

Stamps & Fancy Stitches

Crazy for You



Sewn by the QUILTMAKER staff and embroidered by Maria Capp.



The Victorian Era marked major advances in technology and increased trade, and quilting reflected those changes. The sewing machine was invented, electricity made home lighting possible and silk fabrics became available. Believed to have been an American innovation, crazy quilts were the perfect medium for women to display their highly skilled needlework.

This may be the perfect friendship quilt for a dear friend who is moving away. Each one in your group could pull from her stash of luscious scraps, foundation piece a block, stamp and sign it. One could assemble, and then the quilt could travel among friends to add the rich embellishments. What a gift!

See "Basic Lessons" for more detailed instructions on the steps of quilting, including foundation piecing.

Directions are for both the wall quilt and the long twin comforter. Information that differs for the twin size is given in [].

1 Selecting Fabrics

Fabrics used for this style of patchwork include silks, cotton, brocade, velvet, linen, wool, rayon and acetate. Notice how jewel tones add sparkling richness and textured fabrics add depth.

2 Making the Paper Foundations

For variety, each block in *Crazy for You* is paper-foundation pieced using a different portion of the foundation on the last page of this pattern.

Photocopy 16 [96] copies of the full-page foundation pattern. Make an 8"-square template from see-through template material. For each block, place the template on a different area of the foundation pattern. Trace around the

Just Right

If you decide to stamp your fabric before foundation piecing, getting the stamped area properly aligned on the paper foundation can be tricky. Follow these easy steps for accurate patch placement.

First stamp the fabric, color with fabric pens if desired and heat set with a dry iron. On a light table, place the paper foundation print side up. Then center the stamped fabric wrong side up in the selected patch position. Lightly mark a generous seam allowance—remember, this piecing technique usually requires more fabric. Cut on the marked lines and sew in place on the foundation.

Add signatures before removing foundation paper to keep the fabrics as stable as possible for writing.

template and cut on your marked lines. Record numbers on patches where printed ones were cut off.

3 Making the Blocks

See the article "Stamping in Style" on pages 22–23 for more information on this process. Also see "Just Right" for help with accurate placement of stamped patches in the foundation-piecing process.

To add lace when piecing the block, sew along the line on the foundation where you wish to add it. Using this line as a guide, align the lace on the fabric side of the foundation and sew in place.

To foundation piece each block, add each patch in numerical order, even if you need to skip some numbers. Those patches at the perimeter of the block that are ½" in size or less need not be added to the foundation as long as the previous patches reach the edge of the foundation.

4 Completing the Piecing

Arrange 4 [8] blocks to make each row. Make 4 [12] rows and join them.

Add the side border strips to the quilt. Trim any excess length. Add the top and bottom strips in the same manner. Complete any writing in the blocks or add signatures as desired. Carefully tear away the paper foundations. Press the seam allowances toward the border.

"Crazy" Ideas

See these books for more inspiration: *The Magic of Crazy Quilting* by J. Marsha Michler, Krause Publications; *An Encyclopedia of Crazy Quilt Stitches and Motifs* by Linda Causee, ASN Publishing; *Art & Inspirations: Judith Baker Montano*, C&T Publishing; and *Crazy Patchwork*, by Janet Haigh, The Quilt Digest Press.

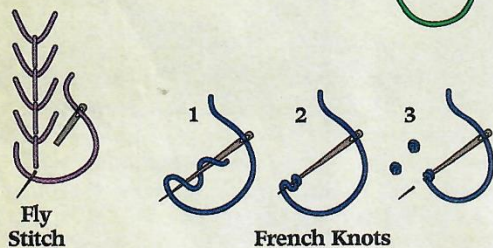
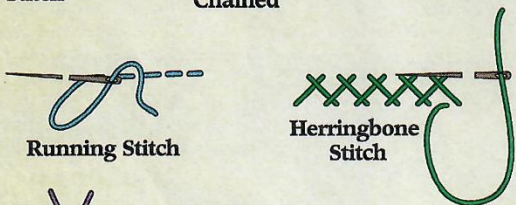
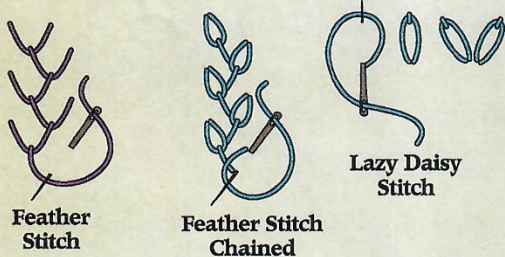
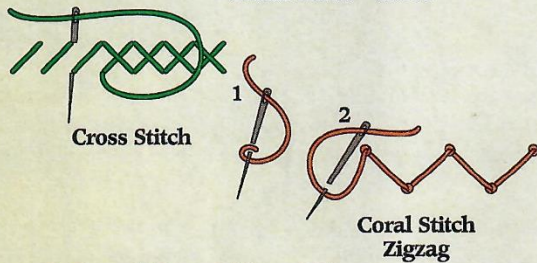
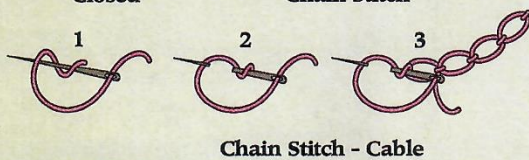
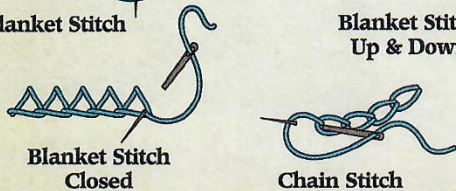
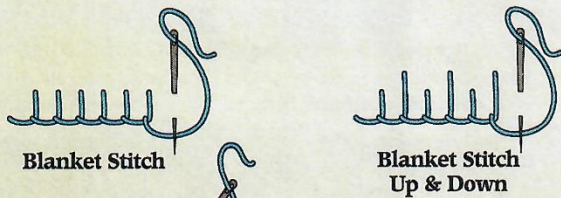
Easy

QUILT SIZE:	Wall Quilt (shown)	Long Twin Comforter
	38" x 38"	64" x 94"
BLOCK SIZE: 7½"		
YARDAGE: (44" fabric)		
Assorted Scraps		
for each block	10–12 at 3" x 5" to 3" x 9"	10–12 at 3" x 5" to 3" x 9"
Red Velvet	5/8 yard	2¾ yards
border strips★ sides	2 at 4½" x 32½"	2 at 2½" x 92½"
top/bottom	2 at 4½" x 40½"	2 at 2½" x 66½"
Lining	1¼ yards	5¾ yards
panels	1 at 39" x 39"	2 at 35" x 98"
Sleeve	½ yard	none for this size
panel	1 at 9" x 38"	

SUPPLIES: template plastic, embroidery floss and #3 pearl cotton for tying; embellishments optional.

★ An extra 2" has been added to the length for insurance.

Embroidery Stitches



Combined Stitches



5 Embroidering and Embellishing

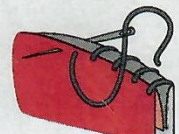
Using the embroidery stitches given or other favorites, embroider along the seam lines and inside the patches. Add any embellishments you'd like such as beads, buttons and charms.

6 Finishing and Tying

Crazy quilts typically had no batting and were tied, not quilted, because of the heavy fabrics used.

Center the quilt top face down on the right side of the lining. Pin around the edges. Stitch $\frac{1}{4}$ " in from the edges of the quilt, leaving one side open approximately one half of its length for turning. Trim the lining even with the quilt top and clip the corners. Turn the quilt right side out, turn in allowances along the opening and whipstitch closed.

Crazy quilts can be tied either from the front or the back, whichever you like. Using a single strand of #3 pearl cotton, tie the quilt with square knots, spacing the knots 4"-6" apart.

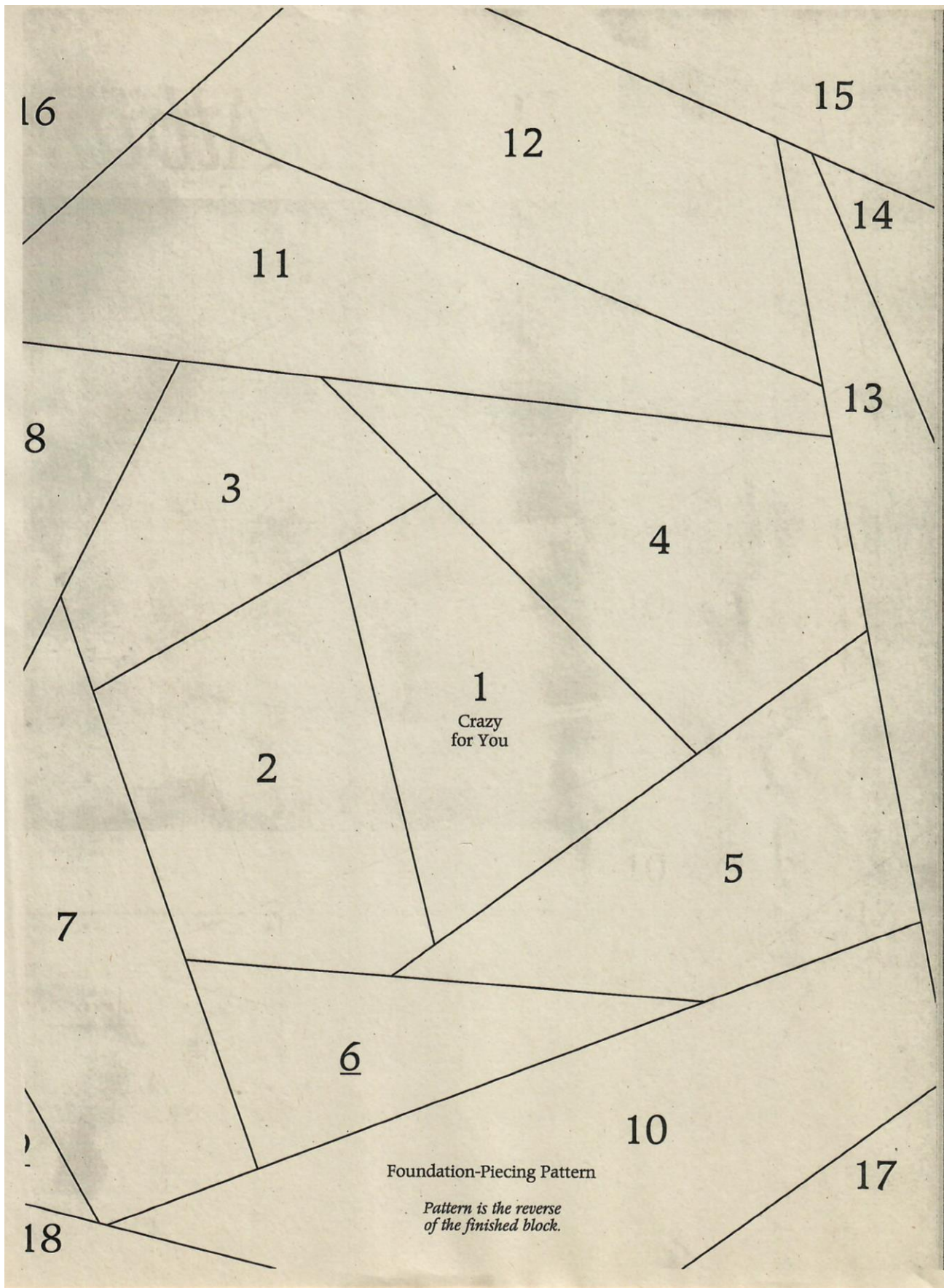


Whipstitch



Square Knot

To display the wall quilt, sew a sleeve to the lining. ■



Foundation-Piecing Pattern

*Pattern is the reverse
of the finished block.*

