AccuQuilt System

for Members of the Blue Ridge Quilters' Guild

Any BRQG member may take advantage of the AccuQuilt system provided by the guild. The system currently has three cutting machines and 30 dies (with appropriately-sized cutting mats) for use by members of our guild. <u>The cutting time will be the hour before each regular monthly meeting—from 9:00 to 10:00a.m.</u>—and will close when the meeting begins at 10:00. Because of this limited time, please come prepared. These AccuQuilt items will not be checked out by individual guild members, nor will they be stored at the church.

To take advantage of this fabric cutting system, please do the following:

- 1. Carefully examine the provided handout explaining what is available to BRQG members and how the process works.
- 2. If you wish to cut fabric during that designated monthly morning hour, <u>send an email to MADAME</u>

 <u>ACCUQUILT (BRQGAccuQuilt@gmail.com) no later than NOON on the day BEFORE the guild meeting,</u>

 <u>and tell her the specific NAME(S) of the DIE(S) you will want to use.</u> (No need to suggest a cutting machine.

 The facilitators will know which to bring.)
- 3. Rough-cut your fabric in advance (as recommended in the handout) and arrive at the meeting site at 9:00 on the Wednesday morning of the meeting. If there are pieces you wish to back with fusible web, do this <u>beforehand</u>. The fusible web will only need to cover all of the BLADES on the dies you choose, not the complete die board. When you are layering your fabrics to be cut, keep in mind that added fusible web will reduce the number of layers you can have for each pass—no more than four, and fewer if the fabric is not very thin.
- A trained facilitator will assist you both during your first experiences with this program and at ALL subsequent times you will be using this system during the designated cutting hour. Just ask any of them if/when you want/need assistance.
- 4. If you are totally new to the AccuQuilt system, feel free to come and <u>watch</u> the process during any of the months before you plan to cut your own fabric. You may also watch videos ahead of time (links are in the handout) to become more familiar with the cutting machines. The process is very easy to use once you have experimented with it.

NOTES: Consider starting small. Bring a few fabric samples to cut (enough to make a placemat or 1-2 quilt blocks—it can even be "ugly fabric") and take them home for practice. Then plan your eventual projects. This system is awe-inspiring, and it will be available each month when the guild has in-person meetings and *possibly* at additional times when high interest is expressed.

<u>A SUGGESTION:</u> Go to <u>www.accuquilt.com</u> to explore over 400 dies available for purchase (and their accompanying projects and videos). If you see one you love, consider purchasing it and donating it to our guild. You won't need to buy cutters or mats because they will be available during our meetings. The AccuQuilt site has TONS of information, videos, free quilt patterns, free embroidery designs (matching the dies), photos of completed projects, etc.!!!

During our BRQG meetings trained facilitators will be assisting you with these optional cutting experiences, but the more you know in advance about how this system works, the better prepared and more excited you will be. Watch the videos identified on these pages, and consider doing an additional Google search for "AccuQuilt videos" for a bazillion more interesting ideas. The potential for your quilting projects is incredibly mind-boggling!

This document was prepared by Flora Joy, <u>florajoy.comcast.net</u>. Feel free to contact her (or any of the facilitators) if you have any questions about this fabric-cutting system. Donors of this system are identified by each item. Those without identification were donated by Flora. HAPPY OUILTING!

Available AccuQuilt Cutters for BRQG

The <u>GO! Me Fabric Cutter</u> 55610 Operates manually. See the pic at the right. It can be used with all provided dies except the Crazy Quilt and the Double-Wedding Ring dies. It is EASY to use. Just open the machine, place the fabric pieces on the die, cover with a cutting mat, and wind it through either side of the machine. You might need to give the die stack a slight push to get it started, but it works smoothly. To see how this machine is used, watch this demo-video:

https://www.accuquilt.com/go-me-fabric-cutter-starter-set.html.

Click on the following link for a .pdf e-book of the User's Manual for the Go! Me cutter:

https://www.accuquilt.com/media/users_manuals/GO-Me-User-Guide-55610 2021.pdf

The <u>GO! Fabric Cutter</u> 55100S (15 lbs.) This operates manually like the Go! Me, but it is larger. (See pic at right.)

The GO! Big ELECTRIC Fabric Cutter 55500 (23 lbs.) This accommodates all dies and was designed for quilters who might have trouble with manually winding the other cutting machines. This cutter is also the largest cutter of the three available for our guild, and it is required for the Crazy Quilt die. Be sure to ask a facilitator to assist you with the first pass of your fabrics. Also, you may "double-up" and send two of the smaller dies through at the same pass. Click on the following link for a .pdf e-book of the User's Manual for the GO! Big electric cutter: https://www.accuquilt.com/media/users_manuals/GO-Big-Fabric-Cutter-Users-Guide-55500UG-ebook.pdf





Cutter

How to Use AccuQuilt Cutters

<u>Members of the Blue Ridge Quilt Guild</u> may use this cutting system independently as soon as they become familiar with how the process works. Although it is relatively easy to use, practice is always recommended with some sample fabrics before cutting up your prized (and possibly limited) fabrics.

The three <u>cutters</u> shown above are available for all the specified BRQG cutting sessions, and the following pages offer images (and sometimes a description) of the current <u>die</u> choices.

For those interested: BEFORE arriving at the BRQG site at the designated time, you will want to prepare your fabrics. Rough-cut your fabric **slightly** smaller than the stated die board size for your chosen shape(s). If you don't want to use all the shapes on the die, consider fan-folding your fabric to fit over just the shape(s) you want to cut. You can estimate the fabric needed for this by examining the blade positioning and size on the die. You can also save fabric by cutting smaller pieces for shapes that don't cover the entire board. It isn't essential that fabric covers the entire die—just what YOU want to cut. ALSO, you will be happier with your final project if you iron out any wrinkles in your fabric beforehand. It will save time after you arrive if you have your pieces stacked. When you position your fabric stack on the top of the die, you will want to look at the ANGLE of the die shapes and align them to your grain of fabric <u>if</u> it will make a difference in your project. These shapes are intentionally angled so the cutting mats last longer. For the hand-turned cutting machines, stack up to 6 fabric pieces. The electric cutter accommodates fewer pieces—typically 1-5.

When you arrive at the BRQG site to cut your shapes, the cutting steps shown on the next two pages will be on display, and facilitators will help you as much as you wish. After you make one or two passes with your fabric, this process will be EASY, GREAT FUN, and YOU WILL LOVE IT!

Steps for Hand-Turned Cutters

- -- Turn your selected die FOAM SIDE UP and rest it on either side of the hand-turned cutter.
- --Place up to 6 fabric pieces (right side up) so they cover the blades of the intended shapes. (Note: Reduce the number of fabric pieces if any are thick, nibby, etc. Quilting cottons work best. Experts suggest placing the die's labeled side near your "belly" and placing the fabric pieces so the lengthwise straight of grain is parallel with that labeled side. You don't have to cover ALL the shapes with fabric—just those you want to cut. Fan-fold specific sizes, if desired.)
- --Position a cutting mat atop the fabric and die.
- --Push the die/fabric/mat unit firmly against the roller. Turn the handle while gently nudging the unit through the machine.
- --Rub the TOP of the mat with your hand (to combat the static), and gently SLIDE the mat off one side—don't lift the mat UP.) Remove the diecut fabric shapes and toss the excess scraps.
- --Repeat as desired.
- --To extend the life of the cutting mats, rotate and flip them periodically so the "cuts" don't occur in the exact same places with each pass.
- --When you finish with each die, roll a lint brush over both the mat and the die to remove loose threads. Use the provided dental pic if needed.

Steps for Electric Cutters

- -- Turn your selected die FOAM SIDE UP and rest it on the entry side of the electric cutter.
- --Place 1-5 fabric pieces (right side up) so they cover the blades of the intended shapes. (Note: Reduce the number of fabric pieces if any are thick, nibby, etc. Quilting cottons work best. Experts suggest placing the die's labeled side near your "belly" and placing the fabric pieces so the lengthwise straight of grain is parallel with that labeled side. You don't have to cover ALL the shapes with fabric—just those you want to cut. Fan-fold specific sizes, if desired.)
- --Position a cutting mat atop the fabric.
- --Place the die/fabric/mat unit EXACTLY between the dotted lines and gently nudge the unit into the machine until it pulls the unit through.
- --Rub the TOP of the mat with your hand (to combat the static), and gently SLIDE the mat off one side—don't lift the mat UP.) Remove the diecut fabric shapes and toss the excess scraps.
- --Repeat as desired.
- -- To extend the life of the cutting mats, rotate and flip them periodically so the "cuts" don't occur in the exact same places with each pass.
- --When you finish with each die, roll a lint brush over both the mat and the die to remove loose threads. Use the provided dental pic if needed.

Available Cutting MATS and Storage Boxes

<u>CUTTING MATS</u>: $\underline{2}$ cutting mats for the Go Big cutting machine; $\underline{7}$ 6x6 cutting mats; $\underline{2}$ 5x10 cutting mats; $\underline{2}$ 6x24 cutting mats; $\underline{3}$ 10x10 cutting mats; $\underline{6}$ 6x12 cutting mats

STORAGE BOXES FOR DIES: **1** for 6x6 dies; **2** for 6x12 dies, **1** for 10x10 dies

Available AccuQuilt DIES: LIST

See the following pages for images and some additional information. Also, see TONS of stitched samples on the AccuQuilt site www.Accuquilt.com.) Here is a list of the currently available dies:

- GO! Sunbonnet Sue Die 55061 (Die board: 6"x12")
- GO! Overall Sam Die 55062 (Die board: 6"x12")
- GO! Butterfly by Edyta Sitar Die 55468 (Die board: 6"x6")
- GO! Pickup Truck Die 55187 (Die board: 6"x12")
- GO! Critters Die 55030 (Die board: 6"x12")
- GO! Gnome Die 55210 (Die board: 6"x6")
- GO! Calico Cat Die 55065 (Die board: 6"x6")
- GO! Gingham Dog 55064 (Die board: 6"x6")
- GO! Owl Die 55333 (Die board: 6"x6")
- GO! Camper Die 55228 (Die board: 6"x12")
- GO! Reindeer Die 55353 (Die board: 6"x6")
- GO! Fun Flower Die 55334 (Die board: 6"x6")
- GO! Fall Medley Die 55041 (Die board: 6"x12")
- GO! Tumbler 3 1/2" (3" Finished) 55015 (Die board: 6"x12")
- GO! Circle 2", 3", 5" Die 55012 (Die board: 6"x12")
- GO! Circle 1/2", 3/4", 1", 1 1/4" Die 55484 (Die board: 6"x12")
- GO! Circle 1 1/2", 1 3/4", 2 1/4", 2 1/2" Die 55155 (Die board: 6"x12")
- GO! Hexagon 1", 1 1/2", 2 1/2" Sides Die 55011 (Die board: 6"x12")
- GO! Rag Square 5 ¼" Die 55033 (Die board: 6"x12")
- GO! Star 2", 3", 4" 5 Die 5028 (Die board: 5"x10")
- GO! Half Square Triangle 3" Finished Square Die 55703 (Die board: 6"x6")
- GO! Quarter Square Triangle-3" Finished Square Die 55704 (Die board: 6"x6")
- GO! Equilateral Triangles (3/4", 1 1/4", 2 1/4" Finished) 55079 (Die board: 6"x12")
- GO! Quarter Square Triangle 4" Finished Square Die 55711 (Die board: 6"x6")
- GO! Sparkle Diamonds by Sarah Vedeler Die 55089 (Die board: 6"x12")
- GO! Strip Cutter 2 1/2" (2" Finished) 55014 (Die board: 6"x24")
- GO! Value Die -2" and 4" finished squares (plus half-square triangles finishing at 2" squares) 55018 (Die board: 6"x12")
- GO! Double Wedding Ring 11 ½" finished square (2-Die Set) 55078 (Both die boards are 10"x10")
- GO! Big Crazy Quilt 10" finished square Die 55861 (Die board: 14"x 16")

Available AccuQuilt DIES: Pics and Info

The following pages show images of the available AccuQuilt Dies for use by the members of the Blue Ridge Quilt Guild. These are shown n random order, and MUCH MORE information is available about each one on the AccuQuilt web site.

IMPORTANT: Think through where you want the fabric patterns to appear in your blocks and minimize fabric waste by aligning fabrics just over the shapes you want, not the whole board. Samples are shown in many of these images. And don't forget how fabric-saving it can be to FAN-FOLD fabrics, especially when there are small pieces used for accent.

Sunbonnet Sue and Overall Sam: (Die boards: 6"x12") (These dies were donated by Lucy Daniels and Lucy Hull. Thanks!)







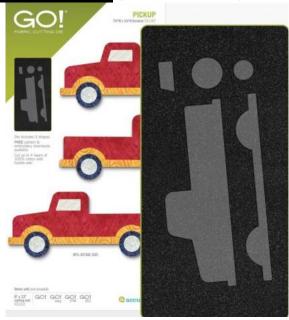
GO! Butterfly by Edyta Sitar Die (Die board: 6"x6") Donated by Brenda Dakai



GO! Gnome Die (Die board: 6"x6") Donated by Brenda Dakai



GO! Pickup Truck Die (Die board: 6"x12") Donated by Brenda Dakai



GO! Critters Die (Die board: 6"x12") Donated by Brenda Dakai



GO! Calico Cat Die (Die board: 6"x6") Donated by Brenda Dakai



GO! Gingham Dog (Die board: 6"x6") Donated by Brenda Dakai



GO! Owl Die (Die board: 6"x6") Donated by Brenda Dakai



GO! Camper Die (Die board: 6"x12") Donated by Brenda Dakai



GO! Reindeer Die (Die board: 6"x6") Donated by Brenda Dakai



GO! Fun Flower Die (Die board: 6"x6") Donated by Brenda Dakai



GO! Fall Medley Die (Die board: 6"x12") Donated by Brenda Dakai

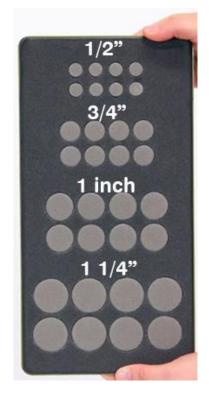


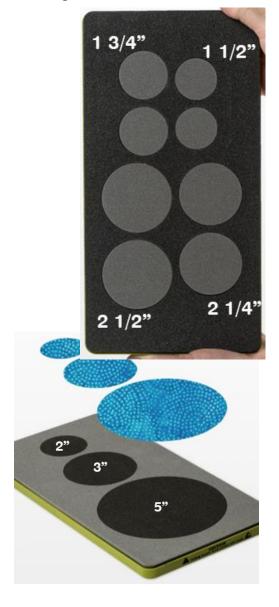
CIRCLE DIES

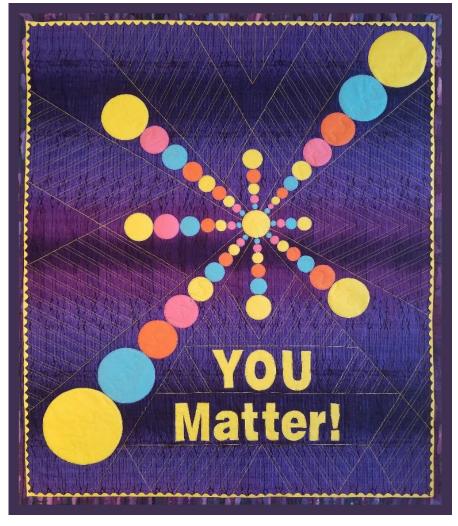
½" x 1 ¼", 1 ¾" x 2 ¼", and 2" x 5": (All three die boards: 6"x12") I am NUTS about circles, and there are 11 different sizes that can be cut from these three dies. Tons of FUN can happen with circles. Can you even imagine trying to cut PERFECT circles with either your scissors or a rotary cutter??? Yikes! Quilters don't typically want to cut out ALL of the circles that appear on the full die, so they use a procedure called "fanning the fabric" before they send them through the cutter. This involves folding a longer piece of fabric as if it is a FAN (sometimes called "accordion folding") and placing that folded piece atop JUST the section of circles desired. If you do this, make sure all your folds cover the section you are intending to cut.

I had great FUN making the quilt (shown below) just to demonstrate how a variety of circles can make an interesting quilt. I decided to put two words on the quilt just to give it meaning/interest, and I learned that "YOU Matter!" is a slogan for some suicide prevention groups. My ultimate plan is to donate that quilt to one of those groups.

TO PREPARE FOR CUTTING: Decide the number of circles you would like to cut, and have fabric ready to pass through the cutter. The dimensions of all three provided die boards are <u>6"x12"</u>—BUT if you only wanted to go home with 48 ½" circle dies, you wouldn't need to have a 6" width of fabric. Simply fan-fold a 4"x12" piece of fabric so there isn't a lot of waste.







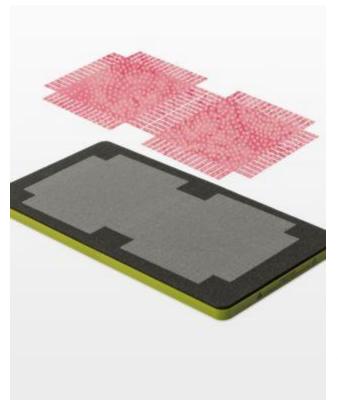
Hexagons: (Die board: 6"x12") Most projects might need only one or two of the sizes. The three hexagons on this die have 1", 1 1/2", 2 1/2" sides. Fabric can be saved by fan-folding. I cut out a bazillion 1" hexagons (in a matter of minutes) and made the JOY quilt shown below. (See: https://youtu.be/dCWFH94kvwg for a hexagon

project!)





Rag Squares: (Die board: 6"x12") This cuts TWO 5 ½" rag squares. Don't you LOVE that raggedy edge that some fabrics can make! One sample is shown below (pillow). https://youtu.be/KzOBMyJ8MCA





Watch this video for a demonstration of one way this die can be used: https://youtu.be/KzOBMyJ8MCA

Stars: (Die board: 5"x10") This cuts three stars that measure 2", 3", 4". Uses for this die are infinite.

GO! Tumbler - 3 1/2" (3"

<u>Finished</u>) (Die board: 6"x12") Donated by Brenda Dakai





Diamonds: (Die board: 6"x12") This die cuts three sizes of diamonds. The final cut size: Large Diamonds: 7 3/8"W x 3"H;

Medium Diamonds: 3 3/4"W x 1 9/16"H; and

Small Diamonds: 2 5/16"W x 1 5/16"H. See the two tree examples shown at the right. Check the AccuQuilt site for free patterns and other uses for this die.



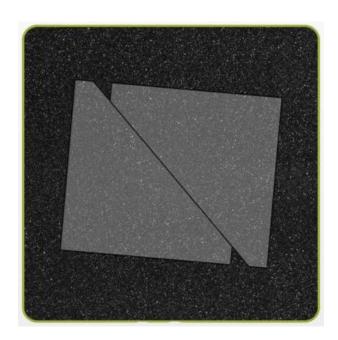


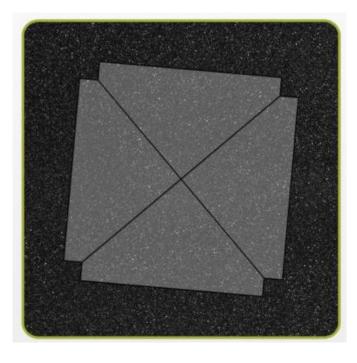


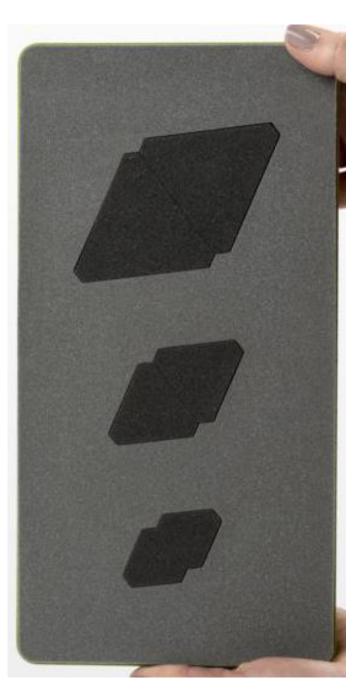
TRIANGLES: Half-square, Quarter-square, and Equilateral) (Die boards: 6"x6" for the first two and 6"x12" for the last) There are three triangle dies—half-square (3" finished square),

quarter square

(3" finished Square), and equilateral (1", 1 1/2", 2 1/2" sides; 3/4", 1 1/4", 2 1/4" finished). There are multitudinous uses for these dies. For a wonderful video about how to make flying geese with the quarter-square triangle die, watch this FREE Craftsy class: https://www.craftsy.com/class/kelly-quilts-withaccuquilt/?utm_source=Newsletter&utm_medium=Organic#





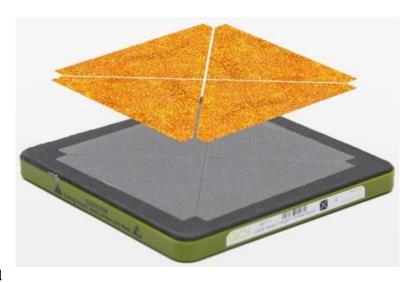


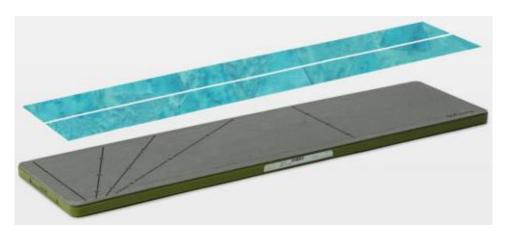
GO! Quarter Square Triangle 4" Finished Square Die (Die board:

6"x6") Donated by Brenda Dakai

Strip Cutter: (Die board: 6"x24") THIS IS AMAZING!! Cut your quilt binding PERFECTLY in minutes! The die cuts looooooong pieces of fabric, not only for binding but for numerous other uses. It has four angled **guide lines printed on the foam surface** but those are NOT cutting lines. The lines are at 90-degrees, 30-degrees, 45-degrees, and

60-degrees, and they allow quilters to cut strips into squares and several types of diamonds that can be used to make classic quilts like the Lone Star and Tumbling Blocks. These preprinted angled guide lines will make it easy to create a variety of shapes with consistent cuts. For your FIRST cut, be sure to get one of the facilitators to check your fabric placement before you send it through the cutter.





How to die cut 2 1/2" strips and other shapes:

<u>2 1/2" Strips</u>: Cut 5 1/2" wide strips across the width of fabric to cut two 2 1/2" strips. Position fabric on die so fold of fabric is perpendicular to cutting blades and will roll thru the cutter first. One yard of 40" wide fabric cuts 13 strips.

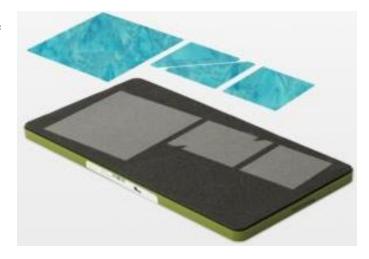
<u>2 1/2" Squares</u>: Start with a 2 1/2" strip aligning it across the die board with the 90° guide line. Fanfold into 5 1/2" widths. Cut 14, 2 1/2" squares across the width of fabric. One yard of 40" wide fabric cuts 182 squares.

45° Diamond-2 3/4" Cut Side Edge: Start with a 2 1/2" strip aligning it across the die board to the right side of the 45° guide line.

30° Diamond-4 1/2" Cut Side Edge: Start with a 2 1/2" strip aligning it across the die board to the right side of the 30° guide line.

<u>60° Diamond-2 1/4" Cut Side Edge:</u> Start with a 2 1/2" strip aligning it across the die board to the right side of the 60° guide line.

Value Die: This die has three shapes: 2" and 4" squares, and two half-square triangles that finish at 2". An infinite number of designs can be made from a mixture of these shapes. One sample is shown below.



DOUBLE WEDDING RING DIES

<u>Smaller Pieces and Center</u>: There are two dies (10"x10"—shown at the right) for our guild for members who want to make a double wedding ring block, table runner, full quilt, etc. From the AccuQuilt site: <u>How to Die Cut Double Wedding Ring Quilt Blocks</u>: For best cutting results, position fabric on the lengthwise grain (straight of grain) as it goes under the roller.

<u>Center Shape A</u>: Cut 9 3/4" strips across the width of the fabric. Fanfold into 9 3/4" widths. Cut four A shapes across the width of fabric. One yard of 40" wide fabric cuts twelve A shapes.

Corner Square Shape B, Middle Arc Shape D or Arch End Shape E: Cut 3" strips across the width of the fabric. Fanfold into 3" widths. Cut 13 shapes across the width of fabric. One yard of 40" wide fabric cuts 156 shapes. Football Shape C: Cuts 7 1/2" strips across the width of the fabric. Fanfold into 2 1/2" widths. Cut thirteen C shapes across the width of fabric. One yard of 40" wide fabric cuts sixty C shapes. Total Arc Shape F: Cut 4" strips across the width of the fabric. Fanfold into 9 1/2" widths. Cut eight F shapes across the width of fabric. One yard of 40" wide fabric cuts 36 F shapes. These same block assembly instructions are provided on the following AccuQuilt website

link:



https://www.accuquilt.com/media/assets/blockassembly/55078-go-double-wedding-ring-instrucs.pdf. (That same page is shown above, reduced.)

CRAZY QUILT DIE

(Die board: 14"x 16") This block die for Crazy Quilts requires the <u>Go! Big</u> electric cutter. It cuts 10 pattern pieces that have perfect built-in seam allowances and clipped dog ears. To see a demo of this die, click and scroll down until you get to the video: https://www.accuquilt.com/go-big-crazy-quilt-10-finished.html.

TO PREPARE FOR CUTTING: Decide the number of crazy <u>blocks</u> you would like to make. *Consider beginning by making <u>one</u> sample block, a table runner, or a pillow top for starters*. Cut an approximate 14"x 16" piece of a different fabric for each block you would like to make. Iron out any creases, and evenly stack them in groups of about 5 pieces if your fabric isn't thicker than normal cotton (1 to 3 pieces if it *is* thicker).



When you REMOVE these pieces each time after passing the fabric through the cutter, you'll want to have a method of keeping the lettered pieces together. At home I have a piece of STIFF cardboard on which I have pasted these same shapes. (See 1st pic below.) As the die comes out of the cutter, I STACK the same shapes together. (See 2nd pic.) You can use pins or binders if you are traveling, OR consider labeling 10 zip-lock baggies (from A to J) and placing the cut fabric shapes in the baggies for easy travel. I put all 10 baggies inside a jacket folder or large envelope. (See 3rd pic.) Later in my sewing room, I can select a desired piece from each letter to form my block.

See AccuQuilt's block assembly instructions on the link below (you will need to scroll down... and down... and down to find it):







https://www.accuquilt.com/media/assets/blockassembly/55861-go-big-crazy-quilt-instrucs.pdf. THESE BLOCK ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS ARE ALSO SHOWN ON THE NEXT PAGE.

In summary: Sew A to B; AB to C; D to E; F to G; H to I; HI to J; HIJ to FG; FGHIJ to DE; FGHIJDE to ABC. Note: This die makes a crazy quilt QUICK to cut (but the TIME you will take to make a crazy quilt will depend upon just how much embellishment you want to do. Below are two very different crazy quilt blocks I made recently. It took 3 minutes to cut the shapes—but I spent a week "playing" with the stitching and embellishments. Check the AccuQuilt site for some sample quilts (made WITHOUT embellishments).







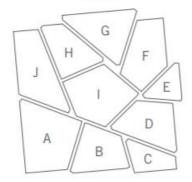
SKU55861 Effective October 2018

GO! Big® Crazy Quilt-10" Finished

Item Number: 55861

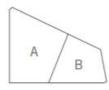
How to Sew the Crazy Quilt Block:





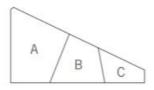
Remove the cut pieces from the die and lay out one block as shown.

Step 2



Sew piece A to piece B.

Step 3



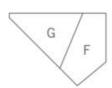
Sew piece C to A/B.

Step 4



Sew piece D to E.

Step 5



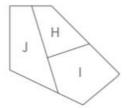
Sew piece F to piece G.

Step 6



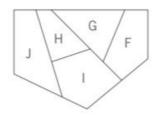
Sew piece H to piece I.

Step 7



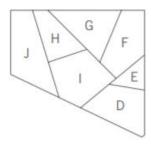
Sew piece H/I to piece J.

Step 8



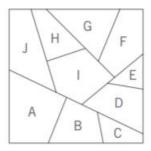
Sew H/I/J to F/G.

Step 9



Sew F/G/H/I/J to D/E.

Step 10



Sew piece A/B/C to D/E/F/G/H/I/J. Block should measure 10½" x 10½".