



Victorian Crazy Quilt Block

February Block of the Month

When you think of February, most people associate it with Valentine's Day. What better way to think of Romance than with a Victorian Crazy Quilt block. I've always wanted to attempt one, but was too afraid by the fabrics and stitches used. Most Crazy Quilt blocks were made of silk, velvet and wool with scraps of ribbons and left over laces. It was also common to find spider webs embroidered into the quilt and according to Victorian legend, bringing the stitcher good fortune.

There are many different ways of constructing the block. I have chosen the foundation method by using a 100% cotton muslin base. The muslin base method will give the block more stability. The fabrics to be used should be 100% cotton as well.

Start with a 10"x10" square of muslin (or larger if you prefer). I've included four patterns in this booklet, but more are on the NBQA website to be downloaded. Or you may choose one of your own designs. The designs I found are from my EQ6 program.

Trace the design lightly onto the fabric. Add a 1/4" around the pattern for seam allowance. You will then sew the fabric layer next. Sewing the foundation piece method is the same as paper-piece. If you are trying this for the first time, refer to the NBQA website for instructions or www.quiltworx.com. If you are going to include lace or ribbon with the fabric, it is best to be done at this point. Once done with the fabric layer of the block, baste 1/4" around the block.

Once the fabric layer is completed, you can embellish the block by hand or machine embroidery. You can also add buttons, beads and anything else that will make the block interesting. I have also included a few samples of different embroidery stitches on the NBQA website as well. They were taken from *Crazy Quilting The Complete Guide* by J. Marsha Michler. I have also found www.inaminuteago.com to be another resource for stitches. Both are very great resources for this block. So have fun with it.

Block measures 8 1/2" square