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ORNATE LETTER: N

Issue 58 • Summer 2017



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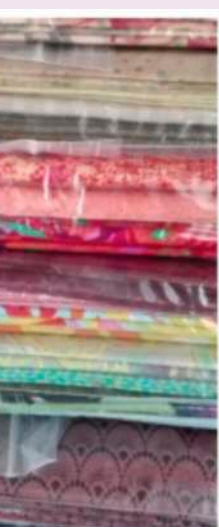


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STITCHES

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Mon-Thur 09:00 - 16:00

Friday 09:00 - 13:00

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PRINTING

CTP Cape Town

RETAIL DISTRIBUTION

RNA - Fransie Smuts
Tel: 011 248 3500

PUBLISHED BY

Tucats Media cc
PO Box 193, Mossel Bay
6500, South Africa

www.stitches.co.za

Sold in specialist needlework supply stores, craft supply stores, newsagents and selected supermarkets countrywide.

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This is our bridging

Issue - yes it does sound a bit funny doesn't it? But this issue bridges 2017, standing with its feet still in 2017 and reaching over into 2018! Yes, 2017 was a very tough year for everyone in **all** aspects, from the mess of our economy by the government and the loss of loved ones, to health and family challenges. But, South Africans are a nation of toughies, we become more inventive, more creative, finding ways to re-use, recycle, re-invent items that can become income generators.

My challenge to each reader this year is to do just that - don't rush into chain stores and just buy items, rather look and see how you can make your **own** items from what you have in your fabric / art stashes, be it gifts for Christmas, birthdays and your own home décor items! You are going to find that by doing this you will not only stretch your rand, but also have fulfilled your creative side. Support your local art / quilt shops too, because they invest a lot of money to bring in special products so that you can be creative!

Worldwide, consumers are becoming more aware of what happens to their waste products, using natural products in their lives such as pure wool and cotton, recycling clothing items (e.g. t-shirts) to have a new and different purpose. If you are interested in changing your environment and making a difference, have a look at Melanie Brummer's Facebook group: Up-cycled Cloth Collective. There are some really fascinating ideas there!

Okay - so back to this issue. Wow you really have a lot to keep you busy for the next three months. Some nice Christmas items to make such as Santa's Gift Bag, a woolen wall hanging and embroidered snowman, Natalie's two tops are very, very pretty, as is Sarah Hatton's Ophelia top which features a long and short sleeve in one. The short summer top by Margaret Botha is an absolute must knit. Jolanda Ingram shows you how to make a very nice machine embroidered African themed table topper. We have the next letter in Di van Niekerk's monogram series (N), Esther Snyman shows you how to make a lovely quilt and last but not least, another installment of Africa Dear Jane.

This leaves me to wish you all a very safe and happy holiday season. May the coming year be a good one for all!

Till next time....

Sharon and the Team



SUMMER
Knitting

Pattern: AE-3014



Yarn: Love



Colour: 3079 & 3077



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Snowman Blessings

by Sharon Calverley



This country style snowman makes a lovely tree ornament or window ornament. Hang it on your own tree or give to someone special as a Christmas gift. It would also look pretty made up in white fabric. You could reduce the size to make it a little bit smaller if you wish, or even enlarge it to make a small cushion!

Requirements

- (2) 9" x 11" pieces of mottled beige fabric (or tea/coffee stain the fabric)
- Saral transfer paper or dressmakers' tracing paper
- Embroidery thread: dark red, green, black, orange, pink and brown
- Embroidery needle (size 8)
- Heart or star button and 3 tiny blue or black buttons (you could use French knots instead of the little buttons if you wish)
- 15 cm of thin ribbon
- Small length of fabric to use as a scarf ± 15" long
- Small embroidery hoop
- Fine permanent pen
- Heat erase pen
- Toy stuffing
- Copy paper and pencil
- Firm cardboard / template plastic
- Paper scissors
- Clear adhesive
- Sewing machine and usual sewing requirements

Finished size: 9" high
Seam allowance: 1/4"

How to

1. Copy the snowman pattern twice. One with just the outline and the other with the embroidery detail. Glue the snowman shape onto firm cardboard then, when dry, cut out on the line.
2. Trace the snowman and detail onto the right side of one of the beige fabrics. Make two marks at the bottom to indicate where you must leave an opening for turning.
3. Enlarge your stitch size and stitch around the outside shape of the snowman. This is just a guide for later on.
4. Hoop the piece then embroider the detail on the snowman using French knots, satin stitch and back / stem stitch.

• Randomly make straight stitch leaves on the vine then make red 5-wrap French knot flowers. These are also quite random.



• Outline the nose with orange thread and a back / stem stitch then fill with a satin stitch.

• The eyes are outline stitched then filled with black embroidery thread.

• Using the heat erase pen, draw in some basic stars, making sure that they are well within the body shape - you don't want them caught up in any seam allowances!

• Stitch with two strands of orange thread. I used a stab stitch here.



Give the piece a press. You will see the heat erase pen disappear and will be left with the stitched outline.

5. Place the other 9" x 11" piece wrong sides together. Cut out the snowman shape, adding a 1/4" seam allowance all around.



Snowman Blessings

6. Attach the 3 little buttons and the heart/star button.

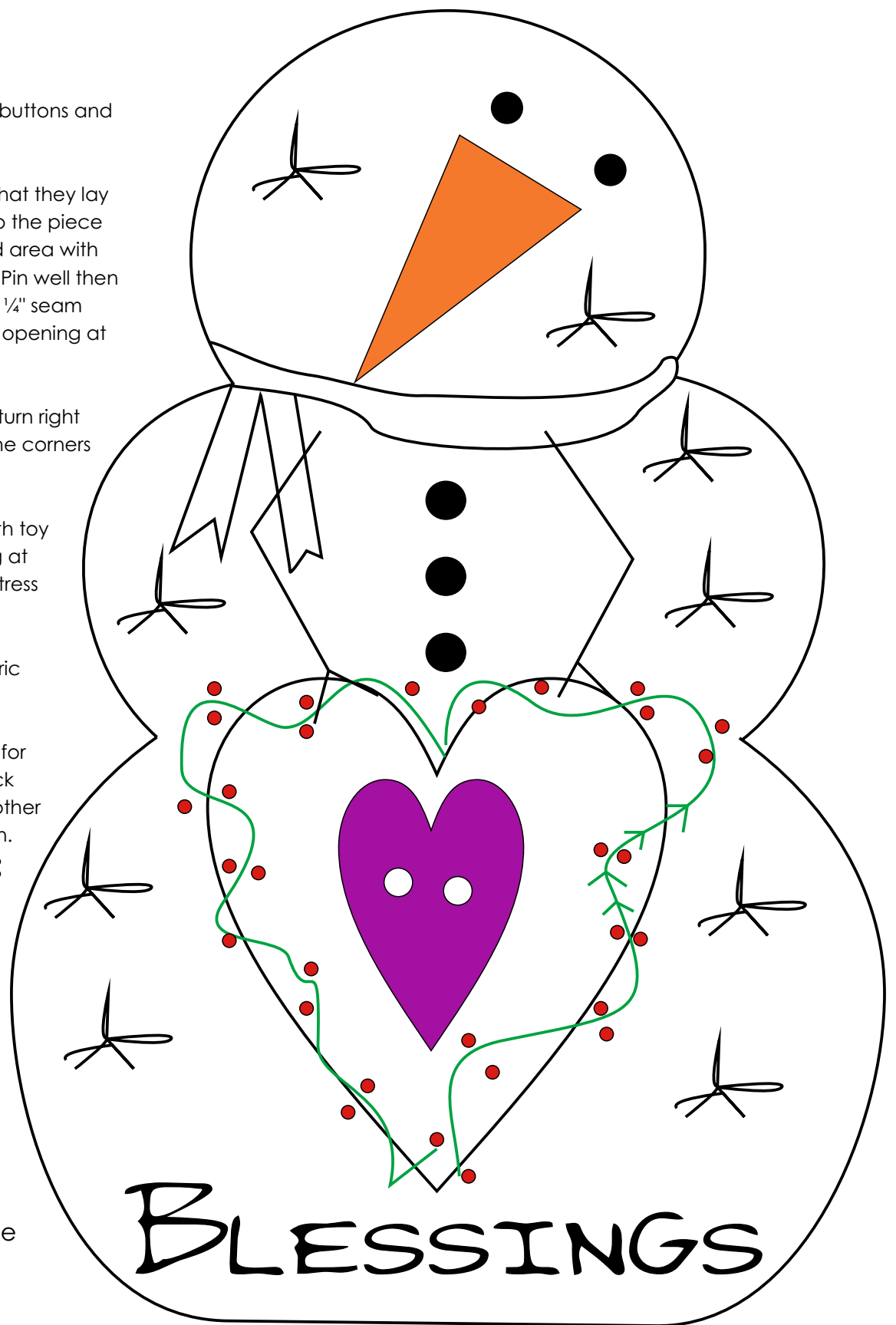
7. Flip the piece so that they lay right sides together. Slip the piece of ribbon into the head area with the loop facing down. Pin well then stitch all around with a 1/4" seam allowance, leaving an opening at the bottom for turning.

8. Clip corners then turn right side out, pushing out the corners neatly.

9. Stuff really well with toy Stuffing. Close opening at the bottom with a mattress stitch.

10. Tie the strip of fabric around his neck.

TIP: If giving to a friend for Christmas, sign the back Using a Pigma pen or other type of permanent pen.



Reduce or enlarge pattern

Aster flower block

Use the yarn of your choice and knitting needles to match

Block of the Month

by Dana Biddle

Abbreviations

K = knit; **Yo** = yarn over; **Sl** = slip

Slip 5sts to right-hand needle dropping extra loops (you will have 5 large loops remaining on right hand needle), insert left hand needle into back of all 5 loops. Keeping the loops on the left hand needle and working through the 5 loops on the needle, (purl 1, yarn over, purl 1, yarn over, purl 1) pulling last purl through all five loops.

Pattern:

With colour A, cast on a multiple of 6 sts + 1. (I cast on 37 sts)

Row 1 (WS): Colour A (purple), knit all sts.

Row 2 (RS): Colour B (white), sl1, * k5-wrapping yarn **twice** around needle **for each st**, sl1*, repeat from * to end.

Row 3: Colour B, sl1, *Aster flower, sl1*, repeat from * to end.

Row 4: Colour A, k1. K the 5 loops. When you get to the next stitch, pick up the large loop **at the back** and knit together with the next stitch this will pull the flower up tighter. Continue in this way to last 6sts. Knit to end.

Row 5: Colour A, knit all sts. Check that you still have 37sts on your needle.

Row 6: Colour B, sl4, * k5-wrapping yarn twice around

needle for each st, sl1* repeat from * to last 3sts, sl3.

Row 7: Colour B, sl4, *Aster flower, sl1*, repeat from * to last 3sts, sl3.

Row 8: Colour A, k4, *k5, knit next stitch with the loose strand behind, repeat from * to last 9sts, k9.

Row 9: Colour A, knit all sts.

Repeat rows 2-9.



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Soul

Knit this
gorgeous jersey
with those
breezy summer
days in mind.

Pattern Writer: Margaret Botha
Photography: Eclipse photography
Model: Siphosihle Blanket,
Sophisticate Models PE

Requirements

- 5(6,7,7,8) balls African Expressions SOUL 50g, colour 7021
- One pair of 3 mm knitting needles
- 4 Stitch holders

TENSION

32sts x 42 rows = 10 cm over stocking stitch using 3 mm knitting needles.

ABBREVIATIONS:

alt = alternative
 beg = beginning
 cm(s) = centimetre(s)
 dec = decrease
 foll = follow(ing)
 gs = garter stitch
 inc = increase
 k = knit
 k2b = knit into back of next 2sts
 lh = left hand
 ndl(s) = needle(s)
 no. = number
 patt.(s) = pattern(s)
 p = purl
 rem = remaining
 rep = repeat
 rh = right hand
 r(s) = row(s)
 r(w)sf = right (wrong) side facing
 rw = ribwise
 ss = stocking stitch
 st(s) = stitch(es)
 tog = together
 tw2 = knit into front of 2nd st on lh needle then into 1st st and slip both sts off needle tog.

African Expressions yarn is available from most yarn stores. Contact them on 041 486 2433 to find your nearest stockist.
www.africanexpressions.co.za

To Fit Chest:	82 cm	87 cm	92 cm	97 cm	102 cm
Actual Measurements:	87 cm	92 cm	97 cm	102 cm	105 cm
Length:	51 cm	56 cm	56 cm	58 cm	58 cm

STITCHES USED:

STITCH PATTERN NO. 1 - TWISTED RIB

(Pattern worked over 4 rows)

Row 1: *P2, tw2, p2, k2b* rep to last 6sts, p2, tw2, p2.

Row 2: *K2, p2* rep to last 2sts, k2.

Row 3: *P2, k2b, p2, tw2b* rep to last 6sts, p2, k2b, p2.

Row 4: As per 2nd row.

STITCH PATTERN NO. 2 - S.S. CHECK

RIB (pattern worked over 8 rows)

Rows 1 - 4: *K3, p3* rep to end of row.

Rows 5 - 8: *P3, k3* rep to end of row.

STITCH PATTERN NO. 3 - DIAGONAL RIB

Row 1: *K5, p5* rep to end of row.

Row 2: *P1, k5, p5* rep to last 4sts, k4.

Row 3: K3 * p5, k5 * rep to last 7sts, p5, k2.

Row 4: P3 *k5, p5* rep to last 7sts, k5, p2.

Continue in this way, working each set of 5sts one st to the RH side of work

GARTER STITCH - Knit every row.

Pattern

SPECIAL NOTE: 3 ndl cast off:

Do not pull yarn too tight. Slip sts onto thinner ndls. Both points pointing in the same direction. With RS together; using 3mm ndle, ktog 1st sts from both ndls tog. 2x. Pass 2nd st on RH ndl over 1st st. Rep process until all sts have been cast off.

BACK:

Using 3 mm ndls cast on 142 (150, 158, 174, 182) sts. Please note that sts have to be decreased or increased in the first gs row between patt. changes for most sizes. Beg with patt. no. 1 and repeat 12 times altogether. Work 2 rows of gs inc or dec as necessary for patt. 2.

1st size: Inc 2sts (144sts).

3rd size: Dec 2sts (156sts).

5th size: Inc 4sts (186sts).

Rep patt. 2, 6 times altogether and rows 1-6 once more. Work 2 rows gs. Inc or dec as necessary for patt. 3.

1st size: Dec 4sts (140sts).

3rd size: Inc 4sts (160sts).

4th size: Dec 4sts (170sts).

5th size: Dec 6sts (180sts).

When work measures 30(35, 35, 37, 37) cm, cast off 15sts at beg of next 2 rows for armholes. Continue without shaping until armhole measures 8(9, 11, 12, 13) cm. Work 2 rows gs. Dec 2 (0, 4, 2, 0) sts across 1st row 108(120, 126, 138, 150) sts. Change to patt. no. 2. When armhole measures 17.5(18.5, 19.5, 21, 22) cm leave sts on a st holder.

FRONT:

Work as for back until armhole shaping measures 9 (10, 10, 11, 11) cm.

NECK SHAPING: Work 38(43, 44, 49, 53) sts. Slip next 32(34, 38, 40, 44) sts onto a st holder for neck. Work 2 rows on remaining 38(43, 44, 49, 53) sts. Neck shaping worked on alt rows.

1st dec: Dec 3sts at neck edge.

2nd dec: Dec 2(3, 3, 3, 3)sts at neck edge.

3rd dec: Dec 2sts at neck edge.

4th dec: Dec 0(1, 1, 1, 1)st 0(2, 2, 3, 3) times. 31(33, 34, 38, 42) sts remaining. Leave these sts on a holder for shoulder. Join yarn at neck edge for left shoulder. With WSF, work 2 rows. Shape as for right side of neck.

NECK BAND:

Join right hand shoulders. Slip front shoulder sts onto one ndl. Slip the

last 31(33, 34, 38, 42) sts of Back onto 2nd ndl. Make sure the RS are facing each other. Cast off these sts using 3 ndl cast off method. With RSF, pick up 32(36, 37, 38, 39) sts down left Front, 32(34, 38, 40, 44) sts from front neck, 32(36, 37, 38, 39) sts up right Front and 46(54, 58, 62, 66) sts across Back neck. Work 4 rows in gs. Cast off on WS.

SLEEVES:

Cast on 84(92, 96, 102, 108) sts. Work 4 rows in gs. Continue in patt. no. 2. Inc in 3rd then every 4th row to 108(116, 122, 128, 134) sts. Work until work measures 15(15, 16, 16, 16) cm. cast off in patt. Join left shoulder in the same way as the right.



TO FINISH:

Sew up neck border. Set in sleeves. Join all seams.



Industry News!

Di Craft has opened again!

Di found that she missed the ribbons and the excitement that comes with creating new concepts, new designs and working with some of her favourite people - you!

Di Craft will be open for orders on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. The online shop is open all the time, of course!

Because of their shorter working week, it will take a little longer to process order, so if it is a birthday or Christmas present for someone special, do order ahead of time. If you don't feel like going via the online shopping cart, you are welcome to order by email and they will assist you.

Email: info@dicraft.co.za Website: www.dicraft.co.za



Christmas stocking fillers for a *Creative person*



Knit your own Nisse or Tomte (a mythological creature from Nordic folklore). There are 2 different sizes to make, knit in ColourSpun Pure Cotton and Kid Mohair and filled with Pure Merino.

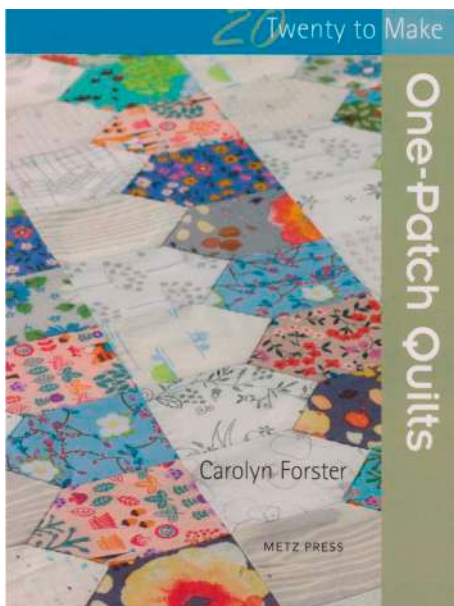
Available as kits which include a free pattern @Bryanston Organic and Natural Market and from www.colourspun.com or 016 349 2949.



Dancing Chickens Appliqué Kit by Debi Hubbs.

This kit includes full pattern, layout guide and fabrics needed to complete the quilt top. A perfect gift for a creative friend (or yourself!) Quilt measures: 35½"x 30½".

Available online only from www.thefatquarter.co.za



20 To Make: One-Patch Quilts by Carolyn Forster

Soft cover: 48 pages
ISBN: 9781928376156

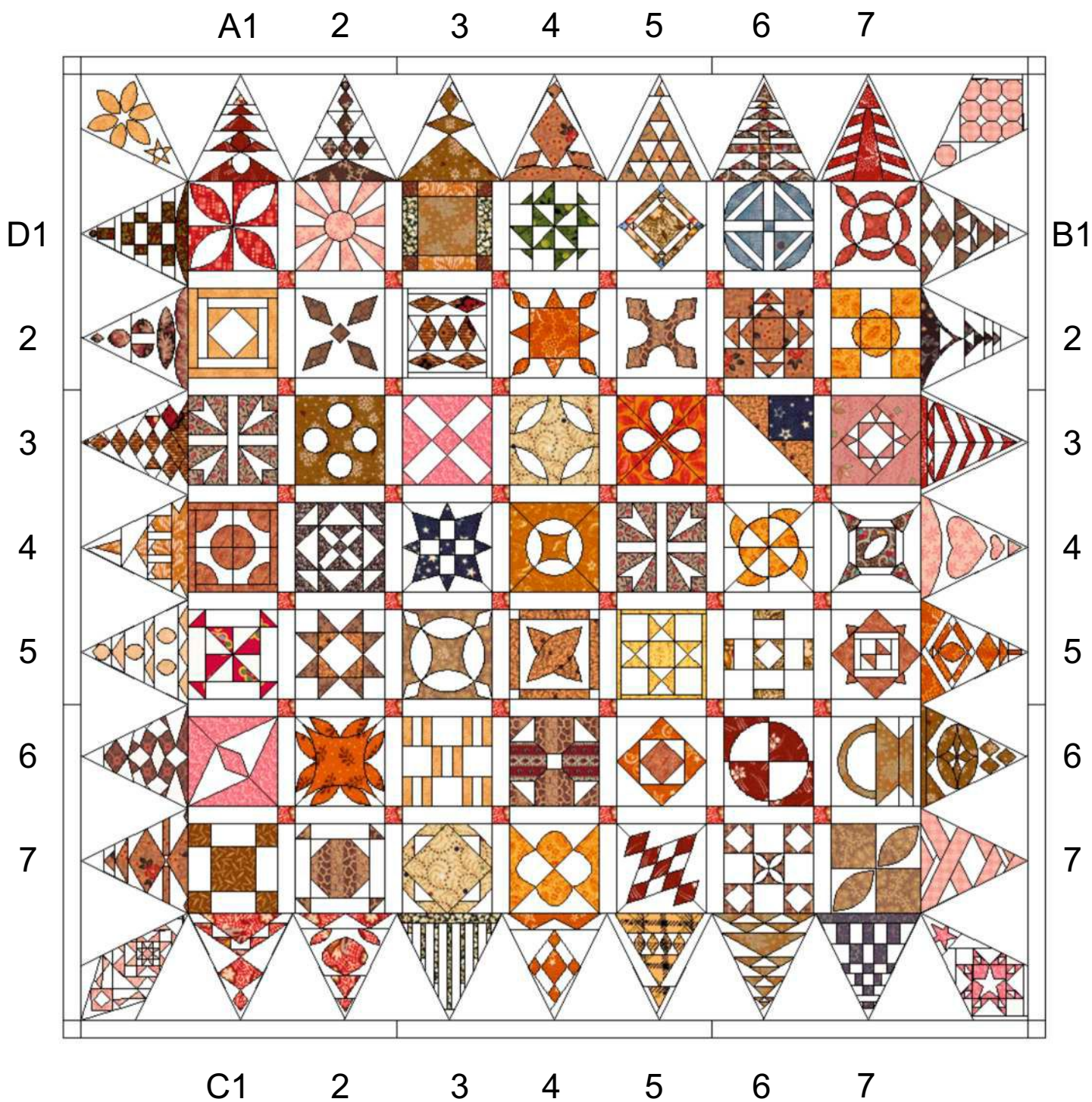
A perfect stocking filler for a friend who loves to sew! One-patch quilts might be one of the simplest type of quilt, but with carefully chosen patterns and colours, the results can be stunning!

The book contains 20 projects, each using a different-shaped patch; for example, there are rectangles, hexagons, squares, triangles, diamonds, and so on. The quilts range from those based on a random selection of plain and patterned fabrics, to those that use just two or three different-coloured plain fabrics stitched together to form an interesting geometric design. This book will appeal to patch workers, quilters and sewers looking for a source of ideas and inspiration for simple patchwork quilt designs that are quick and satisfying to make, while also being beautiful.

Available from online stores such as Loot.co.za or Takealot.com alternately contact Metz Press on 021 913 7557

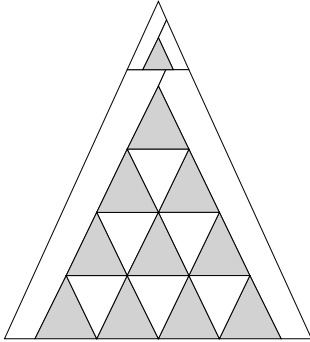
by Sharon Calverley

LAYOUT DIAGRAM



Africa Dear Jane

Triangle A5: Michigan Dunes



This is straightforward foundation piecing with two sides pieced in place. By now you are all master foundation piecers!

Copy the individual patterns then stitch out as per previous times.

Sections 4 and 5 I basted along the stitching line to keep the fabric and paper together then cut out with a seam allowance.

Join sections 1 - 3. Remove the paper in the seam lines and press well.

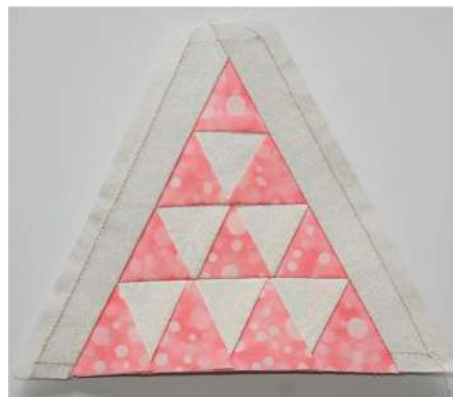


Triangle A5: Michigan Dunes



Attach the left hand section 4. Press then attach the right hand side section 5. Press.

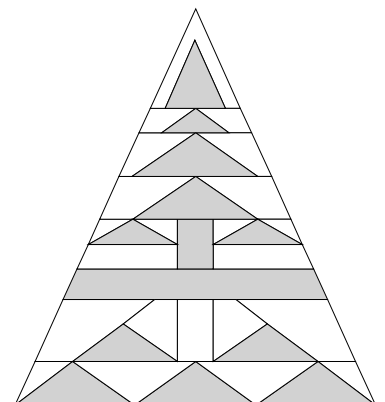
You can remove the basting stitches at this stage.



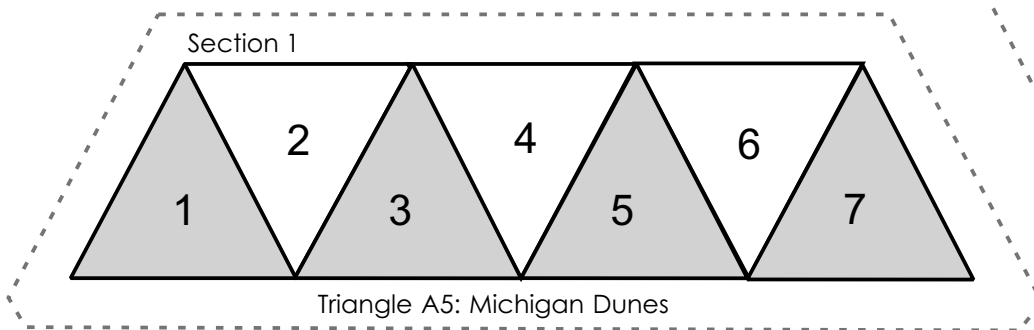
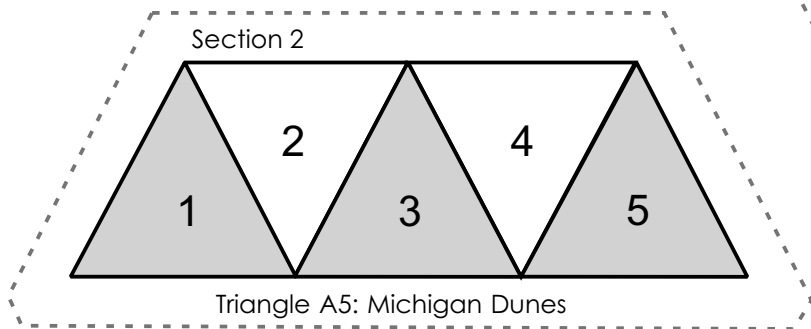
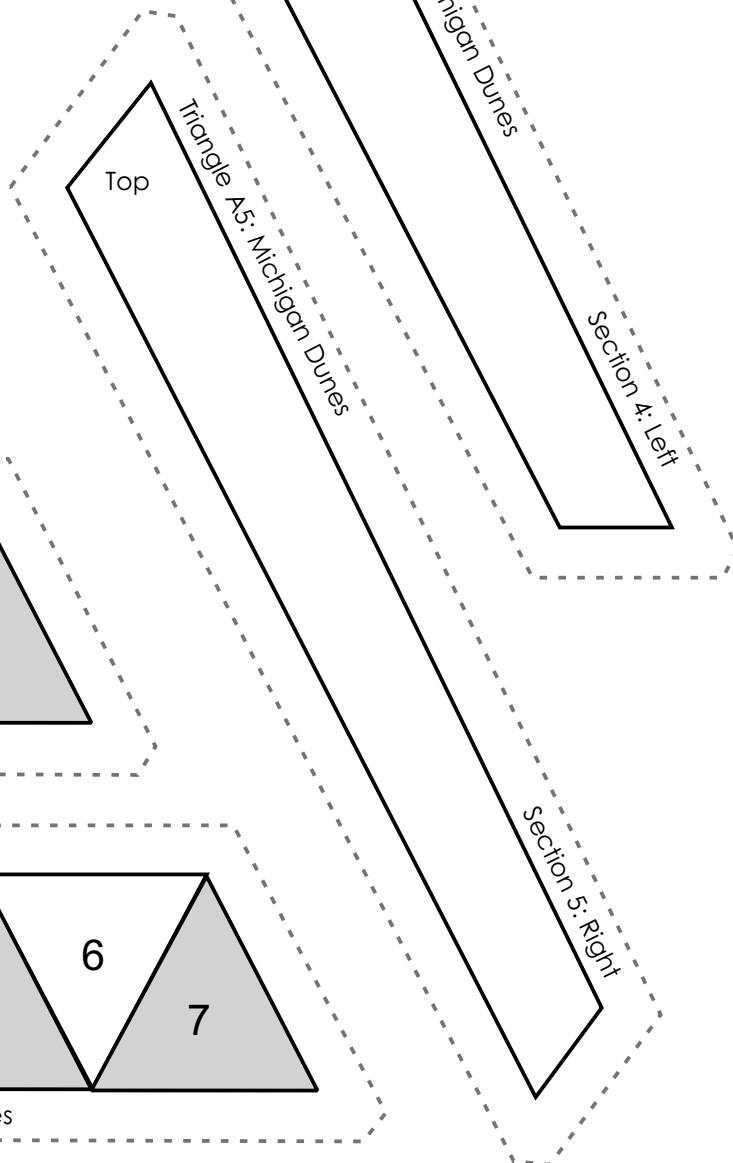
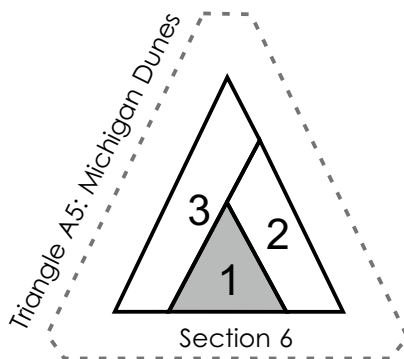
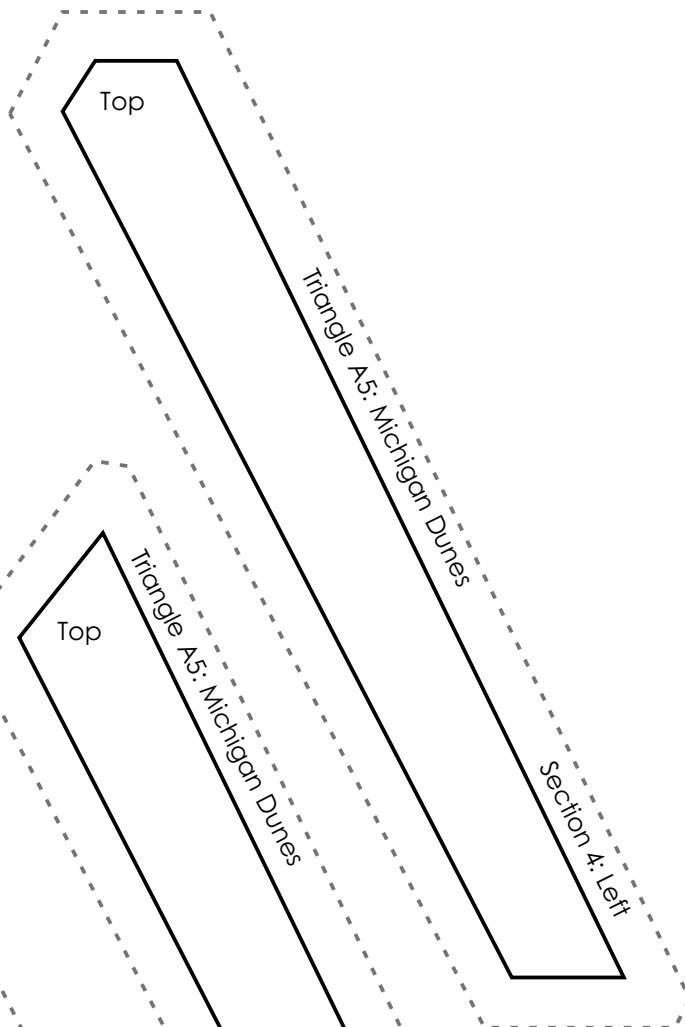
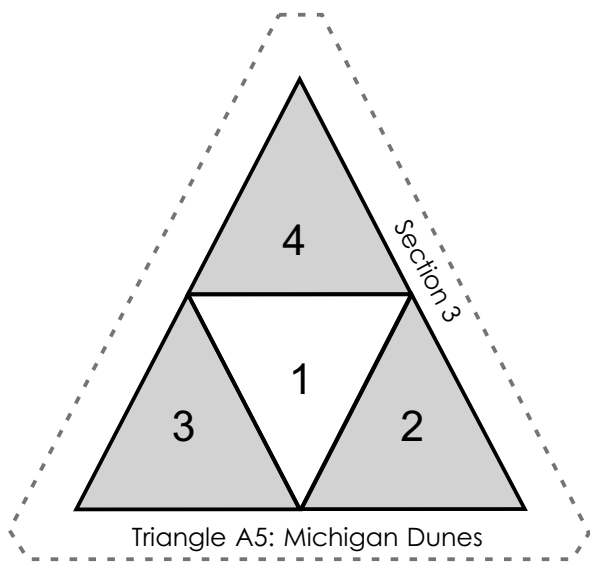
Now attach the last section (the headstone).

Press well then hang up on display wall.

Triangle A6: Bennington Cross



Africa Dear Jane



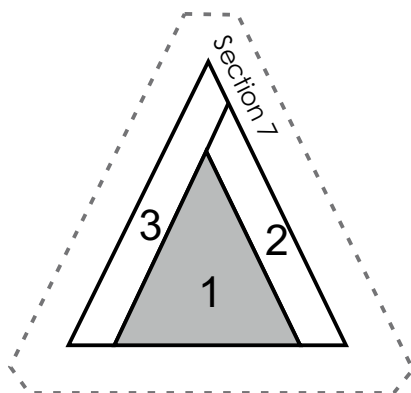
Africa Dear Jane

This triangle is also foundation pieced and you can follow the same procedure for this one. This is a slightly tricky triangle and you will have to take care making it, especially making sure that you line up each section properly when joining them.

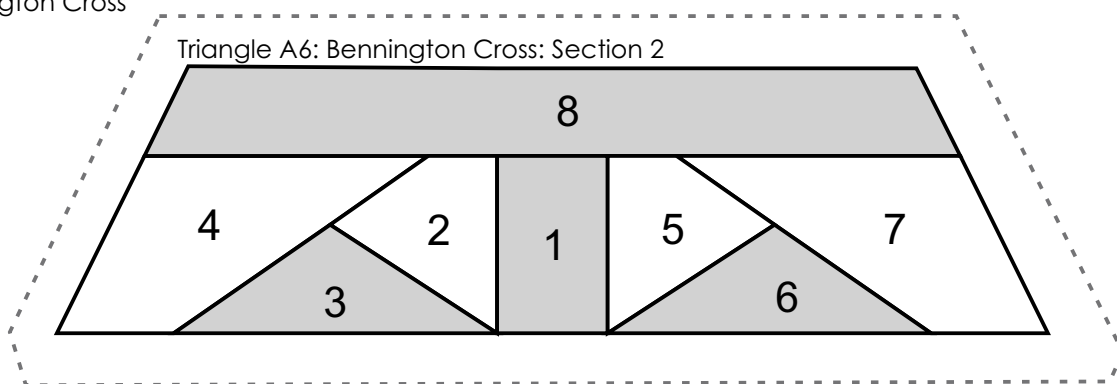
Starting from the bottom and working your way up to the top also seems to work better with this triangle.



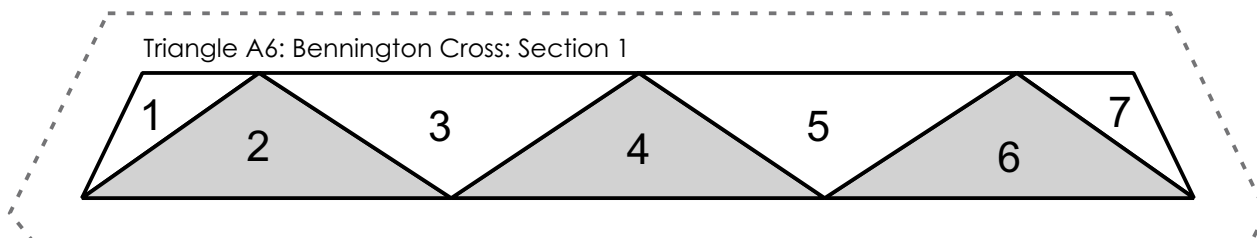
Triangle A6: Bennington Cross



Triangle A6: Bennington Cross

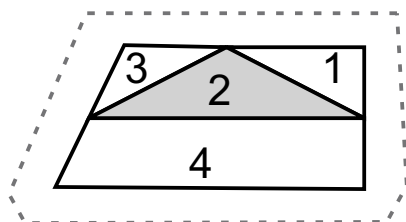


Triangle A6: Bennington Cross: Section 2

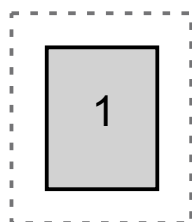


Triangle A6: Bennington Cross: Section 1

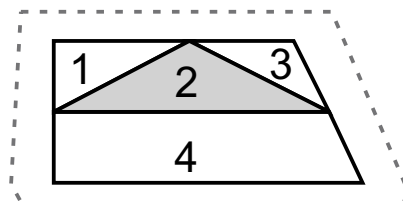
Africa Dear Jane



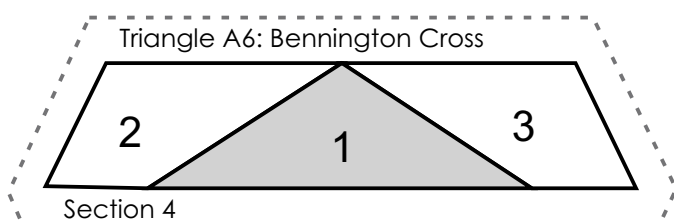
Triangle A6: Bennington Cross
Section 3a



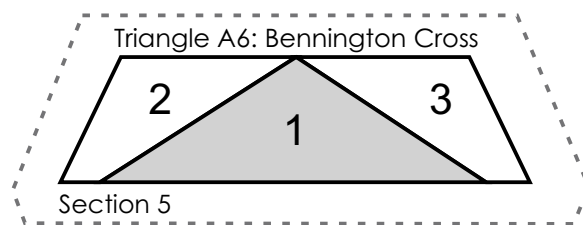
Triangle A6: Bennington Cross
Section 3b



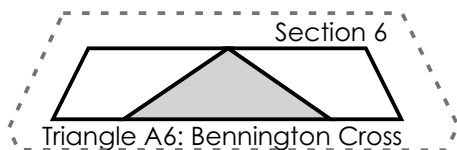
Triangle A6: Bennington Cross
Section 3c



Section 4



Section 5



Section 6

Triangle A6: Bennington Cross

Triangle A7: Australian Pines



Triangle A7: Australian Pines (TR2)

This is the last triangle in this issue as I would like you to have enough time to make some Christmas items shown in this issue. Again, a very easy to make foundation pieced block.

My tree is pink, in support of Breast Cancer.

Follow the same procedures as before.

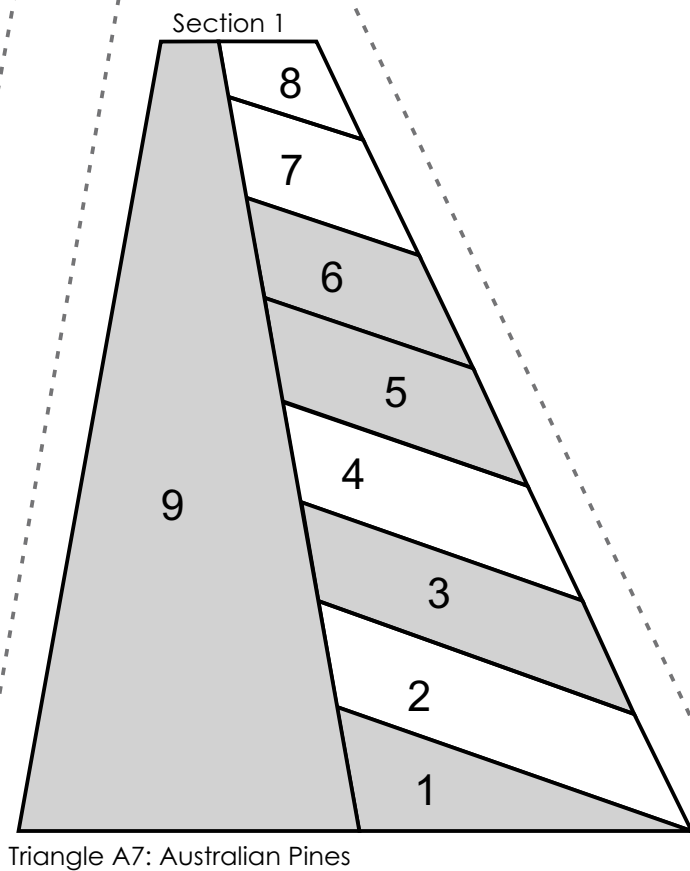
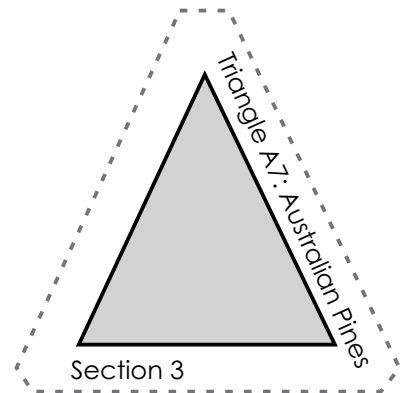
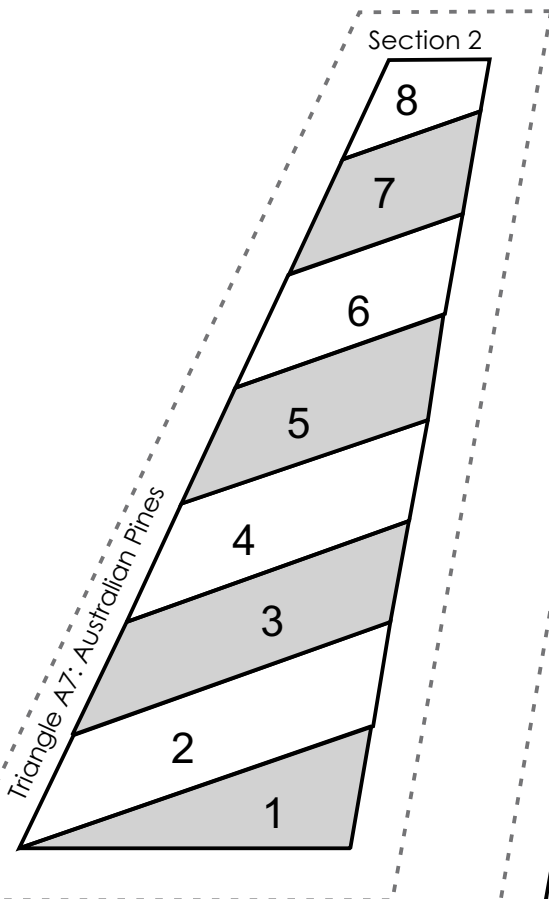
When complete, hang up on display board.

Till next time ...

Africa Dear Jane

Triangle A7: Australian Pines: Section 4

Triangle A7: Australian Pines: Section 5



Summer Top

in Dropped Stitches



*by Natalia Valentin
model: Lauren Barwick
photographer: Owen Calverley*

Requirements

Measurements To fit: 81-86 (91-97, 101-107) cm bust

Garment measures: 90 (102, 114) cm

Garment knitted in size 91-97

Length from top: 60 cm

Sleeve seam: 15 cm

Materials:

Main Colour: Mistique by StyleCraft. 50 gr balls x 4(4, 4)

Contrast: Vinnis Nikkim, 50 gr balls x 4(4, 4)

One pair 4,5 mm knitting needle

Spare needle

Safety pin

Abbreviations:

st(s) = stitch(es)

mc = main colour

c = contrast

patt = pattern

beg = beginning

k = knit

p = purl

r(w)s = right(wrong)side

SPECIAL ABBREVIATION:

5W = knit 5sts winding yarn 3 times round needle for every st.

Tension:

18sts to 10 cm over pattern using 4,5 mm knitting needle

Pattern

BACK

Using MC cast on 82(92, 102)sts and knit 8 rows then patt. as follows:

1st row (C): k6, *k5, 5W* repeat from * to * to last 6sts, 5W, k1.

2nd row: P to end dropping extra loops.

3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th rows: (MC) k to end.

7th row (C): k1 * 5W, k5* repeat from * to* to last st, k1.

8th row: As 2nd row.

9th, 10th, 11th, 12th: (MC) k to end. Repeat patt. from 1st to 12th row until back measures about 55 cm ending with 6th or 12th row of patt.

SHAPE NECK:

Patt. 36(41, 46), turn and leave rem. sts on a spare needle.

Working on these sts only, cast off 5sts, patt. to end.

Next row: Patt. to end.

Next row: Cast off 4 sts, patt. to end. Continue in patt. until back measures 60 cm from cast on edge ending with 6th or 12th row of patt. Cast off.

With RS facing return to sts left on spare needle, transfer 10sts onto a safety pin, rejoin the matching yarn and complete second part to match first.

FRONT

Work as given for Back until work measures 50 cm from cast on edge ending with 6th or 12th row of patt.

Work neck shaping as given for Back.

SLEEVES

With MC cast on 72(72, 82) sts and k6 rows then work in patt. as given for Back until sleeve measures 15 cm from cast on edge ending with 6th or 12th row of patt. Cast off.

TO MAKE UP AND NECK BORDER:

Join right shoulder seam. With RS facing and MC pick up and k27sts down left side of Front neck, k sts from safety pin.

Pick up 27sts up to shoulder line, pick up 20sts down right side of Back, k 10 centre sts and pick up 20sts up left side of Back neck. K 6 rows.

Join shoulder seam. Fold sleeve in half and place fold to shoulder seam.

Sew sleeve to Front and Back.

Join side and sleeve seam. 



Yarn is available from Arthur Bales (011) 888 2401. Natalia teaches knitting and crochet at Arthur Bales on a Wednesday.



by Jolanda Ingram, Sew Nifty, Kempton Park

Coffee Anyone?

With all the cheap home décor items arriving en masse in South Africa from the East, create your own home furnishings and know that your home is unique! This is a really pretty table cloth which features machine embroidered African designs.

Use the decorative stitches on your sewing machine to enhance the curved shapes. The steps are easy to follow and you will really enjoy making this item!

Requirements

- 1.25 m square of good quality white tabling fabric for the centre (you will only need just over 1 m of this. The rest you could make up into matching napkins if you wish)
- 1.25 m of quilting fabric for the border (If you wish to make matching napkins, you will have to add more fabric)
- Thread for piecing
- Machine embroidery thread to match embroidery
- Machine embroidery thread for decorative stitching around curves
- 2 Bobbins loaded with same colour thread used in decorative thread
- Spray starch
- Long rotary ruler, cutter and mat
- Water soluble marking pen
- Appliqué scissor (double bend scissor)
- Embroidery designs of your choice. We used bought designs from Louisa Meyer (See SOURCE at end of project)

Optional: Wing needle and Double Mitre Ruler

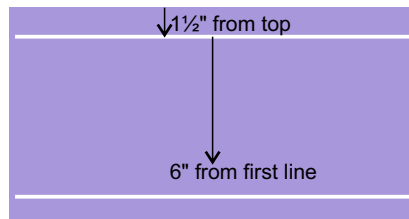
How to

1. Pre wash, starch and press the tabling fabric.

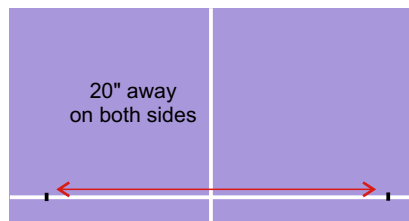
TIP: As a money saver you can use off cuts of Avalon dissolved in hot water to starch.

2. Remove the selvedge and accurately square the fabric to exactly 40".
3. Cut (4)x 9" strips across the **width** of the quilting fabric. (Quilting fabric is usually 42" wide.)

4. On the right side of the fabric strip, draw a line, 1.5" down from the top edge. Draw a second line 6" from the first line. Fold the strip in half. Mark then draw a vertical line down the centre.

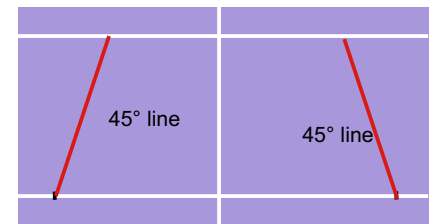


5. On both sides of the centre line make a mark 20" away from the centre line along both lines.

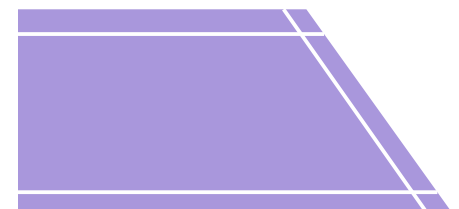


With your quilting ruler draw a line at a 45° angle from the 20" mark facing inwards, towards the

centre.



Trim 1/2" from this line on both sides.



6. Repeat with all four pieces. Join the strips together. Press the seam open.

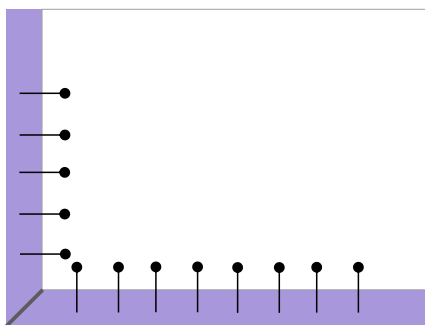
TIP: Place the ruler under your machine and move the needle to the left to find your perfect 1/2" sewing line.

7. Trace the two templates onto acetate or old x-ray! Scallop A is a full scallop and used in the middle three curves on the fabric and Scallop B is reshaped on one side to work with the 45° angle and used on the sides.

8. Place Scallop A on the centre point of the top line and match the straight edges with the drawn line. Reposition one full scallop on either side of the centre scallop and scallop B at both ends, aligning with the 45-degree angle. Remember to flip the templates for the other side!



9. With the wrong side facing up place the border onto a flat surface. Carefully place the starched tabling fabric, **wrong side** up on top of the border. Align the edge of the tabling fabric with the 1½" drawn line. Pin in place with a lot of pins!



10. Use the same bobbin colour as top thread to sew on the drawn scallops on the right side of the fabric. Use a straight stitch to stitch on the mark scallop lines. **Use the needle down and pivot** feature of your machine to create smooth curves. When you reach the beginning of the straight stitch change to a very narrow zigzag and go over the straight stitch, all the way around.

11. Now cut away the fabric at the top as close as possible with the appliqué scissors.



12. Re-thread your sewing machine with embroidery thread at the top and choose a satin-based decorative stitch to stitch over the zigzag. Make the stitch length quite short so that you have a nice close finish!

TIP: Make a sew a test piece to check the tension, length and width. The stitches need to cover the zigzag and raw edge completely. Also make sure you start with a full bobbin!



13. Fold and iron in a ½" seam allowance from the bottom of the border fabric and then bring it over

the tabling to form the seam. Press well.

14. Open the corner and use the mitre rule to draw in your mitre corner with a water soluble pen.



15. Stitch on the drawn lines. Cut 1/8" (2 mm) away from the stitching. Turn the corner over and fold over a ½" seam allowance. On the wrong side, using a large basting straight stitch, stitch all the way around the piece ± a foot width from the edge. This will be your guideline for sewing in the hem on the right side.

16. Flip the cloth over and choose a blanket stitch. (You can opt to use a wing needle here.) Stitch all around the edge using the basting stitch as a guide.

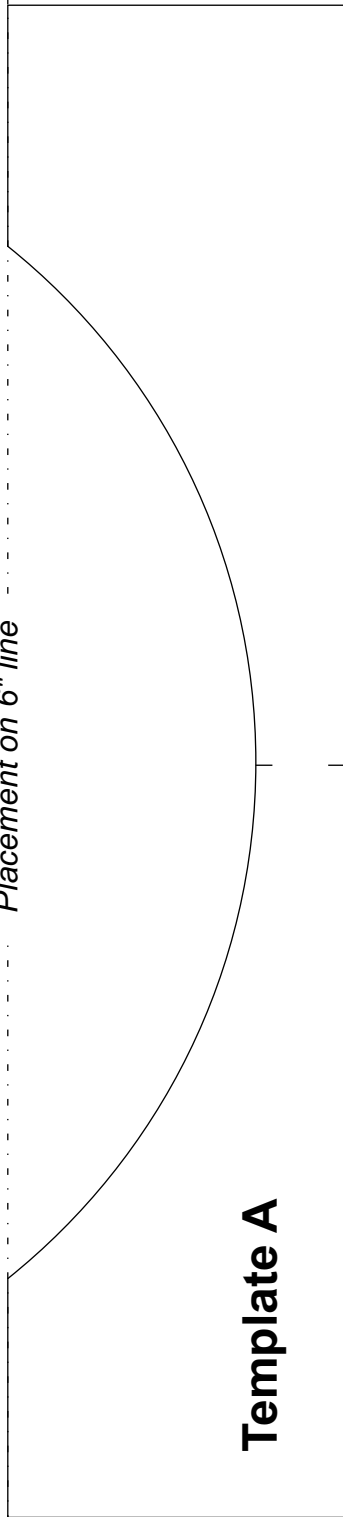
17. Remove the basting stitches or use them as a guide for a decorative stitch - the choice is yours.

18. Print templates for the machine embroidery. Mark the placement guides and stitch out the individual embroidery. ☘

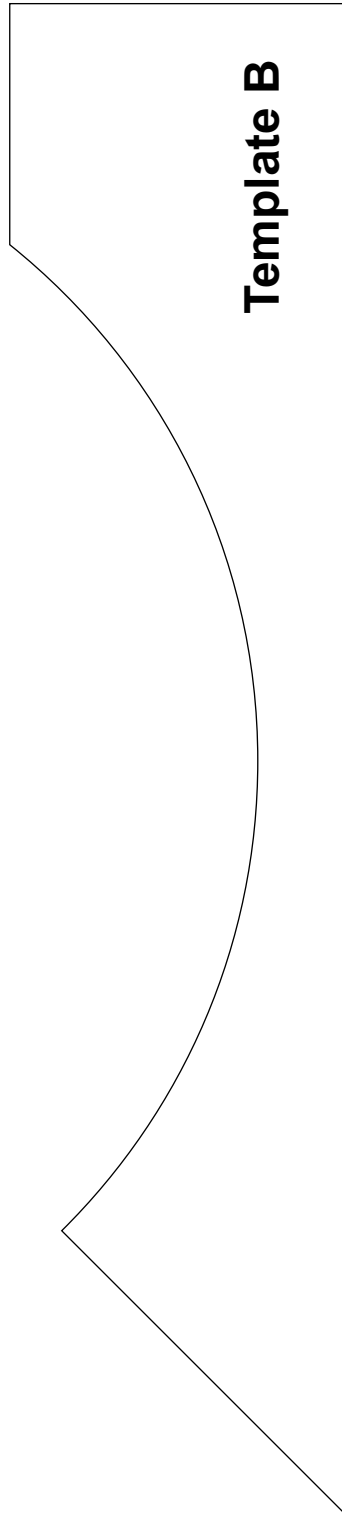
SOURCE
African Divas and Shapes
and Scrolls by Louisa
Meyer:
meyerfam@netactive.co.
za or 083 399 1628

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Placement on 6" line



Template A



Template B



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Knitted Cow

by Dana Biddle

This little cow, knit in pure cotton and filled with pure merino super wash wool is a wonderful, natural toy for children of all ages. It is the second in our farm yard knit along. Look out for all the other farm animals and farm yard playmat pieces.



Requirements

Cow

ColourSpun pure cotton Aran: charcoal and natural – 50g each

ColourSpun pure cotton DK happie: pink

ColourSpun embroidery thread #5: brown and black

Pure merino super wash stuffing 50g

4 mm knitting needles

4 mm double pointed needles

Yarn needle with large eye

Field

ColourSpun pure cotton super chunky: green – 100g

9 mm knitting needles

9 mm crochet hook

Abbreviations**K** = knit**P** = purl**K2tog** = knit next 2 stitches together**P2tog** = purl next 2 stitches together**M1** = make one - use loop cast on**S1PW** = slip the next stitch purl wise**SSK** = Slip the next stitch and then the following one knit wise, insert the left needle into the front of the 2 slipped stitches and knit them together**SSP** = Slip the next stitch and then the following one knit wise, return the slipped stitches to the left needle.**P2togtbl** – Insert the right needle up into back loops of the two stitches and purl them together**YF** = Yarn to front of work**YB** = Yarn to back of work**MB** = Make bobble – into next stitch, K3, (knit into front, back and front of stitch again). Turn, P3, Turn, K3tog.**NOTE:** when seaming use either a Kitchener or mattress stitch for invisible seams.**Body****See graph for colour work**

Cast on 30 stitches using pure cotton Aran.

Work 26 rows stocking stitch.

Row 27: Cast off 5, K to end.**Row 28:** Cast off 5, P to end.**Row 29 and 31:** K1, (SSK) x2, k to last 5sts, (K2tog) x2, k1.**Row 30, 32 and 34:** Purl.**Row 33:** K1, SSK, k to last 3sts, K2tog, k1.

Cast off.

Fold in half (side edges together) and seam 3 sides, back, bottom and half of front, leaving the top front open- this is the neck. Stuff, shaping the body into a rounded "sausage" shape. (The long seam is the bottom of the body.)

Legs: Make 4

Cast on 8sts using pure cotton Aran natural.

Work 12 rows stocking stitch.

Cast off.

Fold in half (side edges together) and seam cast off and side edges. Stuff evenly.

Attach legs to bottom of body, one each side close to the back and close to the front. Make sure you leave enough space between the back legs for the udder.

Udder

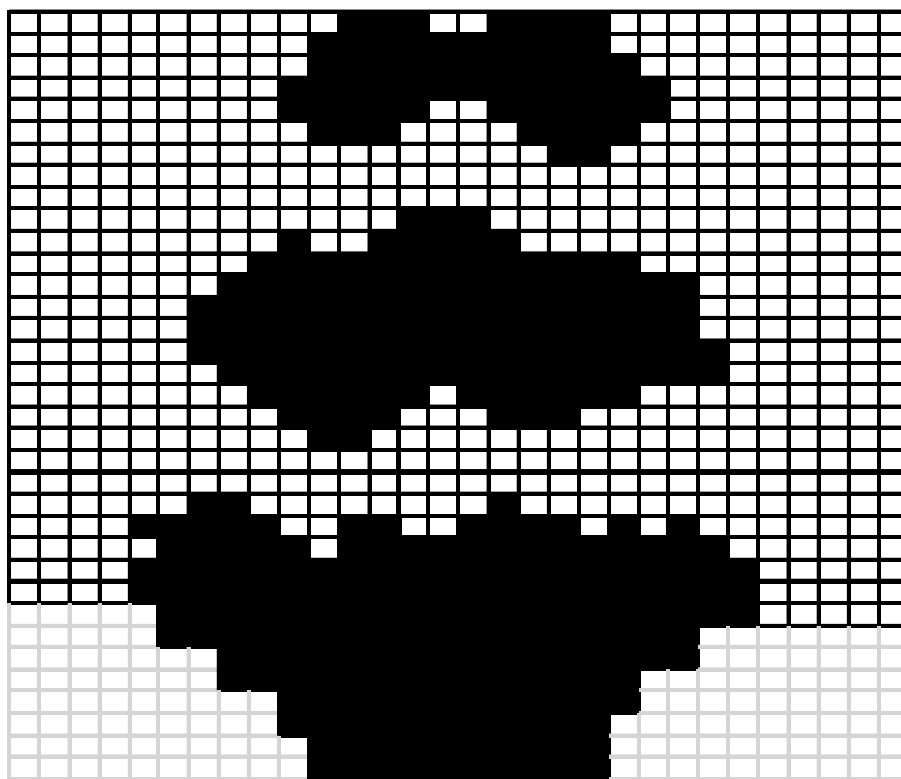
Using pure cotton DK: pink. Cast on 10sts.

Work 4 rows stocking stitch.

Row 5: K3, mb, k2, mb, k3.**Row 6 – 8:** Work straight in stocking stitch.**Row 9:** K3, mb, k2, mb, k3.**Row 10 - 13:** Work straight in stocking stitch.

Cast off.

Thread yarn around all 4 edges of square, place a little stuffing in the centre and pull up tight to close.



Knitted Cow Toy

Attach to bottom of body, between the back legs.

Head Front

NOTE: Work colours as indicated. Strand colour not in use on wrong side of work.

Cast on 5 stitches using pure cotton Aran natural.

Row 1: Knit.

Row 2: C/on 2, purl.

Row 3: C/on 2, knit.

Row 4: Purl.

Row 5: K1, ssk, k3, k2tog, k1.

Row 6: Purl.

Row 7: Join charcoal yarn. K1, m1, natural k5, charcoal m1, k1.

Row 8: Purl – keep colours as previous row.

Row 9: Charcoal (k1, m1) x2, natural ssk, k1, k2tog, charcoal (m1, k1) x2.

Row 10: Purl – keep colours as previous row.

Row 11: Charcoal k1, m1, k3, natural k3, charcoal k3, m1, k1.

Row 12 - 14: Work straight in stocking stitch- keep colours as previous row.

Row 15: Charcoal k3, k2tog, natural k3, charcoal ssk, k3.

Row 16: Purl – keep colours as previous row.

Row 17: Charcoal k1, ssk, k1, natural k3, charcoal k1, k2tog, k1.

Row 18: Charcoal p1, p2tog natural p3, charcoal p2togtbl, p1.

Row 19: Natural k1, ssk, k1, k2tog, k1.

Row 20: Purl.

Cast off.

Head Back

Work as head front

Rows 1 – 6: Natural and **rows 7 – 20:** charcoal.

Stitch back and front head pieces together, stuff, shaping head before closing seam. Pull sides of head in slightly with a few invisible stitches from side to side around row 7 and 8.

Ears:

Right

Cast on 4 stitches using pure cotton Aran: charcoal.

Row 1: K1, m1, k3.

Row 2: Purl.

Row 3: K3, k2tog.

Row 4: Purl.

Row 5: K2, k2tog.

Row 6: P1, p2tog, cast off.

Left

Cast on 4 stitches using pure cotton Aran: charcoal.

Row 1: K3, m1, k1.

Row 2: Purl.

Row 3: SSK, k3.

Row 4: Purl.

Row 5: SSK, k2.

Row 6: P2tog, P1, cast off.

Attach ears cast off edge to head, on side seams, one each side.

Embroider eyes and nose on front of head using charcoal thread and French knots for nose and brown thread and colonial knots for eyes. Attach back of head to neck edge of body.

Tail: Knitted I-Cord

I-Cord is tubular knitting done on 2 double pointed needles or on one circular needle.

Cast on 3sts using charcoal. **knit across.

Slide the sts back across to the other end of the needle without turning and pull the yarn firmly across the back of your work. Repeat from ** .

Work 5 rows charcoal and 6 rows natural.

Cut yarn, leaving a tail. Thread through sts and fasten off.

This will give you a stocking stitch cord – smooth side out.

Take a length of natural about 30 cm long and tie 4 knots along it, spaced about 6 cm apart.

Thread a darning needle with another length of yarn, push the needle through the knots, holding the knots together and pull the second piece of yarn through the knots, then starting at the first knot, repeat and pull tight to hold the knots together. Stitch the tassel onto the bottom of the tail. Trim the tassel ends and fray the yarn. Attach the tail to the back of the cow.

Field

Using a crochet chain, cast on 20sts.

Row 1 and 4: K1, (K1, YF, S1PW) to last stitch, K1.

Row 2 and 3: P1, (P1, YB, S1PW) to last st, P1.

Repeat these 4 rows 9 times, cast off in pattern.



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BUYER BEWARE

On a daily basis, we are nearly all involved in buying or selling, from groceries to motor vehicles, From bananas to highly technical equipment. When we buy we are consumers, when we sell we are suppliers. In the past (well, before 2008) navigating the market as a consumer was a minefield. Items we bought back then might have broken, malfunctioned or needed repairs which just never worked out right. This problem for consumers went back in history to before the English language. There was a saying in Latin, "Caveat Emptor " which translates to "Let the Buyer to Beware". **Sandra Kloppers** is a lawyer who deals a lot with consumer protection and works closely with the Consumer Protection Board. Here she gives you a bit of insight into consumer rights and the law.

In 2008, a marvellous Act was brought into being in South Africa. It is called the Consumer Protection Act (No 68 of 2008) and it offers protection to consumers from faulty equipment and unethical suppliers. There is even a Consumer Protection Board which deals with all consumer's problems.

The aim of the Act is to provide a consumer market that is "fair, accessible, efficient, sustainable and responsible for the benefit of consumers generally". It makes allowance for the state of knowledge of the individual e.g. it does not presuppose we are all professors of consumer law. For instance, it even places the burden on the supplier to explain - in full - the terms of a contract (and especially the prejudicial terms) to the consumer, otherwise the consumer can defend himself saying that he did not understand all the terms and conditions.

Some of the recurring problems being dealt with are :

1. Goods and services which are not up to scratch. I'm sure most of us have bought an item and been hugely disappointed when it does not work properly, or take an item in for repairs only to find

that it does not work properly.

2. Service providers, e.g. cell phone companies, not adhering to their contracts or refusing to give information.

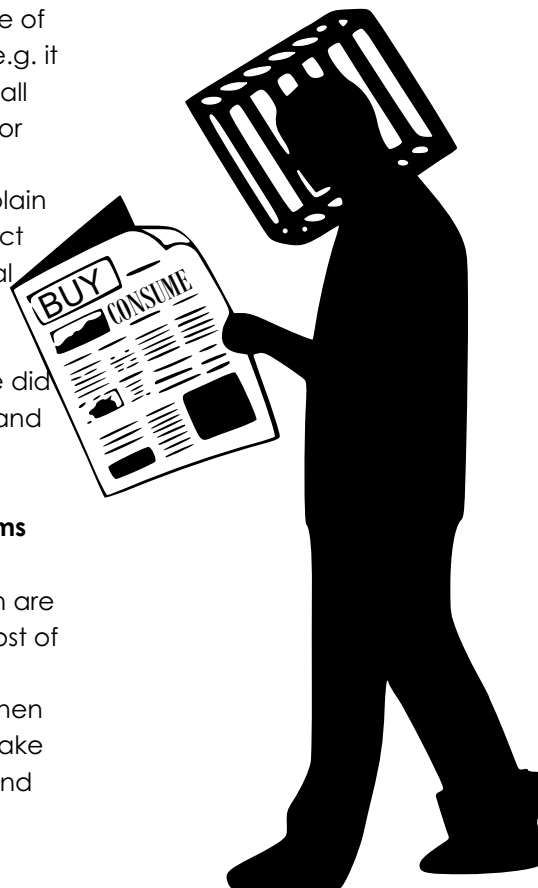
3. Unscrupulous suppliers trying to make a quick, illegal buck out of you, the consumer. You would be surprised at how many con artists there are and how easy it is to scam someone with charm and irresistible offers.

4. A new "biggie" is failure of insurance companies to pay out a

claim on the flimsiest of excuses.

For example, one of my clients had to have his leg amputated because he had received an open wound at work. He worked in a chicken factory and the floor was not clean. The insurance company refused his claim because he had broken his leg 18 years previously and they advised him that the amputation was the result of an illness! I don't think one has to be a doctor to find that patently ridiculous!

Be aware of what your rights are. Read the act and if you are not sure find someone who can help you! ☘



You can find out more about the consumer act here:

[www.labourguide.co.za/
consumer-protection](http://www.labourguide.co.za/consumer-protection)

For legal advice contact Sandra Kloppers
Email: sandra@v2s.co.za
072 059 1868

Ladies Cardigan in Batik

*made and designed by Natalia Valentin
model: Lauren Barwick
photographer: Owen Calverley*



Requirements

- Stylecraft Batik DK, 50 gr balls x 9 (10, 12, 13)
- 3,5 and 4,0 mm crochet hooks
- 6 buttons

Measurements:

To fit: 81-86 (91-97, 101-107, 112-117) cm bust

Length from top: 68 (68, 70: 70) cm

Sleeve seam: 46 (46, 47, 48) cm

Tension:

3 patt. to 10 cm using 4 mm crochet hook

Abbreviations:

ch=chain

dc=double crochet

ch.sp=chain space

tr=treble

rep=repeat st(s)=stitch(es)

tch=turning chain

r(w)s=right(wrong)side

patt.=pattern

beg=beginning

Stylecraft yarns are available from Arthur Bales in store or on mail order. You can contact them on 011 888 22401.

Natalia teaches knitting and crochet at Arthur Bales on a Wednesday morning.

Pattern

BACK

With 4 mm hook make 116 (132: 148: 164) ch.

****1st row:** (RS) 2tr into 4th ch from hook, miss 3ch, 1dc in next ch *miss 3ch, 5tr in next ch (one shell), miss 3ch, 1dc in next ch, rep from * to last 4ch, miss 3ch, 3tr in last ch. Turn.

2nd row: 6ch (counts as 1tr and 3ch) 1tr in next dc* 3ch, miss 2tr, 1tr in next tr, 3ch, 1tr in next dc. Rep from * to last 3sts, 3ch, 1tr on top of tch. Turn.

3rd row: 1ch, * dc in next tr, 3ch, rep from * to last st. 1dc into 3rd ch at beg of previous row. Turn.

4th row: 1ch, 1dc into first dc * 3ch, 1dc into next dc. Rep from * to end. Turn.

5th row: 1ch, * 1dc into first dc, 1 shell into next dc, 1dc into next dc. Rep from * to end. Turn.

6th row: 6ch, miss 2tr, 1tr into next tr, 3ch, 1tr into next dc, *3ch, miss 2tr, 1tr into next tr, 3ch, 1tr into next dc. Rep from * to end. Turn.

7th and 8th rows: As 3rd and 4th rows.

9th row: 3ch (counts as 1tr) 2tr into first dc, 1dec into next dc, * 1 shell into next dc, 1dc into next dc, rep from * to last dc, 3tr into last dc. Turn.

Repeat from 2nd to 9th row for patt. 14 (16, 18, 20) shells.

Work in patt until Back measures 68 (68, 70, 70) cm from starting ch ending with 4th or 7th row of patt. Fasten off.

LEFT FRONT

Make 68 (76, 84, 92) ch and work in patt. as given for Back from ** 8 (9,

10, 11) shells. Work straight until Front measures ± 15 (15, 16, :16) cm less than Back to shoulder line ending with 5th row.

SHAPE NECK:

Patt. across 9 (10, 10, 11) chsp, turn and cont. in patt. across rem sts until Front matches Back to shoulder line ending with 4th or 7th row of patt. Fasten off.

RIGHT FRONT:

Work as given for Left front reversing neck shaping.

SLEEVES:

Make 68 (68, 84, 84) ch and work in patt. as given for Back from 1st to 9th row once then from 2nd to 8th row once.

SHAPE SIDES:

1st row: (9th row of patt). 3ch (counts as 1tr) 4tr in first dc* 1 shell in next dc, patt. to end. Work a shell in last dc.

2nd row: As 6th row of patt.

3rd and 4th rows: As 7th and 8th rows.

5th row: As 9th row.

6th row: As 2nd row.

7th and 8th rows: As 3rd and 4th rows.

9th row: As 5th row.

10th row: As 6th row.

11th and 12th rows: As 7th and 8th rows.

Rep from 1st to 12th row 5 times. Work straight until sleeve measures 46 (46, 47, 48) cm from starting ch ending with 4th or 8th row of patt. Fasten off.

Continued on page 70.

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Songs of Praise



A really pretty lap quilt featuring appliqué flowers, whimsical birds, strawberries and pomegranates which can be made up in similar colours to ours or in Christmas themed fabrics. This quilt makes a lovely table topper for holiday season and features raw edge appliqué which is quick and easy to do.

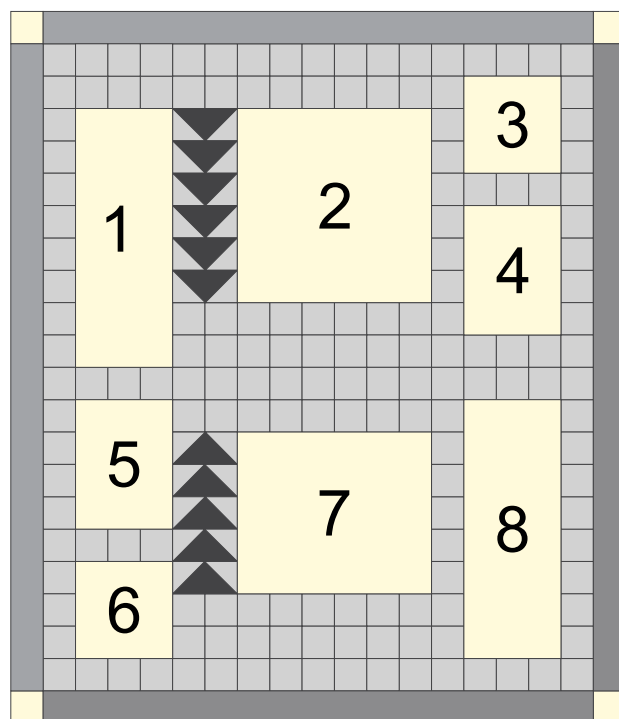
Requirements

- Background fabric: A total of 80 cm x 112 cm cream or white tone on tone for blocks. You can decide to mix and match the background and not use the same fabric for all the blocks. The choice is yours
- 12 Different strips $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x 44". Try to have **some repeats** and **not all completely different** fabrics. When choosing fabrics, make sure you choose them in light, medium and dark tones
- (11) $4\frac{1}{2}$ " x $2\frac{1}{2}$ " assorted rectangles for the Flying Geese units
- Assortment of off cuts for the appliqué. Raid your stash as you do not need large quantities of fabrics. Use the Layout Diagram as a guide and incorporate different hues and tones to make up the quantities. The pomegranates are the largest pieces and you need 12 " x 6 " for them
- Heat n Bond Lite appliqué paper
- Pencil and paper scissors
- Rotary ruler, cutter and mat
- Sewing thread
- Backing fabric and batting
- Sewing machine and usual sewing supplies.

Finished size: ± 43 " x 38 "

Seam allowance: $\frac{1}{4}$ "

LAYOUT Diagram



Cutting

1. Cut your background fabric as follows:

Block 1: $6\frac{1}{2}$ " x $16\frac{1}{2}$ "

Block 2: $12\frac{1}{2}$ " x $12\frac{1}{2}$ "

Block 3: $6\frac{1}{2}$ " x $6\frac{1}{2}$ "

Block 4: $6\frac{1}{2}$ " x $8\frac{1}{2}$ "

Block 5: $6\frac{1}{2}$ " x $8\frac{1}{2}$ "

Block 6: $6\frac{1}{2}$ " x $6\frac{1}{2}$ "

Block 7: $10\frac{1}{2}$ " x $12\frac{1}{2}$ "

Block 8: $6\frac{1}{2}$ " x $16\frac{1}{2}$ "

2. Cut the 12 strips into $2\frac{1}{2}$ " squares. You need 186 squares which will also be used in the Flying Geese units.

How to:

1. Copy the appliqué patterns onto the appliqué paper, adding in a little bit extra where the pieces go under another piece. Cut out just outside the lines.

2. Fuse to your choice of fabrics then cut out on the line.

3. Remove the paper and fuse in position, following the numbers on each pattern piece.

4. Drop your feed dogs then free motion appliqué the pieces in place. (See photo below.)



Songs of Praise

5. Place the completed background blocks on your design wall in the correct positions, leaving spaces between them. See Layout Diagram.

6. Stitch (3) $2\frac{1}{2}$ " squares together to make a row. Stitch another (3) squares together and press. Join the two rows. Press then attach to the **top** of Block 1.

7. Using the diagram alongside as a guide, attach rows of squares to the tops of your background blocks. You will see that some of the blocks have 1 row of squares above them and some have more than 1 row.

Block 2: Attach (6 squares) x 2 rows

Block 3: Attach (3 squares) x 1 row

Block 4: Attach (3 squares) x 1 row

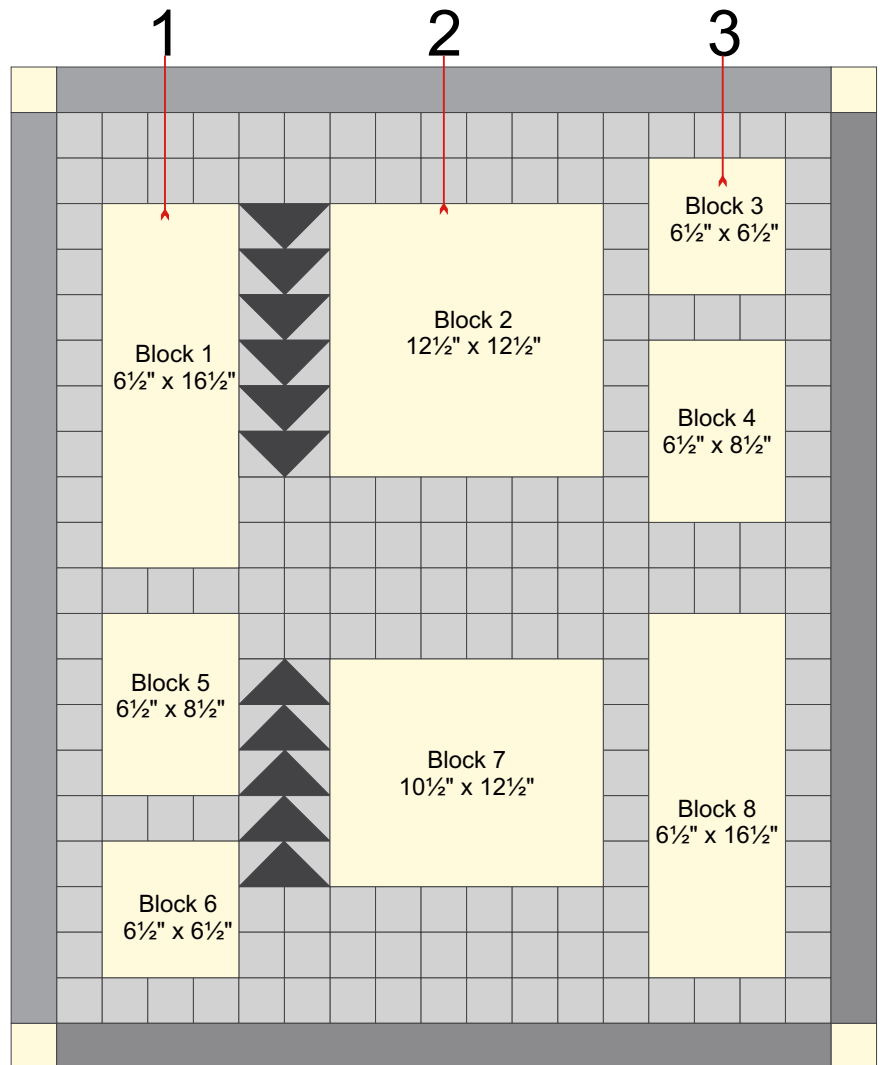
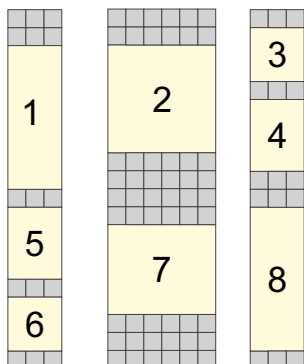
Block 5: Attach (3 squares) x 1 row

Block 6: Attach (3 squares) x 1 row

Block 7: Attach (6 squares) x 4 rows

Block 8: Attach (3 squares) x 2 rows

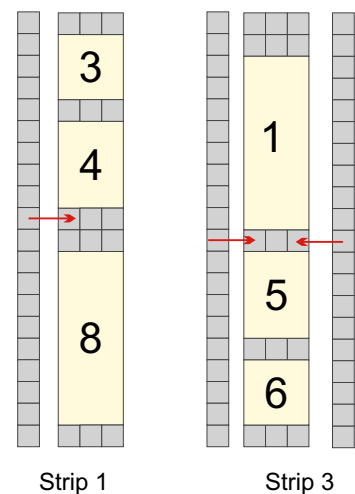
8. Press the blocks then join them into strips. Join squares to form rows and attach to bottom of strips as shown in the diagrams below. When complete, press then pin on display wall leaving spaces between them.



9. Join (3) rows of 20 squares. Press then attach 1 row to the left hand side of the first strip and the 3rd strip. Press. Attach the last strip to the right hand side of the 3rd strip. Press and hang up on wall.

The Flying Geese units:

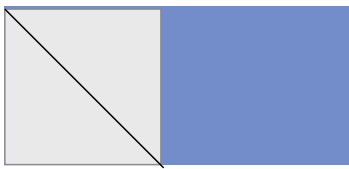
You need to make 11 of these units and you will use the rectangles you cut and some of the remaining $2\frac{1}{2}$ " squares.



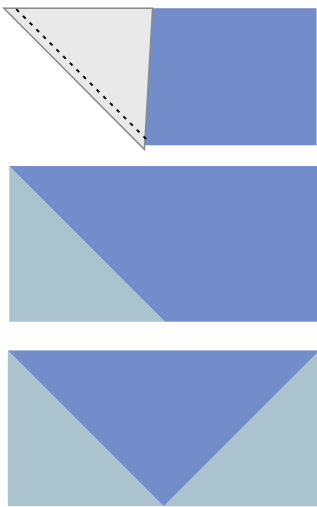
Songs of Praise

1. On the wrong side of a square, draw a line diagonally across the square using a sharp pencil and ruler.

2. Place the square and a rectangle wrong sides together and pin. Stitch down the drawn line.



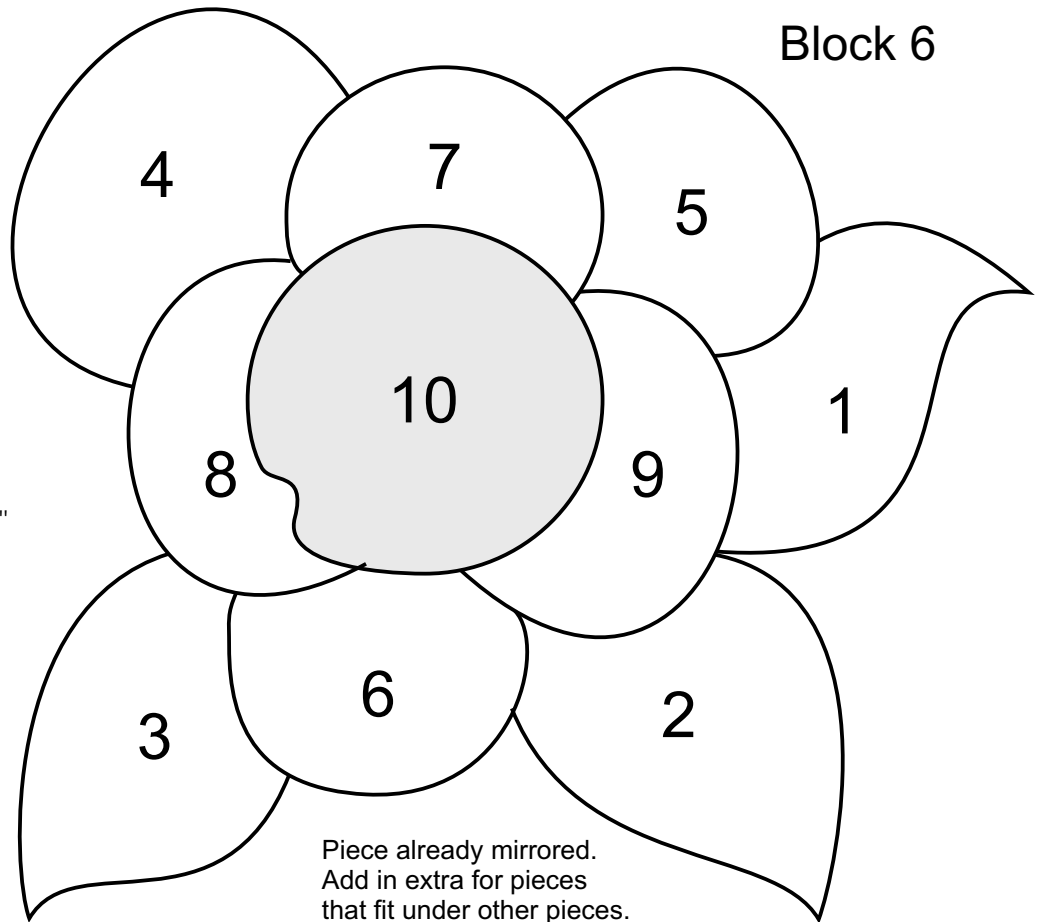
3. Trim off the corner with a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance then press open. Do the same with the other side.



Continue until you have made 11 of these units. Remember to mix and match the fabrics.

4. Join (6) of these units together and press. Join the remaining (5) units together.

5. Join the remaining $2\frac{1}{2}$ " squares together in rows of two. (Keep 4



aside for the border cornerstones.)

6. Join the rows of squares and flying geese to form one long strip. Take note of the direction in which the Flying Geese point when joining the rows. Press well.

7. Join the strips as shown in the Layout Design. Press then trim square. Your centre section is complete.

8. Measure your top across the width and length. Cut $2\frac{1}{2}$ "

wide strips to fit, remembering that your side strips will be shorter to accommodate the cornerstones.

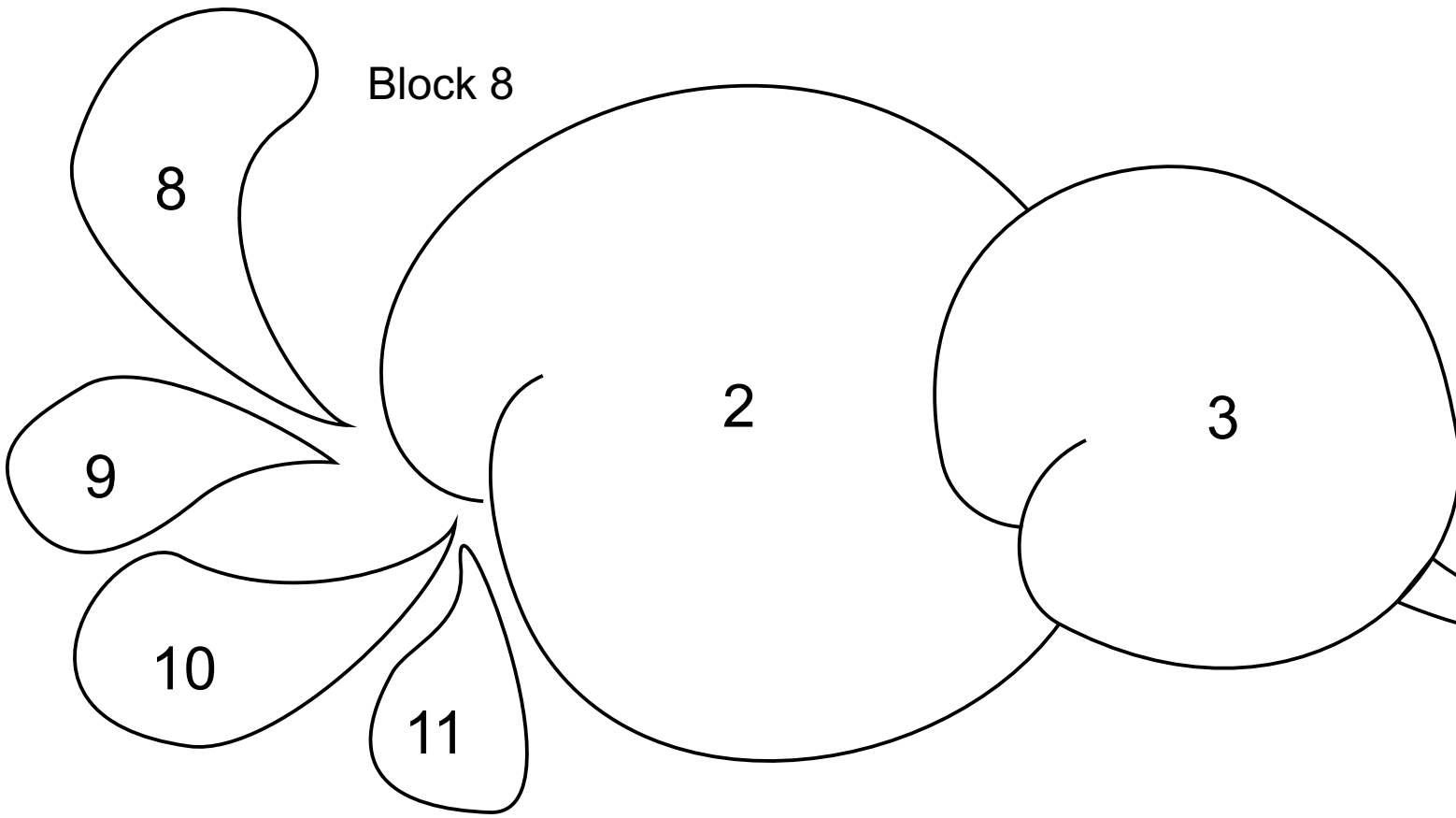
Finishing up:

Sandwich the quilt top, batting and backing fabric and quilt. I echo quilted around the motifs then quilted in the ditch along all the seams. You can use an all over design if you wish.

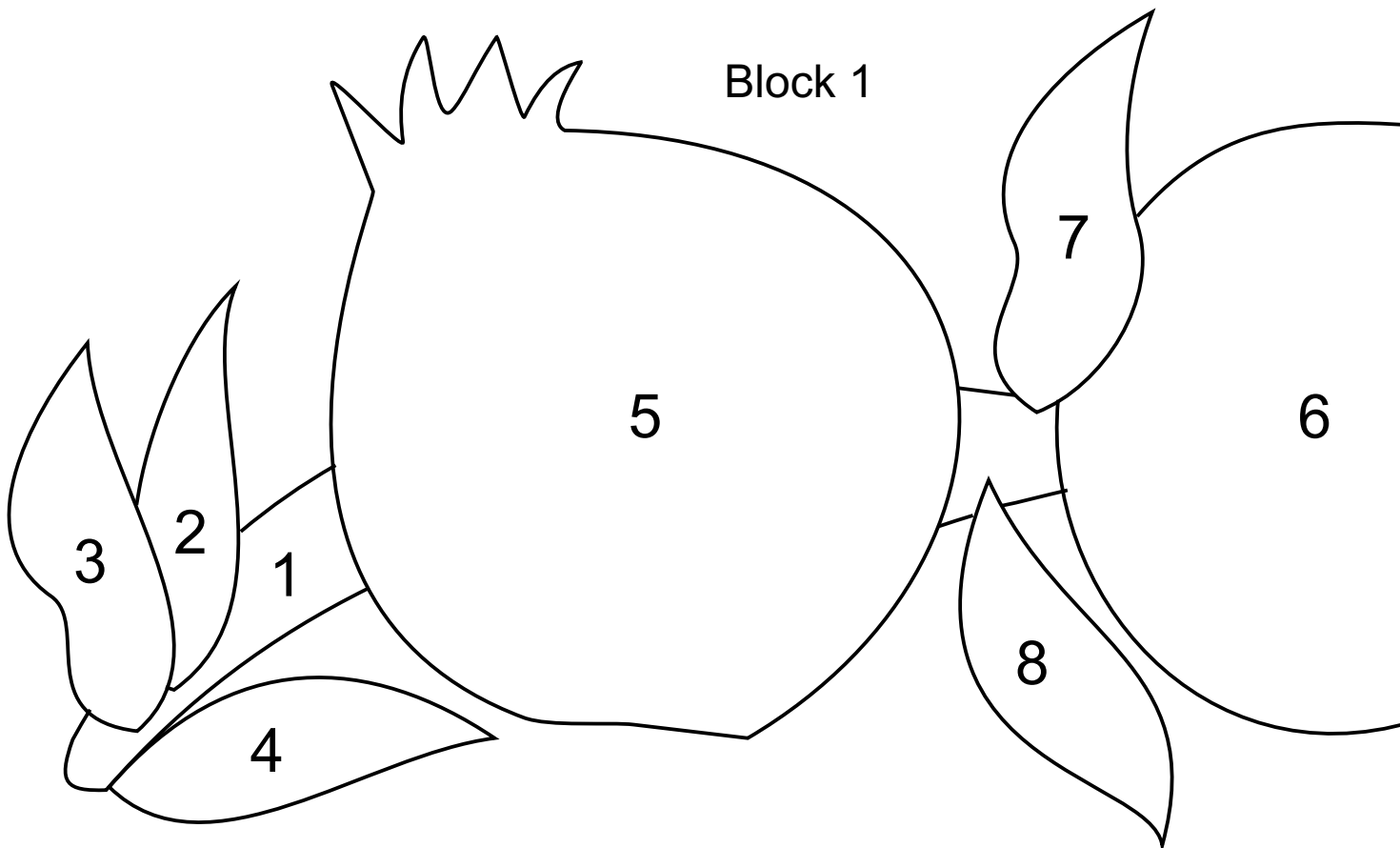
When complete, attach a double fold binding.



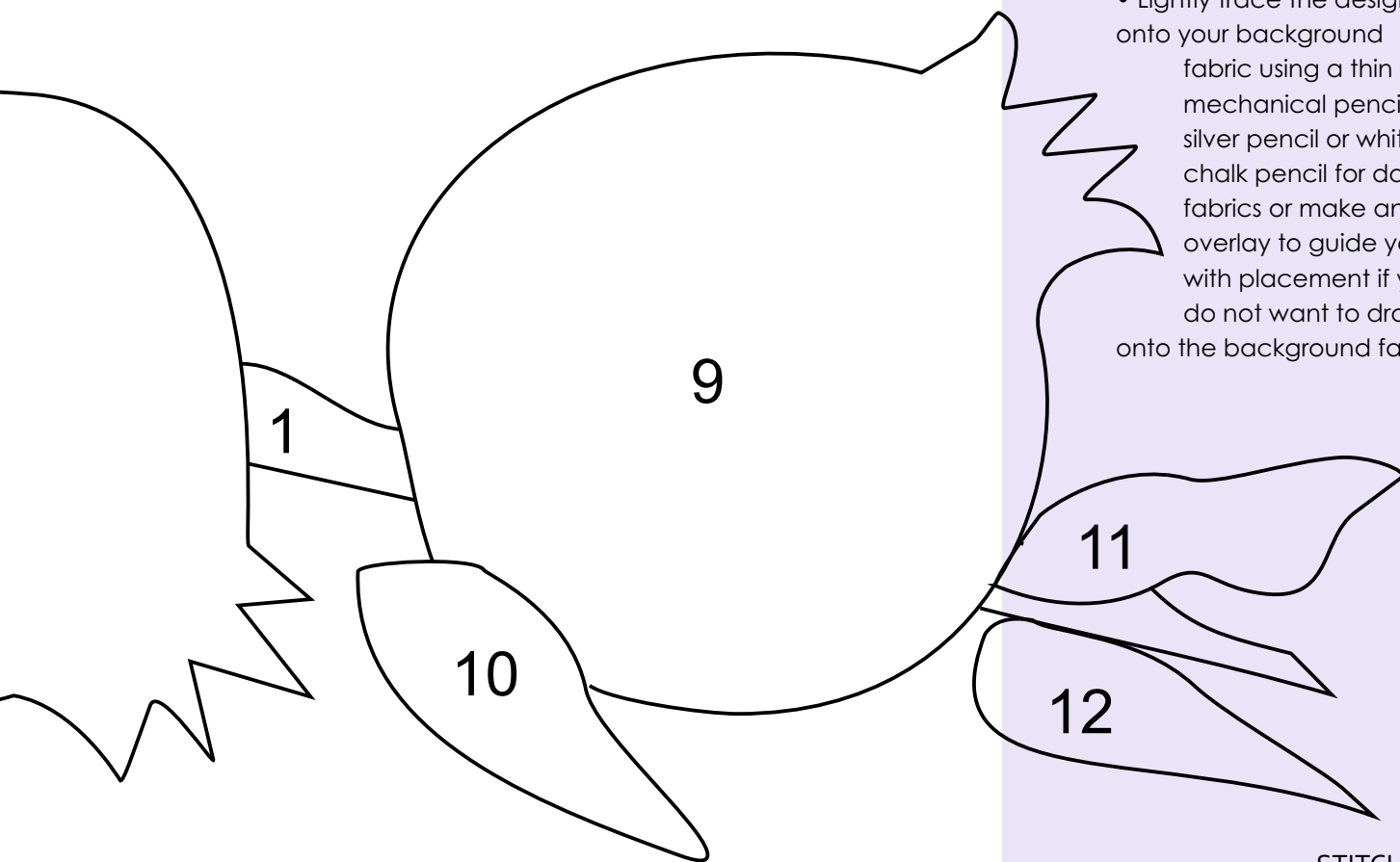
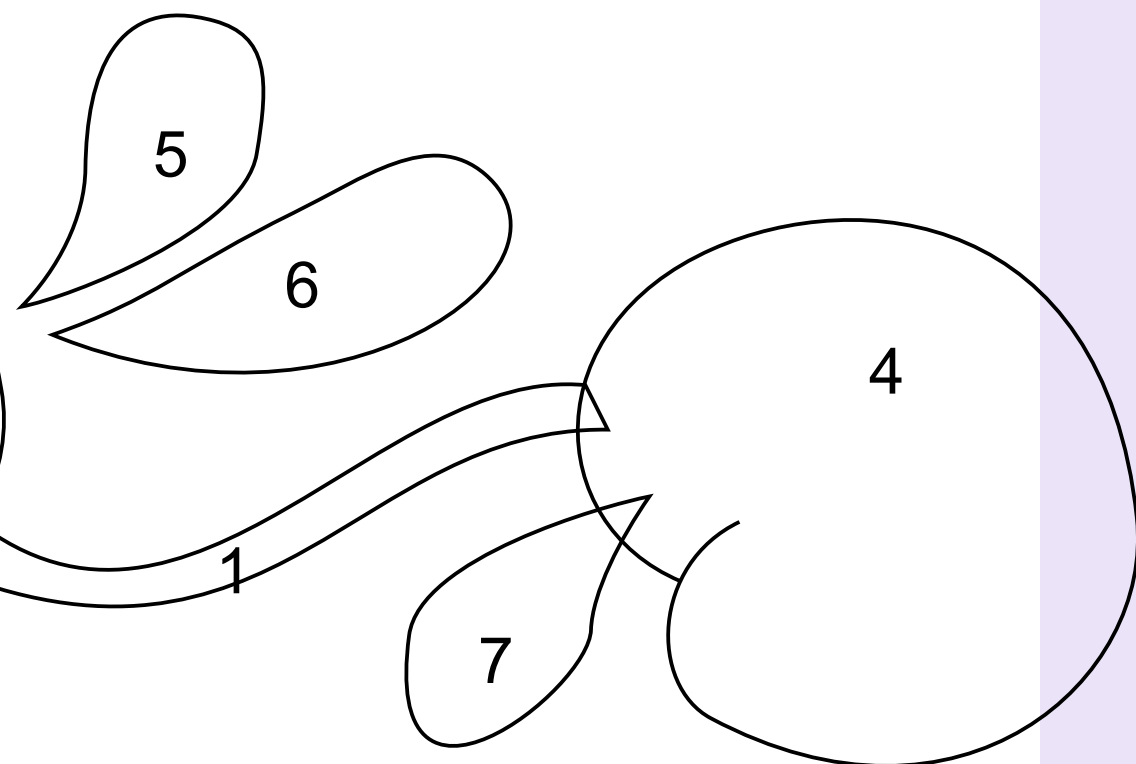
Block 8



Block 1

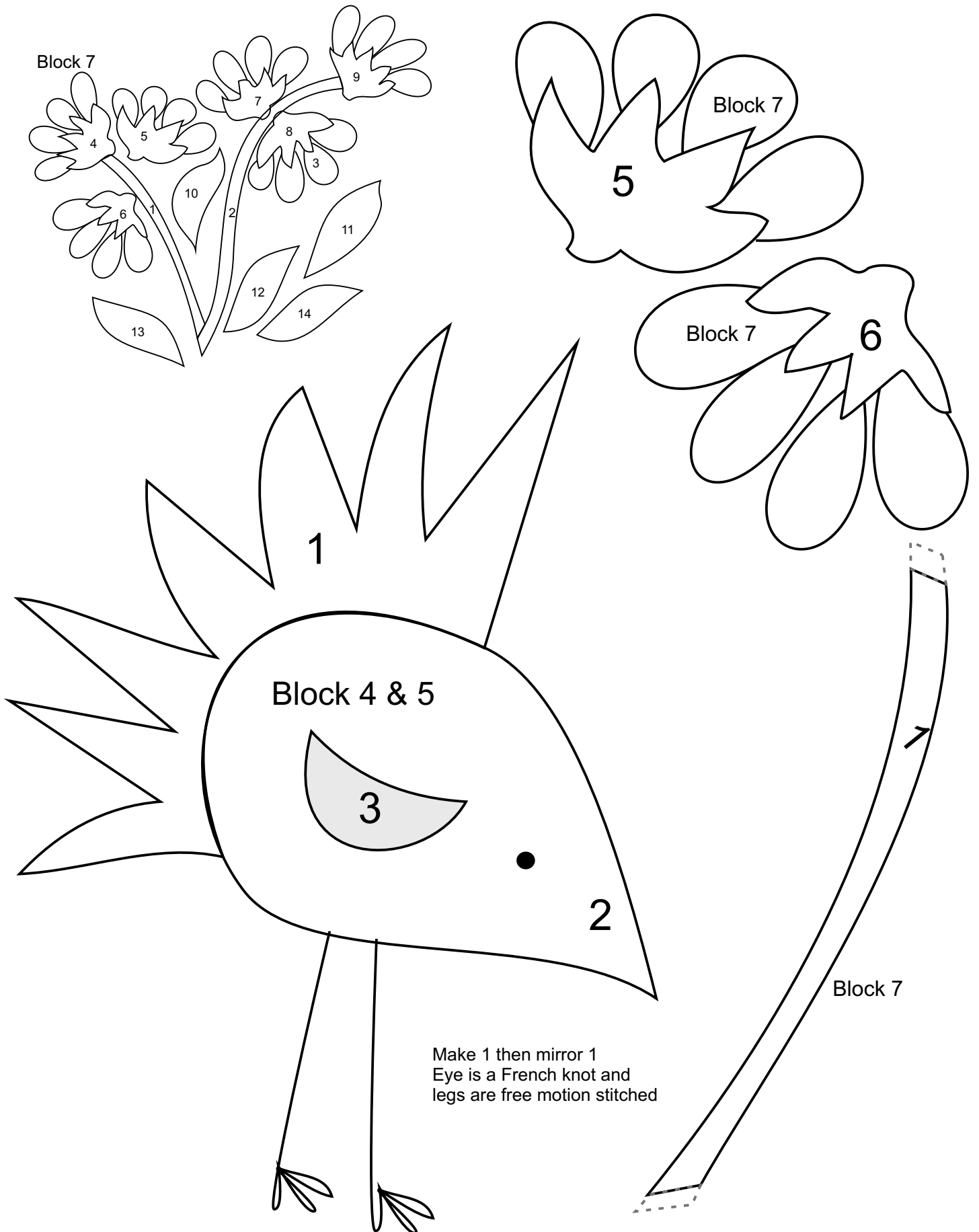


Patterns

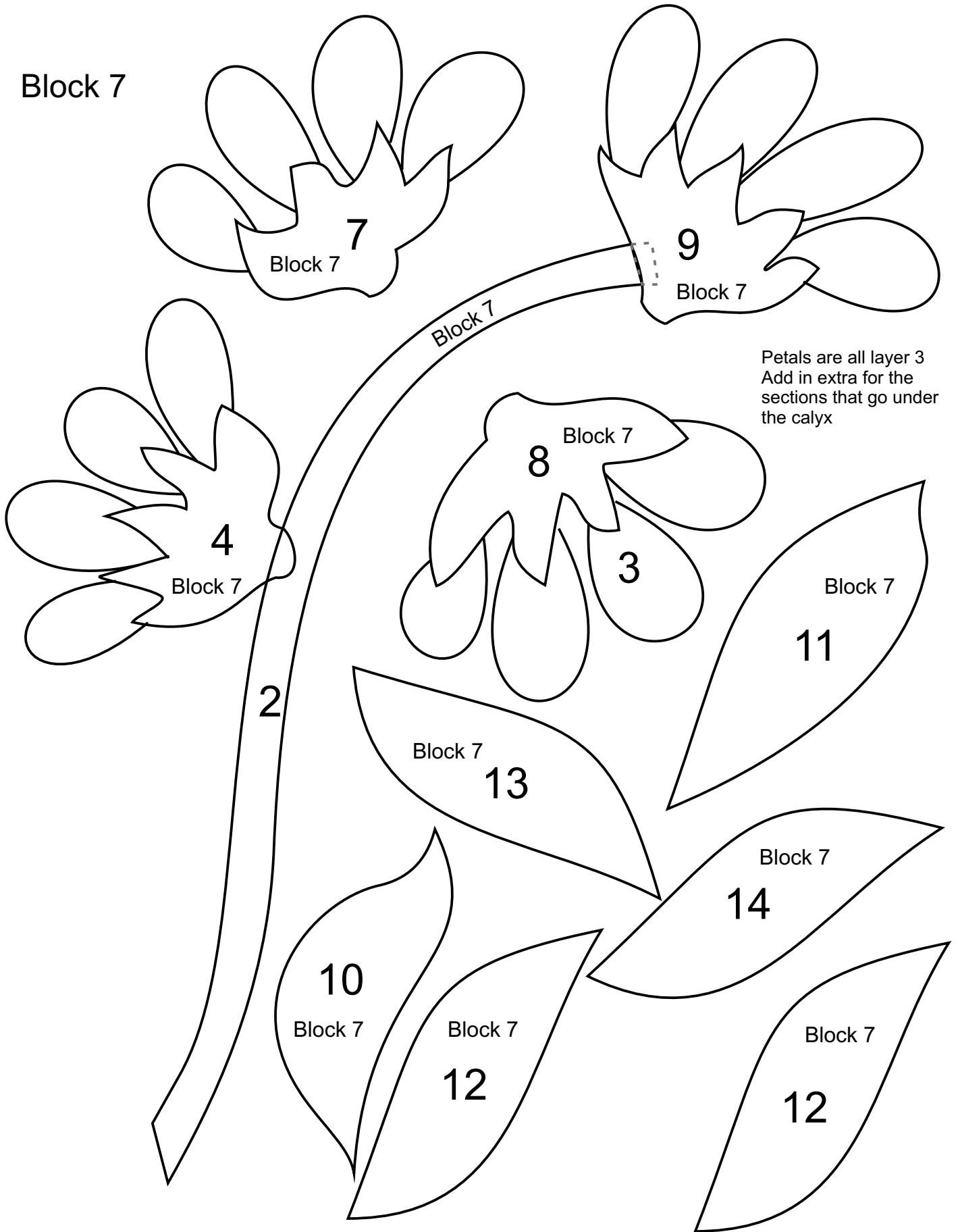


Tips for appliqué

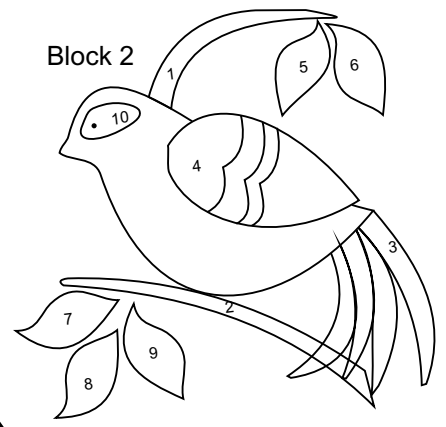
- Cut your background fabric slightly bigger (at least 1" larger all around than your finished size). You can trim it back to the correct size once you have completed the appliqué.
- When appliqué pieces overlap its called "Layered appliqué". It is important to stitch the bottom layer in place first.
- You do not need to turn under seam allowances that lay under other pieces.
- If your pattern has numbers referring to the stitching sequence (order in which pieces are appliquéd), transfer the numbers to the background fabric.
- Lightly trace the design onto your background fabric using a thin mechanical pencil, silver pencil or white chalk pencil for dark fabrics or make an overlay to guide you with placement if you do not want to draw onto the background fabric.



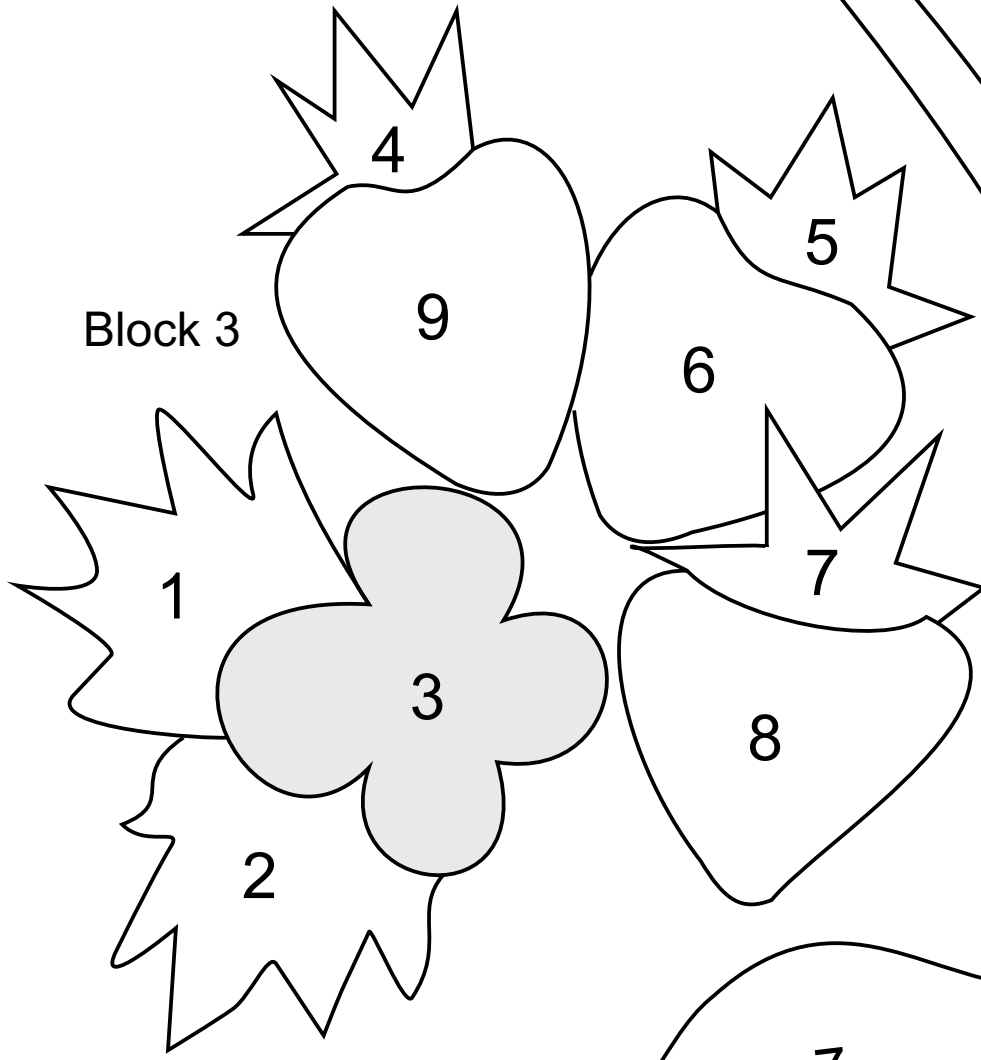
Block 7



Petals are all layer 3
Add in extra for the
sections that go under
the calyx

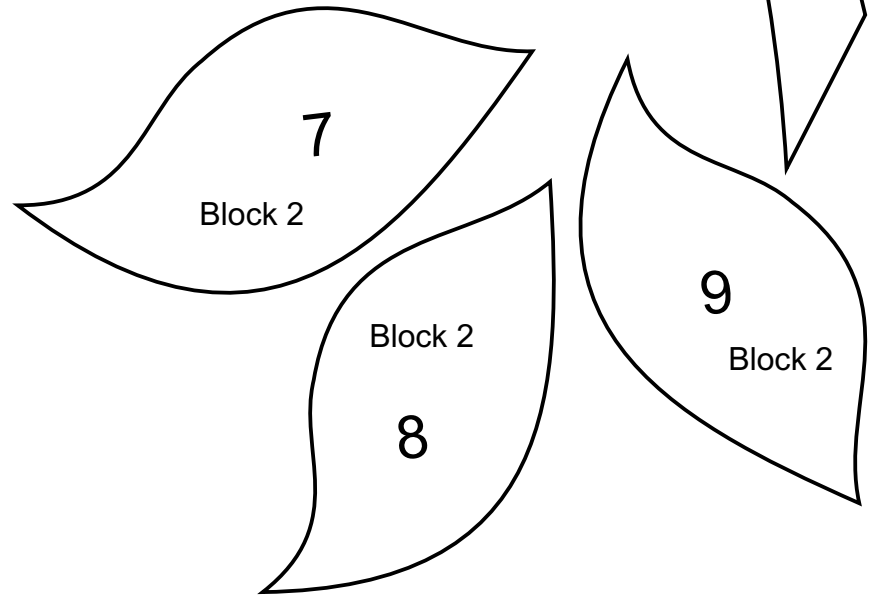


Block 3



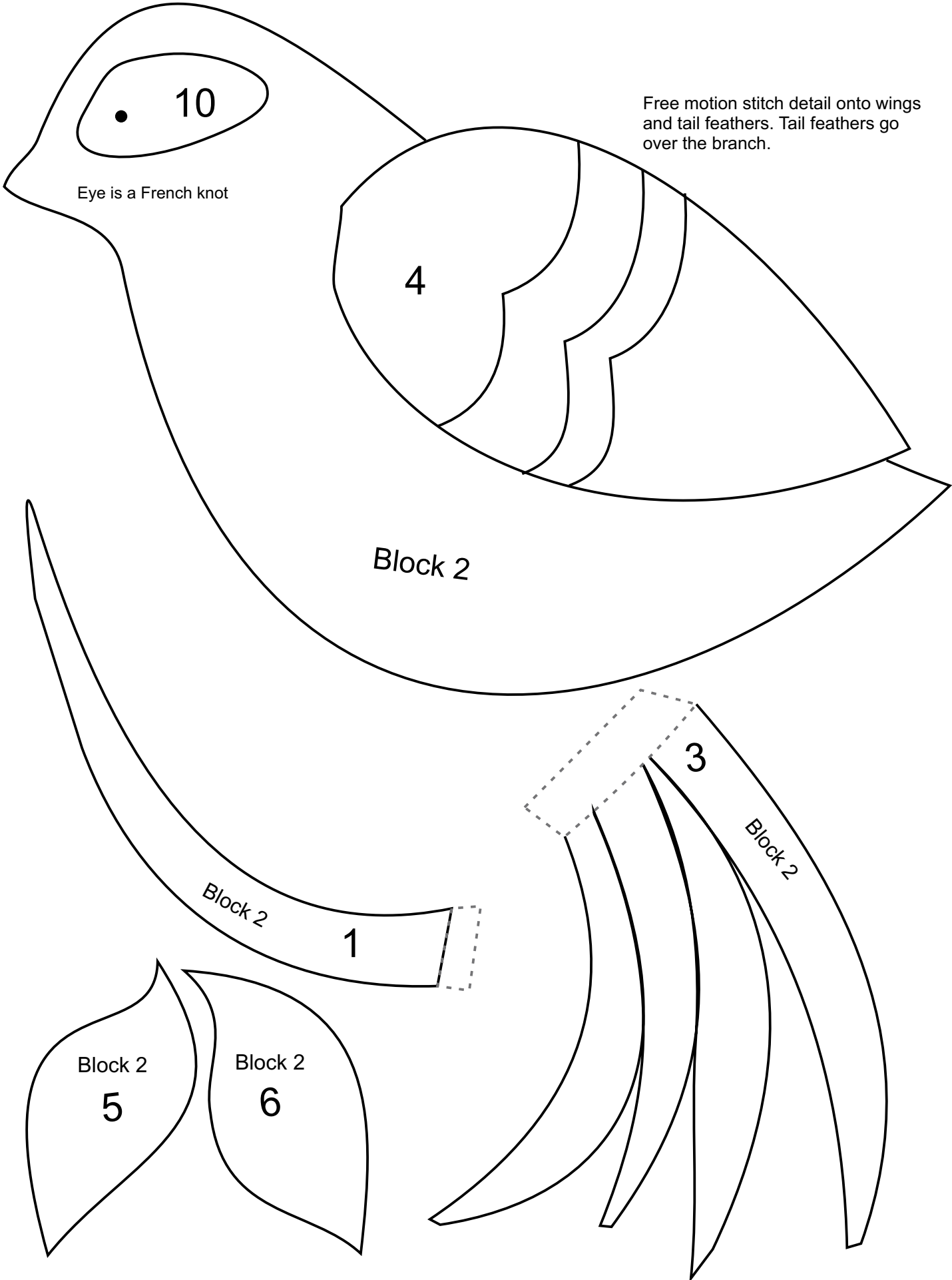
2

Block 2



For any queries, contact
 Esther Snyman
 072 612 3284
 esther@wispernet.co.za

Free motion stitch detail onto wings and tail feathers. Tail feathers go over the branch.



Ribbon Embroidery
by Di van Niekerk

The Alphabet:
Ornate Letters



Requirements



- Printed or traced design
- Window fabric
- Small seed beads: lilac / baby pink
- Backing fabric
- 10 inch (25 cm) hoop

Ribbons:

- | | |
|---|--|
|  | 1) Di van Niekerk's
2 mm silk no 30 |
|  | 2) Di van Niekerk's
2 mm silk no 69 |
|  | 3) Di van Niekerk's
4 mm silk no 127 |

Thread:

- Gumnut Aztecs turquoise (medium)
- Gumnut Astecs turquoise (dark)
- Chameleon stranded silk no 40
- Chameleon stranded silk no 23
- Creinik blending filament no 032 pearl

Note: use one strand of thread unless suggested otherwise.

Needles:

- Crewel size 8 or 9
- Chenille size 20 and 22
- Tapestry no 24
- Crewel size 10 or straw size 9 for beading

Stitches used:

Back stitch, Detached chain-stitch, Fly stitch, Fly-stitch rose, French knot, Outline stitch, Raised stem-stitch, Ribbon stitch, Stem stitch, Stab stitch, Straight stitch, Twisted ribbon-stitch and Whipped back-stitch.



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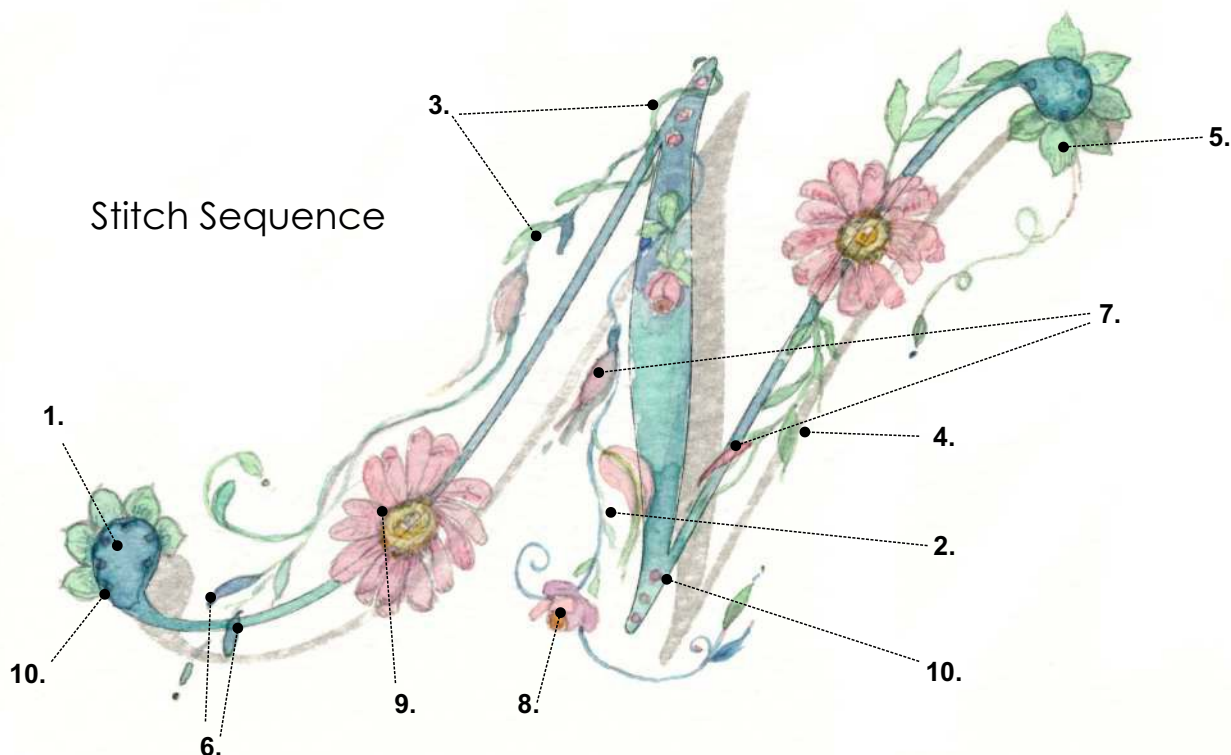
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The Alphabet: N

Stitch Sequence



1. Fill the initial: Use two strands of thread **a** and form the foundation stitches for raised stem-stitch. Work horizontal stitches from side to side spaced about 3 mm apart. Pull the stitches quite taut and use an even tension. Work over the flowers, leaves and stems. Use two strands of the same thread **a** for the raised stem-stitch, pushing the stitches close together with your fingertip as you form the subsequent rows.

2. Make the turquoise blue stems: Use two strands of thread **b** and form the turquoise blue stems in back stitch. Refer to the design for the position of the stems, making stitches about 3 mm in length. Use a gentle, even tension and make shorter stitches when you reach a curve. Use ribbon **2** and whip the back stitches to form the thick blue

stems. For very fine stems it is not necessary to whip the back stitches.

3. Make the light green stems: Use two strands of thread **b** and form the green stems in back stitch as you did above. To form the thick green stems, use ribbon **1** and whip the back stitches as you did before.

4. Make the light green leaves: Use ribbon **1** and detached chain-stitch to form the light green leaves, working from the stem outwards. Add a two-wrap French knot at the end of the light green stems. Change to thread **d** and make a straight stitch at the tip of some leaves for an interesting play with colour.

5. Make the leaves on the rounded ends: Use ribbon **1** and



The Alphabet: N

start at the sharp tip of the leaf with a straight stitch. Make two or three fly stitches close together to fill in the shape of a leaf. Change to thread **b** and add a straight stitch down the centre of the leaf. Change to thread **e** and add a second straight stitch alongside to create interesting highlights.

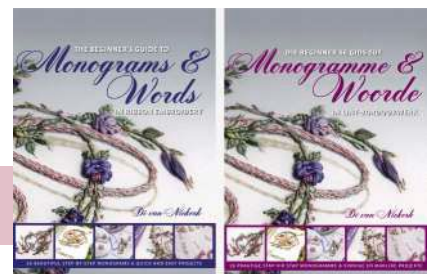
6. Make the turquoise blue leaves: Use ribbon **2** and detached chain-stitch to form the turquoise blue leaves on the stem. Work from the stem outwards. Add a one-wrap French knot at the end of the blue stems. Change to thread **c** and add a light green straight stitch on some leaves. Use thread **b** to add the dark turquoise stitches at the tip of the leaves.

7. Make the pink buds: Use ribbon **3** and ribbon or straight stitch to form the tiny pink buds. Use detached chain-stitch for the large teardrop shape buds. Make a ribbon stitch on the top if you need to form a fuller bud. Use thread **c** or **d**, add a few straight stitches at the tip of the buds. To neaten the detached chain-stitches, use thread **d** or **b** and a grab stitch. To form the calyx on the side of the large bud, use ribbon **1** and a fly stitch. Change to thread **d** and use tiny stab stitches to re-shape the calyx if necessary.

8. Make the pink roses: Use thread **d** and make four or five French knots in the centre of the rose. Wrap the thread twice around the needle. Change to ribbon **3** and make fly-stitch roses. Use a gentle tension for a soft, open rose.

9. Make the pink daisies: Use ribbon **3** and ribbon stitch to form the pink daisies. Use twisted ribbon-stitch for the curved petals. Work from the centre outwards. Change to thread **d** and make two-wrap French knots in the centre of the daisy. Add a yellow knot at the tip of some daisy petals. Use thread **c** and the same stitch to make the green knots in the centre.

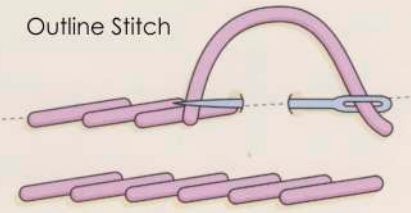
10. Embellish the initial: Use thread **b** and stem or outline stitch along the edges of the initial to create a shadow and to neaten the edge. Add three-wrap French knots on the rounded ends of the initial. Change to thread **e** and whip some stems again with the shiny thread to add interesting highlights. Attach three pink beads at the sharp points of the initial. ☘



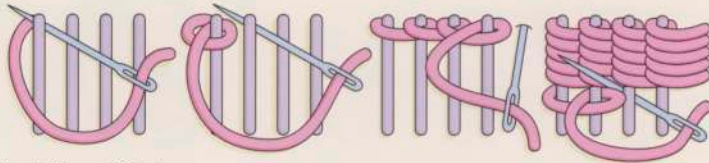
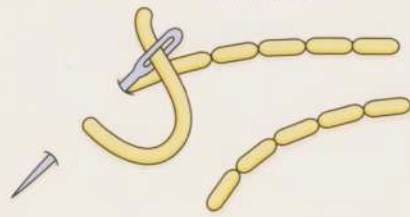
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STITCH GALLERY

Outline Stitch



Back Stitch

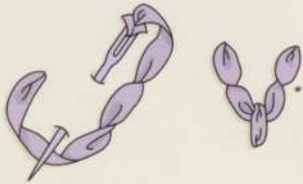


Raised Stem Stitch

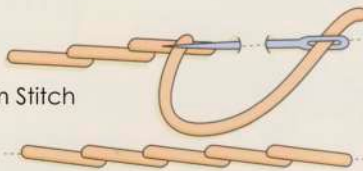


Twisted Ribbon-Stitch

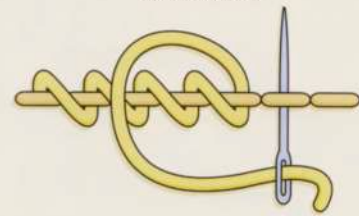
Fly Stitch



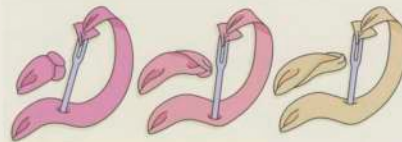
Stem Stitch



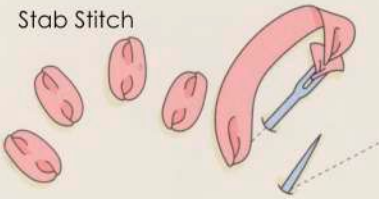
Whipped Back Stitch



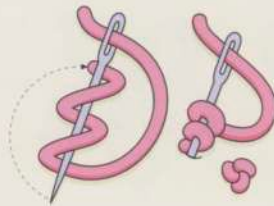
Ribbon Stitch



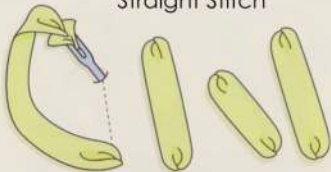
Stab Stitch



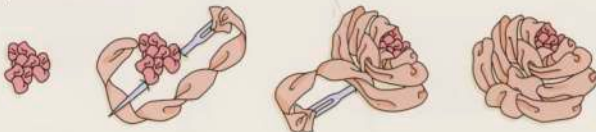
French Knot



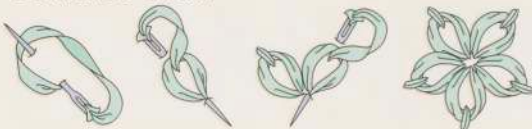
Straight Stitch



Fly stitch rose



Detached Chain





Three thick 'n thirsty cotton tea towels, all different, all woven on the same warp.

Handwoven tea-towels

for a festive table or al-fresco lunch

Probably the most underestimated item in any kitchen is the humble tea-towel. We all own a pile of them, and we all mistreat them, abuse them, burn them (I cook on a gas hob) and wear holes in them, and then buy the next lot without giving them a second thought. It may come as a surprise then, when I confess that one of my favourite things to weave is tea-towels – and guest towels, and hand towels ... But tea-towels most of all.

There is something rather special about a celebration

table that is graced with crisp fresh linen and a crispy crusted cottage loaf wrapped in an equally crisp tea towel. A basket of fresh bread rolls lined with a pretty towel, or even a tray covered with an attractive cloth will add a certain level of elegance to any table. For me, it is about the memories associated with them that makes them so special – who I was with the previous time I used them, who gave them to me, or even who gave me the materials that I used to make them.

These particular cloths are made from Egyptian cotton which was passed on to me by a non-weaving buddy many years ago. I stowed it away in my stash, and it jumped straight into my hands when I started planning this project. Red and White is such a classic kitchen combination, and totally appropriate for the forthcoming Holiday season. The structure I chose is the classic 'Waffle Weave', with its little hollows that make it super absorbent and attractive into the bargain.

Waffle weave is easily achievable on a Rigid Heddle loom, and in this case, because the borders are plain weave, I have used two pick up sticks. If I were weaving the waffle structure to the full width of the cloth, one pick up stick would have been sufficient.

The cotton I used approximates a four ply thickness, and although it is not available in this country, Colourspun's four ply cotton would work beautifully and the superb colour range offers plenty of choice. The correct reed for this thickness is the 12.5 d.p.i, which, once the cloth is washed, gives a nice dense structure.

To weave the cloths, you will need first to plan your stripe pattern, and of course you can use as few or as many colours as you like. I chose just two, because I wanted a really fresh look, and set my warp at 50 cm wide. Two of the towels have decorative panels which are made using a simple inlay technique, and to plan the inlay pattern, you will need to plot your design on squared paper, using one square per pair of



Begin by weaving 4 cm using plain sewing cotton for the weft.

threads (one slot thread and one hole thread). The inlay pattern is woven on a plain ground, not the waffle structure.

My colour sequence for making the warp (using the direct warping method) over 50 cm, using the 12.5 d.p.i reed was as follows: Thread 10 slots white, 2 slots red, 4 slots white, 4 slots red, 4 slots white, 2 slots red and then white only until 26 slots before the other side, when the stripe pattern is repeated. End the warp threading with 10 slots white to balance the pattern.

Once the warp is completed and rolled on to the warp roller, thread the holes and tie on to the front stick in the usual way. Then, using ordinary sewing thread as weft, weave 4 cm plain weave. This will be the hem which will be zig-zagged, or put through the overlocker once the towel is off the loom, before being turned under and hemmed in the normal way. Using sewing thread as weft in this

way means that the turned section of the hem is less bulky, and neater in appearance than if the normal weft thread were used.

After the hem section, weave at least ten rows of plain weave before commencing the Waffle Weave pattern.

For the waffle weave section, put your heddle in the down position and behind the heddle, with the first pick up stick, go over one warp thread and under the next, over one and under one all the way across the warp. If you are only picking a certain section of the warp, put your pick up stick through the normal shed until you come to the section where you want the waffle weave to show, and then go over one and under one for that particular section, and take the pick up stick back into the normal shed for the rest of the warp width.

Leaving this stick in place, the

weaving routine is as follows:

- Row 1** Heddle down. Put the stick onto its side to create the spaces in the warp that form the first row of the pattern.
- Row 2** Heddle up. Keep the pick up stick flat, and move it right up until it is lying behind the heddle – this raises the extra warp threads that make the vertical sides of the waffle weave cells.
- Row 3** Heddle down. This is a normal down row, so the pick up stick stays at the back of the loom, close to the roller.
- Row 4** With the heddle up, and the stick lying flat, slide the stick up to just behind the heddle as you did for row 2.
- Row 5** With the heddle in the down position, turn the stick on it's side, and bring it up to just behind the heddle. This row creates the second row of horizontal skips, that closes the top of the waffle cell.
- Row 6** In order to complete the sequence, this row must be a plain row with the heddle in the up position, and the stick lying flat at the back of the loom next to the roller.

By repeating rows 3 and 4, two or even three times it is possible to extend the length of the waffle weave cell. However it is important to remember that long "floats" can become unstable if allowed to become too long.



Plain weave border with the Waffle Weave in the centre panel.



Detail of the inlay showing the pattern thread going through the shed, and floating over the pattern areas.

If you choose to use the waffle weave structure over only a certain section of the warp, then the pick

up stick must run through the middle of the shed in the areas which are not picked up, and over

one warp and under one in the pick up areas. In this instance, you will need to use a second pick up stick in the following way:

With the heddle in the down position and the first pick up stick already in place, pick up the warp threads that are lying over the top of the first pick up stick and that form part of the pattern areas. Thus this second stick, will only have threads in the areas where the pattern will occur. It is this second stick which will then be moved up to behind the heddle when the heddle is in the up position in rows 2 and 4, while the first stick will remain at the back of the loom next to the roller.

The inlay designs are a weaving technique which offers great scope for embellishments. They are constructed by putting the plain warp through the shed in the normal way, and running the pattern thread through the same shed, going over or under the upper layer of warp threads in any sequence the constructs a



pleasing design. It is also, of course perfectly feasible to opt for a simple cross-stitch or embroidered design for the embellishment instead of the pattern inlay.

This may seem like a complicated instruction to follow, but I do urge you to try it as the

result is so satisfying. If you take it step by step you are sure to grasp the concept. Once you have made and used your own towels they will no doubt become a feature in your home, and the homes of family and friends too!



Glynis teaches weaving and sells all the supplies you require to start weaving including the looms. Contact her on www.brooklands.co.za or 0828862152



Photographer: Nikki Opperman

Little Village

Down South

Part 4: Rose Cottage

In Part 4 of our Little Village Down South series we will complete the Rose Cottage with its neatly trimmed rose bushes on either side. In the next issue we will make the Church.



Requirements

Before you begin:

- Consult the diagram to determine the finished size of each block
- The pattern is broken up into smaller sections. Each section is then stitched together to form a whole
- The sashing between the blocks is 1¼" wide

You will need:

- Assortment of fabrics (see main photo for ideas)
- 50 cm sashing fabric
- 1 m background fabric
- 75 cm border fabric
- 110 cm square of batting and backing fabric
- Ruler and fine liner
- Add-a-Quarter ruler
- Assorted embroidery threads for embellishing blocks
- Neutral coloured sewing thread for piecing
- Rotary cutter, ruler and mat
- Sewing machine and usual sewing requirements

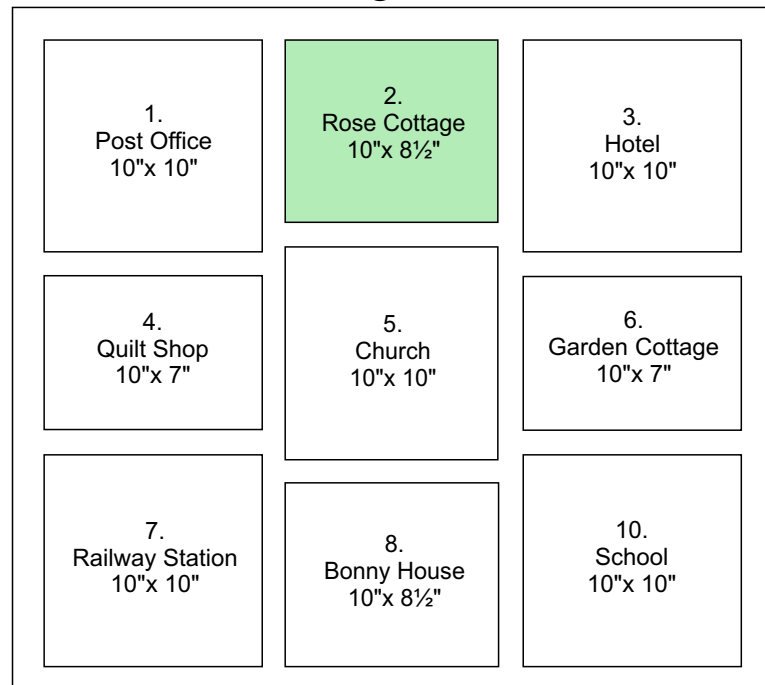
Finished size: 37" x 32"

Seam allowance: ¼"

This series of village houses wall hanging is foundation pieced and not at all difficult to stitch. Use your choice of fabrics to make them, depicting your own village. Once you have completed the series of houses, why not paint the matching quilt hanger shown above?

Each of these buildings can also be used as individual wall hangings or combined to make a wall hanging.

Diagram



The Rose Cottage pattern is divided into units A to H as shown.

The dark lines are the stitching lines and the outside, grey stippled lines are the cutting lines.

Follow the stitching sequence on each template i.e. starting with 1 and ending with 18.

Fold the pattern back and trim excess fabric to 1/4" seam allowance every time you complete a stitching line. This will reduce any bulkiness in the seams.

Reduce your stitch size to 1.5 and start and stop exactly on the line.

Stitch the individual units and

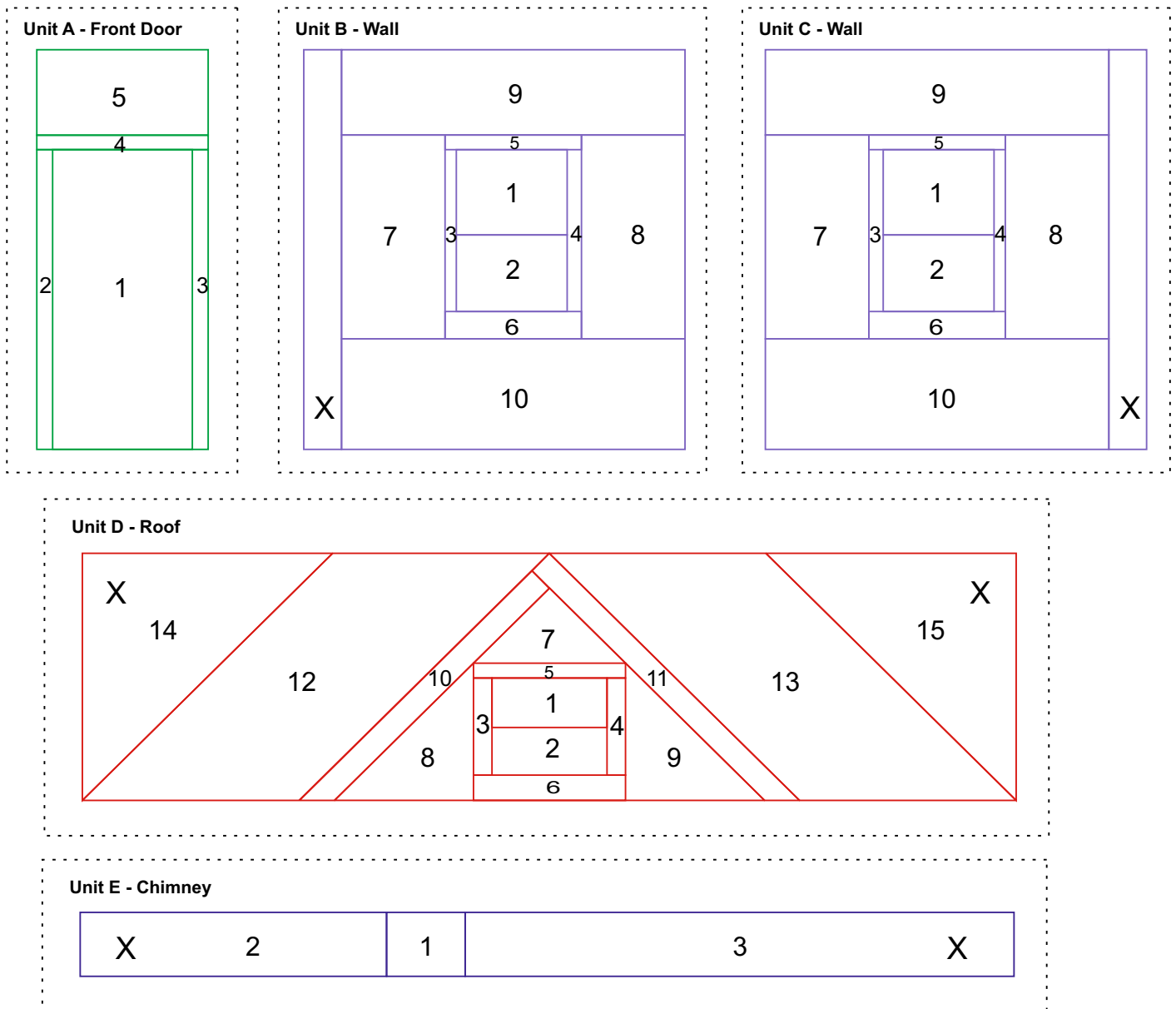
assemble in rows as shown. Remove paper once you have completed the block.

Embellish the block with charms if you wish.

We will only add the sashings once we have completed all the blocks.

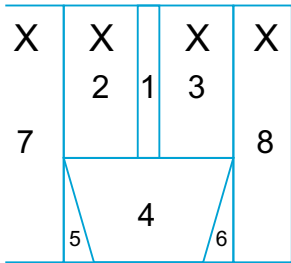


Foundation Piecing Units A to H:

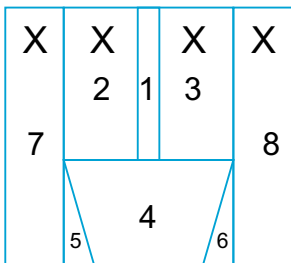


Little Village Part 4

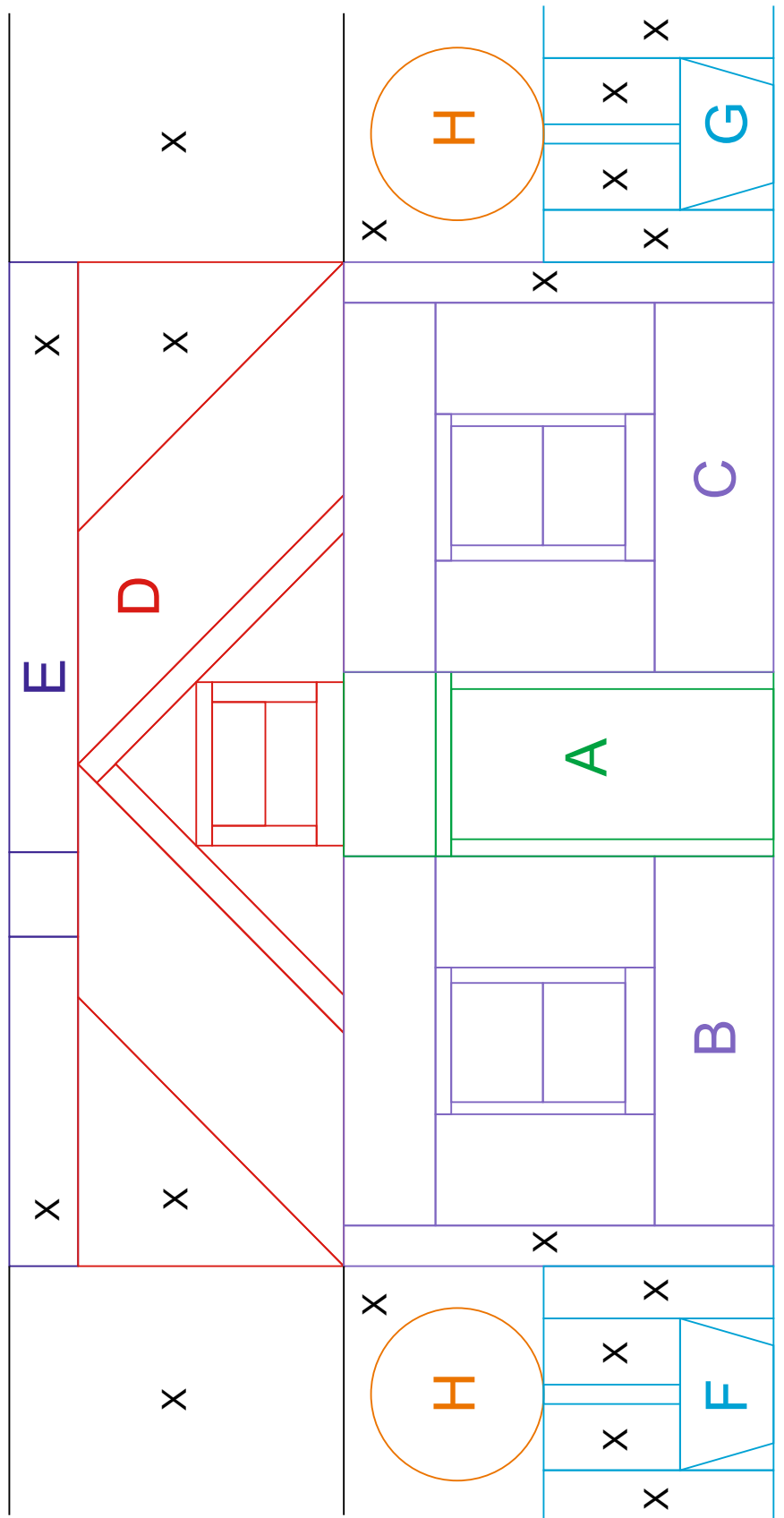
Unit F - Left Flower Pot



Unit G - Right Flower Pot



Unit H -
Rose Bushes
CUT 2





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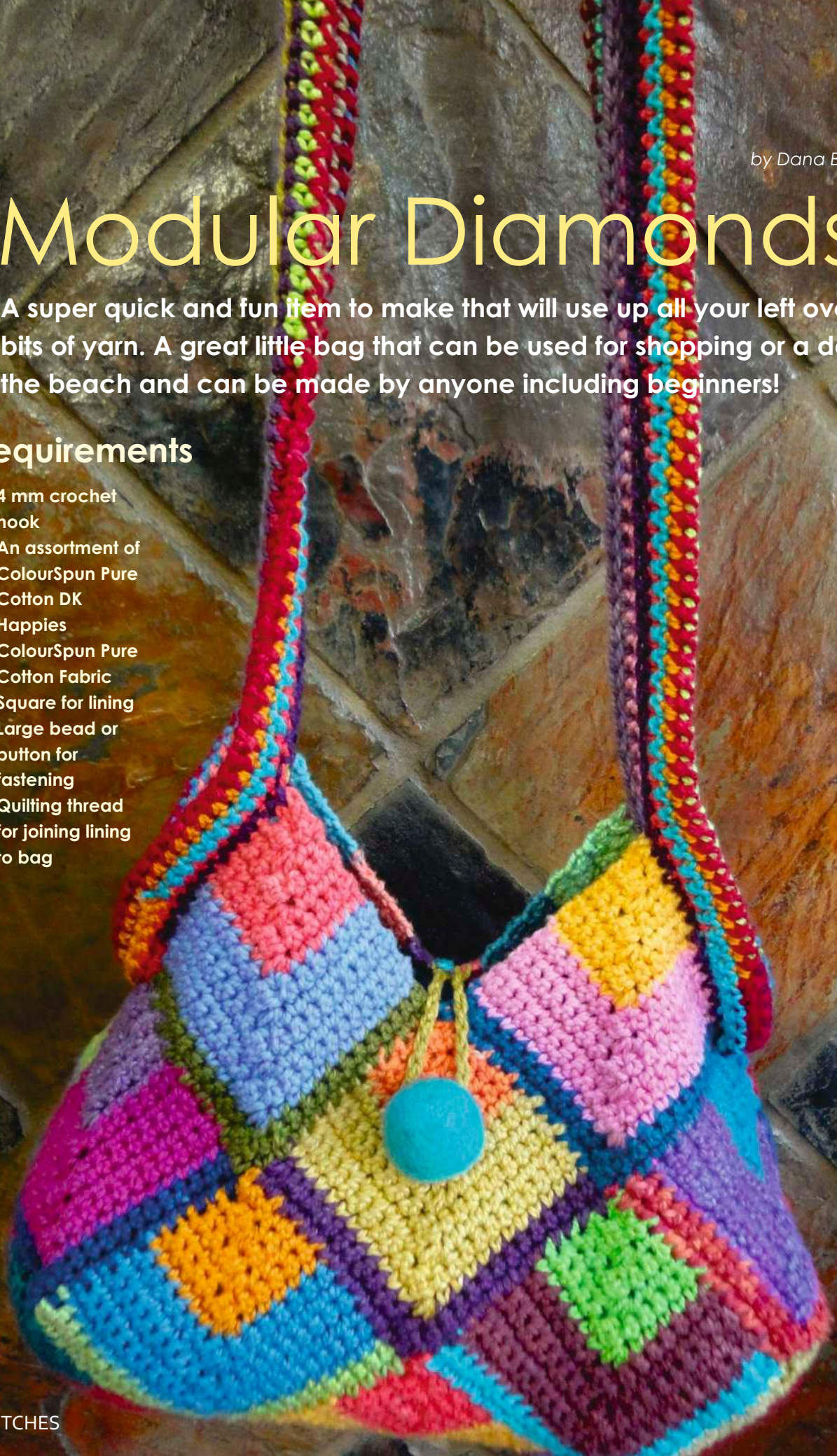
by Dana Biddle

Modular Diamonds

A super quick and fun item to make that will use up all your left over bits of yarn. A great little bag that can be used for shopping or a day at the beach and can be made by anyone including beginners!

Requirements

- 4 mm crochet hook
- An assortment of ColourSpun Pure Cotton DK Happies
- ColourSpun Pure Cotton Fabric Square for lining
- Large bead or button for fastening
- Quilting thread for joining lining to bag



Abbreviations

ch = chain

dc = double crochet

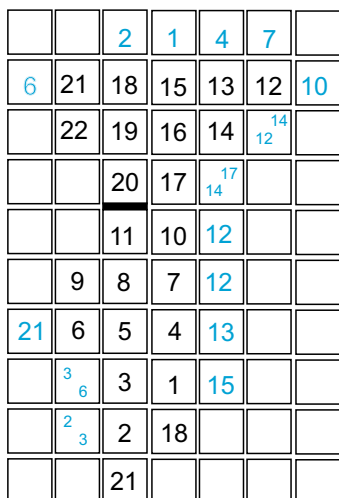
st/s = stitch/es

dec = (insert hook into next st, pull up loop) x 3; yarn over hook; pull through 4 loops

The diamonds can be worked separately and then stitched together or can be crochet onto each other leaving only 2 short seams to complete (6 to 21 and 10 to 17).

On the diagram, the ● indicates the top of each diamond. The diagonal lines indicate the direction of the decreases. The sequence of blocks is numbered in black and the numbers in blue indicate which blocks are joined to each other and where, when they are not adjacent to each other. Note that blocks 11 and 20 are not joined together.

Each diamond shape is crochet by starting with an odd number of stitches then decreasing 2 stitches in the middle of every row until you run out of stitches. By following this simple rule you can adjust the size of your bag to whatever you like.



Pattern

NOTE:

• Wherever the side of a block is not attached to another block, work the first row stitches in Chainless Foundation Double Crochet.

• Start every row with a Chainless Double Crochet turning stitch.

Chainless Foundation Double Crochet

1st dc: 2 ch, insert hook into 2nd ch from hook, pull up loop, ch1, yarn over hook, pull through 2 loops on hook.

2nd and all following dc: insert hook into ch1 of previous stitch, pull up loop, ch1, yarn over hook, pull through 2 loops on hook.

Chainless Double Crochet Turning Stitch

Complete the previous row, turn, insert hook into last st of previous row, pull up loop, yarn over hook, pull through 2 loops on hook = 1st dc.

Basic Diamond

Change colour after row 2 and row 8.

Row 1: 29dc.

Row 2: 13dc, dec, 13dc – 27sts.

Row 3: 12dc, dec, 12dc – 25sts.

Row 4: 11dc, dec, 11dc – 23sts.

Row 5: 10dc; dec, 10dc – 21sts.

Row 6: 9dc, dec, 9dc – 19sts.

Continue pattern as set until 1st remains, end off.

Following the diagram complete and attach all 22 diamonds.

Lining

Measure the size of 1 knitted diamond.

Using these measurements, where 1 diamond = 1 block of the diagram

above, plot a pattern for the lining of your bag. Cut out leaving a seam allowance of 5 mm all around. Attach sides of blocks according to diagram and press down hem on blocks 9, 11, 20 and 22. Insert lining into knitted bag and attach by stitching together securely.

Handles (Make 2)

(The length of the handles may be adjusted by working more or fewer stitches.)

Work in dc throughout, changing colour randomly.

Row 1: work chainless foundation double crochet to required length.

Row 2 to 12: dc.

Fold 1st handle in ½ lengthwise.

Starting at the bottom of the outside edge of block 9 and ending at the bottom of the outside edge of block 11, pin handle together lengthwise, encasing the outside edges of blocks 9 and 11. Stitch together along length making sure it is securely attached to the bag. Repeat as above to attach 2nd handle to blocks 20 and 22.

Fastening

Starting by working into the point where blocks 20 and 22 meet, crochet a chain about 18 cm long and work dc back along its length. Join to the point where blocks 20 and 22 meet, to form a loop. Make sure that the loop is securely attached to the bag. End off. Position felt bead or button on block 8 so that the loop fastening will close the bag snugly without pulling. Attach securely.



Santa's Gift Bag

by Sharon Calverley



This nifty little bag filled with Christmas goodies is a different way to give gifts. Super easy to make and re-usable, which solves the problem of what to do with endless piles of gift wrap left over after Christmas day. You can also use this cute little Santa design to make placemats.

Requirements

- 25 cm x 106 cm strip (WOF) of green and blue fabric. I used a blue with white splotches and a green Christmas themed fabric
- Off cuts of fabric for Santa block: red, flesh and white (I used one with blue stars)
- From another red fabric you need: (1) 2½" x 9" strip and (2) 2½" x 22" strips
- Neutral and red sewing thread
- Spray starch
- Turning tool or safety pin
- Heat erase pen
- Dark blue embroidery thread and needle
- Rotary ruler, cutter and mat
- Sewing machine and usual sewing requirements

Optional: Edge stitch foot and some blusher

How to

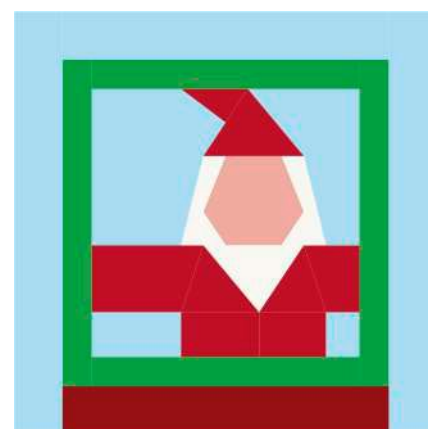
1. Copy the foundation pattern and cut out the individual sections.
2. Stitch out the individual sections then join together. Your block will finish to 6½" square.
3. Remove the paper then spray with spray starch. Press well.



4. Using a heat erase pen, draw in some facial features.
5. Stitch the eyes with a 5-wrap French knot then the nose and lips with a back or stem stitch using 2 strands of dark blue embroidery thread.
6. From the green fabric cut (4) 1½" inch wide strips to fit the block and attach as the first border.
7. Cut a 2½" wide strip of blue fabric and attach to top of block.
8. Cut a 2½" wide strip of red fabric (it doesn't have to be the same as the one you used on

Santa) and attach to bottom of block. Put the remaining piece of the strip to one side as we will use that for the handle.

9. Cut 2½" wide strips from the blue fabric and attach to sides. Press well and trim to neaten.



10. Using the finished piece as a guide cut (1) back piece from the blue fabric. Then from the remaining green fabric cut a back and front.

11. Place a blue back and the pieced piece right sides together and stitch around the sides and bottom, leaving the top open. Clip the bottom corners and turn right side out.

TIP: Remember to double stitch the start or end of your stitching to reinforce it.

12. Place the green front and back right sides together and stitch the sides and bottom

Santa's Gift Bag

together, keeping a section in the middle of the bottom open so that you can turn right side out later on. Clip corners.

13. Using the remaining red 2½" x 22" strips, turn a small hem on both ends of each strip.

14. Fold the strips lengthwise in half, right sides together and press. Stitch down the length, making sure you double stitch at the start and end.

15. Turn right side out with the turning tool or safety pin. Press.

16. Pin straps to front and back of bag. Stitch in place making sure that you stitch at least ½" from the top otherwise the handles will get caught in the seam allowances.

TIP: Before stitching in place make 100% sure that the handles lay correctly.



17. Pin the handles facing down and out of the way.

18. Place the main bag inside the lining, right sides together and line the side seams up. Check that the handles are facing down and out

of the way then pin all around the top. Stitch around the top.

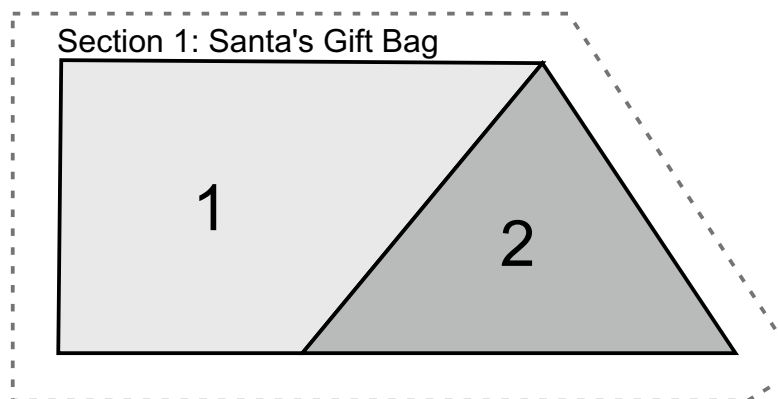
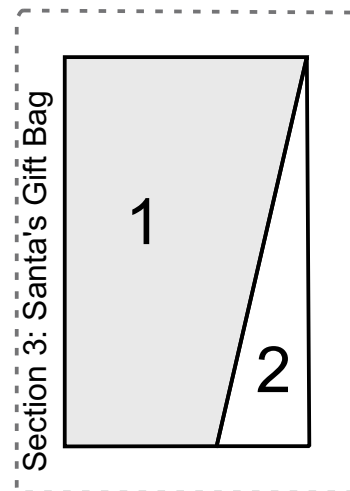
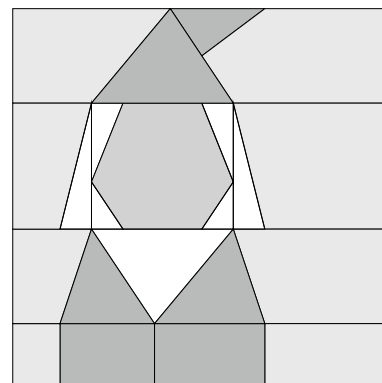
19. Pull the bag **through** the opening in the lining. Close the opening in the lining.

20. Remove the pins from the handles because they are bound to prick you. Push the lining back down into the bag.

21. Take your time to roll the seam at the top so that they lay neatly then press well.

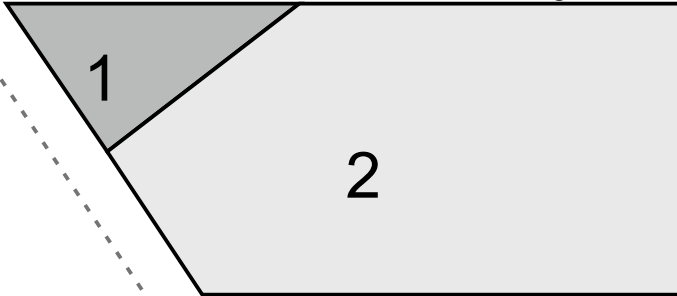
All that remains is to top stitch around the top of the bag and to fill with pressies!

PS: A little bit of blusher rubbed onto his cheeks puts a bit of colour on his face!

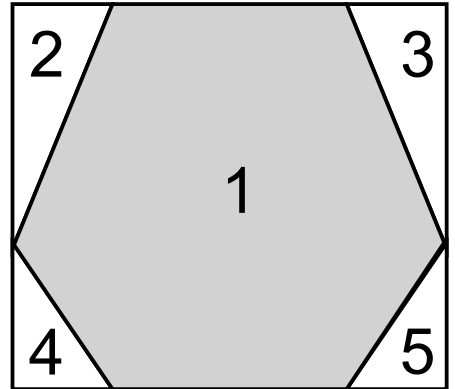


Santa's Gift Bag

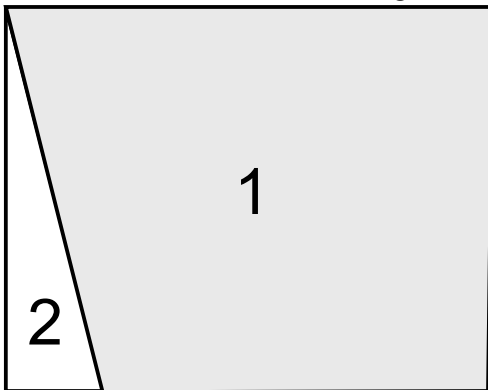
Section 2: Santa's Gift Bag



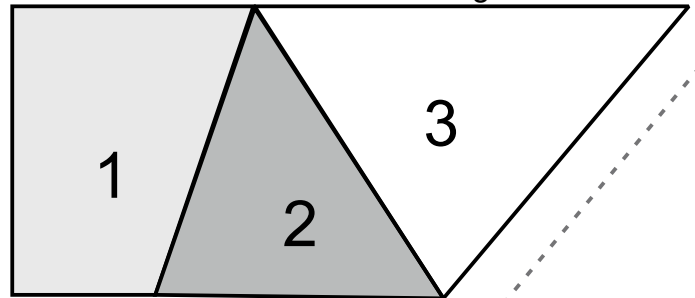
Section 4: Santa's Gift Bag



Section 5: Santa's Gift Bag



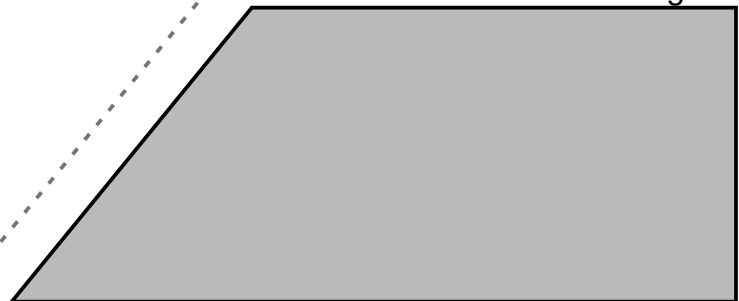
Section 6: Santa's Gift Bag



TIP:

Colour the sections in with pencil crayons, then you won't get confused

Section 7: Santa's Gift Bag



Section 8: Santa's Gift Bag





by Sarah Hatton
for Rowan Yarns

Ophelia

*A beautiful
lacy knit for
summer
featuring a
double sleeve.*

Requirements

SIZE: S, M, L, XL
To fit bust: 81-86(S) 91-97(M)
102-107(L) 112-117(XL) cm

YARN

Rowan Cotton Glacé
12 (13, 15, 16) x 50gm
1 pair 2.75 mm knitting needles
1 pair 3.25 mm knitting needles

TENSION

23sts and 32 rows to 10 cm
measured over stocking stitch
using 3.25 mm needles.

Rowan Yarns are available
from Arthur Bales 011 888 2401.
They also sell on mail order.

Pattern

BACK

Using 2.75 mm needles cast on 169
(187, 207, 225) sts.

Row 1 (RS): K1(1, 2, 2), *yfwd, K5, lift
2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th sts on right
needle over first st and off right
needle, yfwd, K1, rep from * to last
0(0, 1, 1) st, K0(0, 1, 1). 113(125, 139,
151) sts. Work in g st for 3 rows,
ending with RS facing for next row.

Change to 3.25 mm needles. Beg
and ending rows as indicated and
repeating the 40 row patt. rep
throughout, cont in patt. from
chart as folls: Work 36 rows, ending
with RS facing for next row.

Keeping patt. correct, dec 1st at
each end of next and every foll
8th row until 105(117, 131, 143) sts
rem. Cont straight until back meas
38(39, 40, 41) cm, ending with RS
facing for next row.

Shape armholes

Keeping patt. correct, cast off 6(7,
8, 9) sts at beg of next 2 rows.
93(103, 115, 125) sts. Dec 1st at
each end of next 3(5, 7, 9) rows,
then on foll 3(4, 4, 4) alt rows.
81(85, 93, 99) sts. Cont straight until
armhole meas. 21(22, 23, 24) cm,
ending with RS facing for next row.

Shape back neck

Next row (RS): patt. 23(25, 28, 31)
sts and turn, leaving rem sts on a
holder. Work each side of neck
separately. Cast off 3sts at beg of
next row, ending with RS facing for

next row. 20(22, 25, 28) sts.

Shape shoulder

Cast off 8(9, 11, 12) sts at beg of
next row, then 3sts at beg of foll
row. Cast off rem 9(10, 11, 13) sts.
With RS facing, rejoin yarn to rem
sts, cast off centre 35(35, 37, 37) sts,
patt. to end. Complete to match
first side, reversing shapings.

FRONT

Work as given for Back until 40(40,
42, 42) rows less have been
worked than on Back to beg of
shoulder shaping, ending with RS
facing for next row.

Shape front neck

Next row (RS): patt. 29(31, 35, 38)
sts and turn, leaving rem sts on a
holder. Work each side of neck
separately. Keeping patt. correct,
dec 1st at neck edge of next 6
rows, then on foll 6(6, 7, 7) alt rows.
17(19, 22, 25) sts. Work 21 rows,
ending with RS facing for next row.

Shape shoulder

Cast off 8(9, 11, 12) sts at beg of
next row. Work 1 row. Cast off rem
9(10, 11, 13) sts. With RS facing,
rejoin yarn to rem sts, cast off
centre 23sts, patt. to end.
Complete to match first side,
reversing shapings.

LONG SLEEVES

Using 2.75 needles cast on 81 (85,
87, 91) sts.

Ophelia

Row 1 (RS): K2(1, 2, 1), *yfwd, K5, lift 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th sts on right needle over first st and off right needle, yfwd, K1, rep from * to last 1(0, 1, 0) st, K1(0, 1, 0). 55(57, 59, 61) sts. Work in g st for 3 rows, ending with RS facing for next row.

Change to 3.25 mm needles. Beg and ending rows as indicated, cont in patt. from chart, shaping sides by inc 1st at each end of 7th and every foll 8th row until there are 63(67, 69, 71) sts, taking inc sts into patt. Work 9(1, 1, 1) rows, ending with RS facing for next row. (40 rows of patt. completed.) Beg with a K row, cont in st st, inc 1st at each end of next (7th, 7th, 7th) and every foll 10th(8th: 8th: 8th) row to 83(73: 81, 93) sts, then on every foll – (10th, 10th, 10th) row until there are – (87, 91, 95) sts. Cont straight until sleeve meas 46(47, 48, 48) cm, ending with RS facing for next row.

Shape top

Cast off 6(7, 8, 9) sts at beg of next 2 rows. 71(73, 75, 77) sts. Dec 1st at each end of next 11 rows, then on every foll alt row to 39sts, then on foll 9 rows, ending with RS facing for next row. 21sts. Cast off 4sts at beg of next 2 rows. Cast off rem 13sts.

SHORT SLEEVES

Using 2.75 mm needles cast on 123(129, 135, 141) sts.

Row 1 (RS): K2, *yfwd, K5, lift 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th sts on right needle over first st and off right needle, yfwd, K1, rep from * to last st, K1. 83(87, 91, 95) sts. Work in g st for 3 rows, ending with RS facing for next

row.

Change to 3.25 mm needles.

Beg and ending rows as indicated, cont in patt. from chart as folls: Work 8 rows, ending with RS facing for next row.

Shape top

Keeping patt. correct, cast off 6(7, 8, 9) sts at beg of next 2 rows. 71(73, 75, 77) sts. Dec 1st at each end of next 5 rows, then on foll alt row. 59(61, 63, 65) sts. Work 1 row, ending with RS facing for next row. (18 rows of patt. completed.) Beg with a K row, cont in st st, dec 1st at each end of next and every foll alt row to 23sts, then on foll row, ending with RS facing for next row. 21sts. Cast off 4sts at beg of next 2 rows. Cast off rem 13sts.

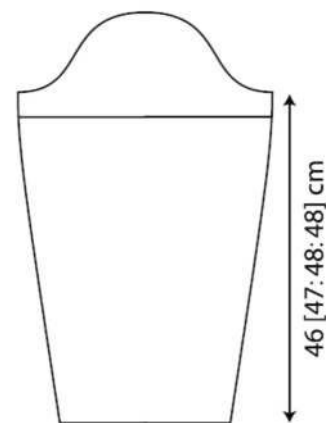
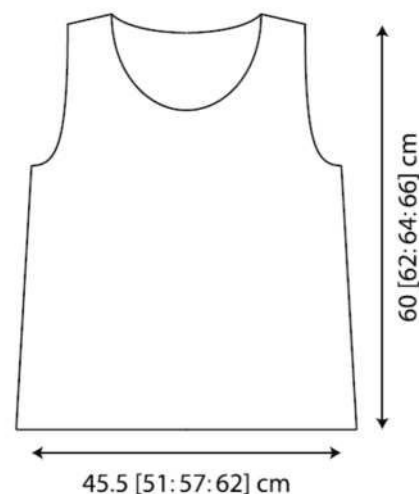
MAKING UP

Press. Join right shoulder seam using back stitch, or mattress stitch if preferred.

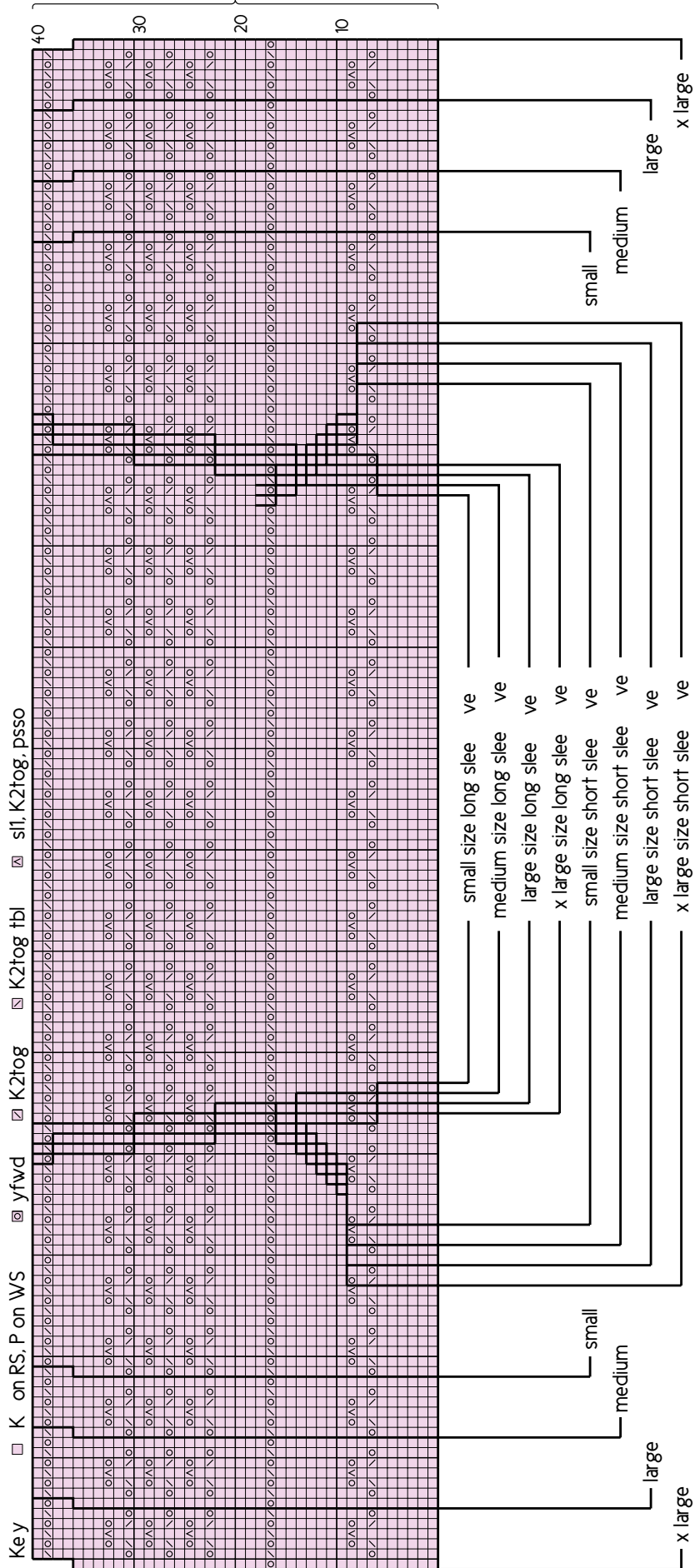
Neckband

With RS facing and using 2.75 mm needles, pick up and knit 23(23, 25, 25) sts down left side of neck, 23sts from Front, 23(23, 25, 25) sts up right side of neck, then 45(45, 47, 47) sts from Back. 114(114, 120, 120) sts. Work in g st for 3 rows, ending with RS facing for next row. Now work picot cast-off as folls: cast off 3sts (one st on right needle), *slip st on right needle back onto left needle, cast on 2sts, cast off 5sts (one st on right needle), rep from * to end and fasten off.

Join long sleeve seam. Join short sleeve seam. Slip long sleeve inside short sleeve and sew together around sleeve top edge, easing in slight fullness of short sleeve. Set in sleeves using a set-in method. ☞



40 row patt. repeat



by Marlene van Rooyen
from The Sisterhood



Crochet a DREAM CATCHER

Getting started with crochet might look complicated but in fact it is all based on very basic stitches. We grabbed some costume jewellery that we wanted to recycle, bits and bobs of left over wool for this quick project. Get started crocheting - you will be hooked in no time!

Crochet Dream Catcher

Requirements

- 3.0 mm Crochet hook
- Left over 4ply cotton yarn or any thin yarn from previous projects. Try to use wool that will fit with the size of your hoop – the smaller the hoop the thinner the yarn
- We recycled costume jewellery and 8 cm wide bangles for our hoops

ABBREVIATIONS:

ch = chain stitch

sl st = slip stitch

dc = double crochet

sc = single crochet

Pattern

Collect an assortment of items and materials for the dream catcher i.e., beads, ribbons, material, thin rope, wire, feathers etc. Decide on the colour and type of wool you are going to use. Find a spot to relax in the house and start crocheting your first dream catcher.



ROUND 1: Ch4, sl st into first ch to form a circle.

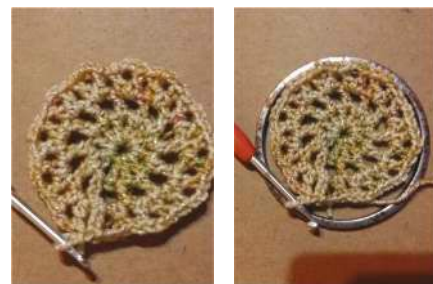
ROUND 2: Ch3 (this counts as the first dc). Crochet 11dc inside the ring. Sl st into 3rd ch from start of round 2 (12dc).



ROUND 3: Sl st into space between 2dc from round 2. Ch5 (this counts as 1dc and 2ch) into the same space. *1dc and 2ch* in each space between 2dc from round 2. Repeat from * until end. Sl st into 3rd ch from start (12dc and 12 loops).



ROUND 4: Sl st into 2ch space from round 3. Ch5 (this counts as 1dc and 2ch), 1dc and 2ch in same space. *1dc and 2ch twice into next 2ch* space from round 3. Repeat from * until end Sl st into 3rd ch from start (24dc).



Now we will continue to attach the hoop to the crocheted circle as follows:

In the first round, ch 2 (this counts as 1st sc). Sl st 1 into 2 ch space between the first dc from round 4. *Sc1, ch1* after every dc from round 4.

Marlene van Rooyen
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Crochet Dream Catcher

Note: hold the yarn at back of the hoop so when you do the sc you bring the yarn over the top of the hoop to secure your crochet circle to the hoop.

Repeat from * until end. Sl st into 1st sc (24sc).



In the second row of attaching the hoop, ch 2 (this counts as 1st sc and 1 ch), in the same space add another 1 sc. *SC 1, ch1, sc 1* into 1 ch space from round 5. Repeat from * until end (48sc). Sl st into 2nd ch from start.



The process to fasten the hoop to the crochet circle is now completed.

Before fastening off ch 20 to form the cord for hanging. Sl st into same stitch where you started the cord.

Fasten off, sew in ends and add any fringe of your choice at the bottom of the hoop.

It is believed that good dreams will find their way to the center of your dream catcher and glide down the fringe to the sleeping person below. Negative dreams will get trapped in the web and expire when the first rays of the sun strike them.

The dream catcher will help anybody to get a peaceful sleep with only good dreams. It is never too late to acquire a dream catcher!

Note: If you are left-handed, simply reverse the instructions given. Crochet Dream Catcher kits can be ordered from Marlene.



Continued from page 31

Ladies Cardigan In Batik

TO MAKE UP AND BORDERS:

Join shoulder seams. Fold sleeve in half lengthways, then placing folds on shoulder seam, sew sleeve to Front and Back. Sew up side and sleeve seam.

SLEEVE EDGE: With RS facing and 4 mm hook, join yarn at underarm seam and work as given for first row of patt. using starting ch as foundation ch and working 7tr for each shell.

LOWER EDGE: With RS facing join yarn at lower edge of left Front and work as given for sleeve edge.

NECK BORDER:

Using 3,5 hook, with RS facing and starting at top of right front neck edge work one row dc evenly spaced around Front neck, Back and second Front. Work \pm 9dc for every 5 cm.

Work 4 more rows in dc and fasten off.

Optional: Work one row crab st. around neck edge.

LEFT FRONT BORDER:

With RS facing and 3,5 hook starting at neck edge work 5 rows

in dc.

RIGHT FRONT BORDER:

Mark position of 6 buttonholes on left Front, first 2 cm from neck edge and the last 3 cm from lower edge and the other evenly spaced.

TO MAKE A BUTTONHOLE: 3ch, miss 3dc, on next row work 3dc on top of 3 chsp.

Sew on buttons.

Block garment to measurement. Cover with a damp cloth and allow to dry.



Oh Christmas tree!

by Sharon Calverley



Christmas time is the time for families to get together and create lasting memories as we enjoy each others' company. Create special lasting memories with your children or grandchildren by making something together with them. This is an easy project and can be stitched by the youngsters - your job being to show them how to embroider and to help cut out the individual pieces.

Requirements

- 1 sheet of dark blue felt ± 12"x 18"
- 12"x 18" piece of fabric for backing
- Off cuts of light coloured and brown felt. If you want to make little hanging tabs you will need some off cuts for that
- Off cuts of check fabrics
- Lots of buttons
- Appliqué paper (I use Heat n Bond Lite or Ultra Lite)
- Heat erase pen
- Assorted embroidery threads (including gold) and needle
- Iron (you need to assist the youngsters when using an iron)
- Paperscissors
- Sewing machine and usual sewing requirements

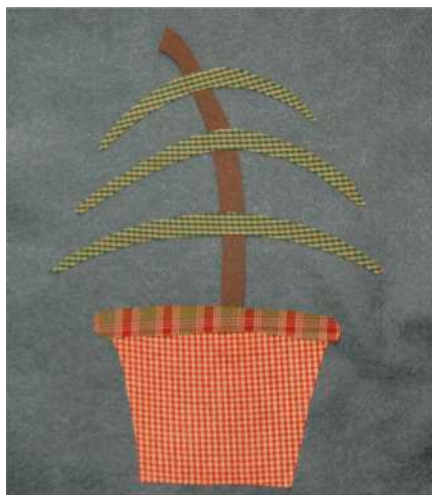
Wool felt available from:
www.thefatquarter.co.za

How to

1. Copy the patterns onto appliqué paper and fuse to the back of your chosen fabrics following the manufacturer's instructions for your specific type of appliqué paper.

2. Cut out the individual pieces on the line, adding a small seam allowance for those pieces that fit under another piece. The wording piece does not have to be fused at this stage.

3. Remove the appliqué paper from the pot, tree and branches. Place the pieces on the dark blue felt. Don't fuse yet - first make 100% sure that they are placed correctly then fuse in place.



4. Stitch the pieces in place using a blanket stitch and two strands of embroidery thread. You can choose to use a matching thread or use a medium blue colour as I have. Normally when

stitching these country style items I tend to stick with one dark colour thread.

You can use a standard blanket stitch or a naive blanket stitch - the choice is yours.



5. Fuse the appliqué piece that will have the writing on - onto cream coloured felt and cut out on the lines. Remove the paper.

6. Using the heat erase pen, and **your own** or child's handwriting, write in the words Merry Christmas. Now draw in a few stars (basically large x's with a line through them!)



7. Using two strands of dark thread, embroider the words using a back / stem stitch. Stitch the stars with a lazy daisy stitch and dark



red thread (or gold if you wish).

8. Fuse the piece onto the pot then stitch around the outside edge using a running stitch and two strands of brown thread. Don't try to get perfect running stitches - the charm is in the unevenness!



9. Copy the star shape onto appliqué paper and cut out just outside the line.

10. Fuse to your choice of felt colour then cut out on the line. Remove the paper then fuse to top of tree. Stitch in place with a blanket stitch.

11. Let the children choose the buttons and show them how to attach them to the branches. How many you want to attach is entirely up to you.



12. Loosely stitch gold thread around the tree then stitch stab stitch a few stars at the top of the picture.

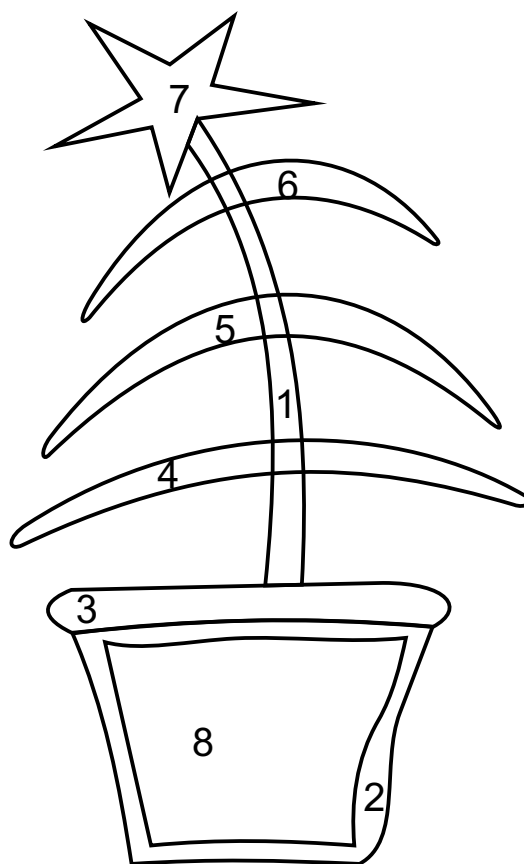


13. Place the 12"x 18" backing fabric right side together with the embroidered piece and pin all around.

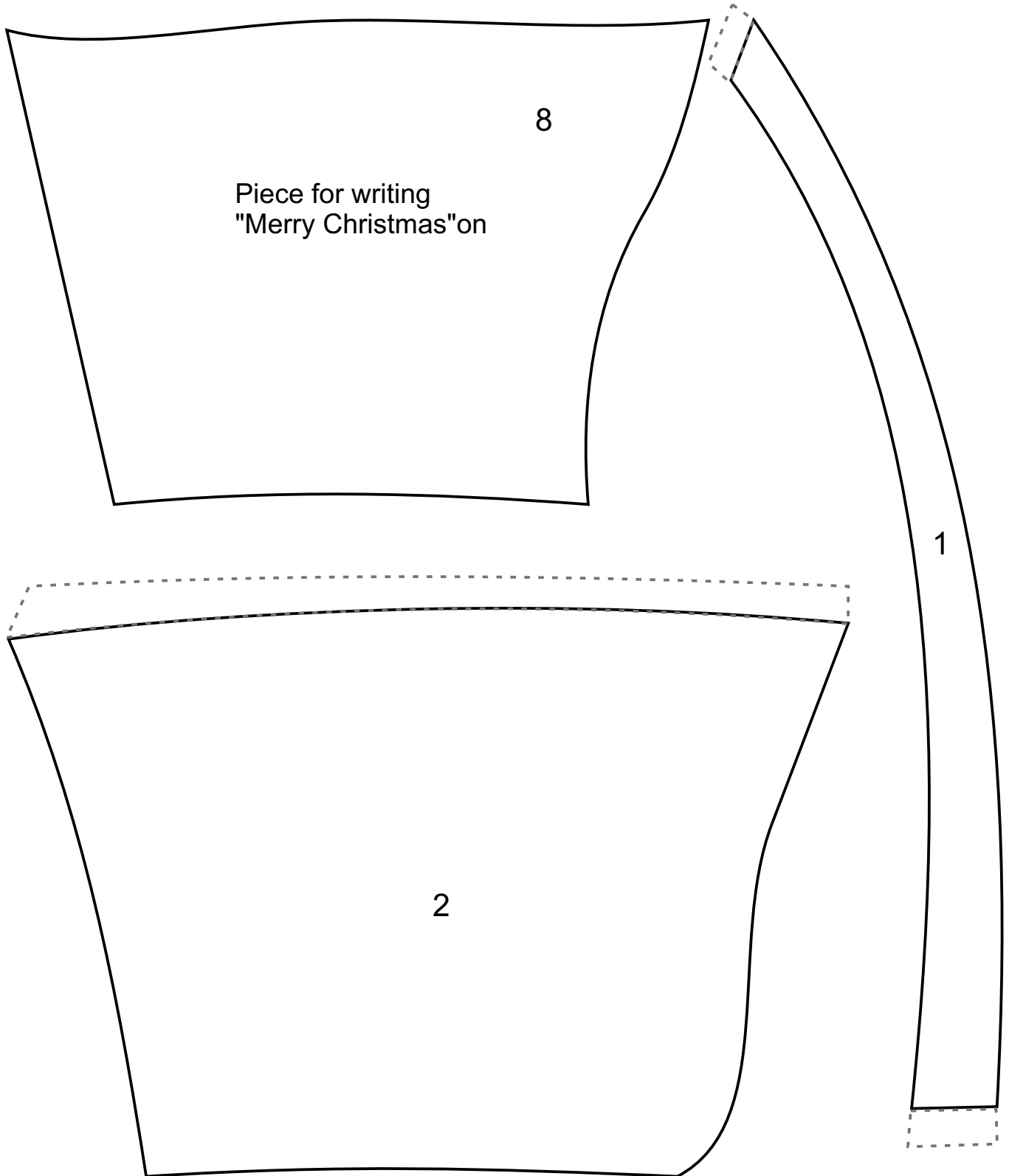
14. Stitch all around leaving a small opening at the bottom for turning. Clip corners then turn right side out. Press out the corners.

15. Press well then stitch all around the edge - make sure that you close the opening also when you stitch.

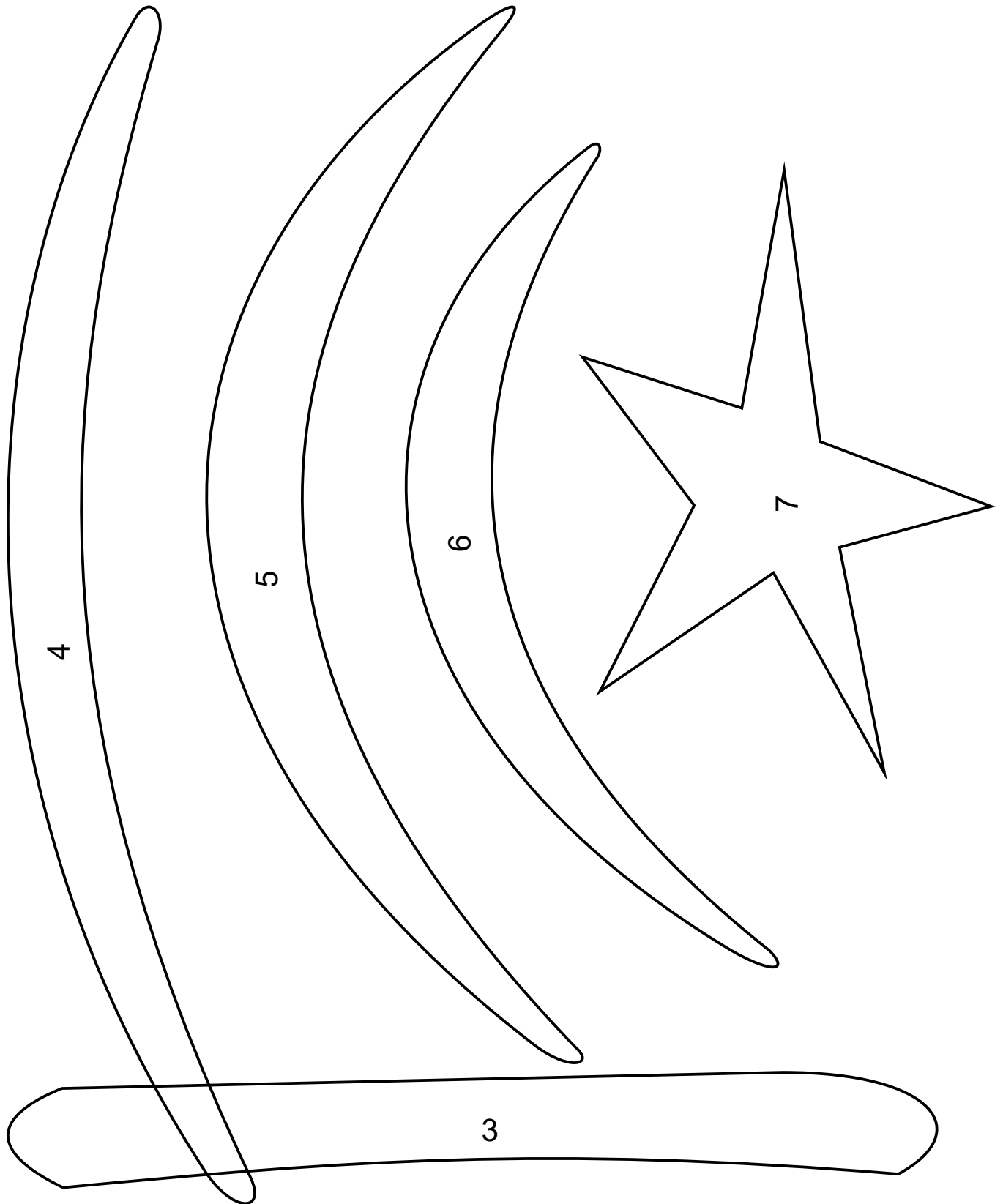
You can make little tabs to hang your finished piece or you can use it as a table decoration.



Oh Christmas Tree



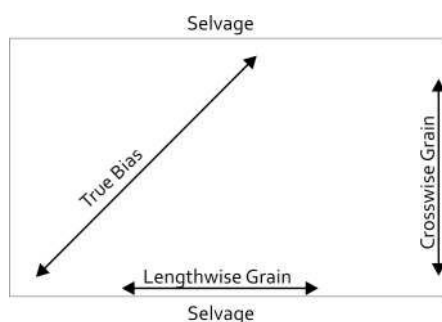
Oh Christmas Tree



The Basics of Quilting and Patchwork

Cutting fabric

Nowadays strips and blocks are cut with a rotary cutter, mat and blade. These are time savers and once you know how the rulers work, are extremely accurate. If you are not confident using a rotary system please contact your local quilt shop for a class. Bernina South Africa have introduced the Truecut system which is incredibly safe to use. Scissors should be used for cutting template pieces.



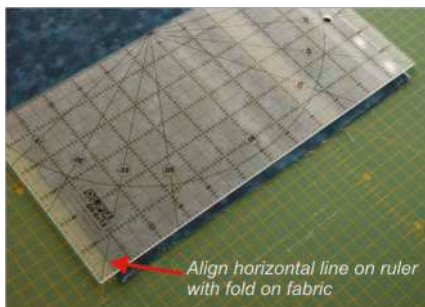
To get a perfectly cut strip you need to make sure that you are working with a straight edge.

1 Fold the fabric selvage to selvage. Press the folded fabric so that you get a really flat piece to work with.

2 Place the folded fabric on the cutting mat with the raw edges at the top and the folded edge at the bottom. The bulk of the fabric should be on the side that is **not** your cutting hand.

3 You will see on the mat there are horizontal and vertical lines. Place the folded edge along one of the horizontal lines.

4 Place the ruler on the fabric towards the cut edge, aligning the horizontal lines on the ruler with the fold of the fabric and with the selvage.



5 Holding your left hand (not your cutting hand) flat on the ruler and thumb away from edge, apply pressure with this hand to stop the ruler moving.

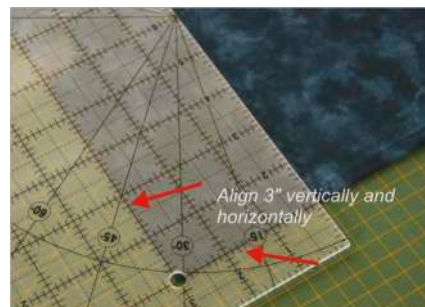


Tip: Make sure that you are standing higher than your mat so that you don't push it forward when you start cutting. Standing at the correct height also prevents backache.

6 Flip the fabric so that the bulk of the fabric lies to the **right** of yourself, (or the other side if you are left handed).

7 Place the ruler on the mat so that it overlaps the fabric. Align the cut edge of the fabric so that it corresponds vertically with the size you want to cut i.e. 3".

8 Align the folded edge with the horizontal 3" measurement.



9 Double check that you have a 3" vertical alignment and a 3" horizontal alignment showing on your ruler. The rule "**Check twice, cut once**" cannot be stressed enough! Cut your strip.

10 Open up the strip and check the strip is straight. I find that initially pressing the fabric and getting the sharp fold line really helps to keep my strips straight. If your fabric is not pressed you may find that you are cutting strips that have a "v" shape and are useless.

TIP: If you find you have cut a skew strip simply go back to step 1 and cut a straight edge.

Tip: Always, always keep the safety on the rotary cutter when not in use - never leave it open!

Piecing

- Pieces are sewn together $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch from the edge of the fabric unless otherwise stated in a pattern. Many of the sewing machines have a $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch foot which makes accurate piecing a breeze.

- Begin and end stitching at the cut edges (except for set-in seams where you have to stop a $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch from the seam line). You do not have to backstitch at the start and

stop of stitching unless you are doing a set-in seam.

- When hand piecing your unit start with a knotted thread, make tight running stitches and back stitch every 4 or so stitches. Sew along the marked line from point to point and not from edge to edge. Secure with 3 small backstitches before cutting the thread.

Sewing machine needles

Use the correct machine needle for cotton fabrics. I use an 80/12 universal for normal sewing but will use a different needle for quilting and thread painting depending on the type of thread I am using. Many of the machine needle and thread manufacturers have websites you can Google to find out which needle/thread to use.

All sewing machine needles carry a two-number code, such as 60/8 to indicate the needle size. The larger number is the American size and the smaller represents the European metric. A higher size indicates a larger, more rigid needle, while a smaller size calls for a thinner, more flexible needle.

Problems that can arise with needles:

1 **Bearding:** These are the little white dots or bits of fluff (batting) that appear on the top of your quilt top. This can happen when you are using too large a needle for the fabric, your needle is blunt or the needle has a burr or nick on it.

2 **Noisy machine stitching:** When sewing you hear a popping sound as the needle pierces the fabric. This is a definite sign of a blunt needle.

3 **Skipped stitches:** There are a few causes for this and one can be a damaged or dull needle. It can also

be that you have not inserted the needle correctly into the shaft or it could be that the needle is too small for the type of thread that you are using.

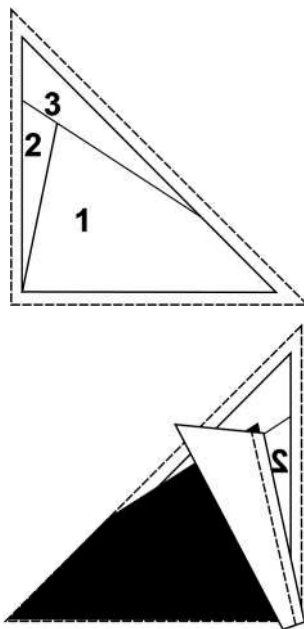
4 **Thread shedding:** This can occur when the needle is too small for the type of thread, or you could be using the wrong type of needle for the thread i.e. metallic thread should be used with a metallic needle.

Two techniques that keep coming up are Foundation paper piecing and how to make a continuous binding so we will address them in this issue.

Foundation paper piecing

This is one of my really favourite techniques and not only is it easy once you have "clicked" but it is accurate.

1 Trace or photocopy the paper pieces for each block.



2 Cut a piece of fabric for each section on the paper with a generous 1/4 -inch seam allowance along all sides.

3 Place #1 fabric right side up on the wrong (unprinted) side of the paper and #2 fabric right side down

with 1/4 -inch extending beyond the seam line between areas #1 and #2.

4 Using a slightly shorter stitch length than usual, sew on the printed line. Stitch several stitches beyond the seam line at each end.

5 Using a warm, dry iron, press fabric #2 completely to the side, being careful to avoid any pleats that will affect accuracy.

6 Fold the paper on the line for the next seam to be sewn. Using this fold as a guide, trim the fabric along the fold, leaving a 1/4 -inch seam allowance.

7 Continue adding fabric pieces to the paper by repeating these same steps until all numbered areas have been covered with fabric.

8 Cut off excess fabric by trimming 1/4 -inch away from the outermost solid line along each edge.

9 Place two pieced sections right sides together. Place pins at the beginning and end of the seam lines on both pieces.

10 Sew on the line, stitching from cut edge to cut edge.

11 Sew pieces together in the order indicated in the individual instructions.

Continuous binding (double French fold binding):

This binding gives a neat edge and a mitred corner and adds durability to your quilts. See the diagrams on next page.

1 Measure all around your quilt and add 50 cm to the final measurement.

2 Cut 2½ -inch strips then join the binding strips with diagonal seams

to make one long binding strip.

3 With the wrong side inside, fold under 1" at one end of the binding strip and press. Fold the strip in half lengthwise with the wrong side inside and press along the length of the strip.

4 Place the binding strip against the right side of the quilt top along one side, aligning the binding strip's raw edges with the quilt top's raw edge. You can start anywhere **but not** the corner.

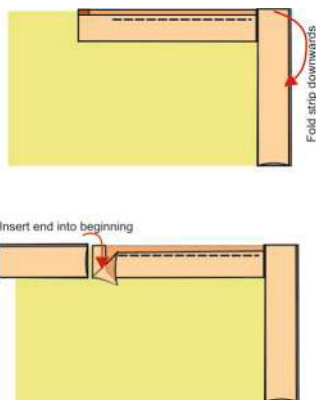
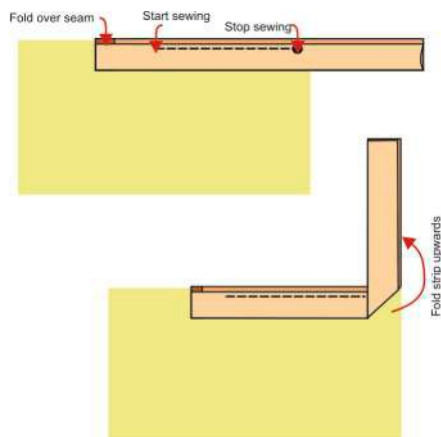
5 Begin sewing the binding in place 2" from the folded end.

6 To turn a corner, stop sewing when you're 1/4" from the corner (or a distance equal to the seam allowance you're using). Backstitch, and then clip the threads.

7 Remove the quilt from under the sewing-machine presser foot. Fold the binding strip upward, creating a diagonal fold, and finger-press.

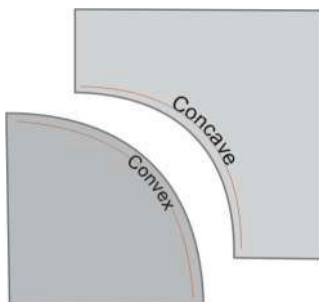
8 Holding the diagonal fold in place with your finger, bring the binding strip down in line with the adjacent edge, making a horizontal fold that aligns with the quilt edge. Pin in place.

9 Start sewing again at the top of the horizontal fold, stitching through all layers. Sew around the quilt, turning each corner like this.



Curved Piecing

Curved shapes add a sense of motion to designs and they are quite fun to do whether by hand or machine. You will be joining two separate shapes: a convex with a concave curve.



1 Cut patches using a small-rotary cutter - it helps to manoeuvre around curves better. A 18 mm rotary cutter is very handy.

2 Transfer all matching points and centre points. If your template doesn't have centre points simply fold the concave piece in half and gently finger press the centre of the curved edge. Do the same with the convex piece.

3 With right sides together, pin the convex patch to the concave patch matching centres and other matching points.

4 Sew with the concave patch on the top, stopping frequently with the needle down to adjust the fabric to lay flat under the needle and presser foot.

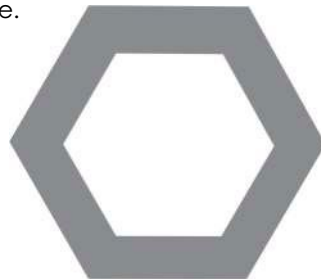
5 After stitching, press the seam allowance toward the convex piece.

English paper piecing

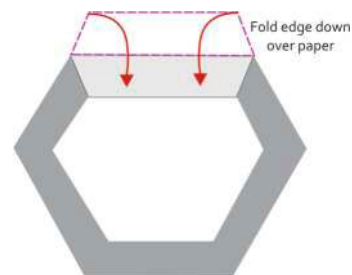
With this method, every fabric patch is basted around a stiff piece of paper and then the edges of patches are whip stitched together. One can either draw the patches out or make a master and photocopy a whole lot. Nowadays one can buy pre-cut patches.

Many quilters prefer using freezer paper for their paper templates, thereby eliminating the need for pinning - the choice is yours.

1 Pin the paper template to one or more layers of fabric. Cut out around the template **adding** a 1/4-inch seam allowance all around. Luckily your seam allowances do not have to be accurate because you are using the paper template as the accurate guide.



2 Place a paper template on the wrong side of a fabric template and fold the one side of the fabric over one edge. Finger press.

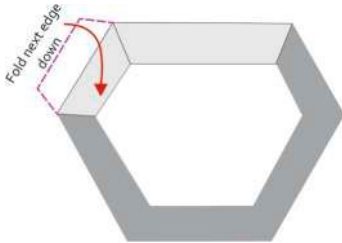


3 Beginning with a knot on the right hand side of the fabric baste the seam allowance in place, stitching through the fabric and paper template. Use a long running stitch because you will remove the paper at

STITCH DIAGRAMS

a later stage and small stitches make removing the paper difficult.

4 As you approach the corner fold the seam allowance of the next corner over the template and continue stitching down the seam allowance.



Continue in this manner until you have folded over all the corners. Do not end with a knot, simply leave a long tail. Finger press the block. Put aside and start the next block.

5 When you have completed all the patches simply join them with a whipstitch taking care to catch the fabric and not the paper.

Perfect applique circles

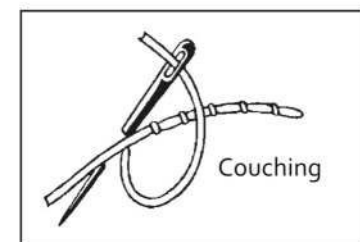
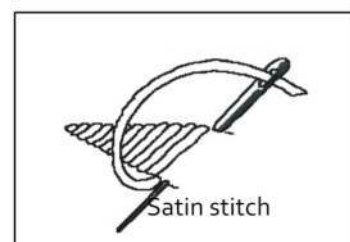
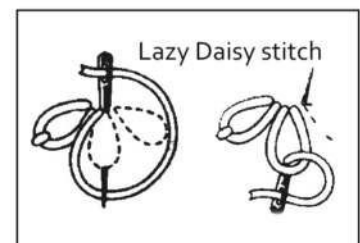
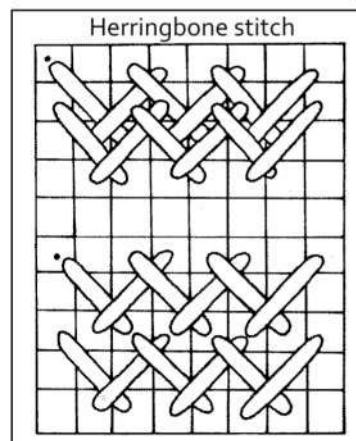
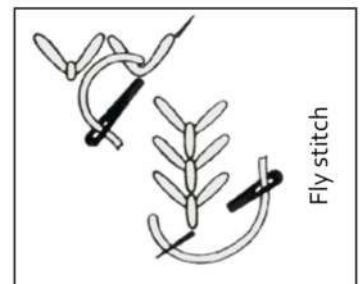
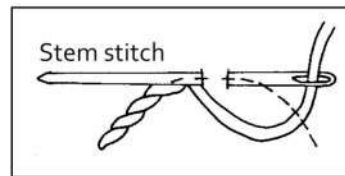
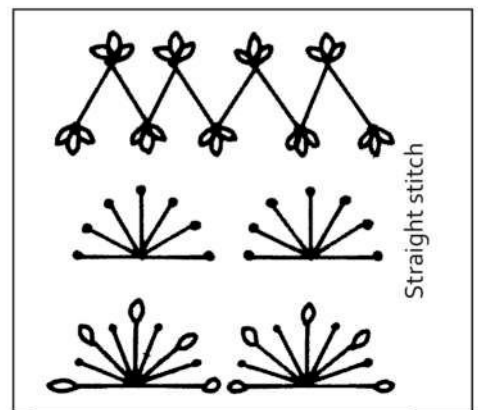
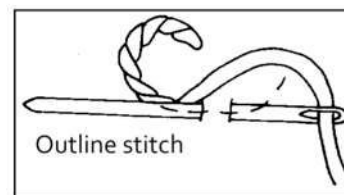
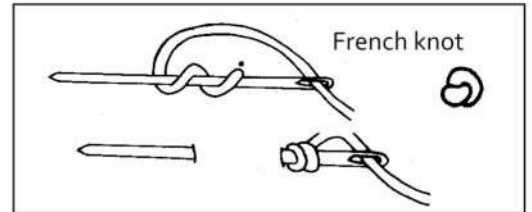
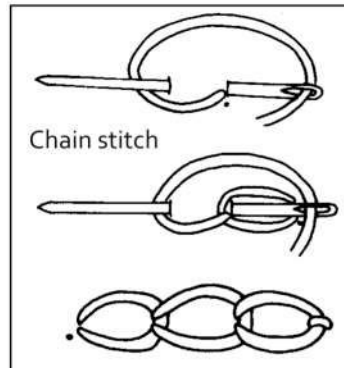
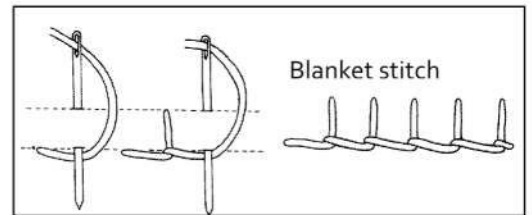
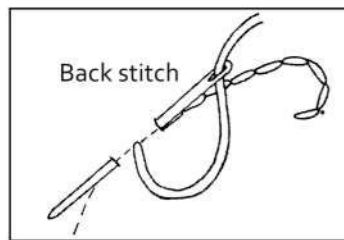
Sometimes a pattern calls for perfect appliqued circles i.e., grapes. This is a quick and easy way to make them and you can also make them on the go.

1 Trace a circle (whatever size you need) onto lightweight interfacing. Pin the interfacing to the right side of the fabric.

2 Stitch over the drawn line. Cut about $\frac{3}{16}$ -inches outside of the drawn line.

3 Carefully clip slits up to the stitching line $\pm \frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch along the edge. Pull the interfacing away from the fabric and carefully cut a slit in the interfacing.

4 Pull the fabric through the interfacing to turn the circle right side out. Push out and smooth the edges. Appliqué in place.



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