

Barbara M. Burnham

Quilter ~ Teacher ~ Designer ~ Collector ~

Author of **BALTIMORE GARDEN QUILT**

BALTIMORE GARDEN QUILT ***LAYERED APPLIQUÉ FLOWERS***

Many of the flowers on the original antique **Baltimore Garden Quilt** were composed of tiny, individual petals, arranged and stitched one-at-a-time, as shown in *Photo 1*. While making my reproduction quilt, I devised a method to make these flowers easier to arrange and appliqué by sewing petals in layered groups which rotate and overlap. A pattern from the book and my finished flower are shown in *Photo 2* and *Photo 3*. With this method, we can assemble flowers in layers instead of sewing single petals one at a time.



Photo 1

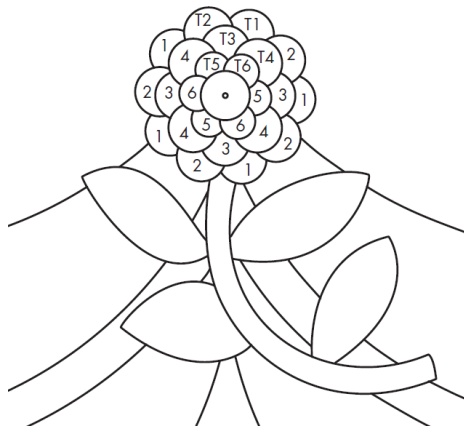


Photo 2



Photo 3

Refer to **Baltimore Garden Quilt** by Barbara M. Burnham for freezer paper on top applique method, available at www.barbaramburnham.com. Feel free to use other applique methods if you prefer.

To make the pattern provided, you will need:

- Fabric:** 11" square white or light color fabric for background
 8" square green fabric for leaves and stems
 2" square gold or yellow fabric for flower center
 8" square red flower fabric (choose a solid or a subtle shaded fabric for best results)

*Choose **lightweight*** 100% cotton in **solid or almost solid** colors for the flower. The slight elevation of the turned under seam allowance visually outlines each petal. With each layer, the flower becomes more dimensional. Subtle tone-on-tone or shaded fabrics can also work well.

Sewing Supplies

- Threads to match appliqué fabrics
- Small, sharp to the point, fabric scissors, and small paper scissors
- 8" square freezer paper Fine point pencil
- Hand appliqué needle Dritz® Size 17 ball point pins
- For placement, a piece of foamcore, or a small cardboard box
- For stuffed circle center: Tweezer and a circle of thin cotton batting
- For stems: Small rotary ruler, rotary cutter and mat

WORKSHOP INSTRUCTIONS



Appliqué leaves first as described in ***Baltimore Garden Quilt***.

Then appliqué a 1/4" [trifold bias stem](#). ←(Click for blog topic.)

The layered flower technique is shown in ***Baltimore Garden Quilt*** using a pointed flower, made with freezer paper templates on top of the fabric. Flowers on today's pattern have round petals, but the process is the same.

My patterns for multilayer flowers include numbers on each template layer. Layer 1 is always the first layer to be appliquéd to the block. The letter "T" indicates orientation (*Top of the flower, not the "top" layer*); for alignment of layers.

1. Full-size templates are shown with the pattern on page 5. Print them onto freezer paper, or **Trace each flower layer on freezer paper as follows:**

Template Layer 1 – **Mark the center dot.** Mark the "T" and its number. Draw only the **outer** edge of each of that layer's petals with a **solid** line (the sewing line). Mark the start and stop of the sewing line of each petal (where the next layer will overlap).

Visualize how the second layer of petals will overlap the first layer. Add dotted or dashed lines which will guide cutting between petals on the freezer paper template. (The dashed lines of the template indicate areas which will be covered by upper layer petals; this concept will become more clear when you begin to sew.) In order for petal seam allowances to turn under without resistance, the template lines between petals are drawn in V or U shapes travelling toward the flower center.

Template Layer 2 – 6 – Draw templates as described above.

2. **Cut out freezer paper templates.** Use very sharp, small scissors. Hold the scissor in the same position while moving the paper to cut exactly on the drawn lines. Try to make long, smooth cuts, not short chops. Cut very carefully and slowly around each petal along solid lines and dashed lines. The dashed lines of the templates indicate areas which will be covered by upper layers petals. The freezer paper is your guide for appliqué, and you want the petals to be accurate.
3. **Press shiny side of freezer paper templates onto front side of fabric,** leaving about 1/2" space between each template.



4. **Cut out fabric pieces** 3/16" away from the freezer paper edge for seam allowance all around each piece. Keep pieces organized in a clear zip bag or [batting folder](#). ←(Click for blog topic.)

Layer 1

1. Arrange pattern on top of foamcore. Align background fabric on top of pattern. (see *Baltimore Garden Quilt* p.25 for how to pin into foamcore.)
2. Place and pin Layer 1 beginning at center dot. Spin the piece on its center pin to align T1 petal at T1 on the pattern.

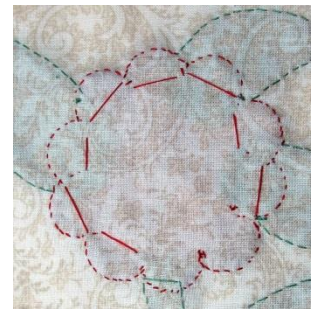


3. Thread baste Layer 1, removing pins as they are no longer needed. **I do not recommend glue basting these layered flowers.** Set aside the foamcore and pattern.

4. Appliqué Layer 1 – Solid lines on your template indicate where petal seam allowance should be turned under and appliquéd. Each petal's solid line will begin and end at marks

where other layers will overlap.

5. Clip once straight down into the V between the dashed lines to allow seam allowances to turn under easily. There is no need to turn under seam allowance in the V area. Let those clipped V areas softly turn under slightly – those raw edges will be covered by upper layers.
6. At the end of each petal's solid line, send the appliqué needle to the back, and "travel" to the beginning of the next petal and continue appliqué, as shown.
7. When all the petals of that layer are appliquéd, knot off thread.
8. Clip and remove basting threads, but **DO NOT REMOVE THE FREEZER PAPER YET**, as it will help you align the next layer.



Layer 2

1. Lay the block on foamcore. The pattern is only needed for visual reference.
2. Use the freezer paper marks on Layer 1 to help align Layer 2. When aligning each layer, always first orient the center dot with a pin. Stick the pin into Layer 2 center dot, then into Layer 1 center dot, and then into the foamcore.
3. Refer to the pattern and spin Layer 2 around to orient the T petal where it belongs. *Symmetrical layers are often easy to orient by simply centering the petals visually. Asymmetrical layers may require additional marks to assure accurate placement of layers.*
4. Add two more pins to stabilize Layer 2 (somewhere they do not encumber Layer 1).
5. Remove the pin from the center dot. This should allow you carefully lift Layer 2 up just enough to slip a tweezer under Layer 1's freezer paper template, loosen and slide it out.
6. Add pins and baste Layer 2.
7. Set aside the foamcore. Appliqué Layer 2.



Additional Layers

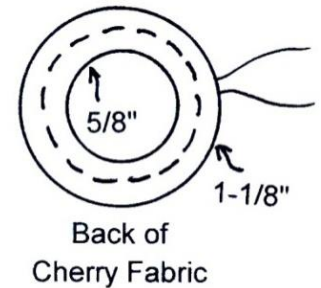
Pin, baste and applique each layer. It might be necessary to use a stab stitch to applique as layers of fabric increase the thickness of the flower .

On **Layers 5 and 6**, be sure to draw the center circle to help with alignment and cover any raw edges with the center circle.

Flower Center Options

Padded Circle: (see *Baltimore Garden Quilt* p.32.)

1. Cut a **5/8"** circle template from manila folder, and a **5/8"** circle of cotton batting. (Adding cotton batting inside softens the gathers and gives the circle a bit more loft.)
2. On the back of the fabric, draw a **5/8"** circle surrounded by a **1-1/8"** circle. Cut along the outer line.
3. With strong thread, such as hand quilting thread, baste around the circle inside the outer edge. Leave both thread tails long on the front. Tie the basting thread tails together once. (Don't knot it yet.)
4. Lay the fabric face down, lay the batting on back centered inside the small circle, and then lay the template on top of the batting. Hold everything together while pulling thread tails tight to gather the circle, and tie a knot. Press the back of the circle with a hot iron.
5. Appliqué the circle ~3/4 of the way. Clip the gathering thread and pull it out by the tails.
6. Open the seam allowance, insert a flat tweezer, and clamp only the template. With the opposite hand, squeeze the circle at front and back, and carefully pull out the template.
7. Push the gathered seam allowance back under, and continue to appliqué the circle. It will be necessary to use a stab stitch to appliqué the circle because of the density of multiple layers.



Crossed Losenges (Block C1 at left.) The three losenges are very small. For techniques to manage tiny applique pieces, visit my blog for: [Appliqué a Tiny Bird's Eye](#). ← (Click for blog.)

On larger flowers, top layers can be a different color, as in Block B3 shown at right.



Pressing dimensional applique: When all applique is finished, soak the block in cool water (no soap). Lay the block flat on a towel to dry. While still damp, press the block face down on a fluffy terrycloth towel. Do not press the front of the block.

Links:

Trifold Bias Stem:

<http://baltimoregardenquilts.blogspot.com/2016/12/trifold-applique-stems-easy-fast-and.html>

Batting Folder:

<http://baltimoregardenquilts.blogspot.com/2013/07/applique-organizer-folders.html>)

Appliqué a Tiny Bird's Eye:

<http://baltimoregardenquilts.blogspot.com/2015/02/applique-tiny-birds-eye.html>

*BALTIMORE GARDEN QUILT
LAYERED APPLIQUÉ FLOWER
and TEMPLATES*

