

"MONA LISA" Wall Quilt Instructions

(Joyfully modified for stitching; © 2007 by Flora Joy)

Before beginning, click on the index-page link to see a SAMPLE finished "modern" Mona Lisa Wall Quilt. You might also want to preview the link to the "original" painting of the Mona Lisa.

For a delightful and unusual wall quilt, try modifying the Mona Lisa and substituting a different "face" in the picture. This is actually quite easy and it is certainly great FUN. *Note: This pattern is very "forgiving"—if something doesn't fit, then just "skooch" it around until it does.* For a 17"x22" (inner design) wall quilt that has your choice of added border(s), consider these steps:

Background Base: Cut an 18"x23" rectangle of a thin, white/cream background fabric (such as domestic). This will be used to position the quilt sections.

Cut an 8"x18" rectangle of a dullish-greenish-yellowish "sky" fabric. *I used "#LEHNDYLY" from Island Batiks—Yellow, Monochromatic Texture Hand-Dye, Straw Yellow—hand-dyed.* (Examine the original Mona Lisa painting to get a better idea for this fabric.) Spray the back of this piece with a temporary adhesive fabric spray, and place it ONTO the fabric base in SECTION 1 of the wall quilt design.

Cut a 12"x18" piece of fabric that can be "fussy cut" into mountain-looking background fabric for this painting. *I used "#LEEBIHDOL" from Island Batiks—a bold hand-dyed, earthy toned and textured fabric of cream, black, charcoal, deep olive green, moss, and tobacco colors. This is a FABULOUS fabric for this unusual background. It can be fussy-cut to convince even the most skeptical viewers.* Iron on a strip of fusible web **behind** the TOP of this fabric, then FUSSY CUT only this TOP edge. Remove the paper backing of the fusible web. Spray the remaining fabric (wrong side) with adhesive spray. Position this onto SECTION 2 of the design.

Cut a 12"x18" piece of solid black (or tone-on-tone black). Sew this to the bottom of the Section 2 fabric by flipping it upside down and positioning it (right sides together) to sew a ½" seam. Flip the black fabric back into the position of SECTION 3, and lightly spray it to the domestic fabric. (Note that there may be extra fabric at the bottom—depending upon how much of the Section 2 fussy-cutting was done, etc.. Not to worry—just trim away any extra below the base fabric.)

FINISHING: [Pretend this background is your FINAL quilt.] Square up the design and sew on any desired borders. (I cut two ¾" strips for inner ¼" borders, a 3" strip for outside border, and a 1 ½" strip for binding.) Add batting, backing, then quilt through all three layers as desired (avoiding any heavy quilting in the head/face area). Add the final binding/edging/sleeve/label—all as if this is your "final" quilt.

Before completing the following sections, download any of the desired links (sleeve, head, hands, etc.) by clicking on the corresponding links on the index page of this site.

ADDING THE FACE: Load the provided "head" photo-file for Mona Lisa. (This sample is our teenaged niece, Brooke.) Through your preferred photo editing system (such as Adobe PhotoShop), superimpose YOUR choice of facial features atop the provided one (or create your own from scratch). Print onto a photo-fabric sheet. Trim. Position the face onto the design, and iron it onto your quilt (according to the directions on your purchased photo-fabric sheets).

ADDING THE GARMENT/BODY: Select a dark fabric for Mona's garment. (I used a faux velveteen.) **BODICE:** Cut a 12"x12" piece of this fabric. Turn under one inch at the top and stitch. Gather (to about 7") and decorate with a trim of your choice. Stitch it at the dotted line at the "chest" of the pattern outline. This will barely hide the bottom of the photo-fabric face. **SLEEVES:** Cut the two provided "sleeve guides" from thick "cap-bill Pellon" (or poster paper). Wrap a 12"x12" piece *in gathers* around Mona's right arm cut-out guide, and a 12"x36" piece around Mona's left arm cut-out guide in the same fashion. (Cut away any unneeded fabric.) Hot-glue the fabric to the guides—and then hot-glue them to the base quilt (leaving a "hand opening" in Mona's right sleeve). Print the provided "hands" onto a fabric sheet (and trim), slide them into the right sleeve opening, and carefully hot-glue them atop the sleeve fabric. **You have finished! Pat yourself on the back!!**

ENJOY! (Note: This is the FIRST DRAFT of this pattern kit. If you see errors, thanks for letting me know via e-mail.)

--Flora Joy