

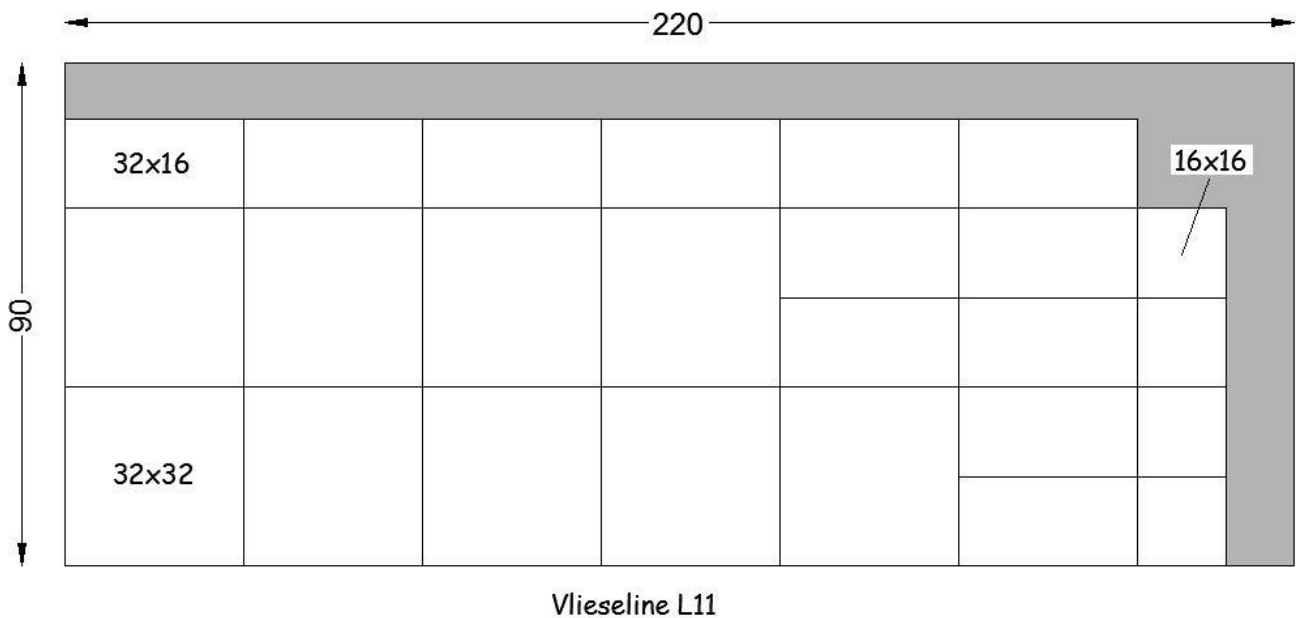
**Basic preparations Crazy Colors Mystery Quilt 2017 – aprox. 1.15.x1.15m - © Sylvia Kaptein**

This project consists of various blocks: 9 blocks that eventually will be 25 x 25 cm, 12 blocks that eventually will be 12,5 x 25 cm and 4 blocks that eventually will be 12,5 x 12,5. The blocks will be assembled in a special way in December, Month 12.

You will be working via 'Quilt-as-you-go': this means that you will make the decorative stitches and other decorations on separate sandwiches (backing, batting and VlieselineL11) through all the layers, a kind of direct-quilting. All the necessary actions concerning sewing the (batik) fabrics, making decorative stitches, extra quilting and adding sequins and beads will be done through all the layers of the sandwich. This is the reason why the sandwich will be extra large, not just because of shrinkage during quilting, but also because of the special assembly which will be done in Month 12. After finishing the quilt, the measurements will be aprox. 1.15 x 1.15 m.

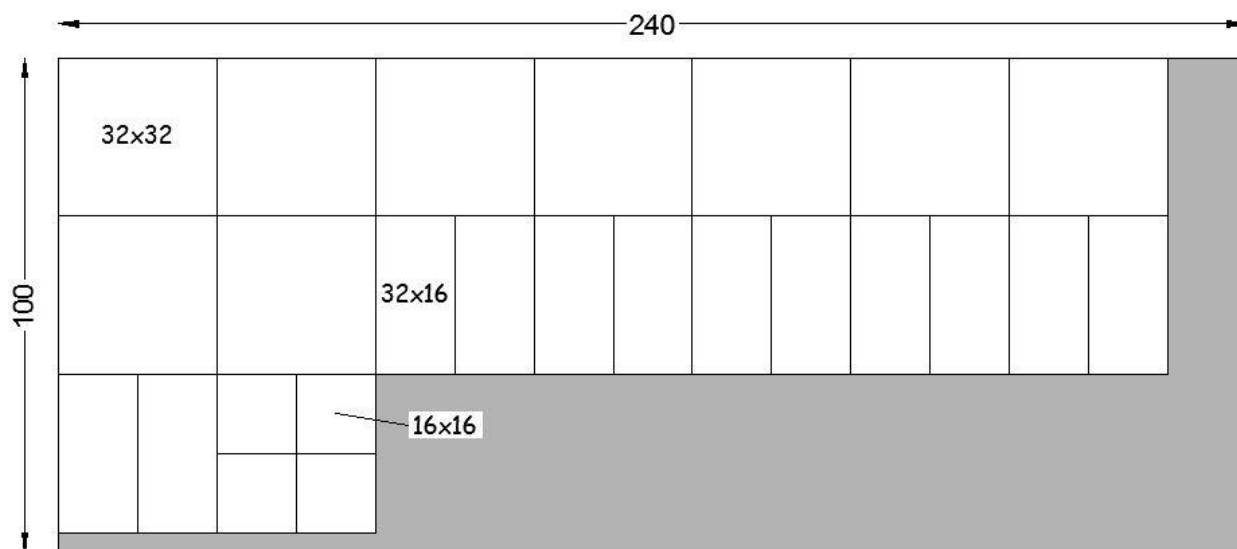
**For basic preparations** you will need to cut Vlieseline L11, a batting and a backing (both extra wide) on a certain measurement, for which the diagrams are added below.

1) Vlieseline L11\* is a flexible, thin, non-woven interfacing: it will be used for the top of the sandwich, without adding thickness. You will need 2.20 m, at a width of 90 cm. You will have extra material left after cutting the exact measurements: use them for samples and as reserve.



Cut from Vlieseline L11: 9 squares 32 x 32 cm, 12 rectangles 16 x 32 cm and 4 squares 16 x 16 cm. Look for directions at the drawing above. Put them aside and use one or more pieces when indicated on the BERNINA Blog. You will find directions for this each month in 2017, around the 15th.

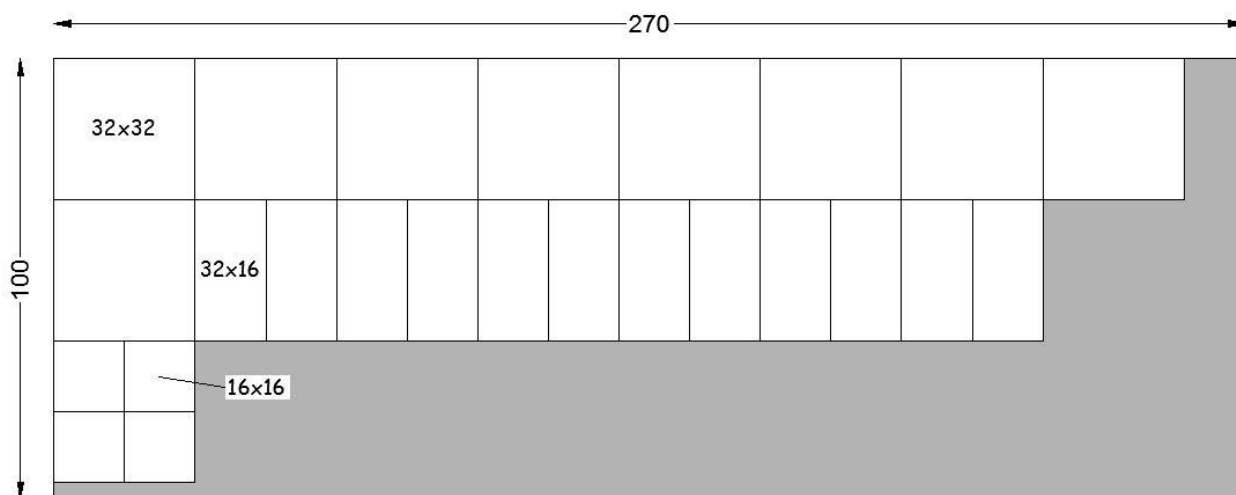
2) Matilda's Own 100% Bamboo\* will be used for batting: soft and easy to sew by machine with fine scrim to lock-in fibres and prevent bearding. Also anti allergic. The fabrics wich will be placed on both sides of this material will 'stick' to it; a big advantage because the material will shift less and you don't have to use many pins to keep the layers together. The size is calculated with additional quantity: use the leftovers after cutting for samples and reserve.



Tussenvulling Matilda's Own 100 procent Bamboo

Cut from this batting (*tussenvullling in Dutch*): 9 squares 32 x 32 cm, 12 rectangles 16 x 32 cm and 4 squares 16 x 16 cm. Look for directions at the drawing above. Put them aside and use one or more pieces when indicated on the BERNINA Blog. You will find directions for this each month in 2017, around the 15th.

3) The backing is an off-white fabric, extra wide\*, soft and flexible, and relatively thin. This is the 'first' backing, just for the sandwiches, to make stitches and decorations. Afterwards you can add a beautiful fabric to the back of the quilt, which will be explained in Month 12. The size is calculated with additional quantity: use the leftovers after cutting for samples and reserve.



Ecrú achterkantstof

(Ecrú achterkantstof = off-white backing)

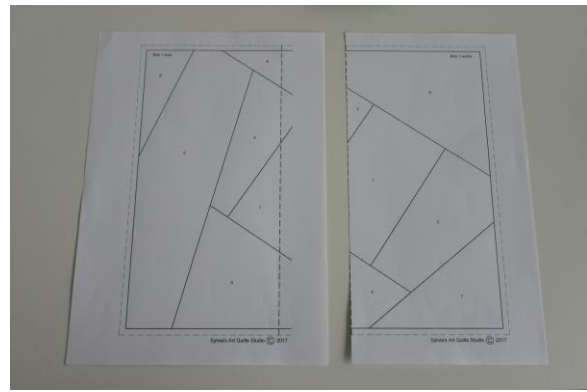
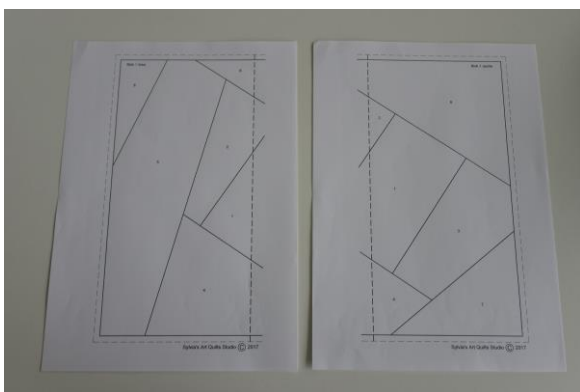
Cut from this off-white fabric: (picture page 2): 9 squares 32 x 32 cm, 12 rectangles 16 x 32 cm and 4 squares 16 x 16 cm. Look for directions at the drawing above. Put them aside and use one or more pieces when indicated on the BERNINA Blog. You will find directions for this each month in 2017, around the 15th.

**Again:** all these materials are oversized: there will be enough for reserve. Vlieseline L11, Matilda's Own 100% Bamboo and off-white fabric are also available via my webshop, as are the special kits I've made for this project – but only as long as supplies last!

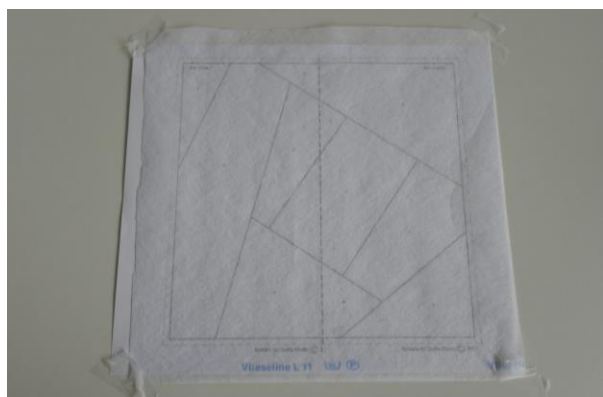
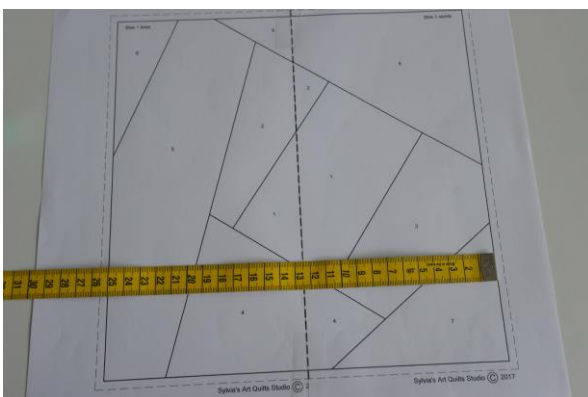
*(\*There are many different kits available for ordering via the webshop from Sylvia's Art Quilts Studio. Also Mill Hill beads and many (Wonderfil) machine threads. If you cannot read the dutch text but would like to order, please mail me via [sylvia@sylviasartquilts.nl](mailto:sylvia@sylviasartquilts.nl) and I will guide you through the ordering process: we welcome orders from the UK although our webshop is in Dutch!)*

### Directions for the first block:

You will need a piece of Vlieseline L11, batting and backing, each 32 x 32 cm.

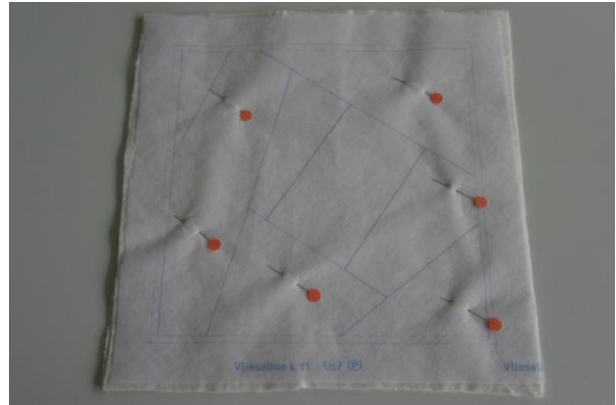
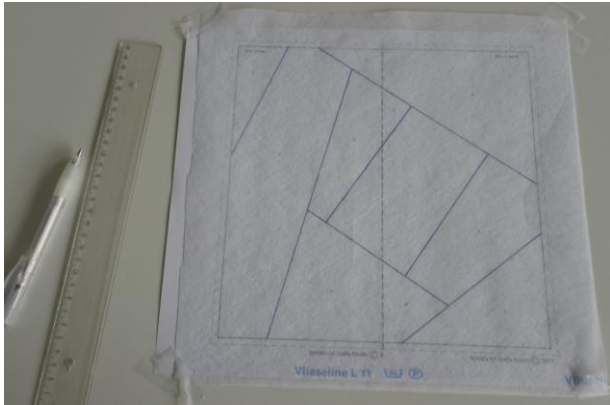


The patterns for the 9 blocks are always two A4 sheets: a left- and a right part. Download the .pdf for both via the BERNINA BLOG, cut one pattern part on the dotted line, and use Scotch Tape to tape it on the other pattern part: make sure everything fits.



Check if the inner solid line – square - still is 25 x 25 cm.

Place a piece of Vlieseline L11 - 32 x 32 cm – on this pattern, make sure the square of 25 x 25 cm is exactly in the middle of the Vlieseline L11: the Vlieseline L11 needs to protrude in an equal portion in each direction. Draw the lines of the pattern onto the Vlieseline L11 (not the numbers!), with a ballpen, – draw thin lines but be sure they are visible: these are the sewing lines. Also draw the solid lines of the square 25 x 25 cm and the dotted lines outside this square: these indicate the extra space you will need for shrinkage to end up with the right measurements.



Make the sandwich: (off-white)backing (not a beautiful backing, this is just to make a correct sandwich) 32 x 32 cm, on your table, on top of that the batting 32 x 32 cm with sides together, and on top of that the Vlieseline L11 with all the drawn line. Pin this sandwich; use Flower Pins – they will lay flat and can be ‘woven’ into the sandwich to secure the three layers.

This is the way all blocks of this Crazy Colors Mystery Quilt 2017 project will be prepared. But not all blocks are of the same measurements, so do not work ahead, but wait until directions are given with each month.

#### **Preparing your domestic sewing machine:**

Check the manual to find out which decorative stitches are available with your machine. Don’t worry if there are a few: even the straight stitch, zigzag- and lock stitches can be used to decorate. Choose as many stitches as you can, also the ones you have never used before: you can manipulate them by adding freehand quilting, or combine them (check if this is possible with your machine), you will add ribbons and trims, and embellish everything with sequins and beads for special effects.



**Use the right presser foot for making decorative stitches.** Check your machine: I am working with the BERNINA 770QE and have used presser foot 20C: an open embroidery foot which shows the stitches very well. Use a Braiding Foot, a 3-Groove Cording Foot or similar feet for couching.

**The original quilt is made on a BERNINA 770QE.** If you are using the same machine, you can use the pictures at the BERNINA BLOG for making the same decorative stitches, but I am stimulating you to make your own choices. This is a project to be creative; that’s the reason I don’t mention the numbers of the stitches... . It is fun to follow your imagination!

Make sure that all materials you will use are at hand. Wind many bobbins with matching threads, and clean the bobbin case. Change needles often, for they will wear. Use Embroidery needles with 'regular' machine threads, but change needles when using Metallic threads! If you don't want to change needles that often, use Topstitch needles 90/12: these can be used for every type of thread. But do replace these from time to time: the point will be blunt after making many stitches. You will notice this when your threads are splitting or breaking.



Sew with a low speed when working with Metallic threads. Upper tension loosened, put the spool or cone a bit further away from the machine to reduce tension. Your stitches will look better. Remember that the inner part of metallic thread is mostly synthetic, which will stretch. Making decorative stitches at a width of 9mm (which can be done with a lot of stitches at the BERNINA 770QE), the metal parts of the thread will be stretched and can break. Working slow, reducing upper tension and putting the spool or cone further away from your machine will prevent that. With some machines it works ok when placing the spool directly on the machine: it is a matter of making samples and trying things out! Never try out stitches with metallic threads on your block, but always on samples!

These samples can be made with the remnants of the sandwich materials – where there will be a lot of small pieces to try stitches and threads. You can make notes about tension, threads etc. to use for another time, so keep the samples as a reference.

**Check the BERNINA Blog every month around the 15<sup>e</sup> in 2017: you will receive new directions and patterns, and many step-by-step pictures to guide you through this project.** It is not necessary to keep up with this project: you can check the Blog the entire year, and work whenever you can.

Have fun with this colorful project!

Sylvia Kaptein

Sylvia's Art Quilts Studio

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**For ordering kits, beads and threads: [www.sylviasartquilts.nl/webshop](http://www.sylviasartquilts.nl/webshop) - This webshop is in Dutch: if you need help with ordering, please send me an email!**

**For info/questions: [sylvia@sylviasartquilts.nl](mailto:sylvia@sylviasartquilts.nl) and the FaceBook group Crazy Colors Mystery Quilt 2017**