

Clamshells

To Make the Clamshells

- Trace the Fabric Template onto template plastic (including all grain lines and relevant information) and cut out.
- Cut out as many paper clamshell shapes as are required. Be accurate and cut on the line. It is more important to be accurate for the paper shapes than for the fabric shapes.
- Place fabric right side down onto a sandpaper board to help prevent the fabric shifting while you draw on it.
- Place the plastic clamshell fabric template onto wrong side of the fabric and draw round the template with an HB pencil. Cut out as many fabric clamshells as required.
- Pin the fabric shape to the paper shape lining up the edges at the narrow part and having the fabric stick out ¼" above the curved edge. Make sure the fabric is pinned to the unmarked side of the paper so that you can see the guidelines on the back once they are tacked together. (Diagram 1.)
- Tack the fabric shape onto the paper shape by tacking through both the fabric and paper, starting at "a" and working to "b" around the narrow part of the clamshell. Take a small running stitch through the fabric only from "b" to "a" around the top curve of the clamshell. Pull gently on the tacking thread to gather the seam allowance onto the back of the paper foundation. Secure the end of the tacking thread with 2 or 3 tacking stitches though both the paper and the fabric. (Diagram 2.)

To Form a Row of Clamshells

- Place 2 clamshell shapes right sides together, aligning the 2 shapes exactly. Use the guidelines to make sure the 2 shapes are aligned. Using a blending thread colour oversew the 2 shapes together starting at the horizontal guide line. Work down towards the narrow part of the clamshell for ¼" and fasten the thread end securely. (Diagram 3.)
- Open the 2 clamshells out, align the next clamshell and oversew the 2 shapes together in the same way. Joining clamshells in this way forms a "row".

To Join the Rows

- Place the top curved edge of each clamshell centrally over the point where 2 clamshells join on the row above. Match the guidelines to help with placement. The guidelines should form a "+" shape. Pin shapes together. (Diagram 4.)
- Using a blending thread colour, slipstitch the patches around the top curve to the previous row as neatly as possible on the front of the work. Fasten all thread ends on the back of the work. (Diagram 5.)
- To make the work easier to handle as it grows, the paper shape may be removed once it is surrounded by other shapes on all sides.

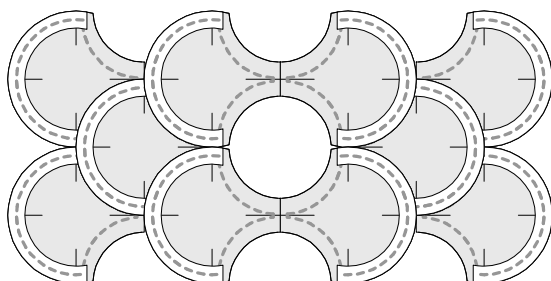
Assembly

Here at Lizard of Oz we believe that the addition of guidelines to the paper shapes makes it very easy to line up the clamshells without the need of a base guide by using the method outlined above.

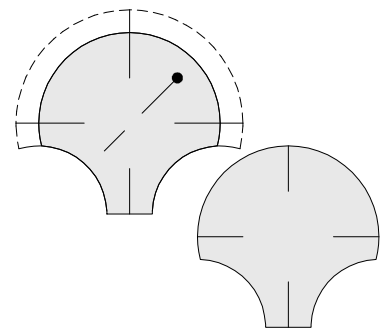
Historically there are 2 methods recommended as base guides for clamshells. The first is that the clamshells be pinned to a cork board and then slip-stitched together. This method is awkward for sewing because of the board. The second is to press creases into a background fabric at intervals equal to the radius of the circle used to construct the clamshell. Lizard of Oz clamshell foundation papers will also work well with these historical methods if you wish to use them.

Rows may be joined one above the other for the entire quilt and straight edges formed by cutting off the parts of the clamshells that protrude past the desired size. Alternatively scalloped edges may be slipstitched onto a border.

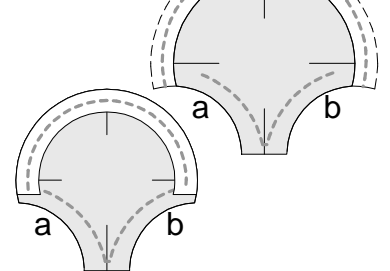
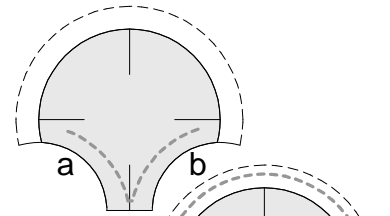
Rows may be joined in a symmetrical manner with either one line of symmetry or two. The point where these rows join may be covered with circles to cover any raw edges. (Diagram 6.)



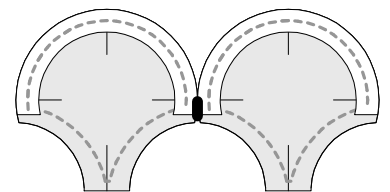
6. Clamshells may be assembled with 1 or 2 lines of symmetry.



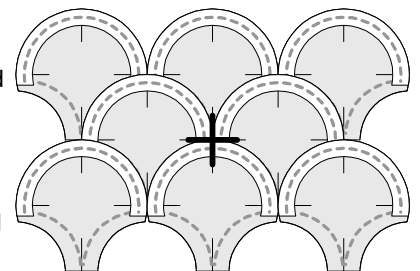
1. Line the bottom edge of the paper shape up with the lower edge of the fabric shape and pin.



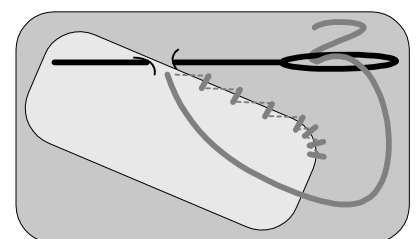
2. Tack from "a" to "b" through all thicknesses around the narrow part of the clamshell. Then tack from "b" to "a" through the fabric only. Gather the fabric by pulling gently on the tacking thread.



3. Oversew rows of clamshells together, starting at the horizontal guideline and working down to the corner.



4. Working from the top down, stitch rows together matching the guidelines both horizontally and vertically.



5. Slipstitch.