

EGA January 2025 SAL: Tropical Days in Crazy Quilting Style



Hello. Welcome to our SAL for January.

Here's something to brighten your days during our winter weather.

This is a crazy quilt project. It's not a typical one, though. Since we are completing this block as a scene, we won't be assembling the background in a traditional crazy quilt way.

(Finished Project Size: 7" square)

Guest Designer: Lisa Buckley

(This packet of instructions is 19 pages long. You can just view it on your computer instead of printing it all out if you want to save paper. The only thing you need to print out is the pattern.)

Supplies Needed for the SAL

1) Fabrics

1 - Foundation piece – 10" square (See more details next page)

2 to 5 pieces fabric in each color:

Blues (light blues for sky area, darker blues for water area)

Tans and Beige (for sand area)

Greens (for grass area)

Pieces being added to block need to be at least 7" long to reach across the 6" block

1 - Backing piece – 8 ½" square (make a little larger if you want a wider binding)

2) Threads

Any variety you want. (I mostly use Perle Cotton 8, Floss, and Perle Cotton 12) You will need at least 3 greens that contrast with your green fabrics, tans and beiges for sand area, light and dark blues for sky and water, brown for palm tree, yellow for sun, possibly white for whitecaps and breaking waves along shore. I also used a green Kreinik metallic thread in the Palm Tree. Regular sewing thread – Color of your backing. In my case - Black

3) Needles

You can use a Milliner or Bullion needle for the Bullion knots - Milliners – Size 3-9

Chenille for the ribbon work - Chenille – Size 18 – 24

Tapestry – Needed for Woven Stitches

Any other type you usually use for surface embroidery

4) Embellishments

Ribbon – 4 mm silk ribbon needed for Fargo roses

Charms - (Optional) (i.e., hot air balloon, sailboat, etc. - (if you don't want to do so many bullion stitches)

Beads - (Optional) (Size 11 and/or 15) - (blues, white, tans, greens, and/or yellow),

Buttons – (Optional) flower buttons - I didn't use any buttons on mine, but you can.

5) Other Finishing Pieces (Optional)

Two-sided Bonding Adhesive Material: (optional) - 1 piece 6" square

Other Basic Supplies

Scissors

Embroidery Hoop

Iron and ironing mat

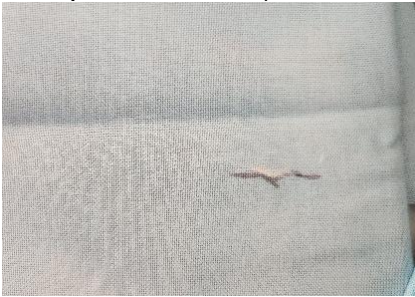
Fabric marking tools

More Details on Supplies Needed

1) *Fabrics*

If you have never done a crazy quilting block before, it is easier to use all quilting cotton fabric so that it will be easier to work the stitches as the fabric's denseness is all the same. But, if you want to do use different types of fabrics, (Velvets, silks, cottons, taffeta, batiks, etc.), that will work, too. I did mine in all cotton fabrics to help keep the scene more coherent.

Since you will be forming a scene in this block, it's best to use solids, marbled fabric, or minimal print size fabrics. A print will take away from the scene you are trying to develop. Of course, there are exceptions to this (i.e., fabric with small birds flying to use for part of sky, cloud fabric, etc.).



Foundation piece for block - neutral color cotton muslin or other plain piece - at least 2 or 3" larger all around your stitch area (6" square) so you will be able to attach it in a hoop frame to embroider it. So, at least a 10" square piece is needed.

4 - 5 pieces of blues for sky and water (light and dark blues)

2 - 4 pieces of tans and beiges for beach area

3 - 4 pieces of greens for grassy area

You may not use all these, but it is nice to have variety.



Backing piece - I used black, but you can use whatever color you prefer. It needs to be 8 ½" square to be able to wrap to the front to make the binding. It is best to use a fabric color that doesn't take away from the scene. (You can make it a little larger if you want a wider binding edge at the end.)



2) Threads

You need a variety of threads to stitch seams. I like to use Perle 8 (also found spelled as Pearl 8), but all kinds can be used: floss, yarns, metallics, etc. These can be purchased at Joann's, Michael's, Hobby Lobby, Walmart, Target, etc.). I also used a specialty thread from Rainbow Gallery, but it isn't necessary. I haven't given you the exact colors I used because your background pieces may be different colors than mine and my choices may not match your choices.)



3) Needles

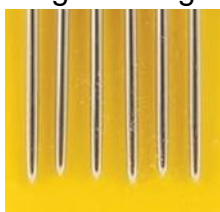
Milliner – Needle eye same size as shaft of needle - I usually get a combination pack - size 3 – 9. The sizes run from 1 being larger size and 9 being a finer size. These are good for making Bullion knot stitches. There is an actual Bullion needle you can purchase, if you prefer to use one.



Chenille - Large eye needle. These are good to use with ribbons and trim embellishments. The eye of the needle needs to be larger than the ribbon width you are using. This helps keep the ribbon from fraying as much while embroidering with it. It also makes a hole large enough to pull ribbon through your fabric. I use Chenille needles size 22 & 24 a lot.



Tapestry – Tapestry needles have a blunt tip. This helps keep them from snagging on fabrics or threads you are stitching through when doing weaving stitches.



Other needles can be used - whatever works for you to do surface embroidery.

4) Ribbon - 4 mm silk ribbon to make Fargo Roses - any color you want, but you really need silk ribbon because it is softer and makes it easier to work through fabric. If you prefer not to purchase silk ribbon, you can make your roses out of Bullion Knot stitches using Perle threads or flower shaped beads.



5) Charms, beads, trims, and buttons - Optional

You can choose to use these or not in your project. Some charms you might consider are a hot air balloon or a sailboat. Buttons can be used for flowers.

I like to finish with beads. They add a nice sparkle to the block. I shop online for these (i.e., Etsy, jewelry suppliers), but you can pick them up anywhere (i.e., Joann's, Michael's, Hobby Lobby, flea markets, garage sales, etc.). I use size 11 and 15 beads mainly. You can use the larger ones – 8mm or 6mm, if you want them for flower centers. I chose not to add any beads on this project, but feel free to use them yourself.

Colors you might need: white for white caps on waves and near shore, blues for sparkles in water, reds, yellows, pinks, purples depending on your flower colors. You might want some greens, tans and browns, too, to embellish the sand and grass.

6) Embroidery Hoop (Optional)

I use an embroidery hoop to hold my block taut while I am stitching. If you prefer to just hold it in your hand while stitching, a hoop is not necessary. I tend to have tight tension in my stitches, so I really need a hoop to keep my work from puckering. You will need one that is larger than your block area if you are using delicate fabric so as not to damage the material. Our finished project size is 6" so a 7" minimal size would work. 8" might be better to give extra room to work, which will make it easier while stitching.

Sample, [DMC 8" Square Wooden Embroidery Hoop | JOANN](#)

7) Bonding Material: (Optional) HeatnBond lite Iron-on adhesive.

I use light adhesive to join the front and back pieces. If you prefer, you can eliminate this, and hand

quilt the layers together.



Instructions: Stitch and Flip Foundation piecing

- 1) Start with the foundation piece. With a #2 pencil, mark a 6" square on the back in the center of the foundation piece. Make sure to have at least 2" around the outside of the marked square to be able to attach a hoop while stitching. From the back, baste stitch this line so the front will be marked where you will be adding your selected fabric pieces. Your background fabric pieces must go at least 1/2" – 1" past the line you marked when attaching them.



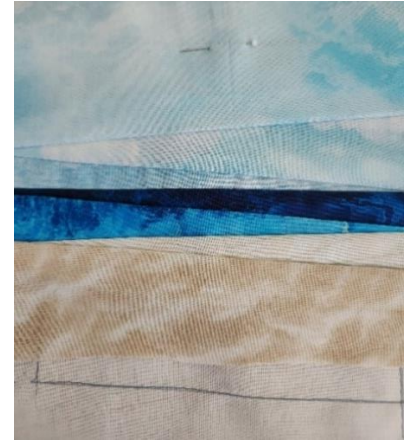
- 2) The method that I normally use in crazy quilting to assemble the background is to first start with a piece of fabric that has an odd number of sides. Then I add other fabric pieces to the original piece, working outward in either a clockwise or counterclockwise direction. I make sure that my first piece of added background fabric is not centered in the block. But we want colors in a certain place to make this scene, so we will start above the halfway mark of the block with our first fabric strip to make the horizon line and add strips horizontally to the top and bottom of this fabric piece. Next, we will add light blue fabric strips to the top for the sky and darker blues for the water below the horizon line. Then, we'll add tans and beiges below the water area for the beach. Finally, add green fabrics pieces to the bottom of the block for grass. Make sure the horizon line is straight on the project (your first piece of fabric added to block), then the rest of the added strips work better if they are not straight. If your pieces are too small to reach across



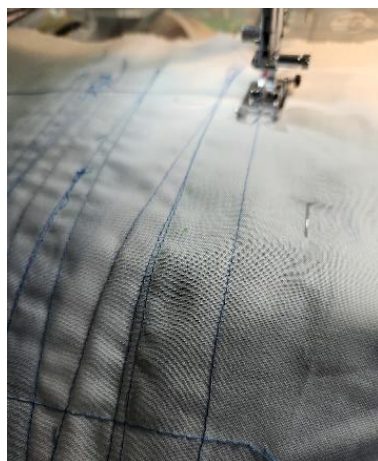
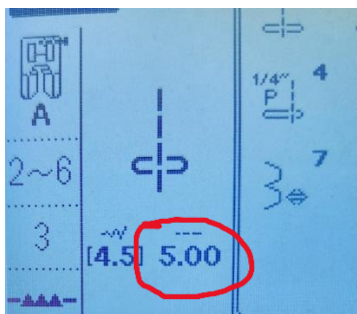
the working area or you want more variety, stitch ends of two pieces together, then add them - face side down - and sew them horizontally on the foundation piece. Remember to go at least 1/2" – 1" past the lines you marked on your foundation for your work area. This will ensure that the edges get caught in the binding when assembling the finished block.

You can hand stitch these pieces to the foundation piece or sew by machine - your choice. Lay the fabric strip that will be your horizon line (first water fabric) face up on the foundation above the vertical center, then lay the first sky piece face down on top of that one. Stitch together on top edge of pieces at 1/2" seam. Fold the top piece of fabric back, making it right side up, and flatten seam. If you are using all cotton fabrics, you can press the seam to get it flat. If you are using delicate fabrics, it will be best to finger press them flat. Continue adding pieces to the foundation piece face down on pieces already attached, then sew at 1/2" seam, flip open, and press; repeating this process until the whole marked area is covered. For extra interest, slant pieces while attaching them and/or make different widths as you add them to the background. When you slant pieces, sew a 1/2" seam on the top piece. There will probably be more than 1/2" seam on the other piece. You will need to trim off that extra

fabric on the seam, leaving a 1/2" seam only. This needs to be done after each new piece is added to keep from having multiple layers of fabric left behind to hand stitch through.



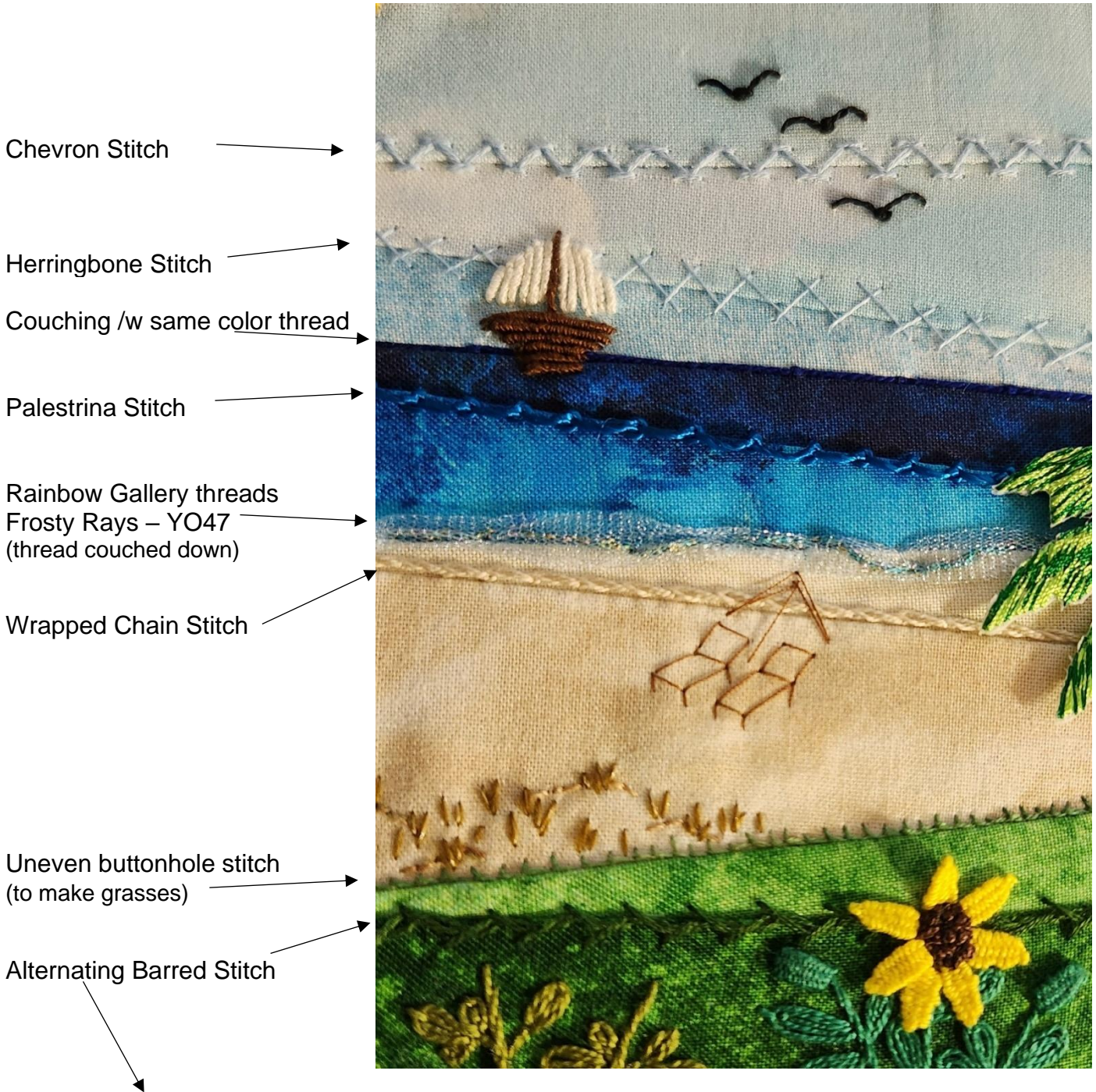
- 3) Once all of the pieces are attached, temporarily pin the outer edge of the pieces down. You will then flip the block over and do another basting stitch along the outer marking lines you did earlier on the back. If machine sewing, set the machine to the largest stitch length you have because you might want to remove this later. This is used to hold the outer edge of your pieces in place and show you where the outer edge of block is located. Do a second basting stitch 1/4" in from the basting line using the same stitch length. This line shows where to stop adding beads and/or charms, so they won't get in your way while finishing the block.



- 4) Stitch seams. If you want to stitch the seams instead of just adding the stitched motifs, you will do that now. To keep the scene showing as a solid picture, you should use thread that matches closely with the color of the fabrics in the background.

NOTE:

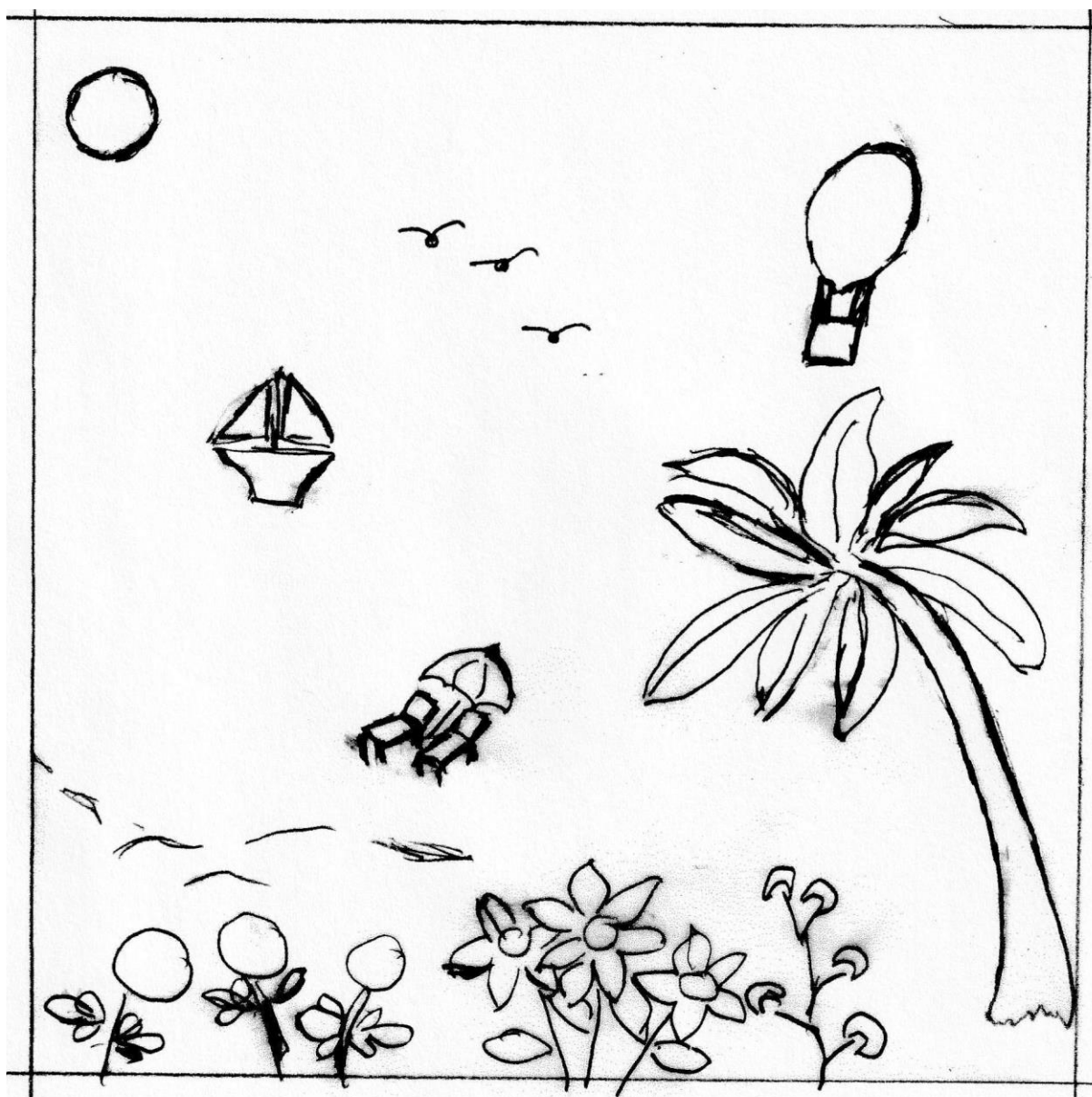
These are the stitches I used on my seams. Since you could be adding a different number of fabrics than I did, you may need more or less stitches for your seams. You don't have to use the same stitches I did, either, unless you want to practice those stitches.

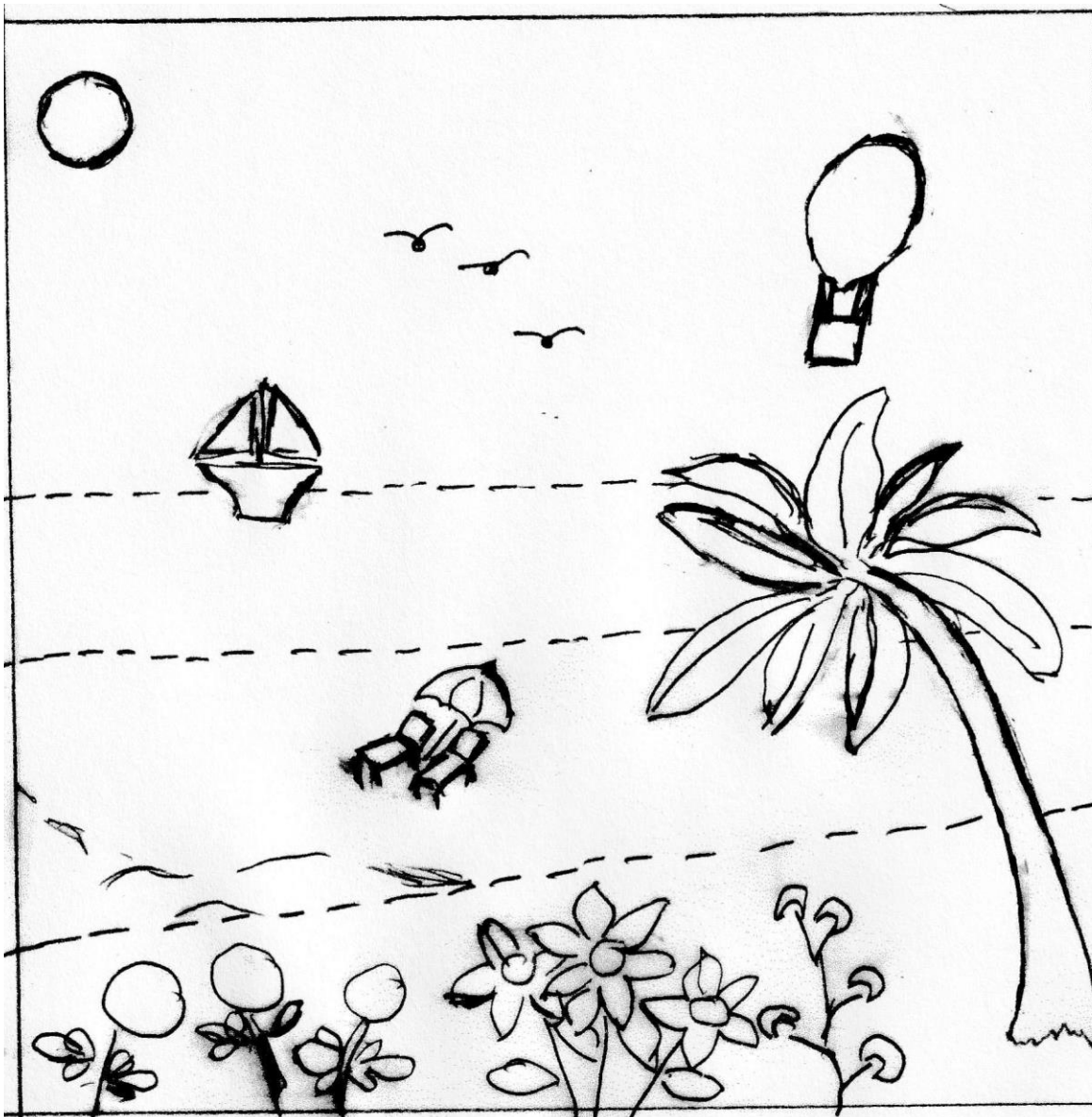


<https://pintangle.com/2012/03/20/take-a-stitch-tuesday-week-12-barred-chain-stitch/>

5) Print out pattern. Trace or freehand the pattern on your background inside the basted lines. I don't have any recommendations on materials to use for tracing the pattern as I usually just freehand it. There is a YouTube link in my **resources** list below that shows five different methods of tracing a pattern. You may want to check that out.

NOTE: Make sure your printer is set to print "actual" size. The pattern should measure 6" square when printed. Since you could be adding a different number of fabrics than I do, there is a chance the pattern won't fit exactly to your block. The CQ stitch area of your block is 6", so you will be able to transfer the motifs to your block but may need to shift the actual location of each motif a little to fit your background. There are two patterns below. One shows just the motifs to add to your block and the other has dotted lines on it to show you where my color changes line up. Use whichever works best for you.





The stitches I used in this design are: Woven Wheel, bullion knots, backstitch, straight stitch, chevron stitch, stem stitch, wrapped chain stitch, cast-on stitch, couching, feather stitch, Fargo roses, lazy daisy stitch, uneven buttonhole stitch (grass on edge of green), herringbone Stitch, Palestrina Stitch, alternating barred stitch, and woven picot. Feel free to substitute any stitch you prefer. There are two sites I regularly use which show how to do the stitches –

<https://pintangle.com/stitch-dictionary/> and <https://www.needlenthread.com/videos> .

If you are a visual learner, Needlenthread.com has good videos to help you understand the steps.

Needle 'n Thread [How To Videos](#)

Mary Corbet's website

Pintangle [Stitch Dictionary - Pintangle](#)

Sharon Boggon's website

6) Stitching: motifs and the order to stitch them– (Start at top, left side of block)

(If you are left-handed, you may need to work in a different order to keep completed motifs from getting in your way - still saving the palm tree and birds until the end.)

a - sun – Use woven wheel stitch

b - hot air balloon - Use bullion knots for balloon, straight stitch weaving for basket, straight stitches to connect hot air balloon and basket, and French knots for heads in basket.

c - sailboat – Use bullion knots for sails and boat – you can use satin stitch for the sails or a charm instead if you are tired of doing bullion stitches.

d - umbrella and lawn chairs – Use bullion stitches for umbrella and straight stitches for chairs. If you don't want to stitch the beach chairs and umbrella, stitch a small quilt. Use a straight stitch for outline and main part of quilt, then weave like hot air balloon basket. You can also use a charm instead of stitching.

e – sand dunes – straight stitches for the grasses, backstitch for sand dune outlines

f – flowers (If left-handed, work flowers in reverse order – 1. cast-on, 2. sunflowers, then 3. Fargo roses)

- **Fargo roses** - Fargo roses stitch (see pintangle.com stitch dictionary for directions), stem stitch, and lazy daisy stitch for leaves

- **sunflowers** - stem stitch, woven picots for petals, French knots for center and lazy daisies for leaves

- **cast-on flowers** - cast-on stitch for flowers and feather stitch for stem

g - palm tree - straight stitch for leaves, and Stem stitch for tree trunk

h - birds – straight stitch and pistil stitch for bird's wings and body

Detailed Steps for Stitching Motifs

We will start by stitching the items included in our project from the top to the bottom, left to right. This will help keep the finished motifs out of your way while you stitch the others. We will be starting with the sun, then the Hot Air Balloon. ***If you are left-handed***, you may want to start with the Hot Air Balloon, then the sun.



- a. Sun – On the top left corner, use the woven wheel stitch to make the sun. If you are left-handed, you may want to start with the Hot Air Balloon first. To make a woven wheel, start with 7 spikes out from center in a yellow thread (You can make more if you want, just make sure it is an odd number or the weaving won't work.) You can use the same color thread



for the spikes and weaving or use a different yellow on each. To do the weaving, use a tapestry needle or turn your needle backwards, going needle's eye through first, to keep from snagging your fabric or spokes as you are weaving over and under each spoke as you go around the design.



- b. Hot Air Balloon – On top right corner, use bullion knot stitches to make the balloon. Use whatever thread thickness you like, just make sure to make as many bullion stitches as needed to fill in the whole balloon area. I used Perle 8. To stitch bullion stitches, it is best to have a milliner needle. A milliner needle is the same size top to bottom (including area around eye) so it is easier to get the wraps to slip off the needle. Go to needlenthread.com/videos to see a good example of making this stitch. After you have completed those, use straight stitches to outline the basket and make the ropes to connect the basket to the balloon. To finish the basket, do straight stitches across the inside of the basket outline, then do straight stitches from top to bottom, weaving them through the horizontal straight stitches already there. Once all is completed, add a few French knots at top of basket to represent people in the balloon.



- c. Sailboat – Using bullion knots, make 7 stitches horizontally to make the boat base. You will have wider stitches at the top and taper down on the sides to get the boat to the shape you need. Use Bullion Knots vertically to make the sails. Start with one brown bullion in center to represent the mast of the boat, then use white ones to fill in for the sails. If you have had enough fun doing bullion stitches, you can use Satin Stitch to make the sails.
- d. Umbrella – Use Bullion Knot or Satin Stitch to make the umbrella. Outline the umbrella with a single sewing thread, then stitch the bullion stitches to fill the inside.



Chairs – Start with the outline of the chairs using a single sewing thread, then stitch the chair webbing using a Perle cotton thread.



- e. Sand Dunes – Use Straight Stitch to make grasses in the sand and backstitch for outlining dunes.



- f. Flowers – Use Stem stitch, French knots, Fargo rose stitch, Straight stitch, lazy daisy stitch for leaves, woven picot for petals of Sunflowers, cast-on stitch and



feather stitch for the other flowers.

I chose to do Fargo roses, Sunflowers, and cast-on stitch flowers, but you can choose any flowers you like. See Needlenthread.com/videos to see how to make these stitches. When stitching your flowers, start with the stems and leaves, then add flowers on top of these. I grouped my roses and sunflowers in bunches of three. Groupings look better if they are done in odd numbers, so



keep that in mind as you stitch your flowers.

As for my Sunflowers, I used a Woven Picot Stitch for the petals, but here is an example of doing the Sunflowers with Bullion Stitch if you want more practice with that stitch. When stitching the sunflower grouping, start with the smaller ones on each side, then complete the larger center one. The centers of the Sunflowers are done with French Knots. You can also use beads for the centers, if you prefer.

- g. Palm Tree Leaves – Use Straight Stitch for leaves, Stem stitch or split stitch for the main vein in the leaves and stem stitch or split stitch for the trunk. I used stem stitch for my trunk, but either is fine. Start by stitching the trunk of the tree. Then, use the center vein of the leaves to



get the leaves laid out.

Remember that an odd number of leaves will look better. I used a green Kreinik metallic thread to do the veins of the leaves because I liked the shine in the leaves. Use whatever thread you prefer. After finishing the veins, use a different green thread to fill in with straight stitches to finish the leaves. I did go back and do a few extra metallic stitches where needed on the finished leaves.



h. Birds – After all the other stitching is done, add birds in whatever space you have left in the sky. Things look better in odd numbers, so I stitched three birds. To make the birds, start at the outer edge of a wing. Bring needle up from back and do a straight stitch to center of bird. Do not pull thread tight - leave a little extra thread to make the curve in the wing. Go to the other wing's outer edge and bring needle to front. Make a pistil stitch – leaving the thread loose to make the curve in that wing, too. Take the pistil stitch to the place you ended the first wing and push needle to back. This joins the two stitches and makes the center of the bird.

7) Add beading – (add last to keep from snagging your thread on the beads)

I like to add beads to my blocks. I use white beads to make the splashing waves near the shore, white caps in the water and splashing around the front of boats. I use blue beads to add sparkle to the water. I also use beads for flower centers. Feel free to use them anywhere that you like on your block or leave them off if the block starts looking too busy to you. I left them off my block this time. See the next picture for an example if you would like to add them to yours.

This is a needle I found on Amazon that I use when I am doing the size 15 beads. The eye is the whole length of the needle so it is easier for me to thread and the small beads will slide over it. It does bend easily, though, so I try to be careful when pushing it through the fabric. I love them since I can't seem to be able to thread beading needles.



8) You can add straight stitches for wind movement and/or stitch clouds in the sky.

Assembling the Block

You will need the following supplies to finish the project.



backing, white fabric marker, adhesive sheet, a 6 ½” square ruler helps

- 1) Lay your 8 ½” backing piece on table, right side down. Mark a 7” block area in the center of fabric



piece with your white fabric marker.

- 2) Take CQ block out of frame.



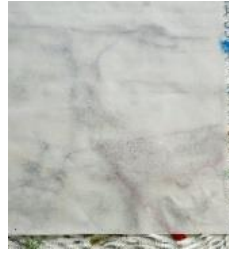
Remove the inner basting stitch now. Make sure



your block is level on the horizon line in your scene and cut fabric block scene to a 7” square (1/2” past the remaining outer basting stitch).



- 3) Flip your block over and lay the piece of iron-on adhesive on back, paper side up. Follow directions on package to attach it. Be careful when ironing around Fargo Roses or you will flatten them. If you need to avoid this area when ironing, that’s OK.



- 4) Once the adhesive has cooled from ironing, peel the paper off. If you have trouble getting the paper to peel off, use your needle and make a small scratch on the paper to



give you a place to start peeling.

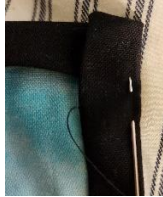
- 5) Lay your block down in the square you marked on your backing fabric. (Make sure your block is centered on the backing before adhering it down.) Pin to hold in place, then flip bundle where



backing fabric is on top and iron, making sure that front side of backing fabric is up.

- 6) Flip block back over with CQ scene up. Fold the backing edge in a small amount so raw edges will be caught on inside once stitched. Press to set seam. Then fold the edge in again to cover the basting line on your block. This makes your binding edge. Pin to the front to hold in place, then stitch the binding in place. Use your sewing thread that matches your backing fabric to stitch this down.

To do a mitered corner look – After you have folded all four sides in and pinned in place,



do a 45-degree fold at corner to make it look mitered.



Then stitch in place.



Final block size is 7”.

- 7) If you prefer not to add the adhesive backing to your block, you will need to do a few hand-quilted stitches throughout the block to hold the backing to front piece.

Your block is now ready to add to any quilt. If adding to regular quilt instead of a Crazy Quilt, you will need to add batting to the block. Just use another piece of adhesive and attach batting to backing first, then follow steps listed above to finish assembling the block.

If you prefer to do a different backing, follow steps you usually do for finishing up. (i.e., using hoop as frame, using backing and tabs to make a wall hanging, etc.)

Resources

Transferring Patterns

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PEaIIYZo_SU by Sarah Homfray

Betty Fikes Pillsbury's comment made on Facebook on how to transfer patterns to fabric.

I'm often asked how I get embroidery patterns onto fabric. Sometimes, I use tissue paper. I trace the design onto the tissue paper, baste the paper onto fabric, stitch on the lines, then remove tissue and basting stitches.

Sometimes, I use Saral transfer paper, especially if it is a large design and I feel the tissue paper won't hold up. Saral transfer paper is like old-fashioned carbon paper. One side is smooth, the other filled with the transfer material. I drew out the pattern I wanted (an antique design I modified to fit my need) onto paper. I placed the Saral transfer paper down onto the fabric, the pattern on top of that, pinned in place. Then I traced the design on the paper with a fine ball-point pen. Next, I removed the paper and Saral paper and was left with the design clearly visible on the plum taffeta fabric. The last pic shows the design being embroidered (stem stitch). My book also discusses this and other ways to transfer patterns.

Hand Quilting Binding

[How to hand sew binding to back of quilt](#) - TheCraftyGemini

[Hand-Stitching Your Binding](#) - American Patchwork & Quilting

[Hand Binding a Quilt: A complete tutorial for how to Bind your Quilt with hand stitching two ways!](#) –
Homemade Emily Jane

Stitch Directions - Online Links

<https://www.needlenthread.com/videos> and <https://pintangle.com/stitch-dictionary/>

[Video Tutorial for Bullion Knots!](#)

Video Tutorial for Bullion Knots!

The bullion knot - sometimes, the name strikes fear in the embroiderer's heart!

[Woven Wheel Stitch Video](#)

Woven Wheel Stitch Video

The woven wheel, also known as the woven spider web stitch...

[Cast-On Stitch Video](#)

Cast-On Stitch Video

The cast-on stitch is a dimensional embroidery stitch

[Woven Picot - Embroidery Video Tutorial](#)

Woven Picot - another Embroidery Video Tutorial

The Woven Picot is a dimensional hand embroidery stitch, created by weaving over three threads that are anchored...

Extra Info (Not Needed to Make This Block)
How to Make Crazy Quilt Blocks
and
Free Classes from Kathy Shaw

Free Online Beginner Classes for Crazy Quilting by Kathy Shaw

<http://www.shawkl.com/p/basic-courses.html>

I took her classes and learned a lot from her.

How to Make Crazy Quilt Blocks
Rebecca Halley of Dances with Pitbulls

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=be0UQOZ_gsE&list=PLmOTtleMWJJP8gDvoG5JFMFsg2TvJL0QD&index=2



**How to make a Crazy Quilt Pt 3 ~Blocks by
Hand and Machine ~ DancesWithP...**