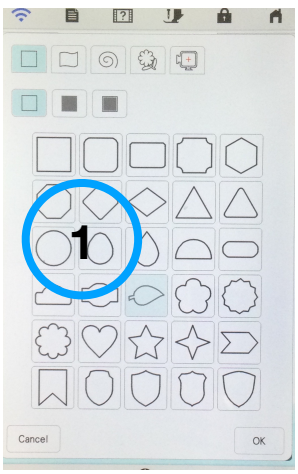
The Award Goes to... IQ Designer

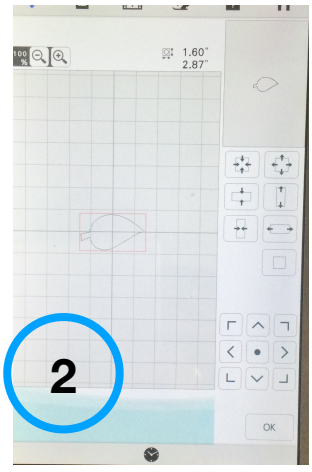
Award patches are a fun way to learn the basics of IQ Designer. Kids love them and big kids like them too. They are small, fun, fast and betcha can't make just one. If you make a mistake, it's not a big loss of time or materials. Below are the basic instructions for creating a patch or an appliqué. You have the creative license to make them your own.

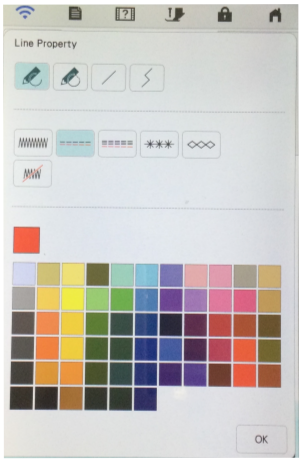
These instructions are for the Baby Lock Altair. The screens and icons may look slightly different in other machines and versions of IQ Designer, but the process is basically the same.

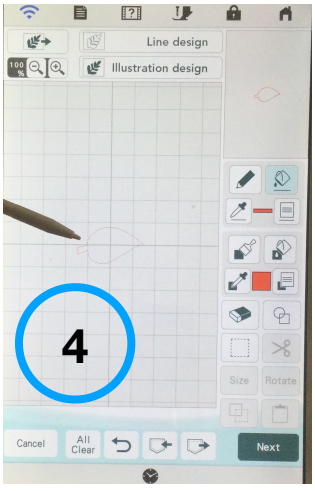
CREATE THE DESIGN IN THE MACHINE:

1. Open IQ Designer and select the Shape icon. Select a shape from either of the closed shape menus then select OK. The shape is now on the workspace. Don't touch the workspace or you will de-select the shape.
2. Select the Size icon and adjust the shape to your desired size using the arrow boxes keys. The size will be shown near the top of the screen. If the size is shown in metric and you want inches, go to page 8 of the settings pages and change to your desired Unit. Touch OK when you are done and touch the Memory icon (the pocket with an arrow pointing into it) and put the sized shape into the memory.
3. To make this the fabric placement and fabric cutting part of the design we want a single stitch. Select the Line Properties Menu icon and select the Single Line option. This is the stitch that looks like two dashed lines. Pick a bright color so we can see when we can see the change when we adjust the stitch. Touch OK.
4. Assign the stitch type to the shape by selecting the Paint Bucket icon and then touching the outline of the shape. The outline will change to the bright color you selected. Select Next to send the shape to the Stitch Properties screen. Make sure the stitch is the Single Run, put it into the memory of the machine **(if you forgot)** and then onto the Preview screen.

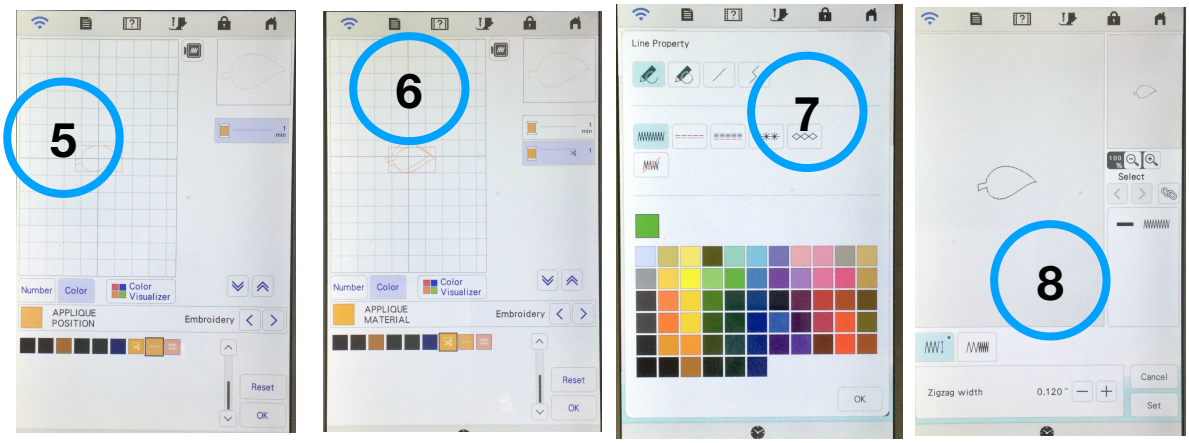








5. Keep touching the action icons and warnings about saving your design (Did you save your outline?) until the shape is centered in the embroidery edit screen on the machine. Don't move the design. Keep it in the center of the screen. Change the color of the design to Appliqué Position selection in the "Embroidery" thread collection.
6. Make a duplicate copy of the design and use the Move key to center this copy and change the color of the design to the Appliqué Material selection in the "Embroidery" thread collection. Select the Move icon and move the design to the center of the workspace by using the centering selection. The two designs should be right on top of each other and both in the center of the workspace.
7. Select Add and go back to IQ Designer. Retrieve the shape from the memory. Now we will change the outline to a satin stitch to create the final outside edge. Select the Line Properties icon and the Zig Zag stitch. Touch OK to return to the workspace. Touch the Paint Bucket and then the outline of the shape.
8. Select Next to advance to the Stitch Properties screen. You may want to adjust the width or the density of the satin stitch based on the size of your design. For this design I increased the width of the satin stitch to 0.120" (3 mm). Touch Set to confirm the changes and select the action icons and warnings about saving your design (Actually there is no need to save it again!) until the shape is centered in the embroidery edit screen on the machine. Don't move the design. Keep it in the center of the screen.



9. To keep all the three designs right on top of each other you can group them. After the designs are grouped, they can be moved together or duplicated as a group and then moved. To customize your patch, add designs or lettering using the Add icon. These additional designs will stitch after the satin stitch around the appliqué or patch is completed.
10. Finally, this three part design is either an Appliqué if stitched on fabric or a patch if stitched on tear away stabilizer.
    - Hoop the base layer and stitch the first part of the design in a thread color that matches the fabric that you will be layering on top or the color of the outer satin stitch This stitching show you both how big a fabric piece you need and where the fabric goes. Place the fabric on top of the outline and completely covering it.

- Stitch the second part of the design through both layers to secure the fabric. Remove the hoop from the machine, but not the fabric from the hoop. Lay the hoop on a flat surface and cut away the fabric just outside the stitching line using sharp scissors. (Note: This shape could have been pre-cut using a Scan N Cut digital cutting cutting machine that reads the Appliqué Fabric “color” from the machine.) Return the hoop to the machine.
- Stitch the final satin stitch to cover the raw edge of the appliqué. If making a patch, tear away the stabilizer after removing the hoop from the machine.

CREATIVE OPTIONS:

- When stitching an appliqué, add a lightweight fusible such as Appli-Kay Wonder or Appli-web Plus to the back of the appliqué fabric and fuse it down with a small iron after trimming. Be careful not to pop open the hoop.
- After stitching a patch, add permanent fusible backing after completing the patch. Iron the patch to any hat, garment or even your luggage.
- Make a shape in a shape by adding something from the shapes menu or taking the outline from an embroidery design into IQ Designer.
- Layer an additional line of stitching on top of the satin stitch by selecting Add and creating an additional layer with one of the remaining single stitch types such as the triple stitch, the candlewick or any of the other choices available.
- Combine or erase shapes to create your own custom outline.
- If the patch or appliqué is large enough, layer an appliqué over an appliqué.
- Send an outline to IQ Designer with the IQ Positioning app.
- Take an outline from an embroidery design as a shape and send to IQ Designer.
- Before stitching the outer satin stitch edge, place fabric on the back of a patch and stitch with the outline. Stitch all the internal design elements before adding the fabric to the back. Carefully cut away the fabric on the back of the design just as you did on the front. Before stitching the outer satin edge, wind a bobbin of matching embroidery thread so the front and back edges matches.

PRODUCTS USED IN THIS VIDEO:

- Floriani Tearaway Medium is the stabilizer hooped for creating patches. Don't use a cutaway stabilizer for stitching patches because it is difficult to remove when the patch is done. If the satin stitch begins to separate the patch while stitching, stop the machine, clip the thread with the built in scissor function and slip an additional small piece of tearaway under the design to support the edge.
- Appli-Kay Wonder - Fusible is the pressure sensitive webbing used for creating a fusible backing in the appliqué fabric. Product is ironed to the back of the appliqué fabric and then the paper back is removed after the piece cools. Place the now "sticky" fabric down after the first appliqué placement is stitched. Stitch the appliqué tack down, remove the hoop from the machine and then trim close to the stitching. **Do not remove the fabric from the hoop.** After trimming, press the appliqué piece to fuse it to the background fabric using a small iron. Return hoop to the machine and finish stitching the design.
- Floriani Appli-web Plus is webbing used for creating a fusible appliqué. Unlike Appli-Kay Wonder it is not sticky when the paper back is removed, but it does create a very soft finished product with excellent drape ability.
- Quilters Select Wave Appliqué scissors are angled scissors with a Wave Blade. The handles are angled for trimming in the hoop and the blades are specifically designed for trimming appliqué fabric. These scissors also have a sharp point for cutting tight angles and inside curves. The wave blade grabs the fabric making it easier to trim.
- Best Press 2 is a spray on product that makes fabric stiff like paper. Fabric with more body is much, much easier to place and stitch down especially if not using a fusible product on the appliqué fabric. Spray onto the fabric, let dry and press the fabric. This creates a very soft finished product as it is completely removed after washing. Use this product only on fabric that can be washed.
- Micro Duckbill Appliqué Scissors are smaller scissors that are designed for in-the-hoop projects. These micro-sized scissors are a perfect size for fitting into tight spaces and do a good job at trimming appliqué pieces. They are pictured in the photo on page three.
- Dritz Mighty Travel Steam Iron is an iron that fits into all but the very smallest hoop. Use it for fusing appliqué projects after trimming and while still in the hoop.