

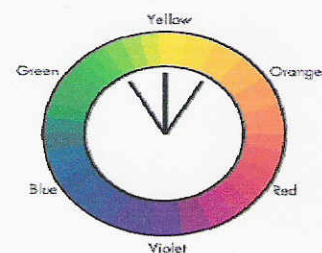
CRAZY QUILTING 101

First off, i want to say, there are no rules to crazy quilting. Most of these are just suggestions and hints.

COLOR THEORY

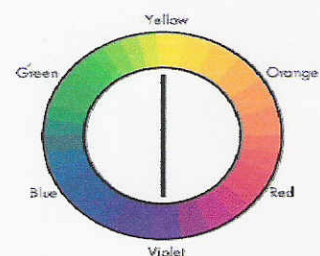
I know most of you are familiar with the color wheel. You can buy one at Joann's or Wal-Mart for about \$8. Some quilting books have them in. I am just including this as a review. Please take a minute to read. I don't want to be redundant about it so i will only include the basics. You can see a neat working tool at http://www.siteprocentral.com/color_wheel.html

1. Analogous colors next to each other on the color wheel(green-yellow, yellow, and orange-yellow)

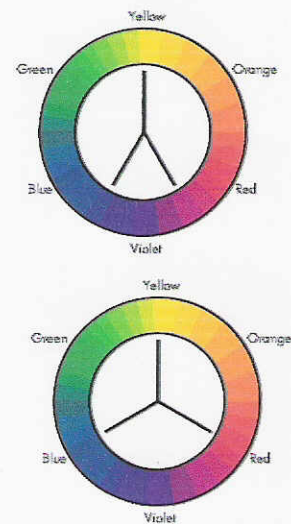


2. Monochromatic-different shades of the same color family

3. Complimentary-2 colors directly across from each other on the color wheel



4. Split Complimentary- Three colors, one across from the compliment and the other two on either side of the compliment (ie Red, yellow-green and blue-green)
5. Triadic-three colors equal distance apart on the color wheel (red, blue, and yellow)



CHOOSING FABRICS

When I choose fabric for my block i usually start with a print. I then will pull the colors out of the print. You can also find a photograph that you like and use the colors for inspiration.



In some circles, it is suggested that you use one fabric for every inch in your block ie. a 12 inch block uses 12 different fabrics. That's good in theory, but i don't necessarily follow it. I feel it makes for a busy block (IMHO). Also if you are new to crazy quilting you may not have an abundance of fabrics that coordinate. I also think there are four colors of fabric you can use in almost any block. Red, White, Black and Gold. Those four colors are ones you will need larger amounts of fabric, just because they are so versatile.



I tend to pick a couple of prints and then more tone on tone solids for my blocks. Judyth Baker Montano(renowned crazy quilt artist) wont put two prints next to each other in the same block. I have done it before, but they are usually not both in your face prints. It also makes a difference what kind of embellishments will go on the fabrics. On print fabrics, the embellishments tend to blend in and on solids they stand out. Judyth Baker Montano and Sharon Boggin(www.inaminuteago.blogspot.com) will only use a fabric one time in each block. I tend to repeat fabrics. I feel it helps to draw the eye around the block. You can read more on this subject in an article about block design by Jo Newsham in the December issue of www.cqmagonline.com

BASIC BLOCK

First off. make sure all the selvages are cut off of your fabric. Even if these are in the seam allowance, they are nearly impossible to stitch through. Also, press all of your fabric.

When you start a block you need a foundation fabric. I use muslin. You can use anything you want from cotton to old sheeting. One thing to remember when choosing your foundation, you must be able to stitch through the fabric easily. It is suggested that you try to stitch through three layers of fabric before you decide if you want to use it. If the fabric is high thread count you may not be able to needle it well.

Whether or not you use a hoop to do the embellishment stitching, is up to you. I do everything "in hand". Some beginners may want to use a hoop when embellishing until they get a feel for the stitches.

When deciding what size you should cut your foundation fabric, you will need to consider the use of the hoop or not. When i decide on my finished block size i add 1 inch to allow for 1/2" seam allowance all the way around. I also start out bigger than my finished block size. If i want a 12" finished block i take $12+1+1=14$. If you decide later to use a hoop you can always baste waste fabric around the block to make it easier to use a hoop.

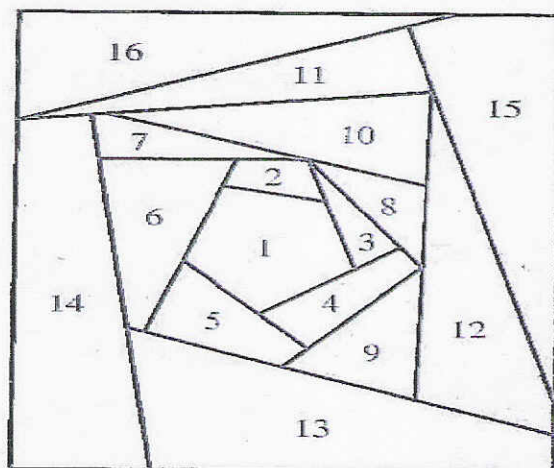
For this project, it is suggested that you start with at least a 12 inch block. We will be needing 12 to 16 different patches to the block.

Fabric Choices

I am going to address fabric choices here. I use a mixture of silks, satins, synthetics, brocades, velvets, wools and cottons. I pick fabric not only for the color but also for the texture. Shiny, matte, sparkly etc. One fabric i don't use is stretchy. If you want to use a stretchy fabric, you will need to fuse a lightweight stabilizer on the back. If you don't use the stabilizer you will have a hard time stitching thru the fabric when it comes time to embellish it. There are cq block kits that you can order from <http://www.eveningstardesigns.citymax.com/page/page/4888358.htm> She also has lucious embellishments(i am not associated with this web site)

There are many ways of starting the block. She uses Carol Doaks paper piecing patterns. She transfers the pattern to the fabric with a pencil and then numbers them in the order she will apply the fabric. There is also a cd out by Carolyn Cibik with 52 paper piece patterns, that can be bought from the above site.

I do it the traditional way. Here is a "sample" of how a basic block is layed out.



When deciding on your center fabric, you can do several things:

1. Start with a five sided piece.
2. Start with a piece that is fussy cut (make sure to add seam allowances)
 - a. this can be a motif cut out of a print fabric
 - b. this can be a piece of embroidered linen
3. Start with a little siggy (little silk print - siggy refers to the fact they used to come in cigarette packages)



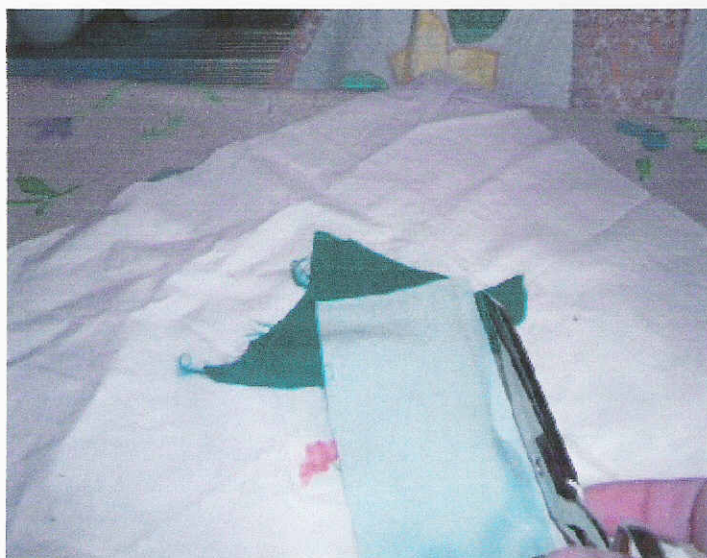
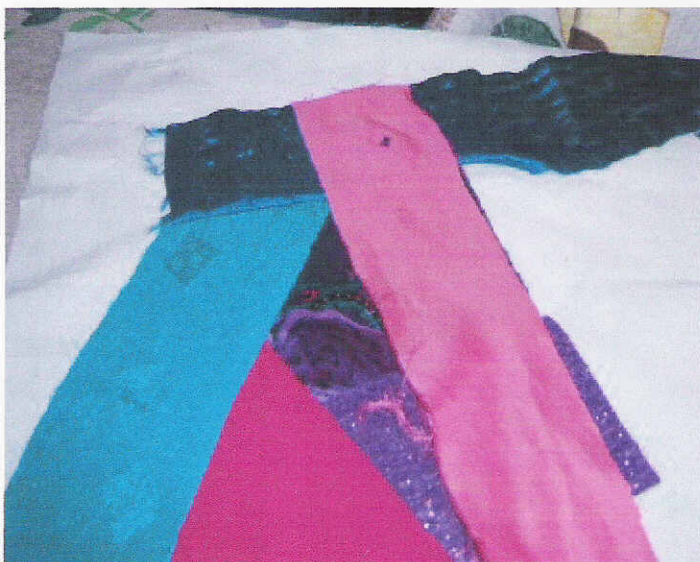
When i start with my middle piece, i baste it down to the foundation. I also make sure that the edges of the middle piece are not parallel with the edges of the foundation fabric. It makes for a more interesting block, and it doesn't end up looking "log cabinish"

When adding your next pieces of fabric, you will use the "flip and sew" method. You will place your fabrics right sides together, sew the seam and then flip open. Make sure you sew thru both fabrics and the foundation. I press after every addition. I try to make sure that all the fabrics i use can be pressed, but if you have any doubt, use a press cloth or press from the back of the block.

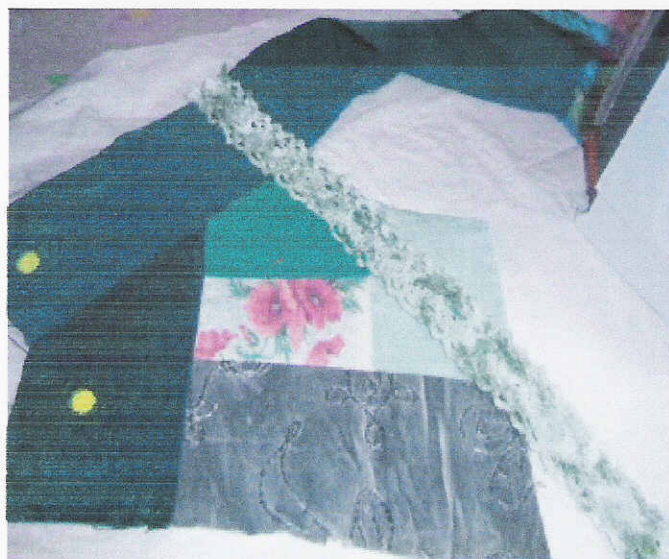


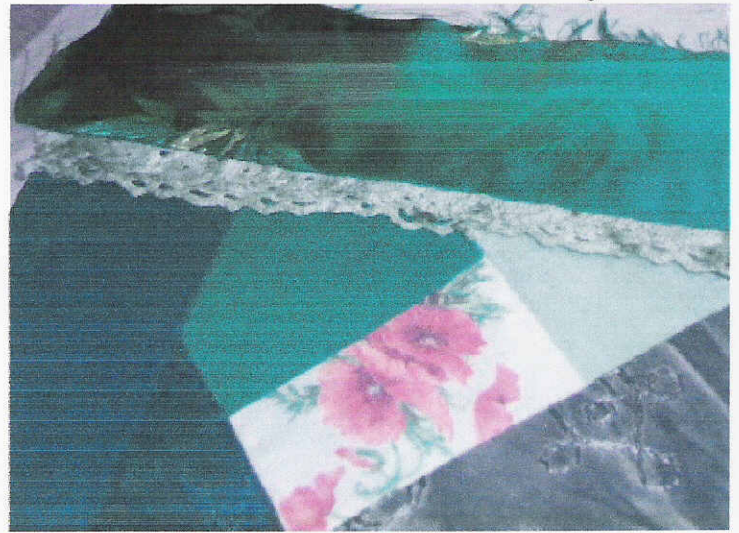
When i cut my fabric, i usually cut it into wide strips, at least 2 1/2 " to 3" or more. I also use a rotary cutter and ruler so that i get a straight edge. When using the flip and sew method it is important to sew a straight seam in order to get a flat finished product. The flatter the product, the easier it is to embroider on it.

After you sew the seam, you must trim the excess seam allowance, just as you would in paper piecing. If you get into the habit of trimming as you go it helps. It will be easier to get your embellishment stitching even if the seam allowances are all the same.



When you are making your block, you can add lace and braid into the seams. I don't normally do this, but only because i am an airhead and never think about it til the block is done. There are definately some laces that need to be added this way. One of them is cluny lace, or any kind of lace that ravels. You can also add a doily this way. One of the reasons is that the ends are then trapped as you add the next piece. Also, if you need to cut cluny lace or doilys, you can use tape across them and then cut thru the tape.





When using a lace overlay, combine lace with the fabric and attach as one piece.

Continue adding fabrics until the foundation fabric is covered. After the foundation fabric is covered, i trim my block to size. I move my ruler around to make sure i get the best possible layout of the patches. I make sure that i don't end up with little slivers of patches. After i have trimmed the block to the size(finished size plus seam allowance) i serge the edge. If you don't have a serger you need to zig zag the edge to help prevent fraying. I also mark my seam allowance at this time. I use a contrasting thread and mark 1/2 inch seam allowance. It can be done by hand or machine. The reason we mark the seam allowance is to prevent "hard:" embellishments from being placed in the seam allowance.

One practice you need to get into when doing the blocks is to trim threads. You need to trim threads front and back as you go along. After your block is sewn, go back and make sure all the excess threads are clipped. After the block is embellished it is impossible to go back and trim them off.

I want to add, these are just some suggestions. It is your crazy quilt. If you pick colors and embellishments you like it will work the best. There are no rules in crazy quilting,

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Brinnsmom

Crazy Quilting Lessons / Challenge 2008

HGTV Quilting Needle Arts Board

CRAZY-QUILT FAN LESSON - Lesson 1

Presenter: Carolyn Phillips - DecPainter

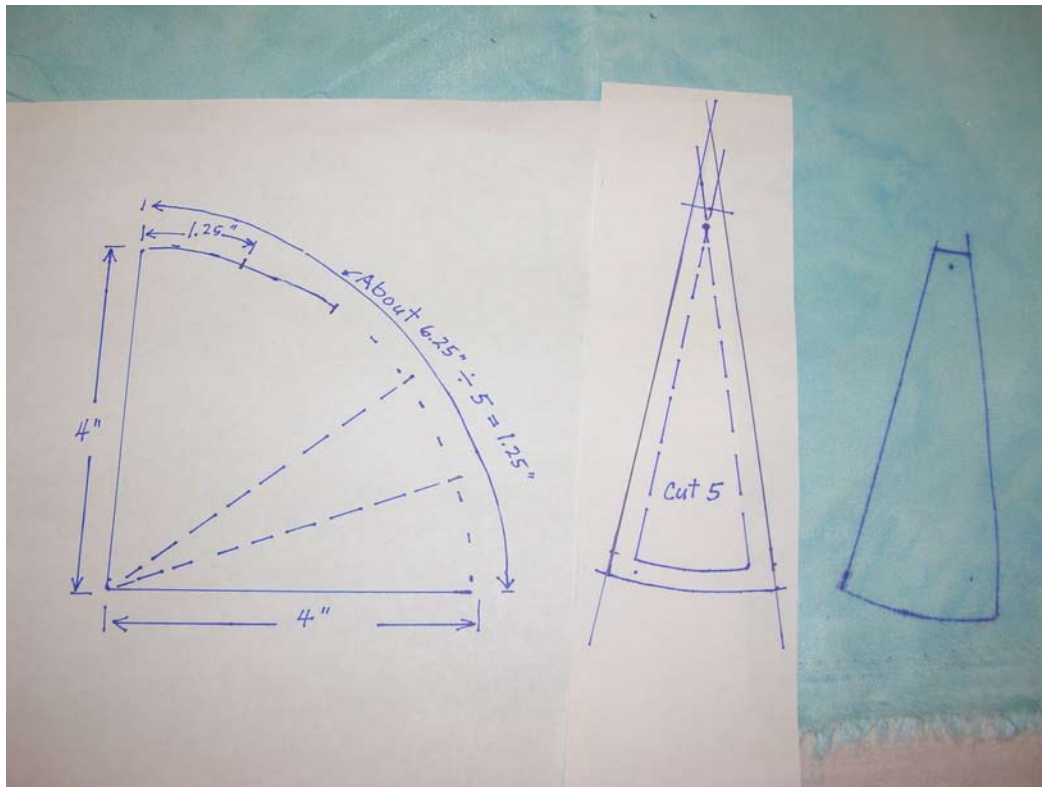
This lesson is for a fan that has five blades, and finishes at 4". Please read all of the instructions before beginning.

1.) DRAFTING THE PATTERN



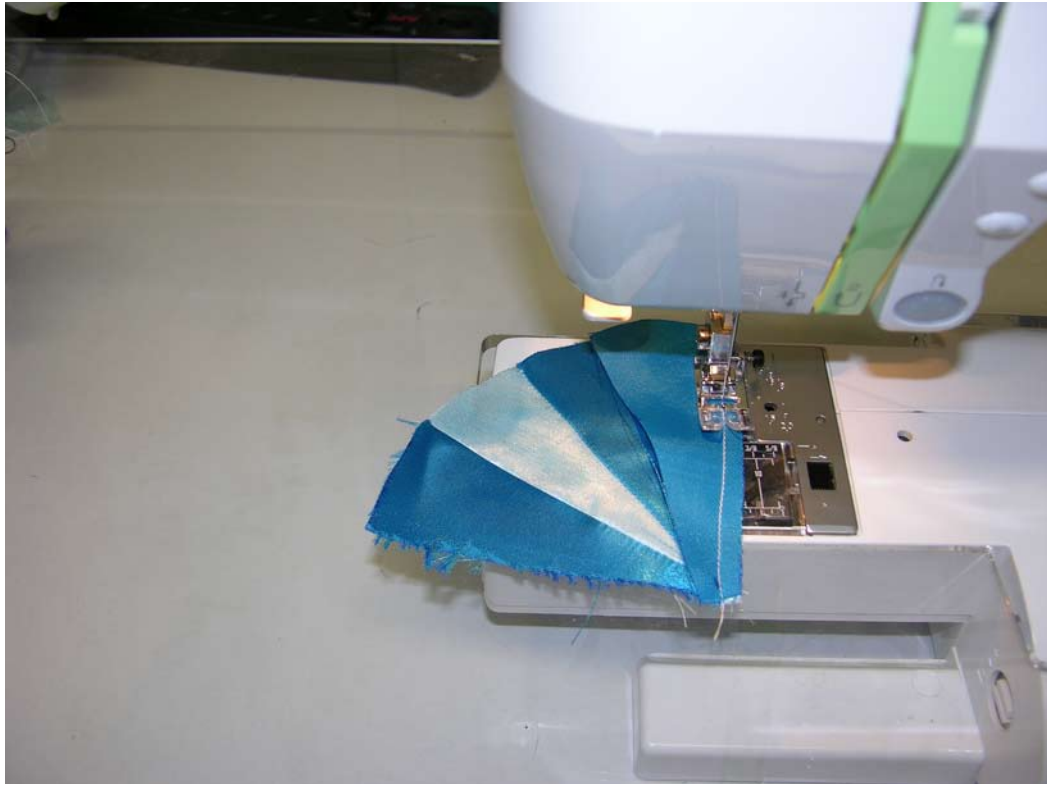
The fan is a ninety-degree (L-shaped) fan, which is designed to fit into the corner of your crazy quilt block. Use your ruler and plain or graph paper to measure and draw a 4" line for both the horizontal and the vertical lines. To create the curved edge of the fan, as shown in photo #1, measure 4" from the corner of the fan, mark in several places, and then connect the dots.

2.) MEASURING AND CUTTING THE FAN BLADES



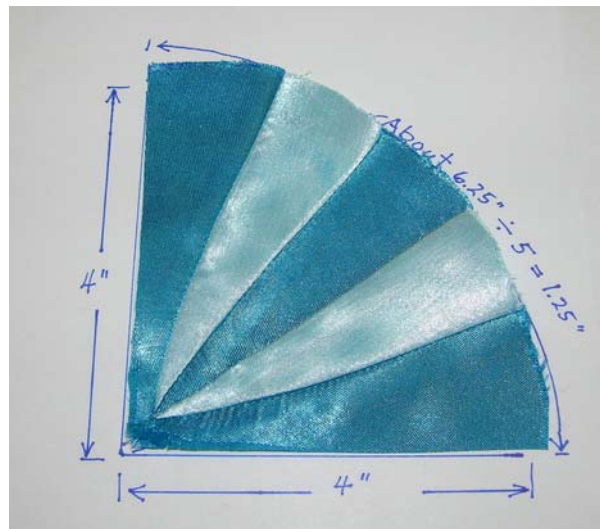
Use a ruler or tape measure to measure the curved edge of the fan. In our example, it measures slightly more than $6\frac{1}{4}"$. Divide $6.25"$ by 5 (the number of blades) equals about $1.25"$. Mark the curve at $1\frac{1}{4}"$ increments, as shown in photo #2. Use the ruler to draw a line from the corner of the fan to each mark on the curve to make each fan blade. Cut out, or trace and cut out, one of the fan blades to use as a pattern. Measure and add $\frac{1}{4}"$ seam allowances on all sides of the fan blade. Cut 5 blades from the fabric of your choice.

3.) SEWING THE FAN



With right sides together, sew a generous (slightly more than $\frac{1}{4}$ ") seam starting at the wide part of the blade toward the tip. Align and sew through the dot at the tip of each blade to ensure that all the fan blade points come to one sharp point. See photo #3. Use a pin to align the dots on each blade tip before sewing, if desired.

4.) CHECKING FOR ACCURACY



After sewing the fan, press well, and then lay the fan on the pattern to make sure that the fan is an accurate ninety-degree angle, as shown in photo #4. If the fan is too wide, go back and increase the size of the seams in some or all of the blades. It is very important that the fan finish at ninety degrees so that it will fit properly in a corner of your crazy quilt block.

5. ATTACHING THE FAN TO THE CRAZY QUILT:



Attach the fan to the crazy quilt with hand or machine stitching, being sure that all of the raw edges will be covered by seams or by embellishments. Your block will finish with a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance at each side of the fan, and at the curved edge of the fan. This will give you room for seams at the sides, and will allow you to turn under and sew down the curved edge, if desired. You can omit the "turned under" curve and simply apply lace or other embellishments to cover the raw seam edge.



Fig. 6 - Embellished Fan