

Clamshells

• HELEN STUBBINGS •

When I'm stitching, I turn off my mind and exist in my own little world. No distractions, no worries, no pressures, just me and my needle. Bonuses may include stitching friends, cocktails by the pool, or a glorious garden on a sunny spring day with everything I need right by my side. Oh, and did I mention chocolate? Of course chocolate always helps! ~Helen



What You'll Need

1 square, 7" × 7", of cream print for background

1 square, 3" × 3", of 10 assorted prints for clamshells

1 square, 7" × 7", of lightweight fusible stabilizer

Embroidery floss (pink, blue, and green)

Template plastic, cardstock, fabric glue stick, and appliqué glue

Basic embroidery supplies (page 138)

Embroidery and Assembly

For embroidery techniques and stitch detail, refer to "Embroidery Basics" on page 138.

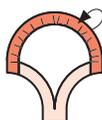
1. Using a light box or window, trace the pattern on pattern sheet 2 onto the background fabric. Fuse the stabilizer on the wrong side of the block.

2. Embroider the design using two strands of floss. Use a stem stitch for stems and flower centers, a backstitch for petals, and a lazy daisy for leaves.

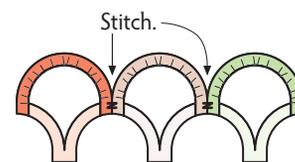
3. Make a plastic template using the clamshell pattern on pattern sheet 2. Trace 10 clamshells onto cardstock and cut out.

4. Trace a clamshell on the wrong side of each 3" square. Cut out, adding a generous $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance all around.

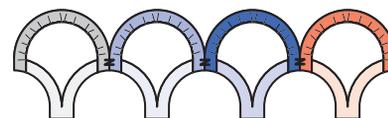
5. Center a cardstock template on the wrong side of a fabric clamshell. Using the fabric glue stick, apply glue along the top curved edge of the template. Finger-press the seam allowance onto the glue, using small pinches to make a smooth curve. Repeat to glue baste all of the clamshells.



6. Lay out the clamshells in three rows. Hand stitch the clamshells where the edges meet. Make two rows with three clamshells and one row with four clamshells.



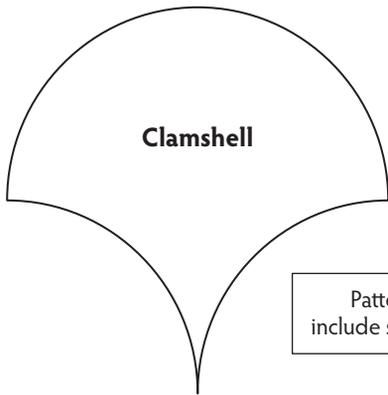
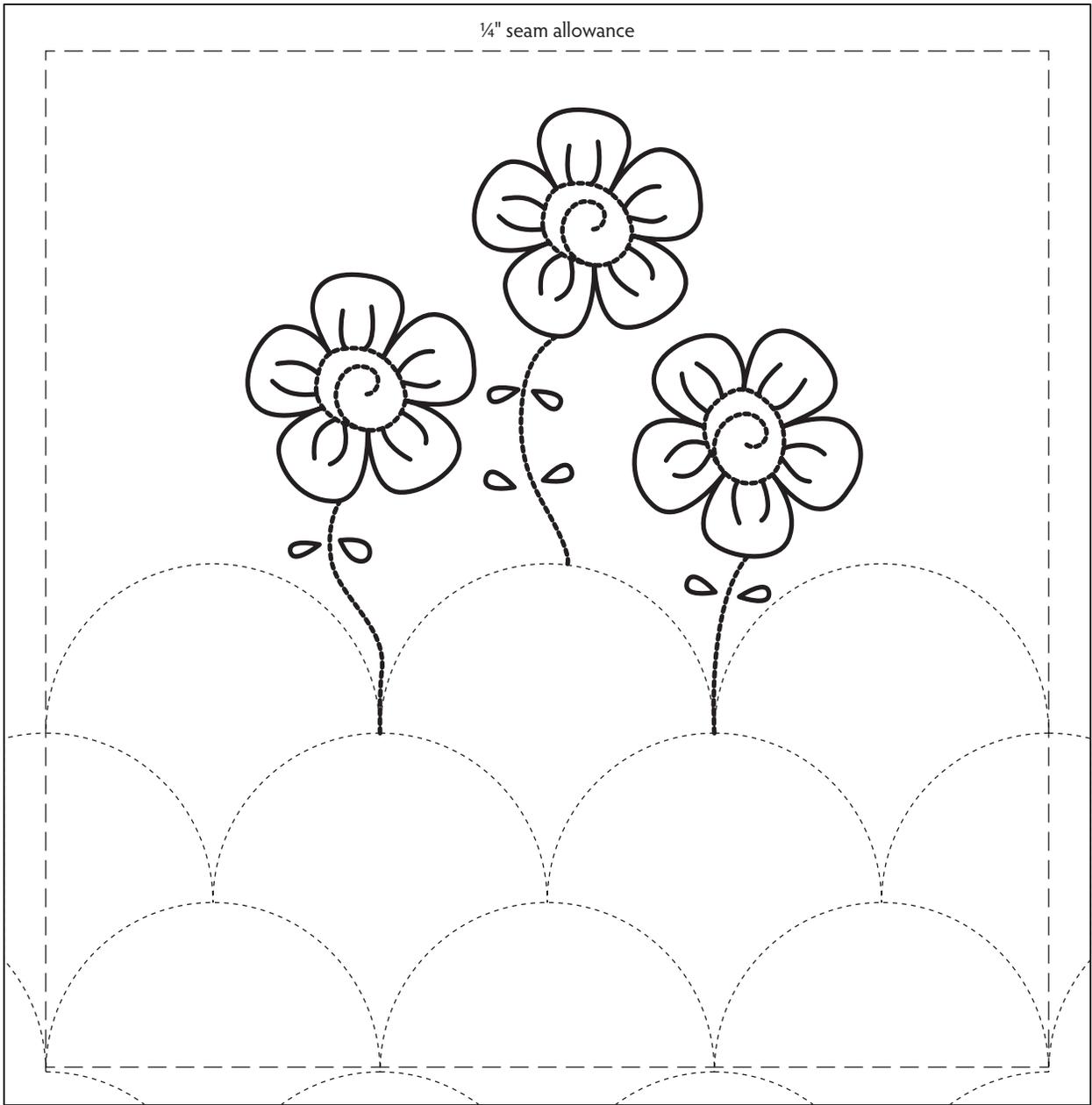
Make 2.



Make 1.

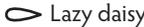
7. Position the clamshell rows on the background. Dot appliqué glue on the seam allowance to hold the rows together. Appliqué along the top of each row, starting with the top row. Remove the cardstock before stitching the next row.

8. Press the block on the wrong side and trim it to 6½" square.



Pattern does not include seam allowances.

Embroidery Key

-  Lazy daisy
-  Stem stitch
-  Backstitch