



APRIL 2007 BLOCK OF THE MONTH

Broderie Perse Basket

Turn in at May meeting

Techniques: *Broderie Perse*. Traditionally, *broderie perse* is the art of cutting out motifs from chintz and appliquéing them by hand on a background. For this block, cut out floral motifs from any cotton fabric and appliqué by your favorite method (fusible appliqué, raw-edge appliqué, needle turn) onto a half-square triangle background that simulates a “basket”. Note: If you feel your Baltimore Album cravings gnawing at you, feel free to add *broderie perse* birds and/or fruit to your “arrangement.”

Block size: 8-1/2 unfinished; use ¼ inch seam

Colors:

- Background: white, or white-on-white. Please do not use cream.
- Basket: any color that coordinates with your chosen *broderie perse* cutouts.

Cutting:

- Half square triangle: Cut one (1) 8-7/8 inch square of background and one (1) 8-7/8 inch square of basket fabric.
- *Broderie perse*: The number of cutouts is up to you. You can appliqué just one design or layer multiple cutouts (like the sample above) to achieve your desired look. If you are going to needle turn, remember to leave a seam allowance outside the motif to turn under.

Construction:

- Put the two squares of fabric right sides together. On the white background square, draw a pencil line diagonally across the square. For one block, sew ¼ inch to one side of the drawn line, then cut apart on the drawn line and press away from the background. For two blocks, sew ¼ inch on both sides of the drawn line, cut apart on the drawn line and press each block open, pressing away from the background
- Cut out your *broderie perse* motifs from one or more fabrics.
- Leave at least a ½ inch between your *broderie perse* and the edges of the block.
- If you are using fusible web (like Seam-a-Seam 2), remove one side of the paper, lay on the wrong side of the fabric from which you’re going to make your cutouts, and fuse with your iron, making sure you don’t get fusible web on either the ironing board or your iron. Then cut out motifs with sharp paper scissors, *not* your good fabric scissors. When you have your motifs cut out, remove the remaining fusible paper backing, arrange on/in your “basket” and fuse in place. To stitch irregularly shaped pieces in place (like flowers and leaves), appliqué down by hand or machine or freemotion over the *broderie perse*. You may find it easier to do freemotion stitching across and within your *broderie perse* appliqué rather than trying to sew down the edges.