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## Supplies for Crazy Quilting

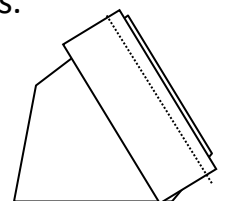
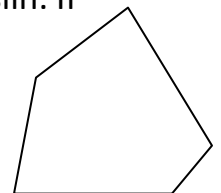
- Base Fabric or Stabilizer 3-4" larger than finished block
- Assorted Scraps of Fabric in strips or "chunks"
- Embroidery Thread for Decorative Stitches and Embroidery Bobbin Thread
- Size 90 Machine Embroidery Needle for Decorative Stitches
- 8 wt. Decorative Thread and Matching Color of All-purpose Thread for Bobbin Work
- ¼" Silk or Polyester Ribbon and Matching Color of All-purpose Thread for Bobbin Work (polyester ribbon should be thin/soft and not heavy/stiff)
- Empty Bobbins for Bobbin Work
- Optional: Extra Bobbin Case for Bobbin Work with 8 wt. threads

## Instructions

### *Start with a Base Layer and a Polygon*

Crazy quilting is stitched over a base layer. Traditionally the base layer is a muslin. If the finished quilt will be washed, pre-shrink the muslin and all the fabrics used in the crazy piecing. For our block keeper project, pre-shrinking is not necessary. On the base fabric, mark the outside edge of the block. The crazy piecing will have uneven outside edges that will be trimmed along with the base fabric. Cut one of the fabrics into a five-sided polygon with un-even sides. Place the fabric right up on the base fabric.

Start adding fabrics to the sides of the polygon using the stitch and flip method. Pick any side to start on. Sew a ¼" seam with the fabric right sides



together. The length of each piece added should extend at least ¼” beyond the edge. Press the strip out and trim the ends even with the adjacent sides. Add additional strips or “chunks” of fabrics and trim after each piece is added. Fabric pieces may be seamed together before adding to the edges. Stop when you have covered the base fabric large enough for the desired block size.

### *Add Decorative Stitching Over the Seams*

Select a decorative stitch and thread the needle with Embroidery thread or 12 wt. Decorative thread. When using 12 wt. thread, use a size 90 machine needle. Test sew any stitch before stitching on the project. If necessary, loosen the top tension of the machine if the bobbin thread is pulled to the top while stitching. On the right side of the crazy quilt piece, stitch over the seams with different decorative stitches. Play with different stitch widths and lengths. Stack stitches by stitching a different stitch adjacent to any other stitch. Bobbin work involves using thicker threads that would not fit through the eye of the needle in the bobbin of the machine. Stitch these stitches from the back side of the work using the seam lines as a guide.

### *Set Up Machine for Bobbin Work*

Select a thicker thread and hand wind onto an empty bobbin. Don’t overfill the bobbin beyond the sides. Thread the machine with matching all-purpose thread through the needle. When inserting the bobbin into the machine, do not pull the thread or ribbon through the bobbin tension area. Pull the bobbin thread or ribbon up with a needle down/up on the machine. The thread/ribbon will not cross over the top of the bobbin as with traditional sewing and will pull very easily through the needle plate cover. (Don’t pull too much thread. To re-wind thread onto the bobbin, remove the bobbin cover and wind the bobbin with your finger to pull the thread back onto the bobbin. Replace the bobbin cover before sewing.)

Do not pull the thicker thread through the bobbin tension spring. The bobbin tension has been pre-set for your machine either at the factory or by a qualified technician. Purchase an alternate bobbin case for bobbin work. Adjust the tension on this bobbin case to create different effects with thicker threads. Label the bobbin case clearly to distinguish it from the standard bobbin case used for everyday sewing. When adjusting the tension on the alternate bobbin case, locate the tension screw to adjust and not the small screw that holds

the tension spring in place. Generally, the tension screw will need to be moved only a small amount (5-10 “minutes”) to the left to accommodate the thicker thread.

## Supplies for Block Keeper

- Outside Covers
  - (2) 16” squares for Outside (any design centered in 13” square in center)
  - (2) 13” squares Heavy Cardboard (such as corrugated or illustration board)
  - (2) 13” squares Thin Batting
- Inside Covers
  - **(2) 15” squares of Coordinating Fabric**
  - **Optional: Fabric or Vinyl pocket to hold instructions**
  - (2) 12 ½” squares of Thin Cardboard (such as cereal box weight)
- ½ yard 1” wide Ribbon for Hinges and Closure, **cut into (4) 4 ½” lengths**
- **(1) small square of Hook and Loop**
- **White Glue**
- **Wonder Clips**
- **Optional: 12” felt squares for pages**

## Instructions

### *Create the Outside Covers with Hinges*

Create a closure. On the fabric for the back cover, position the rough side of the hook and loop square centered and 2 ½” in from the edge. When the fabric covers the cardboard, this square should be about 1” in from the edge. The soft side of the hook and loop will be positioned and sewn in the last step.

The thicker cardboard or illustration board is covered with batting and fabric or embellished fabric. Place the batting on one side of each of the cardboard covers and secure with a small amount of glue. Allow the glue to dry. Center the outside cover over the batting. On the back side, bring the edge of the fabric to the back on two opposite sides and glue in place. Secure with wonder clips until the glue is dry. Fold and trim the corners on the remaining

two sides and glue in place. Secure with wonder clips until the glue is dry. Lay the two covers side by side as if they were an open book. The gap between them should be at least  $\frac{1}{2}$ " to accommodate the contents. Make the gap larger if the book will be thicker with lots of pages. Lay the 4  $\frac{1}{2}$ " strips of ribbon across the gap, evenly spaced and glue in place. In the center of the front cover on the side opposite the hinges, glue the ribbon that will become the closure. The soft side of the hook and loop will be added to the end of the ribbon after the book is complete. Allow the glue to completely dry.



### *Finish The Inside*

Cover the thinner pieces of cardboard with the 15" squares of fabric omitting the batting. If desired, add an optional pocket to the fabric to hold instructions or information about the blocks before covering the cardboard. When covering the cardboard, do not pull the fabric too tight or the thin cardboard will bow. Allow the glue to completely dry.



Apply a thin layer of glue to the back of the outside covers. Make sure the glue is applied up to  $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the edges. Center the covered inside pieces over the glue. Apply heavy weight to hold the cardboard in place. Make sure the pieces did not shift when placing the weight. Allow the glue to completely dry, preferably overnight.

Add pages to the book with 12" felt squares. The felt will hold finished blocks, folded rows and unfinished pieces in place. The book can be any size. Modify the dimensions to accommodate your block or row size.

Close the book. Make sure to accommodate the thickness of the contents when measuring the closure ribbon. Place the soft side of the hook and loop on the loose end of the closure ribbon, fold one end in and sew the soft sidepiece of the hook and loop square in place. The hook and loop piece should be facing towards the inside of the covers.