

# Baby Clamshell Quilt

*made by Brigitte Giblin*

*Finished Size: 39" x 42" plus optional borders*



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Finished Size: 39” x 42” plus optional borders

Clamshells are 3 1/2 inches wide finished for the baby quilt.

Each clamshell can be cut from a 4 - 4 1/2 inch (minimum) square.

## TRADITIONAL METHOD

The traditional English method is to appliqué directly onto a piece of gridded linen.

Today, pellon, or preferably cotton “quilt lite” or any thin cotton batting can be used. This has the added advantage of not having to quilt the clamshells once appliquéd to the background batting.

The work is simply backed and bound.

## MATERIALS

There are 132 print clamshells, 110 background (cream print) clamshells, plus the half-shapes on the top and sides of the quilt. In addition, there is a strip of background fabric across the width on the top.

- approx 1.5m background fabric
- lots of lovely print scraps
- Quilt lite or pellon batting:45” x 50” approx
- template plastic
- Hand sewing tools & cotton thread
- 2B pencil

### ALTERNATE “NO-BASTING” METHOD \*\*

- 000 grade sandpaper – 2 sheets
- Kitchen foil
- Small bulldog clips or paper clips
- Craft scissors

## METHOD

There are 132 print clamshells, 110 background (cream print) clamshells, plus the half-shapes on the top and sides of the quilt.

### MARKING THE GRID FOR APPLIQUE

For the 3.5 inch finished clamshells, mark a 45” x 50” piece of batting with a 1 3/4 inch all over grid, using a soft pencil – 2B or 3B. Start with 2 lines through the centre

and mark grid lines towards the edges. It will help if you use a tablecloth under your work to stop it from slipping when marking the grid.

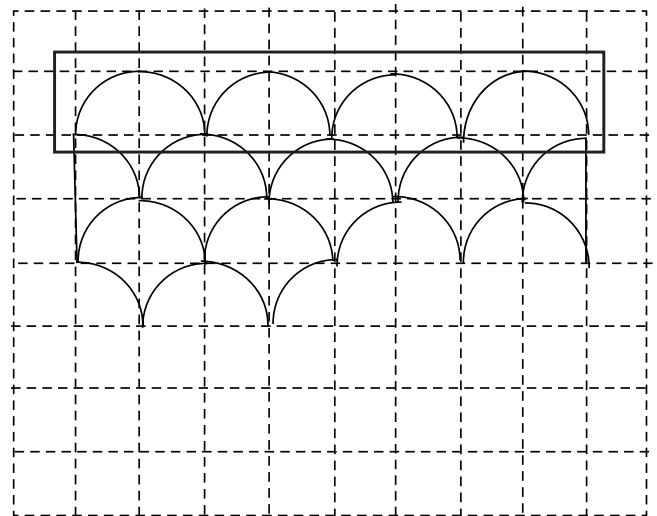
Cut a 3 inch wide strip, selvage to selvage from the background fabric. Centre the strip across the fabric, about 3 inches from the edges of the batting panel and baste into place. Note: This will allow you to add borders to the edges of the quilt later.

Baste the seam allowance along the top curved edge of each clamshell to the wrong side, leaving the lower curves unturned - these edges will be covered by the next row of clamshells.

### ALTERNATE METHOD \*\*

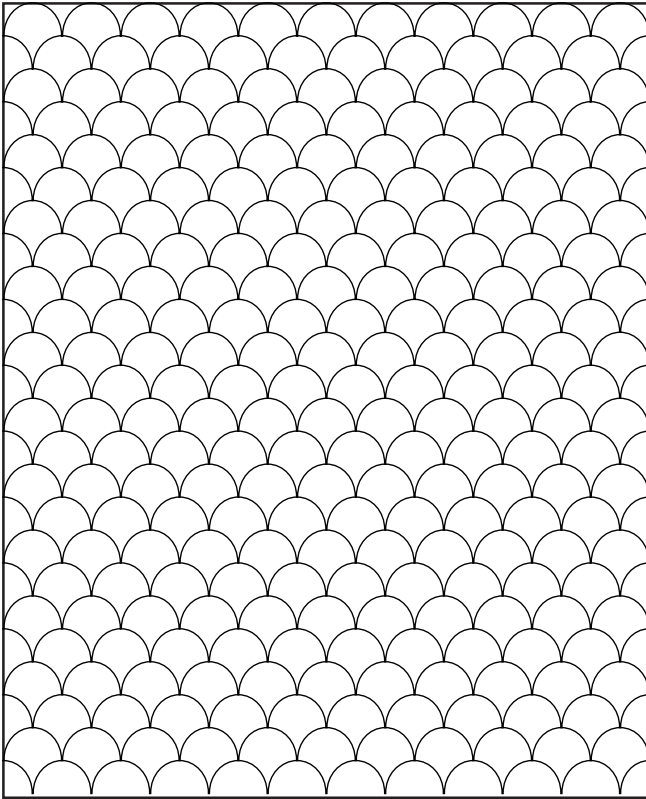
for the alternate method - use kitchen aluminium foil to wrap the fabric turning over the sandpaper templates - with top curved edge cut to the finished size of clamshell - and then press to set the turning. Use the clips to hold the layers together on each side of the “stem”.

Try both methods.



Pin and then baste the first row of clamshells. Using a flat surface, lay a horizontal row of 11 print clamshells over the background strip. Position the centre of the “stem” of each clamshell in line with a vertical grid line and touching a horizontal grid line. Make sure the sides touch, but do not overlap.

see diagram over



Appliqué along the top curved edge from side to side.

Continue adding rows of clamshells in the same manner, alternating background and print fabrics. For the half-background clamshells, remember to add extra seam allowance down the centre of the shape for the outside edge of quilt.

When each row is completed, it's a good idea to remove the basting.

## FINISHING

Optional border: Cut and stitch a border to the 4 sides of the quilt - so that you cover the remaining batting on the edges.

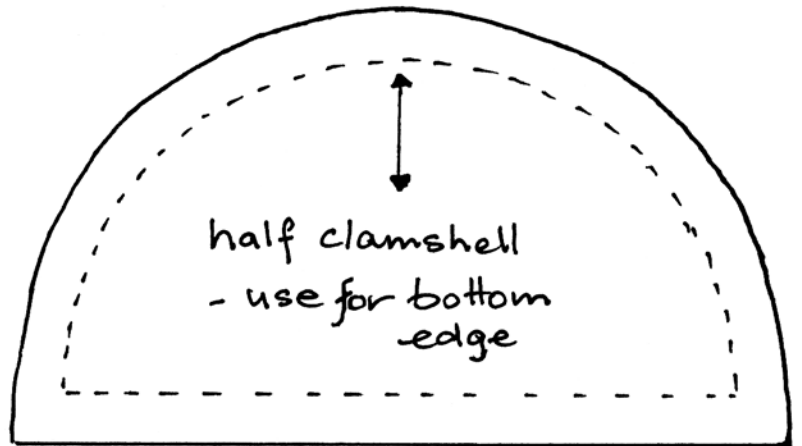
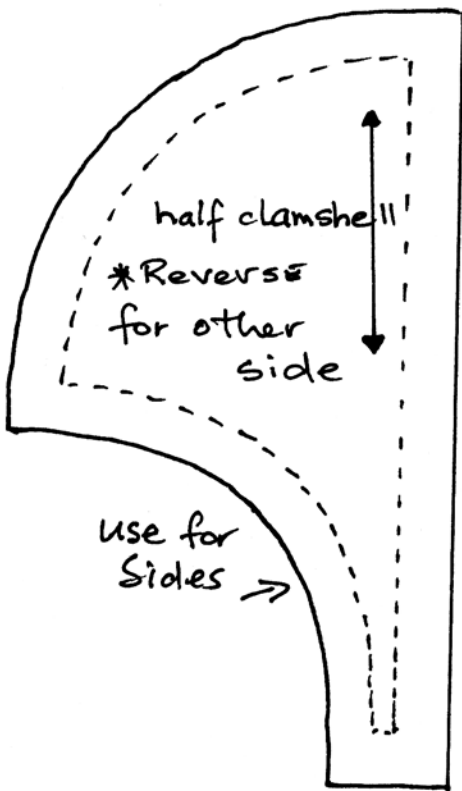
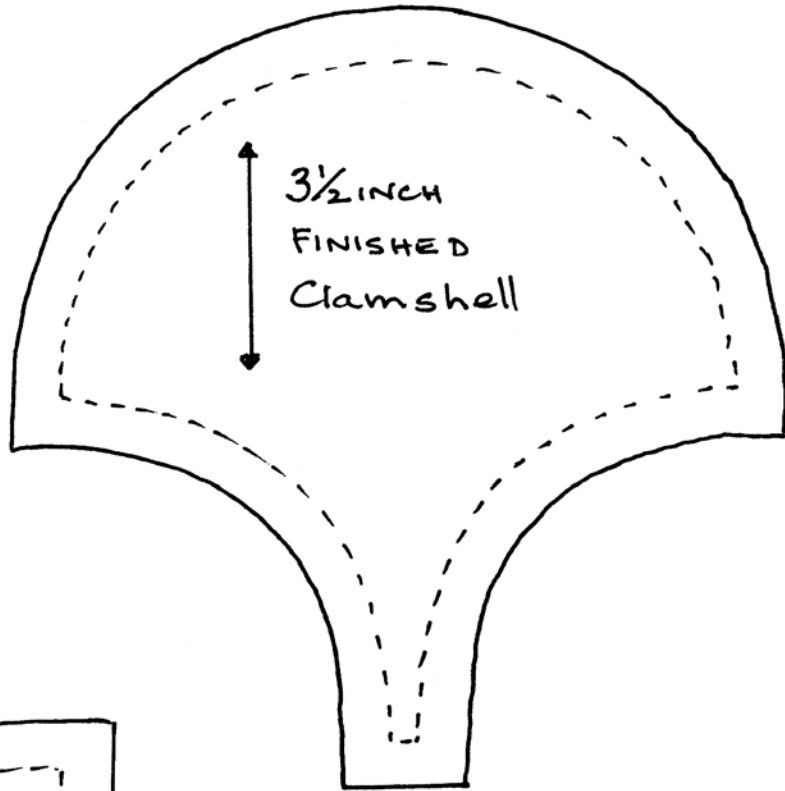
Cut a piece of backing fabric to the same size and pin or baste the layers together.

Bind your quilt as desired.

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