

Mini Holiday Layer Cake/Stash Busting BOM



Designed for FFMQ by

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Module 2 FMQ & Applique Options

Layout Review

In module one, a variety of layout options were presented. Select your layout now, if you haven't already done so.

If you are making a tree skirt, or using the star layout, you will need 4, 7.5" squares to complete your layout. These squares should closely coordinate or match your light LC pieces.

If you are doing a wreath option, you will need a 14.5" center. For the applique option, the fabric used for your light squares or any coordinating fabric can be used. I chose a coordinating Moda Grunge fabric from my stash. You can also fussy cut a center like Sandra did for her project.

Be sure to starch your center fabric for best results.

Options for the Mini BOM wreath and related layouts are:

1. Applique wreath center and
2. Fussy cut center square
3. Window Frame square (will be included in Module 3)

These layouts will all have a larger center section.

Instructions for the tree skirt and applique option for the star layout is also included below.

Select your Preferred Layout

For review, our layouts are 1) Wreath, and you can either use 7.5" squares (or the same size as your finished LC blocks) or a 14.5" center.



2) Modified wreath. If you are planning to applique your center, complete your applique before joining your squares.

And 3) Star, which is the preferred layout for the tree skirt. Solid coordinating 7.5" squares are used for the corners of the star layout.

LC squares are very flexible and you may find other layouts that you like.



If you are doing applique wreath center, do your applique before joining.

If you are doing a tree skirt, skip down to the Star Layout Option for detailed information on putting your blocks together.

If you are doing fussy cut center, sew your blocks together now with a scant 1/4" seam in your preferred layout.

Applique, FMQ & Fussy Cut Options for Wreath Layout

1. Center Applique Option

The applique is completed on your 14.5" center square **BEFORE** you sew your squares together.

I decided on a holly berry wreath and went in search of free, printable templates. This site linked below offers both a great holly berry template and a poinsettia template that print out easily with out having to join anything or provide your email (a plus!). There are multiple templates to choose from, and I selected these two for my project.

<http://flowerstemplates.com/holly-leaf-templates-printable/>

<http://flowerstemplates.com/poinsettia-flower-template-ornament-craft/>

The holly template can be printed at any size, I used three different sizes of holly leaves in 4 different fabrics from my layer cake squares. Two colors of red were used for the poinsettia, alternating colors.

Using Cindy Needleham's round frame templates, I marked out a center circle for the wreath placement on my fabric with a frixion pen. You can use a



Figure 1: applique placement

paper plate, plate, bowl or other item to mark a circle if you don't have a template.

Using the printable templates, I transferred the holly leave templates in two sizes to Heat n Bond lite, making multiple copies. I am using three different colors of green leftovers from my project layer cake squares. Below is a video on using Heat N Bond Lite if you are not familiar with the product.https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vb_y5IDVzC4

The Poinsettia segments were also transferred to Heat n Bond lite. One copy of each segment was bonded to leftover red scraps from the layer cake squares.

The holly leaves were composed around the drawn center, using a couple larger leaves in each quadrant and leaving a space for the poinsettias. A holly trio is the base for the poinsettia. I also had a Cardinal, cut from a layer cake scrap with Heat n Bond lite adhered. Both the bird and the poinsettia were then pressed in place and stitched.



Figure 2: close up of applique with stitching

For the cardinal, I pressed a solid square of Heat n Bond Lite to the back of my cardinal with holly leaves and then fussy cut around the edges of the cardinal and leaves.

Smaller leaves were added after the larger leaves, poinsettia and Cardinal were pressed in place.

Head n Bond Lite can be found at JoAnn's, in most quilt shops and fabric shops and on Amazon.



Figure 3: Measuring the applique placement

I used a Sulky tear away stabilizer covering the entire back of the square before doing the applique stitching. Stabilizer prevents tunneling of your stitches and thread issues during your applique stitching. Follow your machine manual directions for setting up your machine for applique.

A variegated green Fantastico thread from Superior Threads is used for the leaf stitching, using a blanket stitch secure the applique. The poinsettia was then stitched and red berries added. (I added the leaf veins after the entire piece was quilted, using FMQ.)

If you don't have a blanket stitch, you can straight stitch about 1/8" from the edge of your applique pieces or use a zig zag or satin stitch to encase the raw edges of your applique.

Excess stabilizer is then removed from the back of the square, **and the completed applique square is sewn together with your LC blocks.**

I am using a double layer of bamboo batting for my quilt sandwich. Please use whatever batting you prefer for your table topper. I buy bamboo batting by the roll, so I have a supply on hand.

Sandra designed a FMQ pattern for the wreath block using cross hatching for the wreath center and background, SID for the dark LC sections, and feathers for the light LC sections.



Figure 4: Ready to quilt!

I started by marking lines in the center of the applique wreath using my 6.5" Clarity curved ruler and a Frixion heat erase marker.



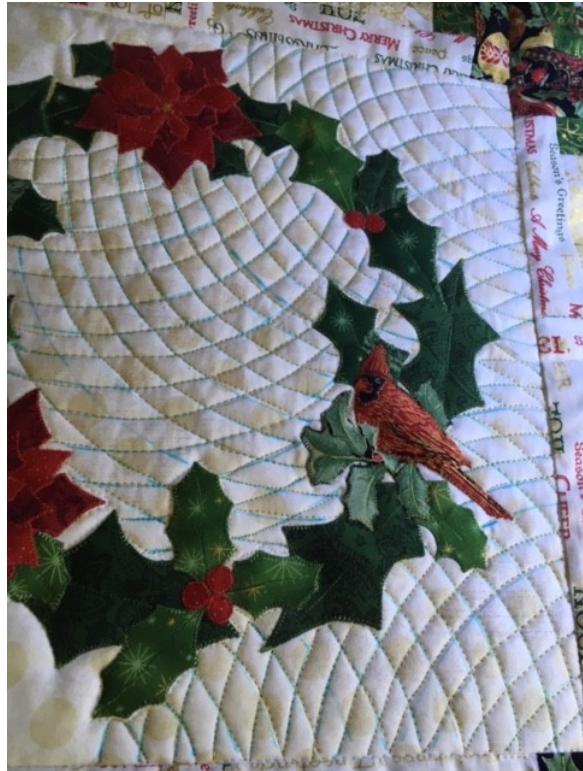
Marking lines outside the wreath using the Clarity ruler.

Close up of cross hatch stitching around cardinal. I am using Magnifico, a high gloss 40 wt thread. Where possible, I am stitching close to my applique a few stitches, or in the ditch to avoid cutting the quilting thread.



Close up around poinsettia. I added some detail to the poinsettia and the veins to the leaves while FMQ using Fantastico.

Center is stitched. I am marking the outside areas one quadrant at a time and stitching.



Feathers in the light colored sections. Next I will SID with MonoPoly on the dark sections.



Quilting is completed!



I used 4, 2.5" WOF strips to make my binding strip using a piece of metallic embossed gold stash fabric. The binding is top stitched by machine on the quilt top for a quick finish.

Fussy Cut Center Option

Do you have a beautiful piece of holiday fabric that you want to emphasize? Sandra found some great fabric that she used for her center piece and she made a video for the [Fun With Free Motion Quilting Spearson](#) channel (below) so that you can see how she stitched it up.

Cut a 14.5" square and join all your blocks together like Sandra did in the photo below.

Sandra used a variation that I had not pictured in the first module. LC are very flexible in their arrangements.



Sandra quilted this one using feathers in the blocks and outline quilting in the center. You can see her quilting on the back, below.



Sandra made two of these, one in red and one in green. The green is quilted as seen below.



You can watch Sandra quilt this up on the Fun With Free Motion Quilting Spearson channel on YouTube. Here is the link.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fy-F00JKRGY&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR1XqaB0KFjFVzPilbsmSOhhpKuYzkorr37j_TLJKQhdkfiUf1mpWYwfZOQ

Star Layout Applique Option (Corner Squares)



The star layout makes a great table topper and is the best layout for a tree skirt. For the star layout, you will need 4, 7.5" squares. These squares are used in each corner of the layout.

For this option, I went with a red and white and gold color for my fabrics and used a single fabric for my light sections. A 16" length of fabric will make enough 1.5" strips for your whole project. You can use a $\frac{1}{2}$ yd length to make the light strips and also get 4, 7.5" squares for your solid squares.

I used vinyl glitter and a cookie cutter to make the solid square applique pieces. This is a really quick and easy way to get beautiful appliques on these squares.



Trace around your cookie cutter using a piece of paper. Cut out your paper star stencil (or shape of choice). Using a small piece of scotch tape, I made a little tape circle and taped to the center of my paper star. Tape the star to the back of the glitter vinyl piece. Cut the vinyl carefully around the paper stencil. Peal off of the vinyl and repeat until you have 4 glitter vinyl appliques. Center the applique on your solid square and adhere as per the instructions.

Using a blanket or zig zag stitch, stitch around the vinyl applique.



Figure 5: cut your vinyl glitter using the template

A note about the glitter vinyl: I used Kimberbell glitter vinyl. There are other products on the market made by Hobby Lobby and JoAnn's. I cannot vouch for the

products that I haven't tried. Some are thinner and less durable than the product I used, which was purchased at my local sewing machine shop. This product is also washable. Check out reviews on your selected product. These are designed for Cricut Cutter use, so if you have one, you will be able to create some amazing appliques for your project. Follow the directions for use found on your specific product.

<https://www.amazon.com/Glitter-Vinyl-Sheets-Applique-Crafts/dp/B07G4KHZ2W>



Figure 6: apply the vinyl applique to your solid corner squares



Applique your glitter vinyl using a blanket or zig zag stitch.

Sew your squares together in the star layout, leaving one section open to the center. I have marked up this photo to show where you leave the section open.

Mark a 2.75" circle in the center of the piece.



I then made a quilt sandwich and quilted, being sure to start and stop my FMQ at the raw edges of the open center pieces and leaving the marked circle un-quilted.

After quilting, I cut open the sandwich to the center, trimming 1/4" from each raw edge. Then the center was cut out through all the sandwich layers.

If you finish at this size 28" x 28" (mine measured exactly $27\frac{3}{4} \times 27\frac{3}{4}$), this will work for a mini tree or small tree that is up to about 3.5' tall. For a larger tree, 4-6', add a border. I added a 3.5" border from stash

fabric, and the tree skirt finished at 35". This size will work for a 4 or 5' tree. If you want it larger, just add another border.

I quilted the piece starting with SID around the blocks and border seam with MonoPoly. For the center, I used a Cindy Needleham stencil to mark a small

cable in the center, and a large cable that covered most of the piece. I double stitched the small cable in both red and gold, creating a ribbon effect.



Feathers were quilted in the light part of the squares between the cables, with SID on the dark squares. McTavishing is done around the star appliques in a gold metallic thread. The borders are feathers, with the spine marked with my Fons and Porter ceramic marker.

You will need 147" of binding for finishing the tree skirt. I used bias binding, 2.5" and double folded so that the binding curves well in the center and shows off the plaid binding fabric to advantage.

Module 3 of the series will provide instructions for the Window Frame option for the BOM.