MAGICAL MOLDABLE LEAF BOWL
The ultimate quick and easy gift for any season
By Ellen Osten, Director of Education, Sulky of America
Inspired by Carol Ingram’s Fantasy Floral Art
In the Sulky Online Magical Thread Art Certified Teacher Course
SUPPLIES:

- Zig-zag sewing machine
- Open-toe appliqué foot
- Steam iron
- Non-stick appliqué pressing sheet
- Paper scissors
- Heavy duty scissors to cut and trim moldable stabilizer, I use the 5" Gingher® craft scissors for fine-tune trimming (love these scissors)
- Fabric - I used 2 different cotton batik prints, each 8"x10"
- Bosal® Heat Moldable Double Sided Fusible Plus Stabilizer – or the Inn-Spire™ brand - 8"x10" (These are NOT Sulky products – see tip sheet for sources)
- Sulky 30 wt. Cotton Blendables® 733-4019 Forest Floor or Sulky 40 wt. Rayon, or color(s) to match your fabrics
- 14/90 Micro-Tex™ needle (or a 16/100 Jeans Needle)
- Chalk fabric marker
- Leaf pattern (free download) or you can draw your own

OPTIONAL ITEMS:

- Paper scissors
- Sulky Super Solvy™ Water Soluble Stabilizer - 8"x10" or scraps to make several 1", or so, strips
- Sewer’s Aid™ Thread Lubricant
- (1) 8-1/2” x 11” sheet of Sulky Sticky+ Stabilizer or Sulky Sticky Fabri-Solvy™ (to print out and keep as reusable sticky pattern)
- Sulky KK 2000™ Temporary Spray Adhesive
- Sulky Holoshimmer™ Metallic Thread - 145-6003 Lt. Gold
- Q-tip®
- Permanent Ink marker for the edge to match the fabric or Zig® Fabricolor pens for edge touch-up (now available through www.sulky.com)

http://www.sulky.com/item/zig-fabricolor-touch-up-embroidery-touchup-pens-12-color-asst
Instructions:

1. Print out the downloadable leaf pattern on regular printer paper or an 8-1/2” x 11” sheet of Sulky Sticky+ Stabilizer or Sulky Sticky Fabri-Solvym™. *(Either of these will make a super reusable, sticky template of your leaf because you are going to make at least a hundred!)* 😊
2. Press fabrics. Place the non-stick appliqué pressing sheet on an ironing surface. Put the heat-moldable stabilizer on the pressing sheet with one piece of the fabric on top of it – right side up. Press with steam and heat. Once it is fused well, turn over and position the second fabric right side up, and fuse in place. The non-stick sheet keeps the fusible from sticking to the pressing surface.
3. If you used regular copy paper, lightly spray the wrong side of the leaf pattern with Sulky KK 2000 Temporary Spray Adhesive. Place on top of your chosen top fabric. Trace the leaf outline with chalk marker onto the fabric. (Optional – You can use a Sulky Iron-On Transfer Pen on the copy paper for multiple bowls. For more information on how to use the Sulky Iron-On Transfer Pens go to [www.sulky.com](http://www.sulky.com/catalog/sub/sulky-ironon-transfer-pens))

If you used the Sticky+ or Sticky Fabri-Solvy to print the pattern, cut out, peel off the release sheet and place onto the top fabric. Trace around with the chalk marker, remove and put back on your release sheet.
Draw the center line with the chalk marker. Add vein lines or just ad-lib them as you stitch later.
4. Thread the sewing machine with same thread top and bobbin. Put a new size 14/90 Microtex or 16/100 Jeans Needle into the machine. Select a simple decorative stitch design or even just a straight stitch, and stitch the vein lines (drawn or imaginary). Test your stitches and thread tension on the area above your traced leaf. TEST!

I used a Sulky Holoshimmer™ Metallic Thread (machine settings on tip sheet), but if you’ve never worked on this double-sided fusible product before, you may want to start with a more basic thread like one of the Sulky 30 wt. Cotton Blendables or even a 40 wt. Rayon.

5. Straight stitch or use a small zig-zag stitch to outline the entire leaf with either thread.
6. When all the veins and center vein are stitched, use the heavy-duty scissors to rough-cut around the leaf.
7. Then fine trim a second time as close to the leaf outline as possible.
8. Get your strips of Super Solvy ready. Cut them about 1” wide (this isn’t a precision thing).

All machines will not sew off the edge of fabric into thin air. Some will, but most won’t. So, we use the Super Solvy strips to make a pretend fabric.
9. Set the machine up for the final outline stitch. For this bowl I used a satin stitch, but you could also use an open zig-zag stitch as shown on some of the other samples, or a triple-straight-stitch.

My satin-stitch settings were: width 3.3 and length 1.0. Every machine is different. These are suggested settings. TEST.

*Hint:* Just in case you have thread shredding or breakage with this heavy, double-sided, fusible stabilizer, and you know all the things you are supposed to do, and you've done them; then this is the time to get out the Sewer's Aid™. Apply it to the thread spool up and down the thread and a little drop on the needle. Unbelievable! Makes all the difference. I've been using a thread lubricant with heavy fusibles like this for over 100 years 😊 and it really works, especially when all else fails.
10. As you satin stitch the leaf edge, the needle will swing to the right just past the raw edge. As it swings back to the left, the needle will be stitching into the leaf bowl. You want 99% of the thread to be on the fabric bowl. Use the strips of Super Solvy placed about a 1/2" under the leaf edge and about a 1/2" extending beyond the leaf raw edge. This gives the machine needle something to stitch into and helps the thread wrap around the raw leaf edge. This creates the beautiful finished satin stitch edge.
If you use a more open zig-zag stitch for the edge finish, like on this leaf bowl (faster and easier), you will likely need to color the white edges of the stabilizer with a permanent-ink marker to match the fabric, or use the Zig® Fabricolor pens for edge touch-up (now available through www.sulky.com). These pens are great for hiding thread pull-ups on computerized machine embroidery, too. http://www.sulky.com/item/zig-fabricolor-touch-up-embroidery-touchup-pens-12-color-asst

Optional brush-on glitter used here, too.
Finished satin stitch edge using Sulky 30 wt. Cotton Blendables, with the Super Solvy still on the flat bowl.
11. Gently pull away the excess Super Solvy. This photo shows the optional straight stitch edge. It looks really good, too, and is super simple and fast.
12. Steam the flat leaf bowl with an iron, and while it is soft and hot, mold over a glass bowl or vase shape. Hold in place. You can add more steam to it while it is on the glass bowl.

When almost cool, remove it from the bowl and continue to shape your leaf bowl to your liking. You can always reheat and remold the shape if you want to. If there are excess shreds of Super Solvy poking out, they usually disappear when you steam and heat the leaf. If not, use a wet Q-Tip to dab the leaf edge and remove.
Amazing!!! Once you’ve made your first one, you can pump these out pretty quickly! Think about other shapes you can use, too, like this fish bowl, and here are a couple more leaf ideas…
A much larger leaf bowl, about 12” across finished.

A completely different shaped leaf with a 3-D flower.
A Christmas version, but don’t forget Easter, Valentine’s Day, Birthdays, Anniversaries, Thanksgiving, Patriotic Holidays, and more! How about using leftover fabric from a quilt you made for a friend? She can have a matching bowl by her bedside.

What about cancer support fabric, to help a friend through a difficult time (of course, filled with chocolate)?

Sports team fabrics. The ideas are endless.
There – now don’t you feel perfectly competent to create this masterful Floral Fantasy Art by Carol Ingram from the Sulky Online Magical Thread Art Class?