



www.letsdosew.com

In the Hoop Crazy Quilt Block Instructions

for February Creative Club meeting



Crazy quilt blocks are a great way to use fabric scraps and create a fun, random pattern mix of fabrics in a single block. I designed this quilt block to be stitched using a method similar to machine embroidered applique. Choose fabrics to suit any color scheme. I chose pretty batiks for these bright colored samples, but I've also stitched these blocks in an earthy color scheme. Just select fabrics with some contrast and you're sure to have a winning combination!

Stitched one at a time in a 5-inch X 7-inch hoop, you can create as many blocks as you like! These blocks are ideal for table decorations when you join multiple blocks together. For example, four blocks make a nice candle mat or base for a vase of flowers. Six blocks make a petite placemat, 18 blocks are ideal for a rectangular table topper. Add even more blocks for a table runner. How about a coaster? One 5-inch block makes a perfect coaster finishing at approximately 4 ½ inches square. I've included a design file for you to make a simple in-the hoop coaster. Additional ideas for blocks include multiple blocks for a pillow top, tote bag, purse, or even for embellished sections on a garment such as cuffs, yokes, and other accents. Add coordinating fabric strips to single or multiple block combinations to create larger finished sizes. Sew many ideas!!! I'm sure you'll come up with even more inventive ideas on your own!

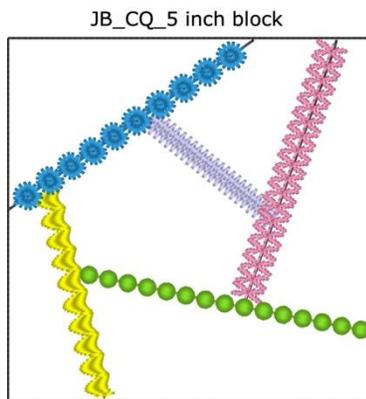
Are you ready? Let's go sew!

Instructions below are for creating a single 5-inch quilt block using your Let's Get Creative Club downloadable designs. During the live session, I'll demonstrate an option for machines with a hoop size of 6-inch X 10-inch or larger, using edit functions to create multiple blocks in a single hooping. I'll also give tips for cutting pieces by stacking fabric squares and using quilter's charm packs. This demonstration for larger hoops will be available to you as a downloadable file you can refer to indefinitely.

Supply list:

- Fabric & Fusible Webbing requirements for **each** 5-inch crazy quilt block stitched one at a time in a 5-inch X 7-inch hoop:
 - Thin craft fleece or thin cotton batting measuring 8-inches wide X 11 ½-inches long, or a piece cut to fit comfortably in your 5" X 7" hoop. **Note:** For blocks *without* batting, substitute pre-shrunk, permanent-press muslin for the base. Add a layer of lightweight tear-away stabilizer under the hoop for muslin blocks.
 - Small pieces of quilt weight cotton fabric. Choose fabric without a one-way design for best results. You will want six different fabrics for each block. See file named **JB_CQ Block_Fabric Pieces.pdf** for required sizes for each numbered fabric piece. **Important Note:** Pieces are small so you can use scraps of fabric from your stash. If you make multiple blocks, you can use the same fabric for each numbered section and flip the blocks around for a random look, **or** cut blocks using a variety of different fabrics. It's okay to be a little "crazy" with your crazy quilting! Do what makes you happy! Pieces are small. If you change your mind when designing your block, just cut new pieces.
 - Small pieces of paper backed heat activated fusible web such as [HeatnBond Light](#), [Lite Steam-A-Seam2](#), or my personal favorite, [FuseMe](#) by Dime. See file named **JB_CQ Block_Fusible Web Pieces.pdf** for sizes required for each numbered piece of fusible webbing. **Important Note:** Pattern is mirror imaged for easy tracing onto paper side of fusible web. See instructions for details.
- 5-inch X 7-inch embroidery hoop. I used my standard hoop for some blocks and my [Designs in Machine Embroidery](#) 5-inch X 7-inch Snap Hoop Monster for others. They both worked well.

- Embroidery thread in colors of choice.
- A rotary cutter, mat, ruler, flat flower head pins, and a five-inch square quilting ruler are all optional but recommended.
- Small iron to press fabric pieces within the hoop. I used the [Dritz Petite Press Portable Mini Iron](#).
- Download and transfer crazy quilt block design file to your machine, selecting your preferred format. This file is titled **JB_CQ_5 inch block**. See image below:

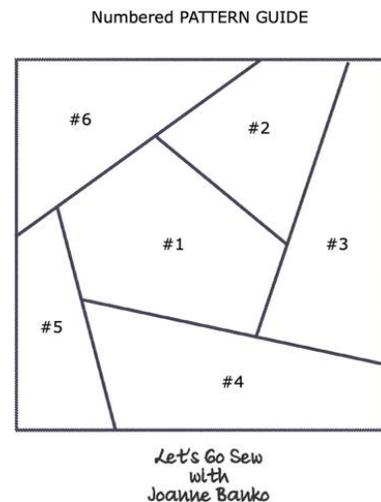
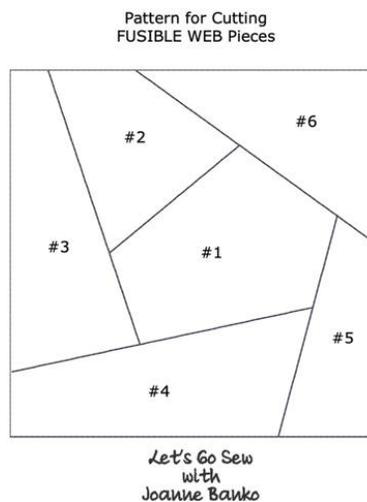
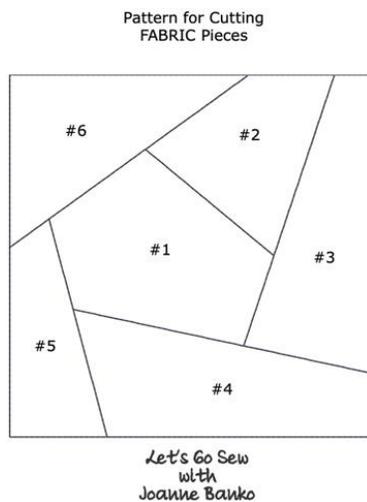


- Download and print PDF Patterns, using print set to Scale 100%.

Here is a list of PDF files for creating this crazy quilt block:

- ⇒ JB_CQ Block_Fabric Pieces.pdf
- ⇒ JB_CQ Block_Fusible Web Pieces.pdf
- ⇒ JB_CQ_Numbered Pattern Guide.pdf

See sample images of files below:



Note: If you're creating a coaster you will also need a small amount of backing fabric. Supplies and steps for creating a coaster are included below in these instructions.

Basic steps for creating each Crazy Quilt block are as follows:

- ⇒ Cut fabric pieces and apply fusible webbing to wrong side of each piece.
- ⇒ Hoop batting or muslin base. Stitch outline of block and placement lines for each piece in the crazy quilt block.
- ⇒ Follow numbered guide and fuse pieces in place.
- ⇒ Embroider decorative stitches over raw edges.
- ⇒ Cut block to size.

Instructions for creating each single crazy quilt block in 5" X 7" hoop:

1. Prepare fabric as follows:

- Select printed pattern titled **JB_CQ Block_Fabric Pieces.pdf**. Cut along lines to create six individual, numbered pattern pieces.
- Use patterns to cut six different coordinating pieces of fabric for your Crazy Quilt block, pinning pattern to right side of each fabric piece. See example of pattern pieces pinned to fabric scraps in Fig. #1 and example of cut pieces in Fig. #2.

Figure 1



Figure 2

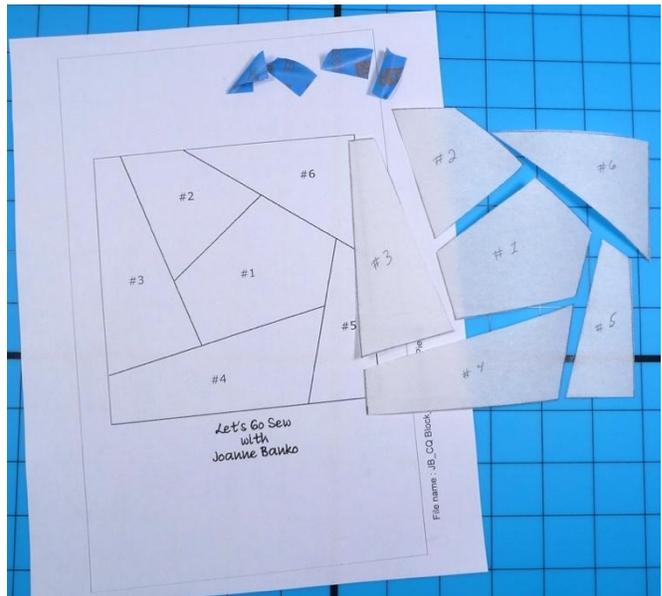
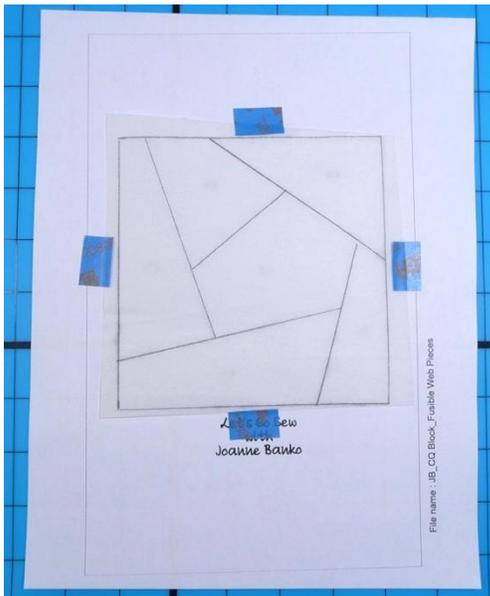


Important cutting tips: Pin pieces to fabric scraps using long pins. Cut carefully and accurately with scissors or use a rotary cutter and small ruler to cut pieces. When pinning, make sure tip of pin does not extend past paper or you run the risk of damaging your rotary blade by hitting a pin. I like to use flat flower head pins whenever I'm pinning fabric for use with a rotary cutter and ruler. Watch for distinct patterns in fabric print but don't be concerned with fabric grain. Each piece is fused in place, so grainline won't matter.

- Select **JB_CQ Block_Fusible Web Pieces.pdf**. Place this mirror imaged pattern under your webbing with the paper side of webbing facing up. Trace pattern onto paper side of fusible webbing. Cut numbered pieces apart, trimming the paper ever so slightly so webbing pieces are a scant amount smaller than your fabric pieces. I used low tack tape to hold webbing sheet in place while tracing. See Fig. #3a & Fig. #3b.

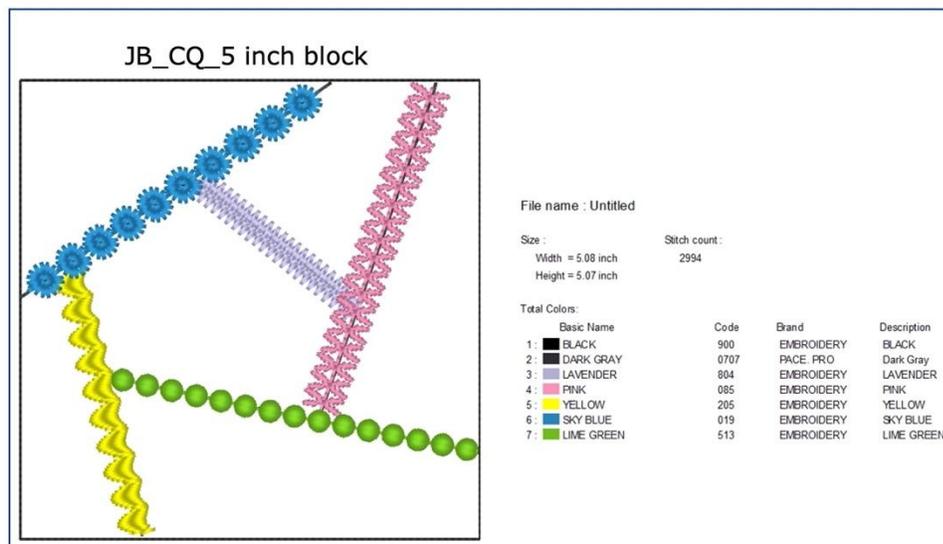
Figure 3a

Figure 3b



- Fuse matching pieces of webbing to **wrong side** of each fabric piece, taking care to match numbers. Carefully remove paper backing from fusible web. Depending on the product you used, the slippery, shiny, or sticky side is now the fusible side of your fabric. **Tip:** If any of your fusible webbing extends beyond the edge of your fabric, be sure to trim it away or it will attach itself to your iron.
2. Prepare to embroider. Download & transfer the following embroidery design file for your machine: **JB_CQ_5 inch block**. See Fig. #4a.

Figure 4a



Note: Once fabric pieces are prepped and ready, each quilt block takes approximately 15 minutes to position pieces, press, and complete the stitching.

3. Hoop base piece of batting or muslin. Stitch first two color stops in design, block outline, and all placement lines for crazy quilt pieces. **Tip:** Thread machine using color for first line of decorative stitching, (step 3 in the design), and you won't need to change thread until you reach color stop 4. Just make sure you can see thread color on batting or muslin base as you will need these reference lines for placement.
4. Carefully remove hoop from machine without disturbing fabric. Place on flat pressing surface. With fabric securely in the hoop, fuse each piece in place, following order on numbered pattern guide and fusing one piece at a time. See Fig. #4b, Fig. #4c, and Fig. #4d

Figure 4b

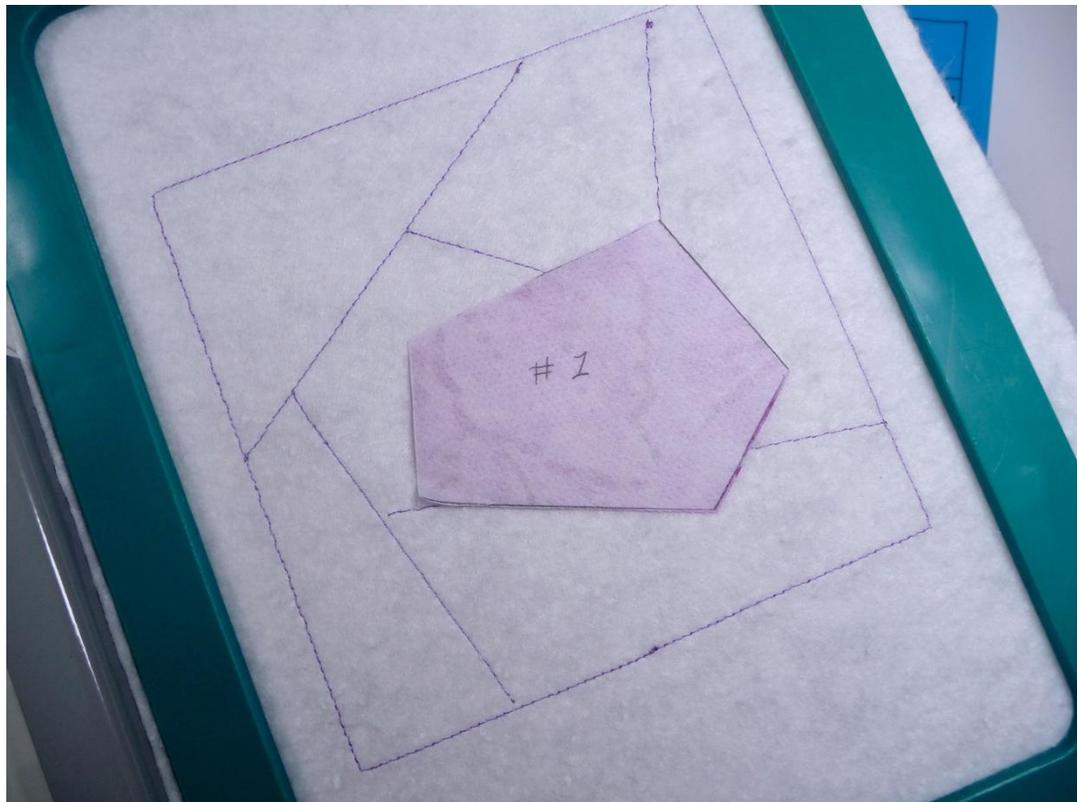


Figure 4c

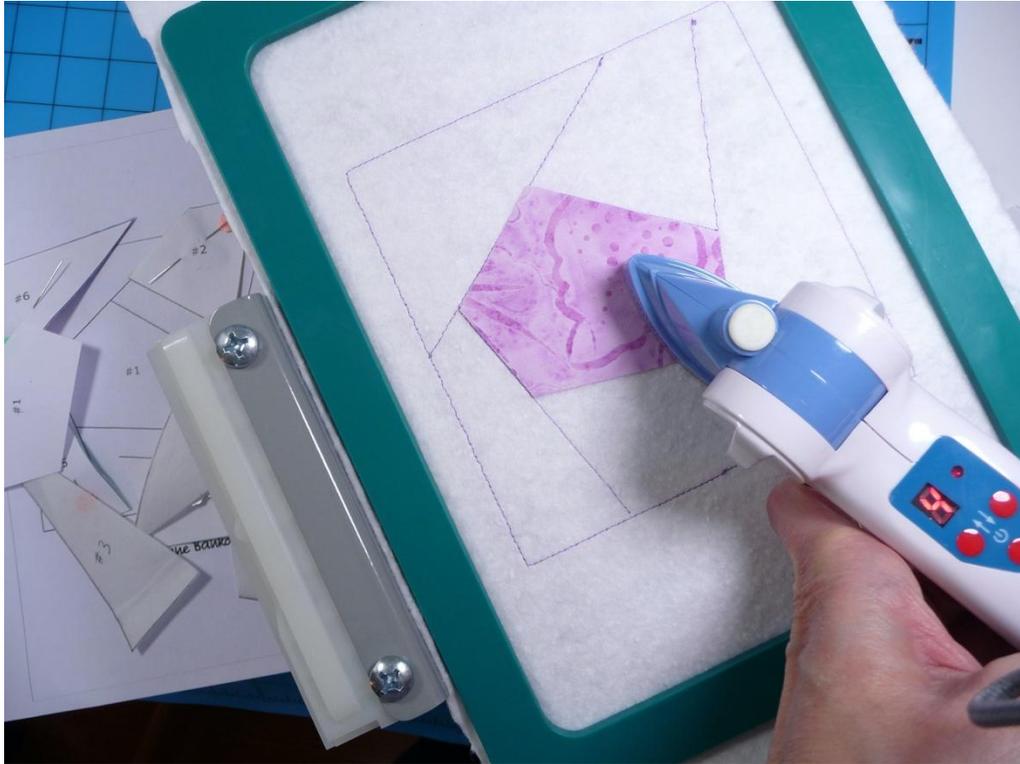
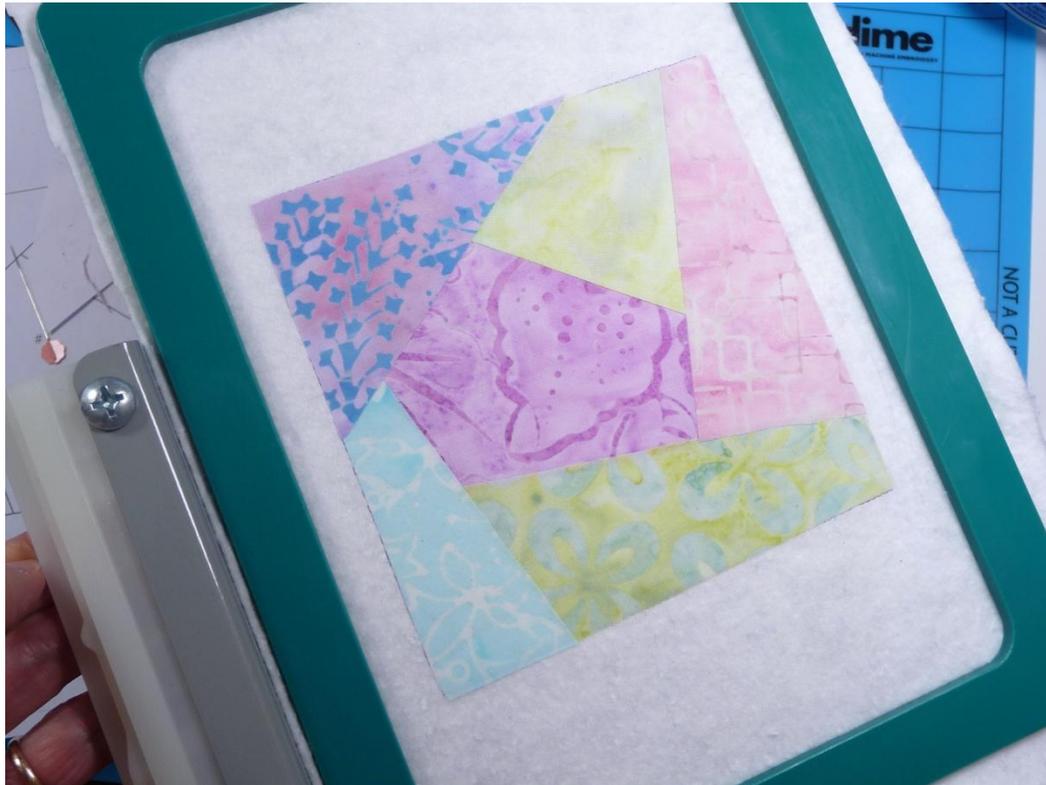


Figure 4d



Note: There is room for forgiveness at the outer edges of the block, but you'll want to make sure all raw edges are closely butted together as you add each piece within the block. It's okay if they overlap a bit, but be sure you don't have any gaps between pieces.

5. Place hoop back on machine and stitch each of the decorative elements in your desired thread colors. See Fig. #5.

Figure 5



If you are creating a coaster, stop, skip step #6, and proceed to follow coaster instructions listed below step #6.

6. Remove piece from hoop & lightly press. The last step is to trim block to size. Each block should finish at 5-inches square. If you make multiple blocks and plan to sew them together, you'll need to be sure each block is cut to the same size. To trim blocks to size, use a 5-inch square quilt ruler or use the **JB_CQ_Numbered Pattern Guide** as a 5-inch pattern, cutting out this piece just outside the dark black lines. Your block is ready to use in any way you choose! Remember, you'll see more ideas for using multiple blocks during the Let's Get Creative Club presentation.

Coaster Instructions:

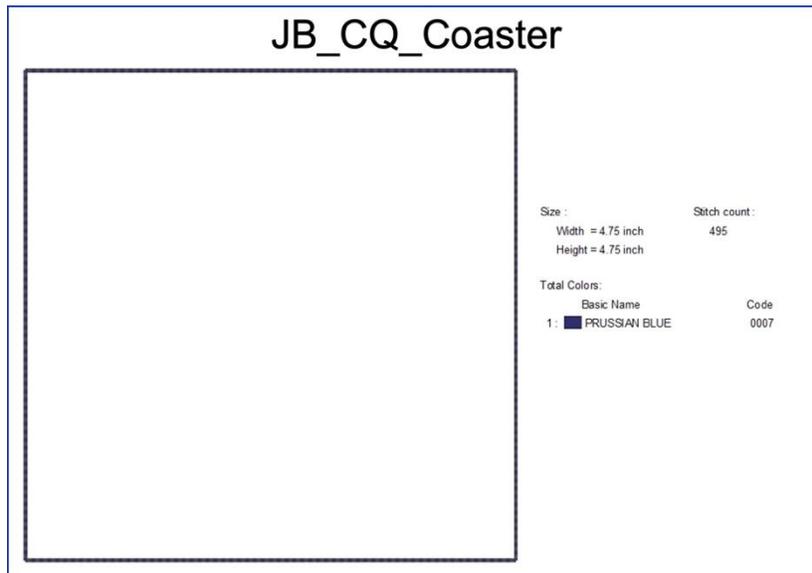
Coasters make great gifts, don't they!?! With the design still up on your embroidery screen, now would be a good time to add a monogram letter to the center block if desired. Depending on your machine, you'll need to skip forward to stitch just the added monogram. See Fig. #6.

Figure 6



Transfer the following embroidery design file to your machine: **JB_CQ_Coaster**. This is a simple block design to finish the coaster in the hoop. See Fig. #7.

Figure 7



Cut two pieces of backing fabric for coaster, having each piece measure 4-inches wide X 5-inches long. Fold and press under 1-inch on one 5-inch long edge of each piece, pressing to the wrong side. I used a rotary pinking blade to clean finish these edges and keep them from raveling. See Fig. #8.

Figure 8



Layer backing pieces over the crazy quilt block having folded edges overlapped in the center and outer raw edges even. Tape in place using low tack tape, taking care to tape over folds so they don't get caught during embroidery. I used the 3M™ Transpore™ tape.

Note that it's fine to do a little stitching over this tape. Stitch coaster design, making sure it is centered over the finished crazy quilt block. See Fig. #9a & Fig. #9b.

Figure 9a



Figure 9b



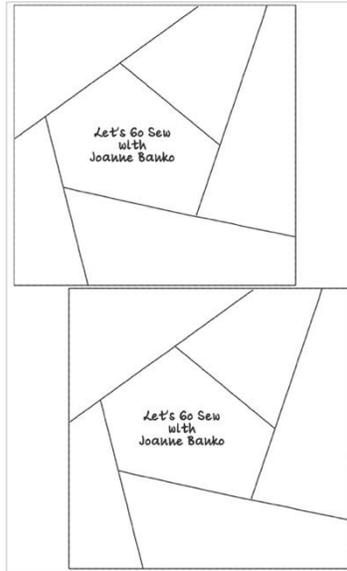
Remove from hoop and trim away excess batting. Trim bulk from corners, turn right side out through opening, gently push out corners, and press flat. Your coaster is finished!



Options and ideas for larger projects with multiple blocks:

To design projects with multiple blocks, download and print the following:
JB_CQ_Blocks for Design Layout.pdf. See example below:

JB_CQ_Blocks for Design Layout



This file includes two patterns slightly smaller than the actual crazy quilt block pattern. With two on a page, you can economize while printing. Print as many as you need and use these paper patterns to design new layouts while working on a flat surface. Place finished blocks on a base of tear-away stabilizer, zig zag together, finish with a backing fabric, and add ribbon or trim to cover the zig zag stitches. More about this method coming up in our Creative Club meeting!

Be forewarned! Crazy quilting can be addictive and downright dangerous when it comes to cleaning up your sewing space. You'll have trouble discarding scraps. Even the smallest bit of fabric will call out to you and say "I could be part of a crazy quilt block!" You will find yourself answering by saying, "of course I'll keep you, just in case!"

Let's keep in touch!

WEBSITE:

<http://www.letsqosew.com/>

FACEBOOK:

<https://www.facebook.com/letsqosew>

YOUTUBE:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/LetsGoSewWithJoanneBanko>