it?!

You may want to make a lot of flavors!

This is a handy technique for curved pieces like hearts and great for any applique project you travel with--you can baste the design into place and have no need to travel with pins. Or just put your dryer sheet-backed pieces into baggies, throw in some background pieces and work wherever you are!