

# Monstrous “Monsterpiece” Hoodie

My husband and I became foster parents a little over a year ago. Our first member of the tribe joined us in June of 2019. He hadn't been exposed to sewing, and didn't realize that holes in clothing could be mended.

“What are you doing?” I asked him as I watched him walk from his room with a wadded up pair of shorts in his fist to the trash can, and start to launch them into the receptacle.

“They have a hole in them.”

“OK. Let me see them.”

“But, they have a hole in them.”

“I heard you. Let me see them.”

Upon inspection, I noticed that a side seam had come undone.

“We can fix these.”

“How?”

“With a sewing machine.”

“You can do that?”

“Yep.”

Out to the studio and a few minutes later, the shorts were as good as new - the beginning of my undoing. “Can you fix these? Can you sew this? Can we make that?” I could be a full-time seamster if our charges had their way.

Careful what you teach your children...



I designed this project to be fairly kid friendly and VERY forgiving. It utilizes fusible, raw edge and raw edge reverse applique. (The applique is stitched down with a herky jerky straight stitch with lots of back stitching. All sewing in the project is completed with this particular stitch.) However, if your children are anything like mine, they have little focus for things other than screens in front of their noses. My tribe enjoyed taking a few minutes to draw the monsters, check in on my sewing progress occasionally, then wear the hoodie once completed.



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Of course, you're going to need a few things for this project:

A hoodie (I thought about drafting a pattern and making one, but then online shopping is so easy that the thought left me seconds later.)

Your child's drawing of a monster

Heat 'n Bond Lite (1/4 yard should do, but too much is never a problem)

Monster fabric (a good quality 100% cotton)

Applique thread to match fabric (a good quality polyester)

Sewing machine needle(s), Size 80 (Universal works fine for this)

Sewing machine (you need straight stitch and reverse)

Paper and fabric scissors

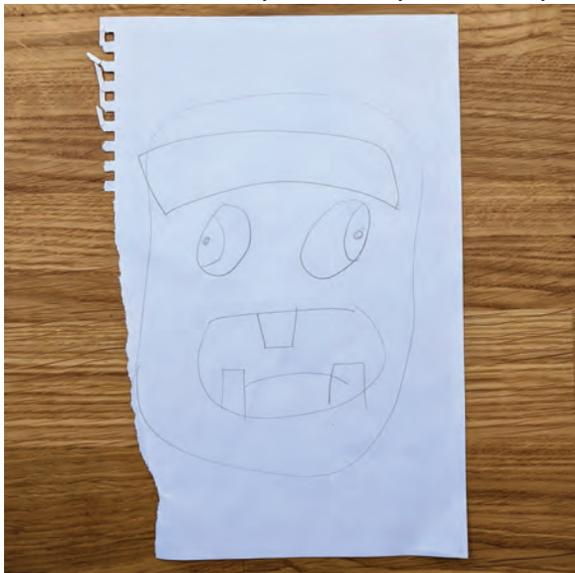
Pins (I'm a BIG fan of Clover's Flower Head Pins)

Iron

Pencil

Time (This should be first on any list!)

First things first – you need a monster! For this I engaged the artistic skills of my tribe, all of them more than ready to oblige. Some bond paper, pencils, grit and determination, within minutes I had several monsters from which to choose. (A quick note: If you don't have a means to scale the monster to the size of which you want to work – bigger is better, by the way, when working with children - give them a frame in which to work. Tell them to fill the frame.) Alas, my tribe left it to me to give color to the monsters. (Those pencils are so heavy, and they'd already ascribed more than 2 minutes to the project.)



Once you have your monster, you need to determine how you're going to turn the genius of your children into fabric that can be sewn to a garment. Hmmm...

For my child's monster, I knew I was going to use raw edge applique and raw edge reverse applique techniques. I decided that since eyeballs are typically inset into the skull (at least with this monster they were) the eyeballs would use both techniques: The pupils would be raw edge applique applied to the whites of the eyes. The eyes would then be raw edge reverse applique to the face.

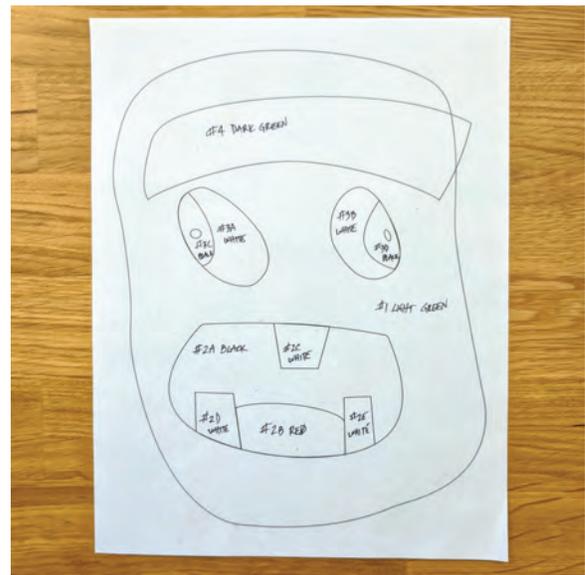
I used the same reasoning for the mouth: the tongue then the teeth would be raw edge applique to the mouth. The mouth would then be raw edge reverse applique to the face.

Now, the conundrum: Do I raw edge applique or reverse raw edge applique the monster to the back of the hoodie? If I raw edge applique the face to the hoodie, I can mount it to the hoodie with Heat n' Bond Lite, fuse it, stitch it and be done. The hoodie will also remain completely intact, making it much stronger. The monster will look like it's sitting on the back of the hoodie.

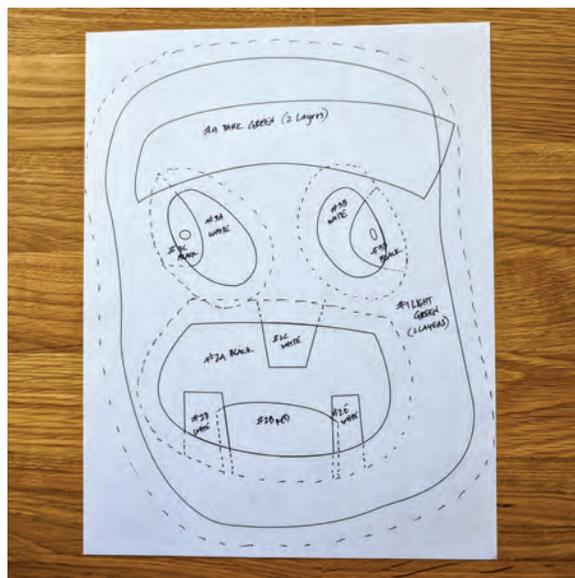
Or, do I raw edge reverse applique the monster to the hoodie, making it appear to be coming from within the hoodie? So many choices, and ways to make a really easy project really complicated... I decided to use raw edge reverse applique to mount the monster to the hoodie.

In both cases, the "mono brow" (my child's words, not mine) can be raw edge applique last. The completed result is pictured below and to the left.

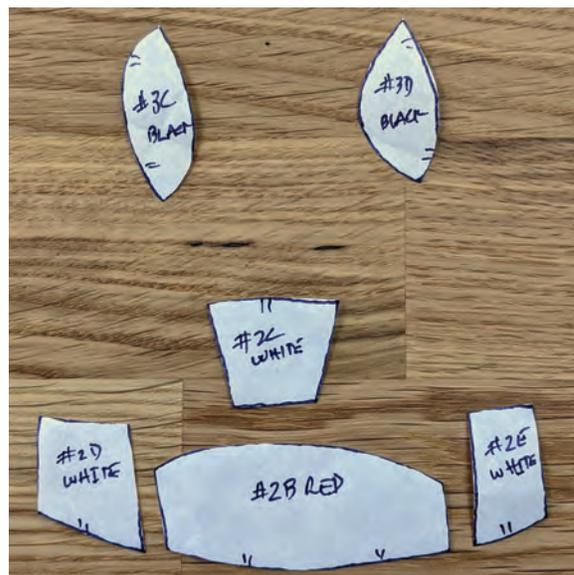
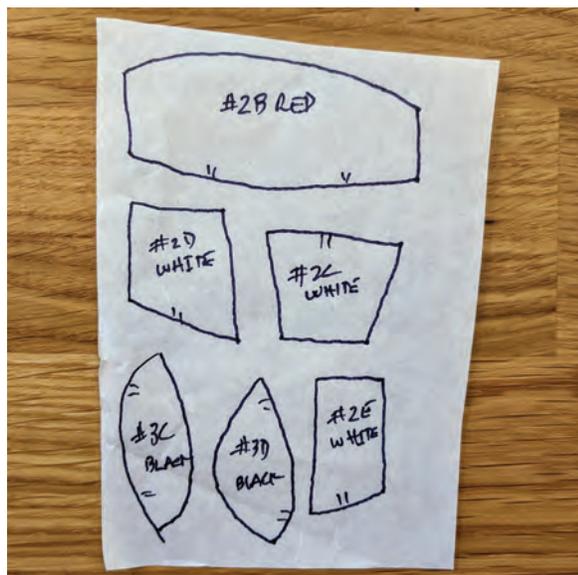
Once all the applique decisions are solidified, it's time to lay out the order of the applique. (Pictured below and to the right.) I made a couple of copies of the drawing mirrored and not mirrored - mirrored for the pieces that utilize fusible applique, unmirrored for pieces that don't utilize fusible applique. The unmirrored drawing can also be used as a template (and will be) for placement.



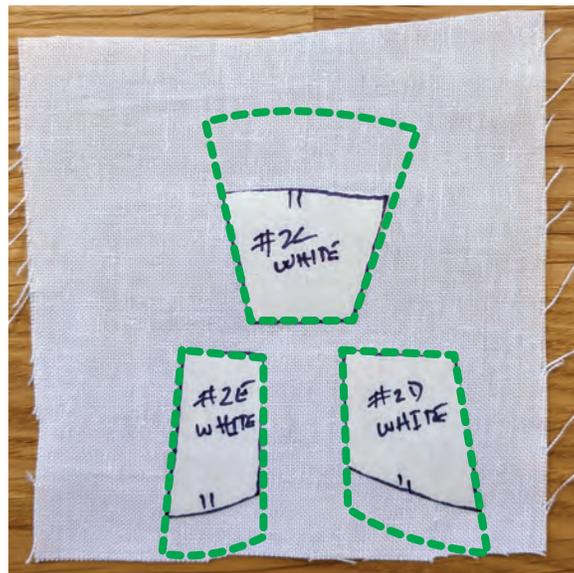
Now, this is the weird part. It's not hard – just a bit unconventional. For pieces that are reverse raw edge applique, the perimeter edges that will be raw edge appliqued need to be extended 1/2". In my case, I extended the perimeter edge of the whites and the pupils of the eyes, the perimeter edge of the mouth, the tongue and teeth and the face. (I also extended the left and right edges of the tongue so that the teeth cover the tongue.) You can see the extensions indicated by the dashed lines in the picture below.



First, start with the fusible applique pieces. (Be sure to use the mirrored image template for all fusible applique pieces.) Using a pencil, trace these pieces to the paper side of the Heat n' Bond Lite. For my son's monster, I traced the pupils of the eyes, the tongue and the teeth. Trace the pieces exact, but be sure to identify the edge that includes the perimeter edge that will be part of the raw edge reverse applique procedure. (I put two little lines to indicate the side that would get the extra 1/2" fabric margin - pictured below left.) Cut the fusible exact, as pictured below right. (Or, as close to exact as possible. Remember, it's a monster - don't get crazy.)



Following the manufacturer's instruction, fuse the Heat 'n Bond lite to the wrong side of the corresponding fabrics. Leave at least 1/2" fabric margin on the edges indicated as the perimeter of the reverse applique. (If utilizing raw edge applique, this step is unnecessary.) Pictured below are the irises for the eyes (black), the tongue (red), and the upper and lower teeth (white). Margins that will include raw edge reverse applique are extended and indicated by the green dashed lines.

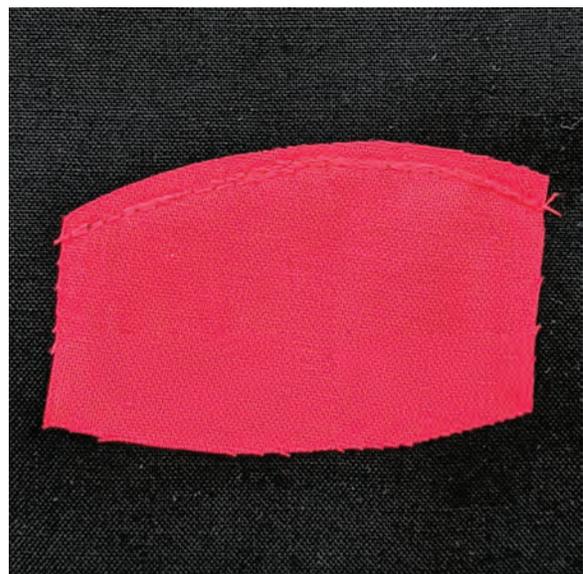


From one of your unmirrored monster face patterns, cut around the perimeter of the face, the mouth and the eyes, pictured below left.

Beginning with the mouth, cut a piece of fabric at least 1/2" larger than the mouth opening (I just cut a big rectangle to make my life easier.) Place this fabric, face up, behind the face template. With a pencil trace the perimeter of the mouth to the mouth fabric. (Pictured below right - pencil tracing identified by green dashed line.)



The first applique piece I set is the tongue. Place the tongue face up so that the edge of the fusible aligns with the edge of the mouth, and the margin of fabric that will eventually be raw edge reverse applique extends below the mouth by 1/2", as referenced in the pictured below left. Raw edge applique the top edge of the tongue - pictured below right. (This doesn't have to be pretty - it's a monster! I set my stitch length at 3, and I stitch about 1/8" from the edge of the tongue. For this project, I use a herky jerky straight stitch with lots of reversing. It makes mistakes look intentional - perfect for kids!)



Using the face template to align the teeth (pictured below left), fuse the teeth and applique all edges except the perimeter edges that will be captured later with the raw edge reverse applique (picture below right, stitching indicated by green dashed lines.)



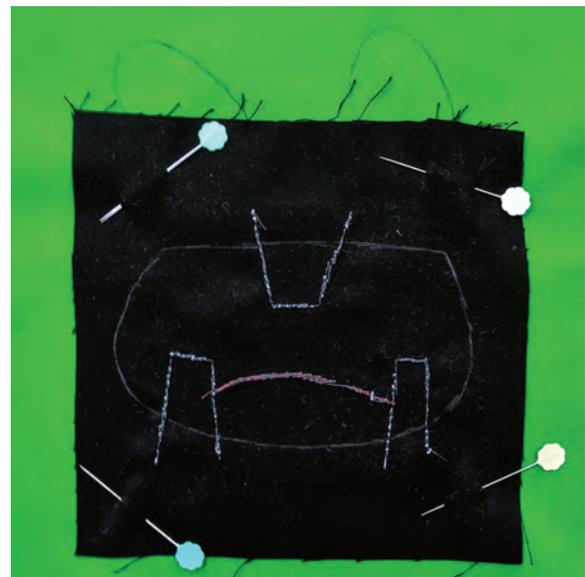
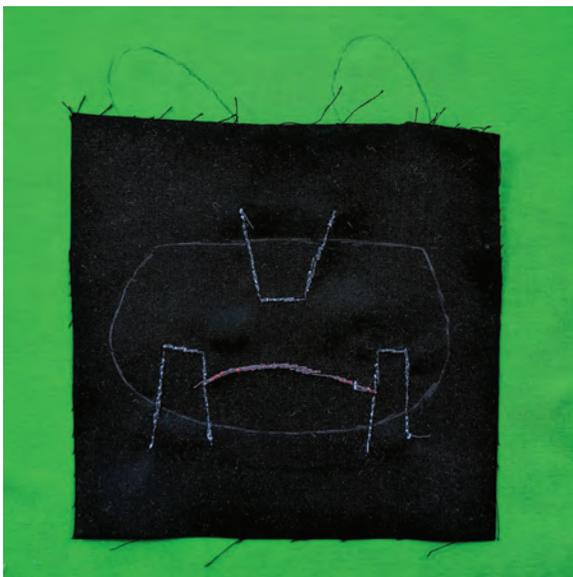
Cut 2 pieces of fabric for the face, at least 1/2" larger all around the perimeter. (To make it easier, I cut 2 rectangles of fabric - this doesn't have to be exact, just bigger. Why two pieces? Makes the monster a little weightier, and will allow the edges of the reverse applique to "flower" more.) Using the mirrored face template, with a pencil trace the perimeter of the mouth, the eyes and the face on the back side of one of the pieces of fabric for the face, as pictured below. Place both pieces of the face fabric face down (sorry - lots of faces!), and baste together along the outside edges as shown by the green dotted line in the picture below right.



Place the face template on top of the wrong side of the sewn mouth, centering the teeth and tongue per the design. Trace the perimeter of the mouth with a pencil (pictured below, upper left).

Place the mouth assembly face down on the back of the face, aligning the tracings for the mouth (pictured below, upper left.) Pin in place and sew 1/4" outside of this tracing (pictured below, upper right.) As you will be sewing from the reverse, make sure the bobbin thread you are using is the color you want to be visible. If you pin close to the edges of the fabric, you won't have to remove them as you sew.

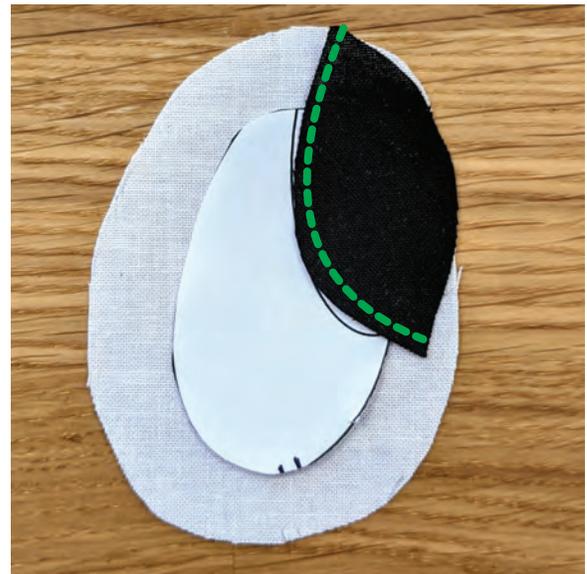
Using the same herky jerky straight stitch applique method, sew 1/4" to the outside of the traced line (pictured below, lower left). Trim the excess mouth fabric to 1/4" away from sewn line (pictured below, lower right).



From the right side of the fabric, at the middle of the mouth, carefully cut through only the two layers of face fabric. (If you pull away the green then cut a hole in the middle and head for the edge, it'll make it easier.) Cut away the face fabric to 1/4" from the stitching line of the mouth. Once cut, then clip into the fabric about every 1/4" toward the line of stitching but not through the stitching. (This will allow the fabric to "flower" - to fluff up - over time with washing.)

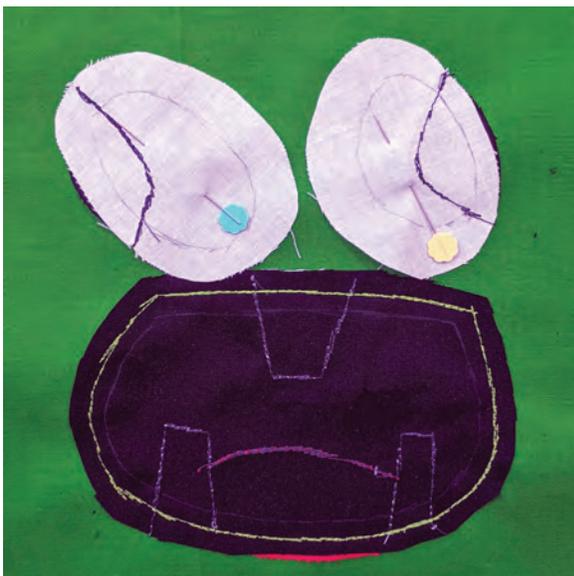


Duplicate the steps for the mouth for the eyes. Trace a 1/2" margin around the perimeter of the white of the eye as shown in the picture below left. Using the pattern for the eye and the pupil for placement, fuse the pupil in place. Raw edge applique the pupil in place as indicated by the green dotted line in the picture below right. Duplicate for both eyes.





Trace the perimeter of the eye to the reverse of the eye fabric. Face down to the back of the face fabric, pin the eyes in place as pictured below left. Sew  $\frac{1}{4}$ " to the outside of the pencil line as pictured below right. (Notice that I got very close to the edge to the right of the right eye. I didn't leave myself a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " margin. It'll work, but it's not as secure.)



Now that the eyes and the mouth are completed, Cut a backing fabric equal in size to the face fabric. Baste in place. (Pictured below left.)

Place the face template face up on the face of the pattern, aligning the mouth and eyes. Trace a line 1/4" away from the perimeter of the face, pictured below right.



Sew or baste this line, pictured below left. (This will provide you the sewing line from the back of the fabric, pictured below right.)



It's time to prepare the hoodie to receive the monster! Place the face template face up on the outside back of the hoodie. Pin around the perimeter through the hoodie back fabric as pictured below.



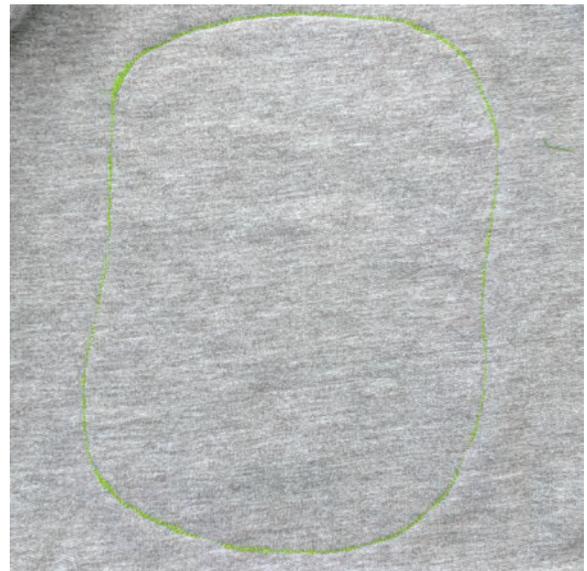
Turn to the inside. Using the pins as a guide, place the monster, as shown in the pictures below.



Pin in place. (If you pin on the interior of the design, points toward center, you won't have to pull pins as you come to them, and you are less likely to stick yourself.) Once you have pinned from the back, remove the pins from the front that were used for marking the perimeter. Using the prior sewing line, sew to garment. Remember - you are sewing from the inside so your bobbin thread will show on the face side. Make sure your bobbin thread is the color you want to be visible. (You may baste in place first just to make sure the design is placed correctly. It's way easier to pull a basting thread than to seam rip all this herky jerky straight stitch!)



Remove pins. Trim the excess fabric on the back to 1/4" from sewing line.



As was done for the eyes and the mouth, using the perimeter sewing line for the face as a guide, cut the excess fabric that is covering the face to 1/4" from the sewing line. Clip toward stitches every 1/4" to allow the fabric to "flower". (I did not do this in the picture below. I'm still deciding whether or not I want to. You may also decide not to clip the fabric.)



Cut out the pattern for the monobrow exact, as pictured below left. Cut two pieces of fabric at least as large as the monobrow pattern. Place them one on top of the other, face up. Trace a pencil line around the perimeter of the pattern onto the upper most piece of fabric, as pictured below right.



Place the brow using the original pattern for guidance. Pin in place, as pictured below left. Using this line as a guide, sew INSIDE the line 1/4" from edges all around as pictured below right.



Cut excess fabric to 1/4" from stitching line. Clip to stitches around perimeter. Your Monstrous Monsterpiece is complete! Frankenstein would be proud!



