

BABY BASKET

by Anita Shackelford



BABY BASKET, 14" x 14", by Anita Shackelford

Making this little basket quilt will give you the opportunity to experiment with hand quilting, stitch-in-the-ditch using a walking foot, and free-motion quilting, all in one piece.

For more detailed information on making quilts, including appliqué, see the AQS Quilting Essentials & Tested Tips at www.AmericanQuilter.com.

Making the Basket block

Using your favorite method, prepare the curved edges of the handle (E patch) for appliqué. Fold the D patch in half and lightly crease to mark the center. Position the handle on the D and blindstitch in place (fig. 1).

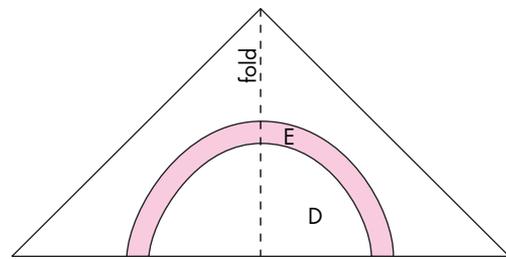


Fig. 1

Referring to figure 2, piece the basket block by hand or machine. Join four pink A patches with 3 cream A patches, and press the seam allowances toward the pink patches. Add the B patch and press toward B. Add the C patches and press toward C. Add the D patch (with the handle appliqué) to the top and the F patch to the bottom. Press the seam allowances toward the cream fabrics. Sew the G patches to opposite sides of the basket (fig. 3). Add the remaining C's.

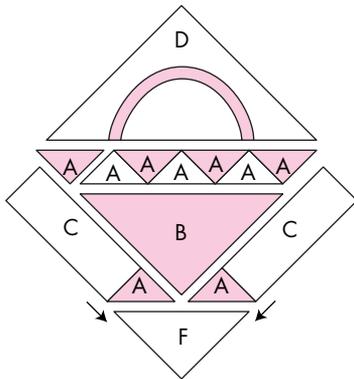


Fig. 2

Noting their orientations, sew the remaining pink A's to the C patches, and press the seam allowances in the directions of the arrows. Sew these units to the sides of the basket. Add the completed D (with the handle appliqué) to the top and the F patch to the bottom. Press the seam allowances toward the cream fabrics. Sew the G patches to opposite sides of the basket (fig. 3). Add the remaining C's.

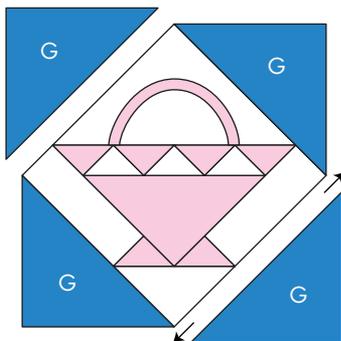
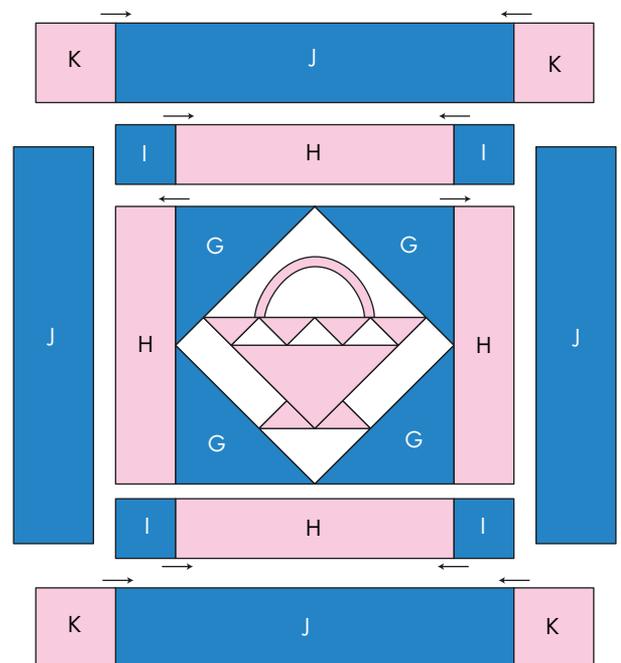


Fig. 3

Adding the Borders

Referring to the assembly diagram, sew pink H patches to the sides of the block, easing them to fit, if necessary. Press the seam allowances toward the H patches. Add the I patches to the ends of the remaining H's, and sew them to the top and bottom of the block.

Sew blue J patches to sides, and press the seam allowances toward the J's. Add the K patches to the ends of the remaining J's, and sew them to the top and bottom. Press the seam allowances toward the J's.



Assembly diagram

FABRIC & CUTTING REQUIREMENTS

Skill level: Intermediate

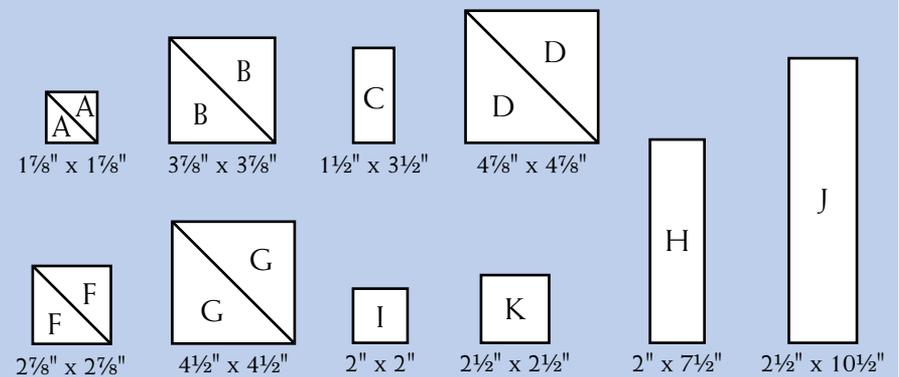
Quilt size: 14" x 14"
Finished block size: 5" x 5"

- Requirements are based on 40" fabric width.
- A fat quarter is approximately 18" x 20".

Cream – fat quarter	• 3 A, 2 C, 1 D, 1 F
Pink print – fat quarter	• 6 A, 1 B, 1 E, 4 H, 4 K
Blue print – fat quarter	• 4 G, 4 I, 4 J
Backing – ½ yard	• 17" x 17" • sleeve, 1 strip 9" x 14"
Batting	• 17" x 17"
Binding, dark blue solid fat quarter	• 1"-wide bias strips to make 66" of single-fold binding

ROTARY CUTTING

Rotary dimensions include seam allowances.



Quilting

Layer the backing, batting and the quilt top. Baste the layers together.

All of the quilting within the basket block is done by hand. Hand quilting is a good choice for lines with many starts and stops. Quilting one piece at a time, I can easily travel from one patch to another.

The basket is quilted with mini clamshells. Triangles in the rim of the basket are quilted $\frac{1}{8}$ " away from the seams. Trimming seam allowances to a narrower width will make these pieces easier to quilt. The basket handle is quilted in the ditch.

The background was marked with the Mini Perfect Spiral tool for graceful lines that radiate from the center. The ditch quilting in all of the setting and border seams was done with my Bernina sewing machine and a walking foot. Use monofilament (invisible) thread in the top and a thread that matches the backing fabric in the bobbin. Stitching in the ditch will have a few starts and stops. For best effect, tie the thread ends together,

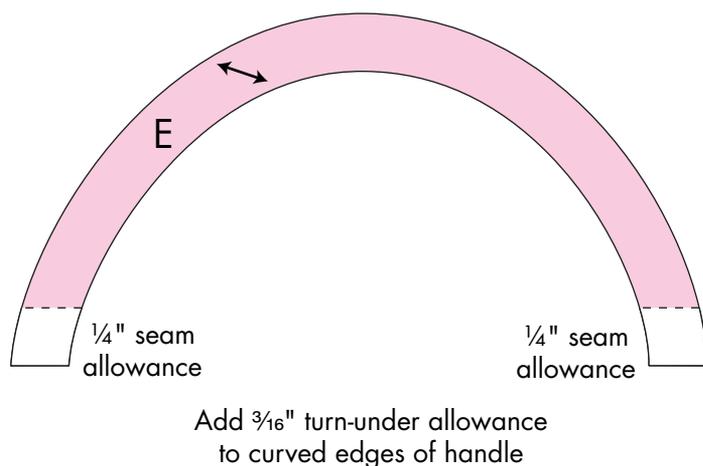
thread them into a large-eyed needle, and bury them in the batting layer of the quilt.

The fancy motif quilting includes feathers, swags, hearts, and pumpkin seeds. This is the place to try your hand at free-motion quilting. I used my Gammill Statler Stitcher for these patterns. Computerized quilting gives me regulated stitch length and control of the design for smoothly flowing lines. Free-motion quilting can also be done with a domestic sewing machine, with or without a stitch regulator. The patterns are all continuous line with minimal starts and stops. Again, tie thread ends together and bury them in the batting layer.

Binding

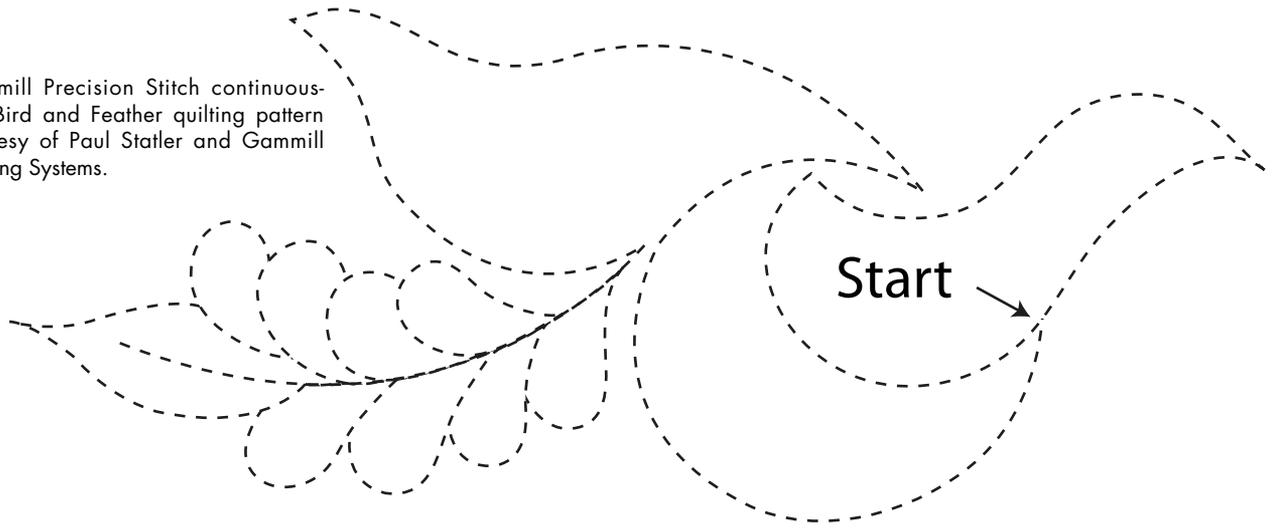
Join bias binding strips to make a strip 66" long. Apply single layer binding to the front of the quilt, using a scant $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam. Miter the corners. Turn the binding to the back and finish by hand.

To display your quilt, make a sleeve and sew it to the back of the quilt.



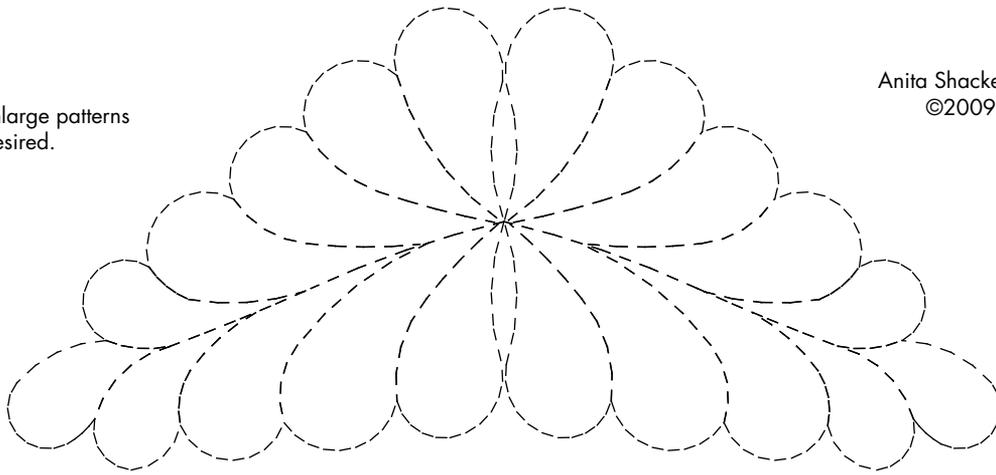
Detail, BABY BASKET

Gammill Precision Stitch continuous-line Bird and Feather quilting pattern courtesy of Paul Statler and Gammill Quilting Systems.



Reduce or enlarge patterns as desired.

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