

## CRAZY QUILTING LESSON CHALLENGE

### Lesson Three – Experimenting with Stitch Combinations

Have you had fun making a sampler and practicing the basic embroidery stitches and their variations? Do you feel that you've mastered a few of them? The more that you use each stitch, the easier it will be to do, until at some point it will become second nature and you will do it without even thinking about it.

Did you have an opportunity to try different weights of thread and use different needles to accommodate their size?

Did you find additional tutorials on the internet to help teach you? If so, please email me their URL and I will include them in the list of sites that will be included at the end of our lessons. There are SO many talented people that are so willing to help all of us learn.

I'm sure that many of you are wondering about how to store your threads once you've opened the skein. Here are a couple of ideas:

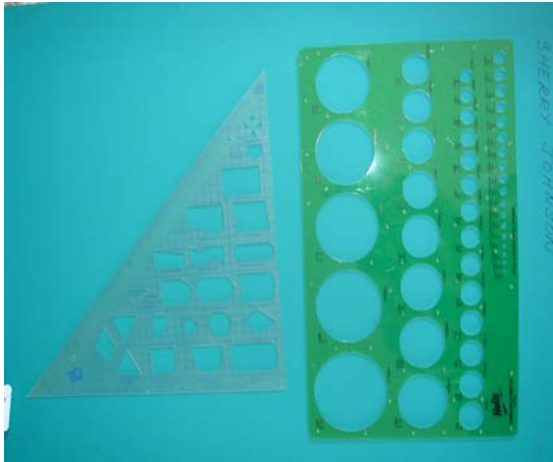


One way to store them is in small plastic bags. These then be stored in a drawer or box. This makes them very portable. Or you can store them as I do. I use the little cards especially made for this purpose. You just wrap your thread around the card and then write the color and brand info on the card.

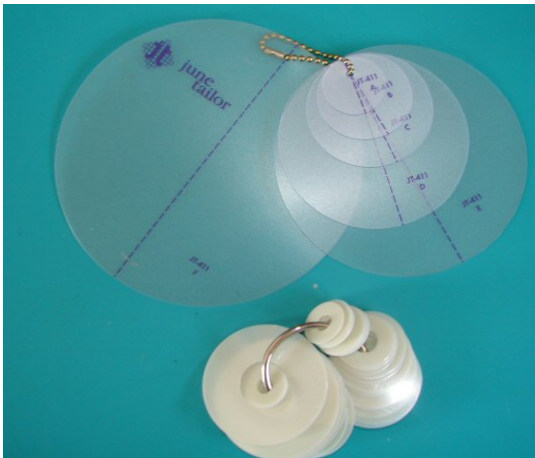


You can store all of the little cards in cases like this one. I used to sort them by color number, but I plan to rearrange them by color group now, just like I will have my fabrics, buttons, etc. to make it easier to find just the color or shade that I want.

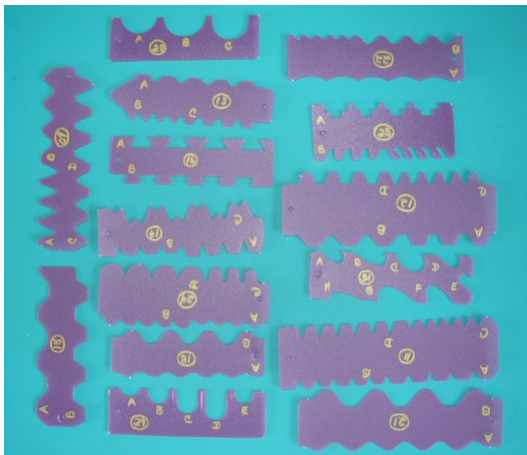
As you practiced, I've seen that most of you kept your stitches either on or adjacent to the stitching seam line. Did you have any trouble keeping them even? When I started crazy quilting, being a stickler for detail (and an over-achiever), I used a ruler to aid in spacing my stitches. I now can make them pretty even by myself. Many stitches lend themselves to following a design or pattern, too. You can make your own patterns to follow by just drawing them out yourself, or by making and using a template of some sort. I used to cut curvy templates out of xray plastic. Whatever works for you is fine. I have found a few tools that can help with this:



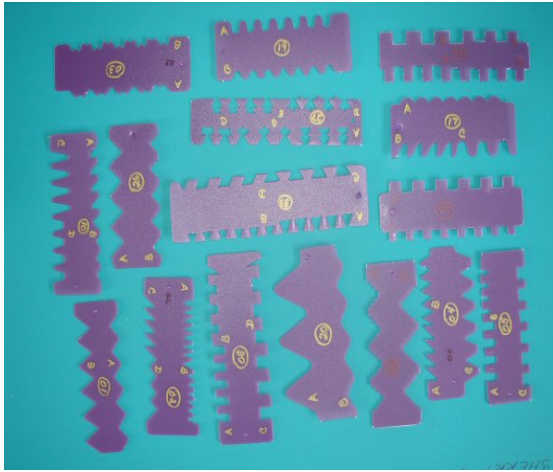
Find assorted "shape" templates to aid in drawing patterns.



Larger templates like the June Tailor ones here work well marking stitch lines for around motifs (which we will cover in a later lesson) or around ,pieces of lace, groups of buttons, etc. Look for templates like these in circles, ovals, squares, rectangles, etc. Some nice ones might be found in the scrapbooking sections of stores.



Carole Samples has designed a set of templates that cover just about any design shape that there is! She and her husband make them themselves and have difficulty keeping up with the demand, so they are VERY difficult to find.....but worth the search!



Here are more of her templates. The two pictures show the entire set which also come with many pages of ideas to use them.

Her “Treasury of Crazy Stitches” do not need these templates, but they make placement of stitches a cinch.

Lesson Three will be an easy, fun one. Nothing new to learn.....just learning to use what you have already learned in a different way!

Making stitch combinations is just taking basic stitches and combining them to make new, unique stitches. Here is one that I made recently on a spring block:



This stitch was made using the chain stitch, the lazy daisy, and the French knot. I chose to use different colors to make it look like flowers, but it could be done using all one color. I stitched the curved line after marking it with an air erasable marker and then came back and added the lazy daisy stitches and then the French knots.

Stitches can be combined to make them look like floral sprays, geometric designs, fans, etc. You are limited only by your imagination!!

Your challenge for this lesson’s drawing is to design TEN original combinations using only thread and no silk ribbon, yet. Post them on Flickr and then to add at least two of these combinations to your block. The prize will be a copy of Carole Samples “Treasury of Crazy Quilt Stitches”!! (If you win & have it, I will substitute something else).





Here is another easy combination that I made to look like Grape Hycynths. I just used straight stitches for the stems and leaves and French knots for the flowers.

I am including a pdf file from CQwannabe with a few of HER combinations, too, to give you more ideas.

Sharon Boggon has a stitch combination file on her site: [Stitch Combinations by Sharon Boggon](#) that are some good ones to check out for ideas and inspirations.

She had also run a series “Take a stitch Tuesday” that she featured a different stitch each Tuesday. People took the challenge to try different combinations with that stitch, so you can see what she did with them, as well as follow links to others blogs to see their results. [Link to Take a Stitch Tuesday site](#)

Another site with combinations: [Link to more combination ideas](#)

There are several books that are my favorites for stitches: “Floral Stitches” by Judith Baker Montano, “Elegant Stitches” by Judith Baker Montano, “Treasury of Crazy Quilt Stitches” by Carole Samples, and “The Magic of Crazy Quilting” by J. Marsha Michler are all wonderful reference books well worth adding to your library.

I will be looking forward to seeing all of YOUR combinations!!

# Crazy Quilting Lessons / Challenge 2008

## HGTV Quilting Needle Arts Board

Presenter: Jody (hgtv board name: CQwannabe)

**Enhancing Basic Stitches:** *Half Circle Blanket Stitch; Feather Stitch with Lazy Daisy and Straight Stitch; Blanket Stitch with French Knots and Straight Stitch.*

Enhance Basic Seam Stitches by combining stitches.

### Supplies:

Sharp needle (size depends on type of fiber)

Blunt needle (size depends on type of fiber)

Fiber: silk ribbon, embroidery floss, perle cotton, DMC Linen Floss



*Feather stitch in this lesson, I used 2 strands from 6 strand DMC linen embroidery floss.*

Using a sharp needle, stitch a single feather stitch cover the length of the seam.

(figure 1 - Feather Stitch)

After stitching the feather stitch the length of the seam, thread a sharp needle with another color of thread (I used 2 strands from 6 strand DMC Linen embroidery floss).

Stitch a Lazy Daisy (Chain) stitch at the end of each feather. Then stitch a straight stitch on each side of the Lazy Daisy stitch.



(figure 2 - Feather Stitch with Lazy Daisy and Straight Stitch)

**Blanket Stitch - Stitched in a half circle.** I used a Penny and traced the half circles along the seam. Using a sharp needle and 2 strands of DMC variegated embroidery floss. After stitching the half circle, I used 2 strands DMC linen embroidery floss, stitched a French Knot at the center of each half circle



(figure 3 - Blanket Stitch half circle with French Knots)

**Blanket Stitch with a French Knot and Straight Stitch.** Using a sharp needle and 2 strands of DMC linen embroidery floss. Stitch Blanket Stitch along the seam. When the length of the seam is covered with the blanket stitch, thread a sharp needle and stitch a French Knot and 3 straight stitches at the end of each Blanket Stitch.



(figure 4 - Blanket Stitch with French Knot and Straight Stitches)

**Stem stitch to outline image printed on fabric.** Using a sharp needle and #3 Perle cotton, stem stitch outlining an image printed on the fabric. I like to use this on pretty fabric to add dimension instead of covering the pretty fabric with beads, buttons, etc.



(figure 5 - Stem Stitch enhancing print of the fabric)





**Completed block using fiber to enhance basic stitches.**

**Books:**

*The Magic of Crazy Quilting 2nd Ed.*; J. Marsha Michler

*The Crazy Quilt Handbook Revised 2nd Ed.*; Judith Baker Montano