



Block 3: Ring It Around

Murder at Jamestown

*sew the quilt to solve the crime!*

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FABRIC REQUIREMENTS & CUTTING LIST



**BG3**

cut four of Template A from a piece measuring at least 9" x 44" (1/4 yard by width of fabric); cut twelve of Template B from scraps (optional)



**AC2**

cut four of Template D



**AC3**

cut four of Template C



**AC1**

cut four of Template E

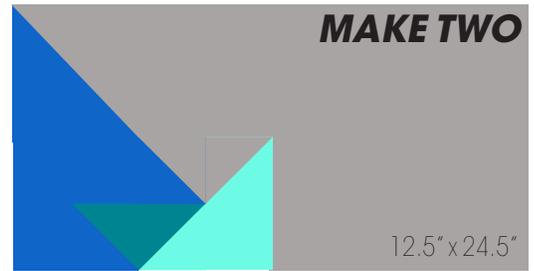
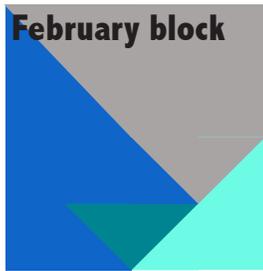


**BG1**

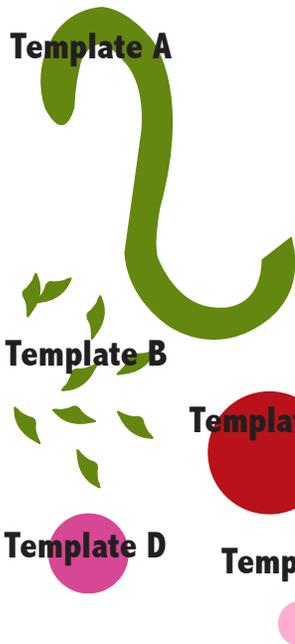
cut 4 at 12.5" x 12.5"  
cut 2 at 3.5" x 36.5"

ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS

All seam allowances are 1/4". All seams are pressed to one side unless otherwise noted.



Combine one of the February completed blocks with the cut of BG1 illustrated above. Repeat with a second February block to make TWO. Press seam allowances open. Set aside the two remaining February blocks and BG1 pieces for a later step.



Cut the applique pieces using the included templates. Begin with Template A, which forms the flower stem. TAKE THE TIME to read through the applique techniques on Page 2 before cutting--the technique you select will impact how you handle the applique prior to cutting.

TIP

When preparing fabric to applique, the biggest step you can take to improve your results is to stabilize your fabric. Some quilters like to use a fusible product, like Steam-A-Seam, which will make a "sticker" that adheres to both the applique and the background. Others like to use a spray starch to stiffen the applique fabric before cutting, to prevent distortion and make it easier to sew down. Also available is a wide range of spray basting products that will temporarily tack the fabrics together until they're sewn down. Some quilters prefer to sew baste the applique to the background and then sew it in place permanently. Your choice will depend on the applique method you select from the next page, but if this is your first experience doing applique, you may find that using a fusible adhesive stabilizer on your applique shapes gives you more confidence. Remember to always do an practice run before stitching your final block.



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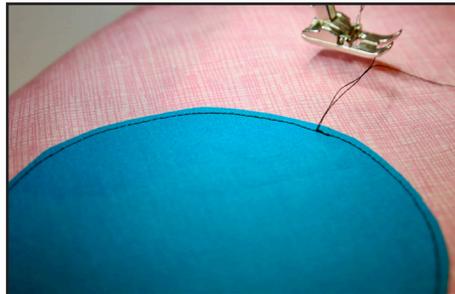
### APPLIQUE TECHNIQUES:

**To add the stem and flower to each of the block sections, select one of the techniques below. Each has pros and cons, and some may appeal more to you than others. Refer to the video included on the MMQ website for more details and to select the technique that you like best--or feel free to try each one in turn, using a different technique on each stem + flower combination!**

#### *raw edge applique*

This technique is one of the simplest forms of machine applique, and goes together very quickly. It will leave the cut edges of the applique fabric un-sewn, and they will fray very slightly over time for a soft effect.

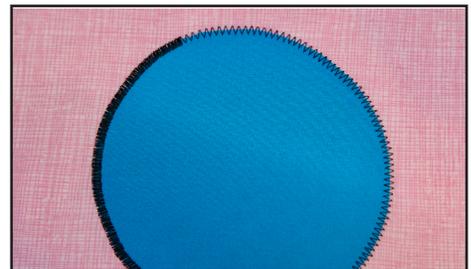
Begin by shortening the stitch length slightly, to about 2.5 stitches per inch. With the fabric shape that will be appli- qued fused or pinned to the background, place the needle down along one edge, preferably the straightest portion of the shape. Stitch less than 1/4" away from the cut edge of the fabric all the way around, finally returning to the starting position and backstitching 1-2 stitches. If desired, trim around the outer edge of the shape close to the stitching to keep it uniform after sewing.



#### *satin stitch applique*

This classic form of machine applique covers the raw edge of the fabric with tight zigzag stitches, preventing any future fraying.

Begin by setting the stitch to a wide zigzag with a very short stitch length of about 1 or 1.5 stitches per inch. Position the raw edge of the fabric shape under the presser foot so that the stitches will fall to the left and right of the edge, with the needle stitching ON the applique on the left and OFF the applique on the right. Continue around the entire appli- que shape until the stitches overlap at the end, unless otherwise directed.





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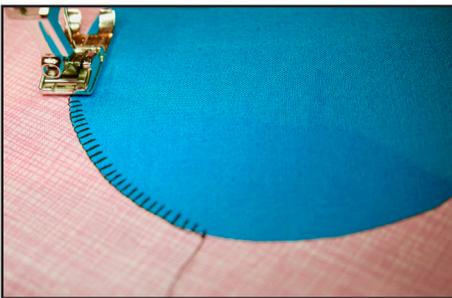
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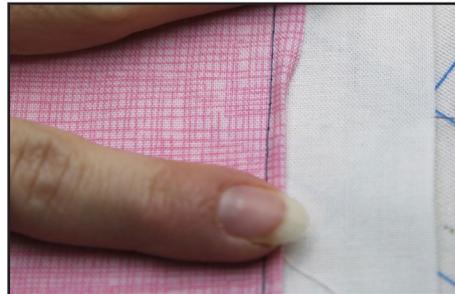
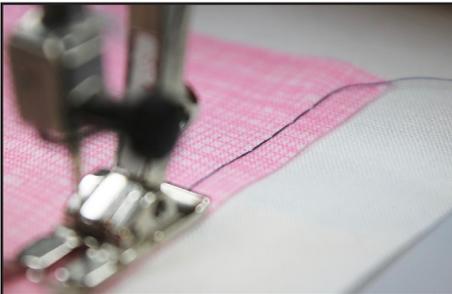
### ***blanket stitch applique***

Like satin stitch applique, this form uses a special stitch setting and creates an attractive effect where the stitches themselves are part of the design. Select the blanket stitch option from the machine options, then stitch in the same manner as the satin stitch, keeping the straight portion of the blanket stitch as close as possible to the raw edge of the applique shape, and allowing the extended portion (the “arm”) of the stitch to bite into the applique on the left. Consider adjusting the stitch length to move the “arm” stitches closer to one another or further apart, based on what look you prefer.



### ***hand applique***

The original form of applique, this technique not only covers the raw edges, it also creates a very slight 3D effect that can be very appealing in the finished quilt. Begin by basting the fabric shape to the background at a 1/4” seam allowance. Then, tuck the raw edges under until they meet the basted seam, and finally hand-stitch the folded edge to the background with invisible stitches.



TIP

#### **Not so sure about any of these? That's OK, too!**

One method of applique is to simply use FUSIBLE ADHESIVE BACKING to adhere the applique shapes to the fabric. This is a store-bought product that is applied to the wrong side of the applique fabric before the shape is cut. Cut out the shape and peel the backing, then fuse to the right side of the background fabric using a hot iron. That's it! The pieces are “permanently” fused, which means they're not sewn down but are fixed in place well enough until the quilting stitches are sewn through all the layers. I strongly encourage you to try your hand at any and all of the applique techniques on these pages, but if you feel uncertain, don't let that stop you from making these blocks! Search Amazon or Google for “fusible web” and build your confidence.

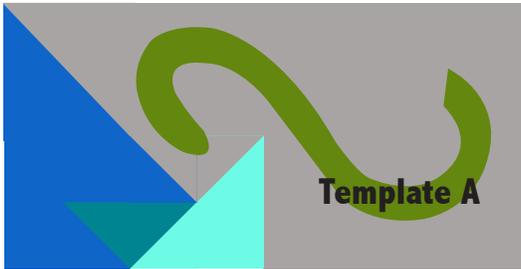


Block 3: Ring It Around

Murder at Jamestown

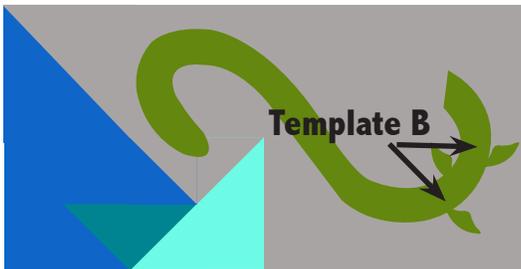
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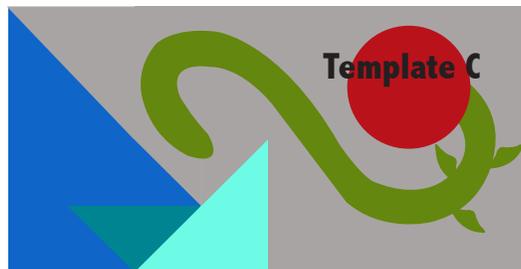
Orient Template A right side up on the joined pieces of the February block + BG1. The rounded end should sit at the point created by the intersection of BG1 and FF1/FF3, and the raw edges of the applique should be placed approximately 1.5" away from the seamline. (NOTE: Don't let perfection derail you here--feel free to adjust the placement until it's pleasing to you, just so long as all the raw edges are at least 1" from the edge of the block.)

DO NOT fuse or baste the edges until after the next step.



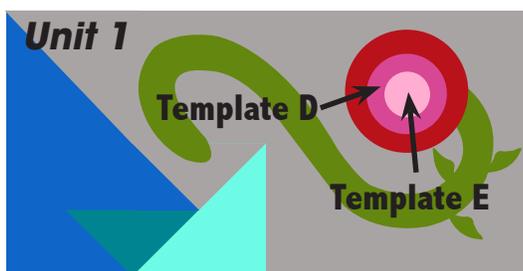
**OPTIONAL:** Place each of the Template B pieces along the length of Template A by tucking the flat end of Template B under the raw edge of Template A by approximately 1/4". (If this is your first experience with applique, you may find the process much easier by SKIPPING Template B altogether; this step is optional for that reason.)

Using the technique you selected from the previous page, FIRST stitch each Template B in place where you've secured it, THEN stitch Template A on top, allowing the applique stitches from Template A to cover any remaining raw edges of Template B.



Place Template C over the raw, straight edge of Template A, roughly centered. Again, placement can be guided by your personal preferences, but Template C should be no less than 2" from the edge of the block to prevent cutting it off when joining the blocks or binding the quilt later.

Using the applique stitch of your choice, secure the edges of Template C all the way around. These stitches will go through both Template C and the background, as well as through the fabric of Template A where the two template pieces overlap.



Repeat the previous step first with Template D and then with Template E last, centering each circle. The fabrics will be stacked on top of one another, and can be quite thick at the end--ensuring you're stitching with a new, sharp needle can make a big difference in the ease of this step.

**MAKE TWO**

Repeat with the other conjoined Feb block + BG1 piece. This is UNIT 1.

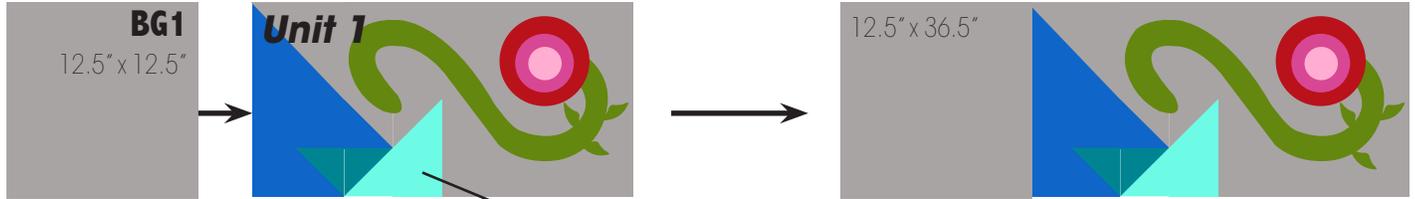


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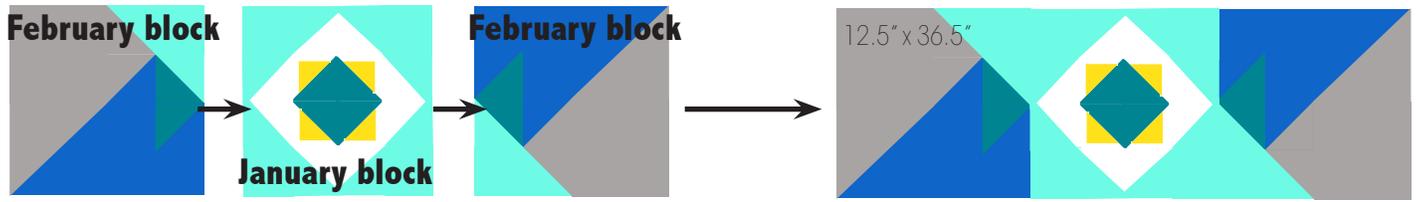
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Stitch the completed Unit 1 to the illustrated cut of BG1, as shown above. Repeat with the other Unit 1. Press seam allowances open.

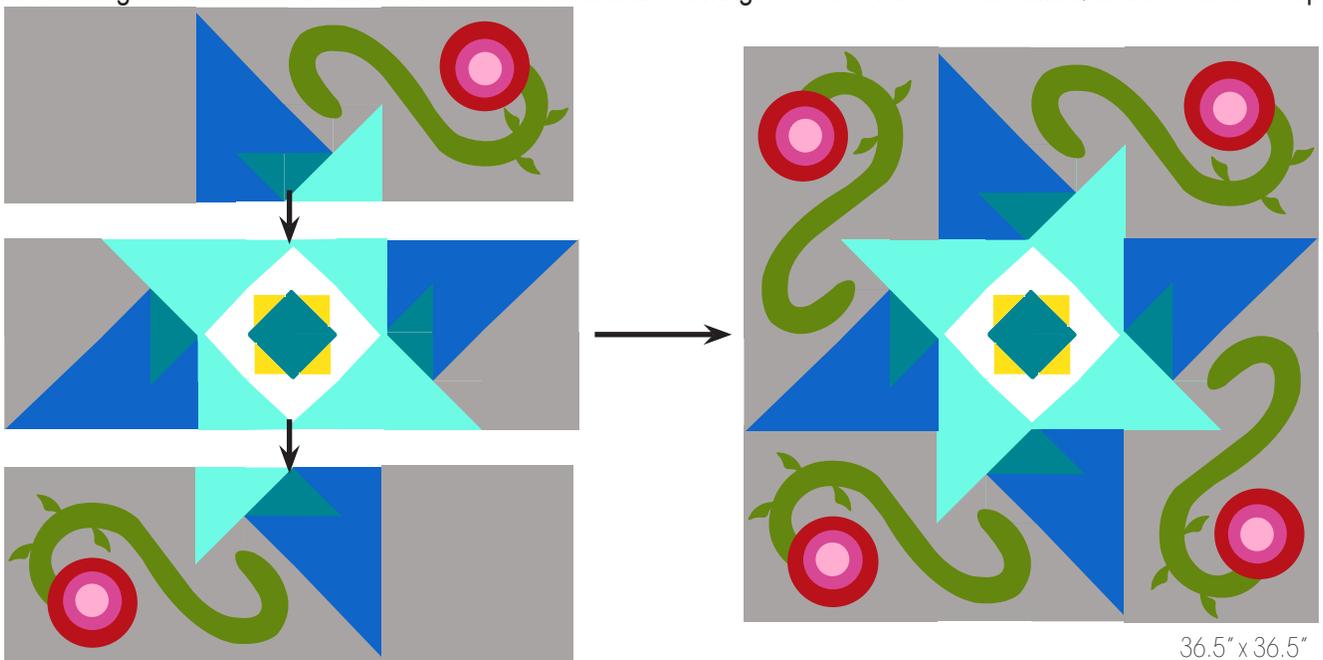
**MAKE TWO**

**TIP** BONUS CLUE NOTE:  
 This month's block involves making four identical pieces. To receive your bonus clue, only ONE of Unit 1 must be completed and posted to the group. Feel free to space out your sewing and complete the remaining applique over a longer period of time, if necessary. Remember to have fun! This block is challenging, but the results are worth it.



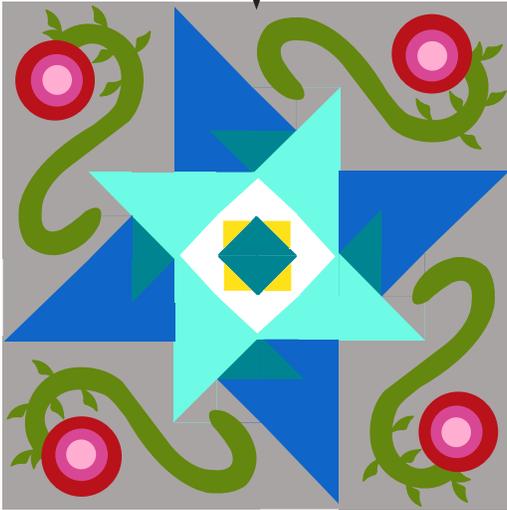
Combine the January block with the remaining two February blocks, as shown. Press seam allowances open.

Combine the Unit 1 segments and the Jan + Feb unit made in the last step as shown below. Then, use the remaining applique pieces to stitch two more applique flowers in the same manner as the first two, as illustrated. Manipulating the larger pieces of fabric can be challenging--you may find it easier to roll up the block to make a more manageable bundle to fit under the machine arm while sewing. See the video on the MMQ website for more tips!



BG1

3.5" x 36.5"

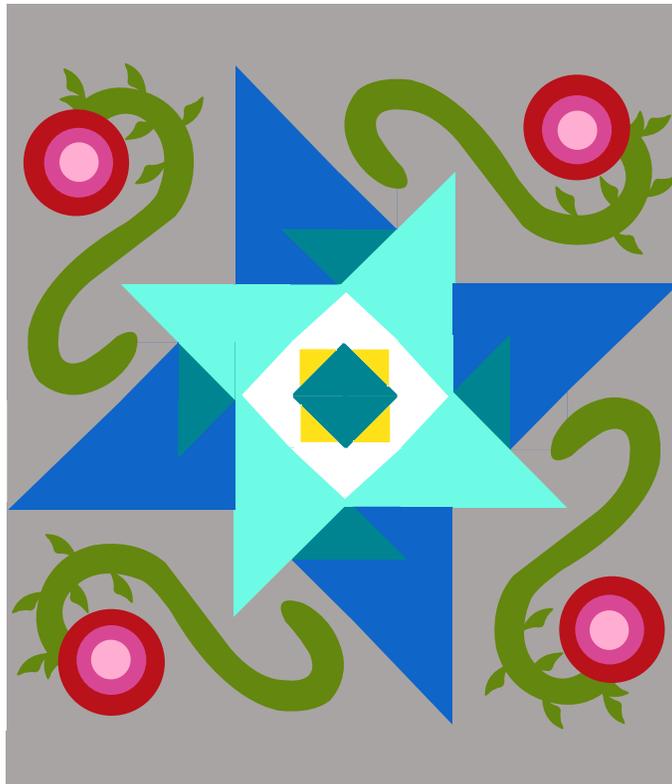


BG1

3.5" x 36.5"

Combine the completed unit with the two long cuts of BG1 shown. Press seam allowances toward the background strips.

Give the entire piece a solid, steamy press until very flat. This piece will be set aside while the next blocks are constructed. Consider suspending it from a skirt hanger over the coming months until it's time to assemble the quilt top.



36.5" x 42.5"

COMPLETED QUILT SO FAR!



a one-year whodunit

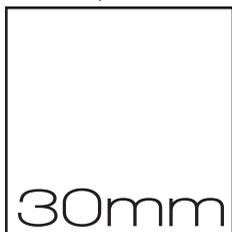
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Printing & assembly instructions: print with no scaling (at 100%). Trim around black bounding boxes. Match diamonds at paper edge to assemble pages, then tape in place. Use paper scissors to cut out each template. Cut the required number of each template from the fabric indicated. Applique with your preferred method.

when printed correctly,  
this square measures



2"



a one-year whodunit

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# TEMPLATE C

Cut 4 from AC3

Dotted line indicates  
1/4" seam allowance



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# TEMPLATE A

Cut 4 from BG3

Dotted line  
indicates 1/4"  
seam allowance

## ABOUT QUILTING TEMPLATES

Using a quilting template is an efficient means of getting an exact shape for a particular block. Some templates are sewn together to make block units, and others are sewn to a background fabric as an applique, as in this case.

**Take your time:** when using templates, pace yourself and use careful cutting to ensure accuracy.

**New needle:** you'll get better results if you start with a new needle, whose sharp point will pierce your templates without distorting them

**Practice on a scrap first:** always cut a practice version!

**Stabilizer:** if you're struggling with the fabric getting distorted, buckling or "tunneling" when the stitches go through, consider using a fusible paper backing, called stabilizer, to support the background while sewing. This can also be accomplished by placing a sheet of tissue paper under the background when sewing the applique in place.



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## TEMPLATE B

Cut 12 from BG3



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*Block Three: Ring It Around*

## TEMPLATE E

Cut 4 from AC1

Dotted line  
indicates 1/4"  
seam allowance



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## TEMPLATE D

Cut 4 from AC2

Dotted line indicates  
1/4" seam allowance

**NOTE: If using a fusible web, trace template right side down on paper backing to reverse the shape when sewn.**