October Cat Flag

Fabric
- 1 color for the Front (face) and ears– solid or a print that reads as a solid (think Halloween)
  - One 6" x 8" rectangle. This will be the face of the Cat. Your cat can be any color.
  - Cut four triangles with a 2 3/4" base (width at the bottom) and 2 3/8" high (tall) – these will be the cat's ears. If you have a Creative Grid 60 degree triangle tool, cut a 2" wide strip and cut at the 2" line.
- Fabric scraps for nose and/or eyes (or use buttons or yoyos)
- Fabric for the Back – one 6" x 8" rectangle
- Very thin batting or a piece of medium weight nonwoven interfacing ; one rectangle 7" x 9" and two 3" x 3" squares (for ears)
- Top stitching or heavy weight thread for whiskers

Please read through all of the instructions first. All seam allowances are ¼" unless instructed otherwise.

1. **Face:** Using the fabric you selected for the Front, find the center of the 6" x 8" rectangle by folding in half in both directions (lengthwise and widthwise). Mark the center. This will be the center of the cat's whiskers and nose.

   Layer front piece and batting/interfacing together with the batting/interfacing on the wrong side of the facing. Don't worry, we will add the Back later.
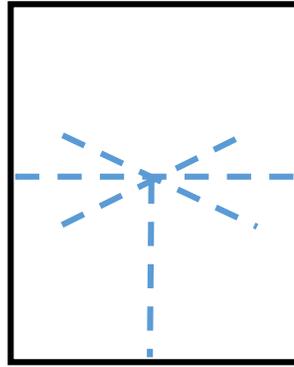
2. **Cat's whiskers:** Look through your machine specialty stitches for a stitch that sews one stitch forward and two stitches back. On my Bernina 440QE it is stitch # 157. I set it for the longest length and played with the width setting until I liked the effect. An alternative stitch is the herringbone stitch (48).

   Choose a thick thread, like a 30 wt. or even 12 wt. thread. You'll need a bigger needle for this fat thread like a 90/14. You'll may need to loosen the top thread tension to make sure the bobbin thread does not show on the top. The back may not look pretty, that is why we are sewing without the Back fabric. Stitch out some samples on a scrap fabric/batting sandwich and experiment with thread tension and colors. If you find that the fabric is warping / puckering, add another piece of interfacing under your work or a piece of tear away embroidery stabilizer to keep the fabric flat.
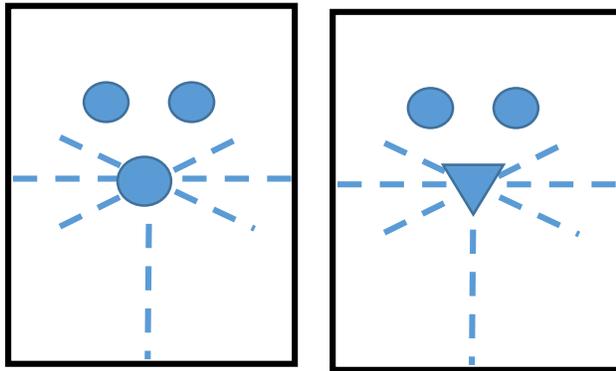
   On the black cat, I used a yellow wool 12 wt./2 ply thread with regular 50wt cotton thread in the bobbin. For the green cat, I used a black/grey variegated cotton 40wt/3 ply thread with regular 50 wt. cotton in the bobbin. The top thread tension was ½ of the normal setting.

   When you are happy with your thread and stitch selection, sew the whiskers as shown in the diagram, just eyeball them in. Add more if you like. Hey perfectionists -- cat's whiskers are not perfect, so this is a time to let go!

3. **Nose:** Cut a 1" circle of fabric or a triangle from a scrap for the nose. Fuse to the face or raw edge applique it to the center. Alternatively, a cute button or yo-yo would look great.

4. **Eyes:** Cut two ¾" circles of fabric from scraps for the eyes. Place them in a pleasing location (or close together for a goofy cross eyed look). Fuse or raw edge applique them to face. Buttons or yo-yos are a cute alternative.
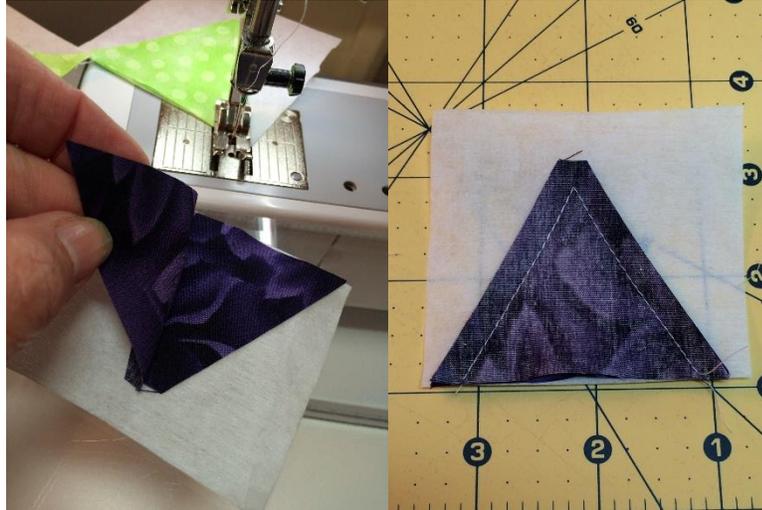

Nose and Eyes Examples

5. **Ears:** Sew 2 triangles RST and one piece of thin batting (or interfacing). Leave the bottom open for turning. Trim batting/interfacing close to seam and trim point to reduce bulk. Turn right side out. Make total of 2.

Topstitch ¼" from the sides. If you liked the specialty stitch and thread you used for whiskers, go ahead use it or try a new stitch or a different thread. Hint: when you get to the ear point to pivot, you'll need to make sure you set your machine to start <u>at the beginning of the stitch before you head down the next side</u>; the symbol on a Bernina looks like a triangle with a superscript minus sign. Since you are using a specialty stitch it may be in the middle of the design and move backward when you really want to move forward after the turn. No need to sew along the open edge.

Place the ears (RST) on the face RST together (ear tips will be pointing toward the eyes. Place them about ½" to ¾" in from each side. Baste in place.

Assemble the flag:
6. Trim the Front to 6" x 8", you may have some thin batting or interfacing that is sticking out.
7. Layer the 6" x 8" Backing piece RST with the Front. Lay it so you can see the vertical/horizontal whisker stitching lines to center your fabric, measure up 2" on each side.
8. Cut from the 2" side marks to the bottom of the center bottom point to make the flag point.

9. Sew around the outside (1/4" seam allowance), leaving a 2" long opening (on the top or side) for turning inside out.
10. Trim points, trim the batting close to the seam being careful not to cut the seam allowances from the front or back fabric.
11. Turn right side out. Close opening, top stitch around outside of flag, if desired.
12. Stitch 3/4" buttonholes 3/8" in from top and sides of flag.

Congratulations, you have finished your first flag for your BOM sampler banner ☺

If you want to join the monthly "Blotto" – make another one to bring to the October Guild meeting. Turn in your flag to enter your name in a drawing for all of the flags entered that month. Good luck, you may be the lucky winner of an instant Halloween Cat Banner. Hope you join the fun.

Cat Ears
Base of triangle 2 3/4 "
Height of triangle 2 3/8"