



FAN DANCE QUILT
by Anna Maria Horner for **JANOME**

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I designed this quilt to encourage you to play up the contrast between color groups of fabric. Creating this contrast scenario began with dividing my chosen fabrics into two main groups: darker and cooler fabrics like blues, purples, greens and grays into one group; lighter and warmer fabrics like pinks, yellows, reads and creams into another group. I used only half of a traditional Dresden Plate for the feature element which is somewhat reminiscent of a fan. The way that they are situated on the background columns of the quilt gives the fans a twisting and turning effect that is stunning and full of movement. The piecing is very straightforward and the final design appears much more complicated than the actual process that brought it to life.

Be sure and watch the highlights video for helpful tips on layout and designing your own Fan Dance Quilt. The video details how to make the Crib Quilt, however making the Full Quilt version just increases the fabric requirements, the size and number of the background columns, as well as the number of fans you will create. Throughout the Cutting and Piecing instructions, the Full Quilt requirements will be given in *(parentheses)*. The Marking & Placement instructions are separated by size so follow whichever you are making. And finally the Assembly, Quilting and Finishing instructions will be the same for both sizes.

Materials	Crib Quilt: 39" x 52"	Full Quilt: 75" x 86"
warm/light background fabric	1 1/2 yards	3 yards
cool/dark background fabric	1 1/2 yards	3 yards
assorted warm/light fabrics	scraps or fat quarters for 20 blades	scraps or fat quarters for 80 blades
assorted cool/dark fabrics	scraps or fat quarters for 40 blades	scraps or fat quarters for 120 blades
Backing fabric	3 yards	6 yards
Binding fabric	5 1/2 yards of continuous binding	9 1/2 continuous yards of binding
Batting	at least 48" x 60"	at least 85" x 95"

Tools	
fabric chalk or pen for light & for dark fabric	straight pins
cutting tools (rotary + mat, snips)	curved safety pins
measuring device (clear quilt ruler)	machine thread for piecing
hand sewing needle	machine thread for applique

Cutting:

1. From the warm/light background fabric cut one *(two)* rectangle(s) that is 18.5" x 52" (*18.5" x 86"*).
2. From the cool/dark background fabric cut two rectangles that are 11" x 52" (*11" x 86"*) (*and one that is 18.5" x 86"*).
3. Using Template 1, cut 20 (*80*) blades from the assorted warm/light fabrics.
4. Using Template 1, cut 40 (*120*) blades from the assorted cool/dark fabrics.
5. Using Template 2, trace 4 (*16*) circles onto warm/light fabric. Then cut around traced circles leaving an extra 1/4"-3/8" allowance. This can be from background or from assorted fabrics, and you may choose to "fussy" cut a specific element into 2 (*8*) of the 4 (*16*) circles.
6. Using Template 2, trace 4 (*24*) circles from cool/dark fabric. Then cut around traced circles leaving an extra 1/4"-3/8" allowance. This can be from background or from assorted fabrics, and you may choose to "fussy" cut a specific element into 4 (*12*) of the 8 (*24*) circles.

Piecing:

**For all of the piecing steps, I used the "O" foot on my Janome for perfect 1/4" seams.*

1. Prepare each of the Dresden Blades by first folding them right sides together in half on their length then sewing across the wider short end using a 1/4" seam allowance.

2. Continue to do this with every Dresden Blade and if desired also without lifting the presser foot or cutting threads between each piece so that you are chain piecing to save time.

3. Snip the threads to separate blades and carefully trim corners off of sewn ends angled down towards the folded edge as shown in illustration to right.

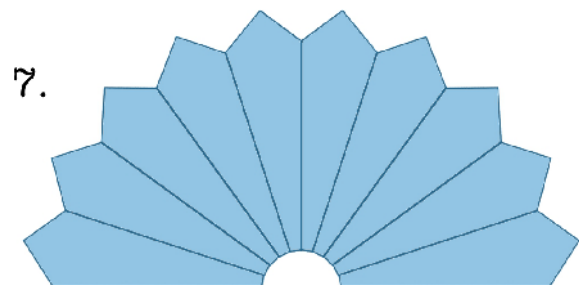
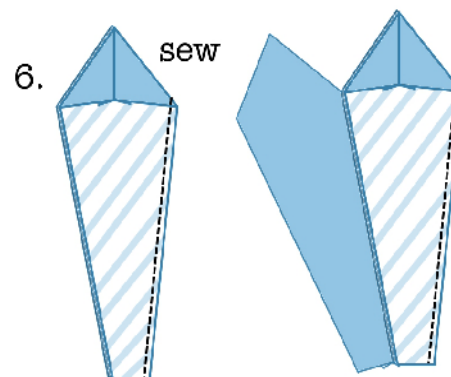
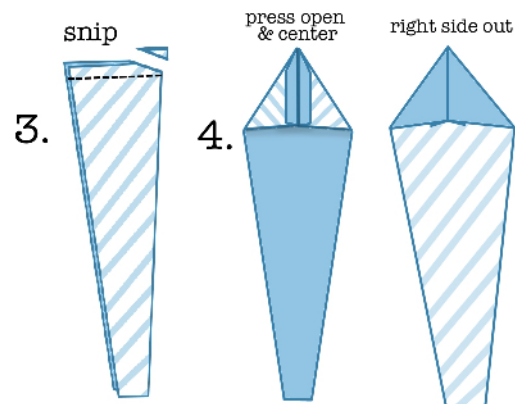
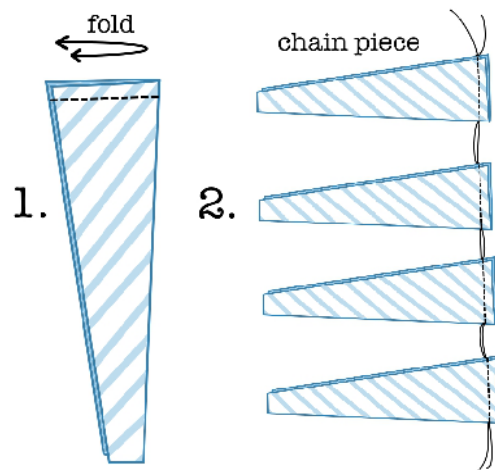
4. Finger press the seam open, and center it along the length of the blade before flipping through to the right side, making a nice point and pressing with an iron. Continue with all of the blades and keep them in color category piles.

5. The first step to creating the "fans" for your quilt is dividing the warm/light blades into 2 (8) sets of 10 and dividing the cool/dark blades into 4 (12) sets of 10.

6. With right sides together and using 1/4" seam allowances, sew the long edge of one blade to the long edge of another blade, and then continue by adding a third blade and so on, until you've created a 10-blade fan. Be sure that the folded edges of the points are lined up nicely before sewing together. The line up of raw edges at the other end will matter less because they will be hidden underneath the applied circles.

7. Once all 10 blades are assembled, press their seam allowances open or in one direction. Continue to create all 6 (20) fans in this manner.

8. With right sides together sew two warm/light circles together by stitching right onto the traced line. Notch clip excess from around seam allowance. Carefully slit the center of only one side of the circle about 1.5" long (this should be the side you want hidden). Then flip through slit to be right side out, smooth with fingers along seam, and press well. Continue with remaining 5 (19) circle pairs.



Marking & Placement for the Crib Quilt:

**Note the distance that is measured between the marked lines on the background columns is somewhat loose (but only by a 1/4" or so) based on the exact finished size of your fans, which will vary from one quilter to the next. Watch the video for further clarification.*

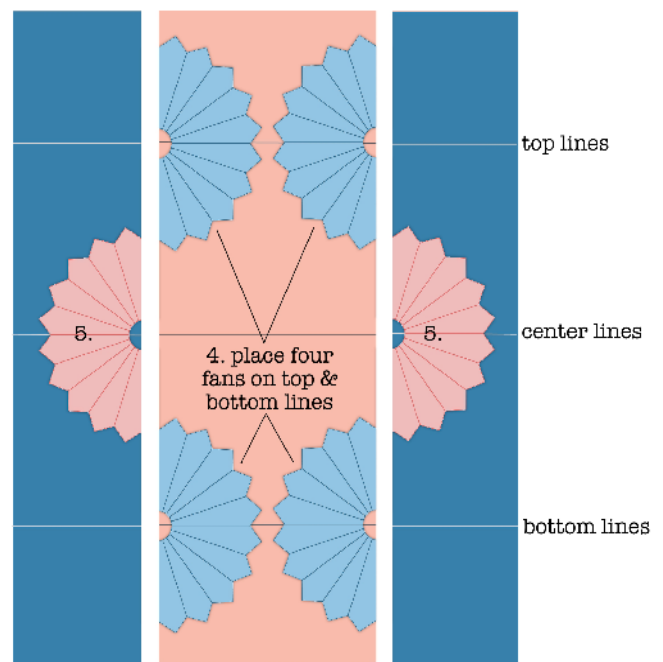
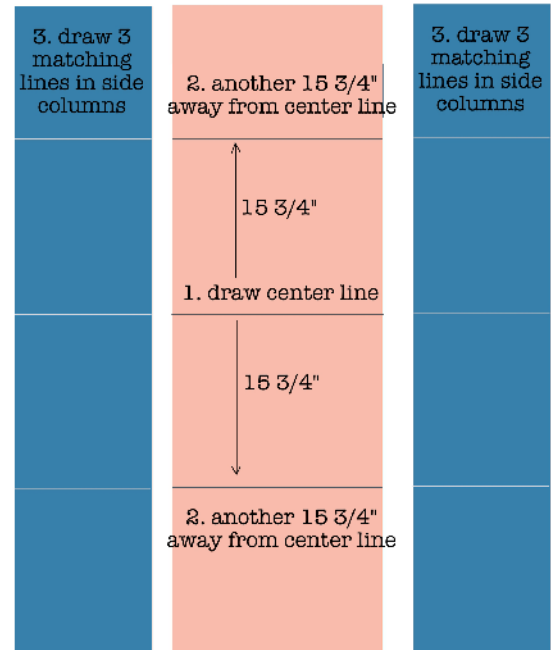
1. Fold center warm/light column in half crosswise, and mark the center fold on both side edges. Then draw a line between the two markings.

2. Draw another line that is parallel to the first that measures 15 3/4" away from it. Now repeat this on the other side of the first drawn line.

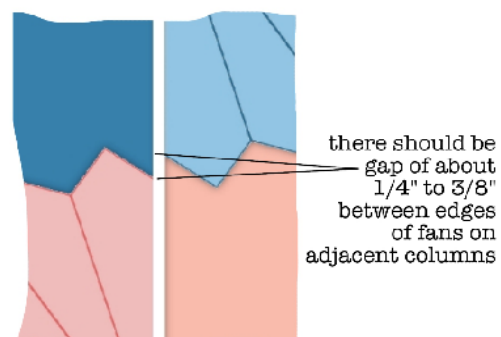
3. Lay the cool/dark side columns out on either side of the wider center column and use a straight edge to drawing matching sets of 3 lines on the side columns as well.

4. Place the four cool/dark fans centered onto the top and bottom lines of the center column and with their raw edges in line with the edge of the column. See illustration to right. Pin in place with safety pins.

5. Place one warm/light fan centered onto center line of one of the side columns with its raw edges against the inner edge of the column. Repeat with remaining warm/light fan on center line of other side column. Pin in place with safety pins.



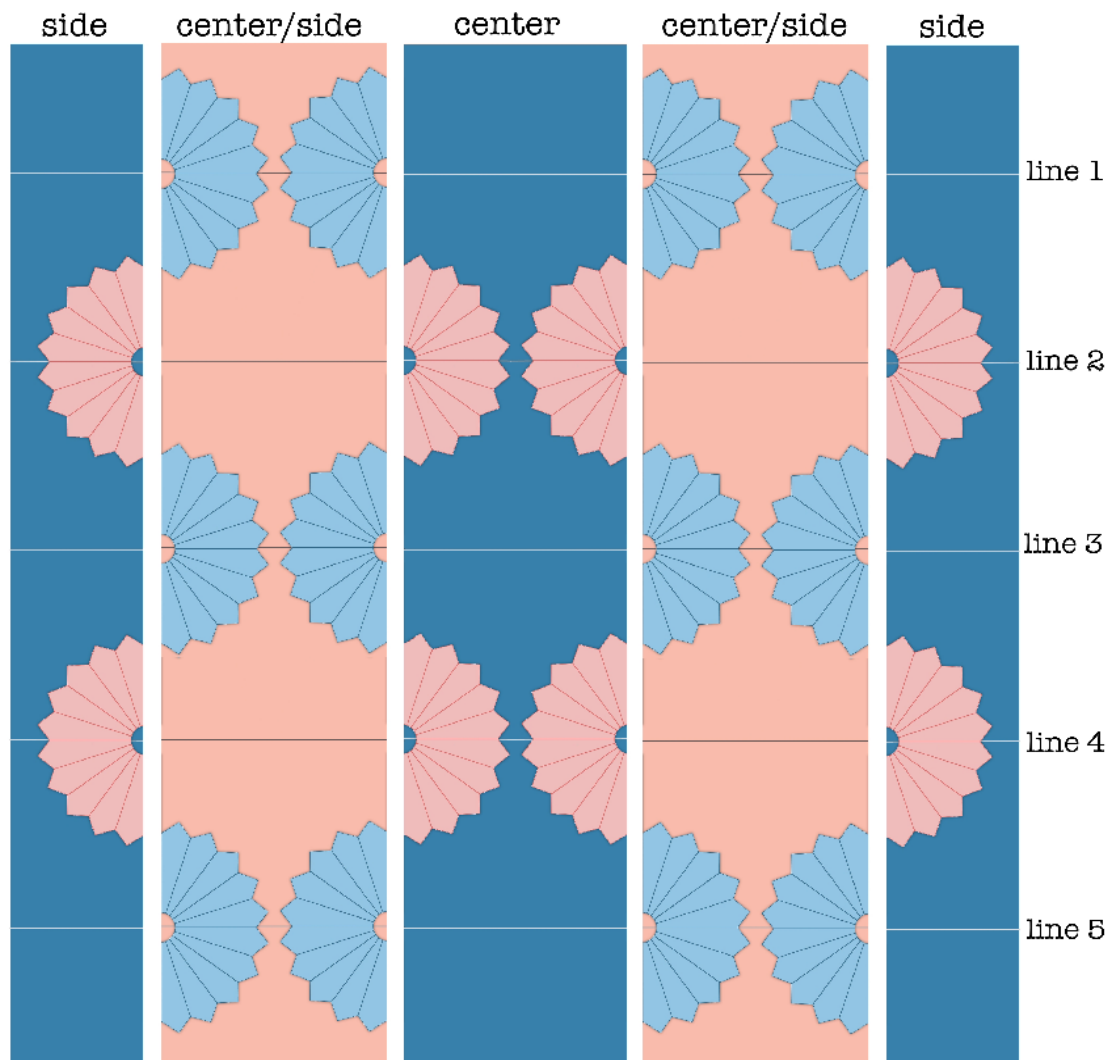
**If the placement for the fans is correct, you should have about 1/4"-3/8" space between lined up edges of fans when columns are laying next to one another as shown in illustration.*



Marking & Placement for the Full Quilt:

**The distance between the marked lines on the columns is loose (but only by a 1/4" or so) based on the exact size of your fans, which will vary from one quilter to the next. Watch the video for further clarification.*

1. Fold center cool/dark column in half crosswise, and mark the center fold on both side edges. Then draw a line between the two markings.
2. Draw another line that is parallel to the first that measures 15 3/4" away from it. Now repeat this on the other side of the first drawn line. Continue again to draw two more lines that are another 15 3/4" away from the outer two, so that there are a total of 5 drawn lines that are equal distance from each other.
3. Lay both of the warm/light center/side columns out on either side of the wider center column and use a straight edge to drawing matching sets of 5 lines on both of the center/side columns as well. Also draw these five lines onto both of the outer side columns.



4. Place four warm/light fans centered onto the 2nd and 4th lines from the top of the center column and with their raw edges in line with the edge of the column. See illustration to above. Pin in place with safety pins.
5. In a similar manner place pairs of cool/dark fans centered onto the 1st, 3rd and 5th lines from the top of each of the center/side columns. Pin in place with safety pins.
6. Now place one warm/light fan on the 2nd line and one on the 4th line from the top of the outer side columns. These should mirror those that were placed on the center column as shown in illustration above.
**If the placement for the fans is correct, you should have about 1/4"-3/8" space between lined up edges of fans when columns are laying next to one another. See last illustration on previous page.*

Assembly:

1. With right sides together and using a 1/4" seam allowance sew the long seam between center column and an adjacent column making sure to match all marked lines, checking space between fans, and making sure that fan raw edges are aligned with column edges and are included in the seam.

2. Repeat at the other side of the center column and another adjacent column. *(If you are making the full size quilt you will repeat this two more times until you have assembled all 5 columns together.)*

3. Press all long seams open.

* *At this stage you may choose to hand applique or machine applique the fans in place on the quilt top before appliqueing the circles in place onto the center of the fans. As the video shows, I chose to combine the machine applique step with the machine quilting step. If you would like to do the same, you can follow the next steps that detail the process.*

Quilting:

**For all of the applique/quilting, I used the Accufeed foot (walking foot) and decorative stitch #51 on the Janome Horizon 15000. This stitch is sort of like a modified zigzag. Try to center the width of the stitch over the seams as you sew. I also attached the (wonderfully large sized) extension table to perform these steps which helped me keep the quilt supported as I went.*

1. Sandwich the batting between the wrong sides of the quilt top and the backing (once backing is pieced and sized appropriately for the quilt top). Pin all layers together with curved safety pins throughout but switch to straight pins near the tips of each of the Dresden Blades to make sewing around them easier. (You could also choose to hand basted all layers in place which takes some time, but keeps you from having to remove pins as you quilt the layers together.)

2. Start appliqueing/quilting at the center of one of the long seams between columns, leaving long tails at the beginning. Keep sewing until you reach edge of quilt then go back to center and sew in the opposite direction beginning at the same point, leaving a long tail at the beginning and continuing to the other edge.

4. Repeat on remaining column seams, working from center towards edge on one side, then flipping and repeating towards the other side. When finished with all long seams you can pull all tails to top, knot and trim them together (these will be hidden underneath the applied circles).

5. Starting at the top edge in the center begin appliqueing/quilting around the points of the fans going straight from the last blade of one fan to the first blade of the next in an undulating curve. Pivoting around each point of the fans requires some patience so take your time and enjoy the process.

6. Complete any other quilting steps you might like to do in the more open areas of the quilt background. It is a beautiful place to play around with some medallion designs.

Finishing:

1. Hand applique the finished small circles in place over the centers of the fans with a blind stitch and using a hand sewing needle and thread.

2. Trim all edges of the quilt layers and bind as desired. Enjoy!

For more inspiration and free patterns by Anna Maria for her friends at Janome, visit her [Janome + Me](#) page:

www.annamariahorner.com/janome_me.html



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template 1

*do not add seam allowances to template 1
or template 2

*once template 2 is traced onto fabric, cut it
out with a seam allowance around it



FAN
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template 2

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