

# Hoffman

CALIFORNIA-INTERNATIONAL FABRICS

## PALETTE of the Season



## Modern Mermaid

designed exclusively for Hoffman Fabrics by

Jean Impey

Finished Size: 58" x 69"

FREESHOP-718-Mermaid



---

# MODERN MERMAID

## HOFFMANS PALETTE OF THE SEASON

---

### Fabric Requirements



1895 30-Lilac  
1/2 Yard



1895 484-Seaside  
1/2 Yard



1895 91-Amethyst  
1/2 Yard



1895 498-Monstera  
3/8 Yard



1895 146-Stone Green  
3/8 Yard



1895 522-Seagrass  
3/8 Yard



1895 276-Sea Urchin  
3/8 Yard



1895 554-Treetop  
3/8 Yard



1895 424-Salvia  
3 1/2 Yards



1895 580-Cypress  
1/2 Yard



1895 438-Crocus  
1/2 Yard



1895 602-Earth Day  
3/8 Yard

---

# MODERN MERMAID

## HOFFMANS PALETTE OF THE SEASON

---

This MODERN MERMAID quilt was inspired by a collection of 12 Hoffman Hand-dyed Watercolors and naturally lends itself to an underwater fantasy. For this project, I have chosen to machine appliqué. It is your choice and adaptable to many other techniques including hand appliqué, raw edge, satin stitched, decorative stitched, as well as buttonhole stitched.

It is made up of two blocks across by eight rows down.  
There are 4 **Scales** on each block, which consist of 7 **Scale** shapes.

I recommend ironing and starching your fabrics before cutting.

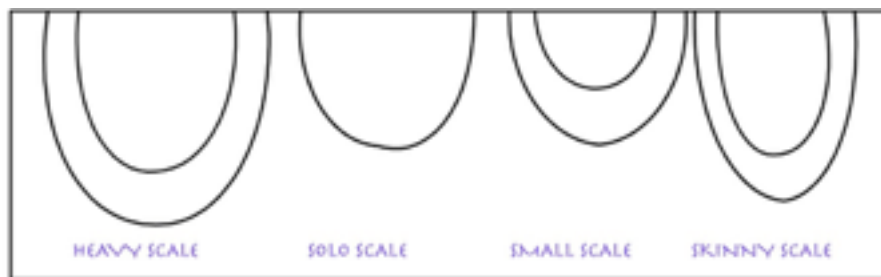
### *Supplies:*

- A sewing machine with adjustable tension and small zigzag capabilities, in good working condition, along with an open-toe presser foot, so that you can clearly see the stitch while sewing.
- A hot iron with a pointy tip - The tip of your iron needs to come to a point rather than be too rounded because you will be ironing the excess of your fabric to the backside of your freezer paper template.
- Sharp fabric scissors
- Stiletto (a sharp object like an awl or bamboo skewer) that you can use to manipulate fabric
- Monofilament thread (my preference is YLI Wonder Invisible thread, colors: Smoke & Clear)
- Bobbin with polyester thread similar to the Salvia background color
- Freezer Paper, you can use grocery store freezer paper, but there is a printable freezer paper by C. Jenkins that is 8-1/2 x 11" that can be used in your inkjet printers.
- Applique Pressing Sheet
- Hot Iron Cleaner
- New Microtex/Sharp 70//10 needle
- Pins or Wonder Clips to hold your **Scales** in place while you appliqué
- Batting
- Backing
- *Optional:* Mag Eyes – magnifying glass system to enable you to see clearly while sewing tiny zigzag.

*General Sewing Tip:*

Because there are several fabrics that are similar in color, we recommend that you take a sticky label and label each of your Watercolor fabrics to ensure that you will be cutting the correct shapes from the correct fabrics.

Using your Salvia 1895, cut your 16 blocks from your background fabric [9" x 29 1/2"].  
You will be building 4 **Scales** on each of these pieces.



There are 4 types of **Scales** (consisting of 7 pieces) on each block, having one set of each. You may decide to place them in any order. As you will see, I have rotated their positions and colors on each of the background blocks.



## Making Your Templates

When machine appliquéing, you will find that the preparation of your template pattern pieces is important:

### **\*Detail:**

There are two different sides to freezer paper, (waxy, sticky, shiny or backside) and (dull aka top paper.)

### **Tracing:**

Using a lightbox, trace each of the seven shapes on its own piece of regular freezer paper, on the dull/top side.

*Note:* When working with freezer paper, the wax transfers when heat is applied. Therefore, your iron and ironing board pad could get smudged. Using an applique pressing sheet, against the paper's waxy side while ironing, will help with this. There is no way to totally prevent this wax from getting on the bottom of your iron. There is a product called Hot Iron Cleaner that will clean up your iron nicely.

Once traced, iron a second piece of freezer paper to the back of your traced template sheet by placing the waxy side down on your ironing board and cover it with the piece that you have traced the templates onto, again, waxy side down on top and iron the two together, using a hot iron.

Your template will now be thick enough to reuse for each of your **Scale** shapes. *Notice that the **Heavy, Small and Skinny Scale** shapes have two sizes (bottom shape and smaller top shape). Make a template for each and label to avoid confusion. *Note:* The solo **Scale** and the bottom small **Scale** are very similar.*

Cut out each template smoothly with paper scissors on the traced line, seam allowances will be added when the **Scales** are cut from your fabrics

## Cutting Guide

You can cut as you go or use this chart to precut all pieces at once.

Also, if you have a favorite, feel free to change up some of the combinations. Your scraps will be utilized to make a scrappy binding.

Name	SOLO	SMALL TOP	SMALL BOTTOM	SKINNY TOP	SKINNY BOTTOM	HEAVY TOP	HEAVY BOTTOM
Lilac	3	0	0	2	3	1	3
Amethyst	0	1	3	1	3	1	1
Stone Green	1	0	2	3	1	2	1
Sea Urchin	0	1	3	2	1	2	2
Salvia	16 blocks @ 9 X 29 1/2"						
Crocus	1	1	0	1	2	3	2
Seaside	2	2	1	3	1	0	2
Monstera	0	4	2	2	0	1	1
Seagrass	2	1	2	1	2	1	0
Treetop	2	3	1	0	1	1	2
Cypress	2	0	1	0	2	2	1
Earth Day	3	3	1	1	0	2	1

Place the template on your fabric and cut your scale shape(s) adding a quarter inch seam allowance around all edges. Cut the largest pieces (scales) first. I found that having the straight edge of the template placed close to me was fabric efficient.

Position the waxy side of your template on top of your cut shape of fabric facing you. Working in a counterclockwise direction (opposite for lefties!), use the point of a hot, dry iron to press the seam allowance over onto the waxy side of the pattern piece, beginning at a corner. Use the flat of your left finger to pull the seam allowance fabric over the freezer paper. Immediately sweep the iron tip over the fabric as you move your finger away. Always press the seam allowance towards the center of the shape because puckers or pleats can form along the edge of your appliqué if the seam allowance lies at an angle. You can use your stiletto to help grab and manipulate the fabric when you work with your appliqués. Continue pressing around your shape. Leave the top of the **Scale** unfolded because it will be sewn into your seam.

Use the magic clip(s) or pins to hold your **Scale** in place until sewn. Always sew the underneath/bottom **Scale** first and then remove the template before sewing the second **Scale** on top. Work with one **Scale** at a time.

## Sewing

### Setting Up Your Machine:

Use a new needle as it will have to pass through multiple layers of fabric, as well as a double layer of freezer paper. Monofilament thread comes in two colors: Smoke and clear, you may want both as smoke works best with medium to dark colors and clear works best for lighter colors. Choose your thread color based on your appliqué piece, not the background color.

Wind your bobbin with a color that will match the background color, using a lightweight Polyester thread (50 W or finer). Program your machine to your zigzag stitch and adjust the stitch width to #1, and the stitch length to #1 (the stitch should measure 1/16" wide). Now, reduce your tension control to the level of #1 because monofilament is very stretchy and if the tension is too tight, you will see bobbin thread visible on the top of your quilt. Last, change your presser foot to an "open-toed" foot so that you will be able to see and guide your zigzag stitch perfectly around your appliqué. Using an open-toe pressure foot also makes a big difference because you can see where the needle is sewing. When watching, keep your eye on either the "zig" or the "zag" as opposed to watching it go back and forth. Trust that if it's where it should go on the zig, the zag will be fine and vice versa.

#### **Monofilament Thread:**

Depending on the color and value of the piece to be appliquéd, you'll use either smoke or light monofilament thread. You can find different brands of Monofilament thread in both nylon and polyester. Threading your machine with a monofilament can be tough but most automatic needle threaders work well. If you have a problem and must do it by hand, a small white piece of paper or fabric behind the eye of the needle helps you see the needle eye better.

Layout your block for placement of your **Scales** and remove all but one bottom scale. If your needle starts in the ZAG position, direct your needle and bobbin threads toward the back of the sewing machine and position your **Scale** so that the needle will pierce the background fabric next to the appliqué when it is lowered. (If it begins in the ZIG position, your needle will pierce your appliqué first.

Place your fingertip over the monofilament tail and hold in place while your machine takes the locking stitched. If your machine does not have a locking stitch feature, reduce the stitch length to the shortest setting and take 2-3 stitches in place.



Always attach the bottom **Scale** to the block first leaving the template inside until you finish zigzagging it. Gently wiggle and remove the template for re-use. Half of the stitch may perforate the freezer paper and the other half of the zigzag will not. You will remove the piece by wiggling it a bit and it pulls away. There is not a noticeable difference in the shape and the template can be used again and again.

Then place the smaller template on top and zigzag it, remove the template for re-use.

### *But, What if?*

Yes, it happens to all of us.... You forgot to remove the template from the underneath **Scale**... We can fix that! On the wrong side of the background fabric (under your **Scale**, pinch and cut through the fabric near an inner area and pull the freezer paper out by wiggling and using tweezers. You could even trim it away to within a 1/4" seam from your zigzag. It will never show once it has been quilted; however, you will need to trace and make a new template piece for that **Scale**.

When all your scales are appliquéd, sew your blocks together in an order pleasing to your eye and finish your top.

Add your preferred batting and backing and quilting preferences. Finish off with a scrappy binding using your "leftover" 1895s.

Designed for you by Jean Impey  
[www.SewJean.com](http://www.SewJean.com)



Modern Mermaid Scales

