**Machine Applique Instructions for a 12”x12” Pillow, Wall Hanging, or Table Topper**

Letter templates are provided with these instructions, but you can create your own if you wish: Microsoft Word is a good source. Choose a Sans Serif font – no “feet”. (My choice was Marita Text Medium). In Text Effects, choose Outline. Then choose a size. (I found that size 200 makes letters approximately 2” high in this font.) Print out the words. Next, use a marker to outline the letters. If you are looking for applique ideas in the future, children’s coloring books are a great source.

1. Wash and iron all fabric.
2. Audition which fabrics to use for letters and which for backgrounds.
3. Cut the three different fabric background sections for the top – 4½” x 13” each.
4. For the back of a wall hanging or table topper, cut one 15” x 15” piece. For the back of a pillow, cut one back fabric 12½” x 6½” and one 12½” x 10”, and cut one 15” x 15” muslin piece.
5. Put a letter template for a word on a table, a window, or a light box, **backwards**. Place Heat*n*Bond Lite on top, smooth paper side up, bumpy side down. Trace the letters onto the smooth side with a pencil.
6. Place the letter fabric wrong side up on the ironing board. Place the Heat*n*Bond traced letters on top, bumpy side down. Use a **dry** iron set on **medium** to press the letters onto the fabric just briefly – **2 second or less**. Do not iron too long. Cool.
7. Cut out the individual letters.
8. Adhere the “Laugh” letters onto the middle background: Peel off the paper side of each “Laugh” letter, being sure that the shiny adhesive stays with the letters. Place the letters onto the middle background in a position you like, measuring as necessary. Once you are happy with the placement, according to the directions on the Heat*n*Bond, use a dry iron set on medium to press the letters for 6 seconds. Repeat for the other two words.
9. Use fabric scraps to audition the size of zigzag stitch (or blanket stitch) you want to use. On my Pfaff machine, I like the zigzag height to be 3.0 and the width to be 2.0.
10. Using thread that matches the letters, use the zigzag stitch (or blanket stitch), to sew around all the raw edges of all the letters. Hint: Be sure your needle is down on the raw edge before making a turn.
11. Press each of the three sections.
12. Sew the three sections of the top together with a ¼” seam and press the two seams open.
13. For a pillow top, create a quilt sandwich with the muslin, batting and stitched top, leaving the two backing pieces alone for now. For a wall hanging or table topper, create a quilt sandwich with the one piece of backing, batting and stitched top. Safety pin together.
14. If possible, take a picture of your top and print it. Then use a pencil on the printout to audition how you want to do your quilting lines. (I decided on horizontal lines ½” apart for all three sections.)
15. Using thread that matches each background section, stitch your quilting on each section. Painters tape is a good way to guide stitching straight lines.
16. Trim your quilt sandwich to 12½” x 12½”.
17. If making a wall hanging, add your pocket now. If making a pillow: hem the 12½” edge on each of the two fabric back pieces – ¼” folded twice works well; pin the wrong side of the two backing pieces to the muslin side of the quilt sandwich, with the hemmed edges towards the center – the larger backing piece is underneath. Trim the back as necessary.
18. Sew on your binding.
19. If making a pillow, insert your pillow form now.