

So Sweet Love

Fabric and Keepsake Cards
by Susan Cousineau of Lollipop Rainbow



Cards shown measure 5" x 7"



These charming fabric cards are the perfect project for an afternoon of sewing with the gals or for teaching younger ones some fun basic sewing skills. Or, why not host a card-making party to make your Valentine's Day celebrations even more special! You can entice your guests by sending your handcrafted creations as party invitations. Or surprise your quilting friends by including some charm pack squares of the "So Sweet Love" fabric tucked inside! You're sure to find lots of other ways to share your love, all year long!

YOU'LL NEED:

- SO SWEET LOVE fabric prints
- Lightweight paper-backed fusible web
- Blank greeting cards ***
- Basic sewing & craft supplies

*****(TIP:** Save time by purchasing the pre-folded cards designed for ink jet printers at your local office supply store—these often come with envelopes, too! Or make your own using blank 8-1/2" X 11" card stock. Score the card stock in the center and fold in half. Then customize the size and/or shape as desired.

Following the manufacturer's instructions, iron the fusible web paper side up onto the wrong side of the fabric. Now you're ready to cut out the fused fabric pieces to use as appliqués to decorate your cards. Simply peel away the paper backing and iron onto your card. Sew around the edges of your appliqué pieces and now you're ready to decorate with your favorite trims and embellishments!

TIP: Be sure to use very little or no steam to avoid warping the cardstock. Do a test fuse to find your best iron settings.

Try some of Susan's favorite tips and decorating ideas:

- Cut a piece of fused fabric the exact same size as the front of your card (Susan's are 5" X 7"). Then cut a border piece for the bottom of the card out of a contrasting print (Susan's are 2" X 5"). Iron the fabric pieces onto the card then sew around the edges. Hot glue ribbon or rick rack trim along the seam line.
- Cut the fused fabric into simple shapes (Susan uses hearts, a cupcake and a flower). Then iron the shapes onto the cards and sew around the edges. Decorate with a variety of trims and embellishments. To save time, use cookie cutters as templates for your appliqué shapes.
- Print out letters from your computer to use as templates (for example, "LOVE" or "XOXO")
- Some of Susan's favorite trims and embellishments include decorative ribbons, rick rack, rhinestones, sequins, scalloped lace trim, buttons, mini pom-pom garland and decorative floral trims. And let's not forget the glitter glue to add that extra sparkly touch!
- Another fun idea is to cut out mini appliqué motifs from the "So Sweet Love" main tossed pattern (9663-0111 or 9663-0144) such as the hearts or the "LOVE" circle and lettering. (Susan used these mini appliqués to decorate some of the border pieces and for the flower center and cupcake "cherry".)
- For a fun surprise, decorate the inside of your card with another fabric appliqué that matches the theme of your card.
- Susan used white thread but to give more contrast to your appliqué shapes, use a darker shade such as black. You can also use black thread to add decorative stitches or lettering.
- For a super quick "no-sew" project, use the heavier weight fusible webbing to iron your appliqué pieces onto the cards (no sewing required!)
- Have younger kids glue the fabric shapes, or you can fuse the fabric shapes ahead of time and let the kids decorate.
- Use the same idea for the cards to make gift tags and bookmarks.
- Purchase inexpensive frames at the dollar store to display your cards as works of art!
- For a personalized touch, cut out photos or print photos onto fabric to incorporate into your card designs.