

# “My Sweet Baby” Crib Quilt

by Tamara Fox

Finished Size Approx. 25 x 35 inches



Ahhhhh, the feel of Minkee®! There are many knockoffs available, some even look really nice. But the second you touch a knockoff you instantly know it's not the genuine Minkee® made by Benartex. There simply is no comparison. Use the adorable designs from Minkee® Mayhem to create this super simple yet unbelievably cute crib quilt. Add dimension by using the stitch'n'turn animals from this collection in a new way and incorporate them into the quilt. Don't forget to visit the projects page at [www.embroideryonline.com](http://www.embroideryonline.com) for instructions on creating a coordinating mobile on a penny pinchers budget.

## Supplies:

- OESD Signature Collection #12299 Minkee® Mayhem.
- ½ yard each of assorted genuine Benartex Minkee® fabrics. I used a combination of Minkee® Blankee, Minkee® Dot Blankee, Minkee® Raised Stripe and Minkee® Tagalongs in an assortment of pink, blue, sage, pearl and lilac (aka hyacinth).
- Scraps of Minkee® for appliqué of barn and trees.
- 1/8" wide satin ribbon in assorted colors to tie quilt.
- OESD AquaFilm Water Soluble Topping.
- OESD Ultra Clean & Tear Tear-Away Stabilizer.
- Temporary spray adhesive.
- Sharp needle with large eye for tying the quilt, examples are darning needle or chenille needle.
- Low loft batting.
- Scraps of firm fabric such as canvas or scrap of heavy weight cut-away stabilizer.

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## Foreword

Ok, so you've heard that Minkee® fabric can be difficult to sew with. This is true, it can be, but it doesn't have to be. If you follow a few basic rules Minkee® will become more tameable than the child you are making the quilt for!

**RULE #1** – Get over the idea of instant gratification and learn some patience. (Rule #1 is directed at me, but if it applies to you as well so be it.)

**RULE #2** – Minkee® has a plush pile; to avoid the pile peeking through your embroidery stitches you must use a water soluble topping such as AquaFilm while embroidering.

**RULE #3** – Minkee® has some stretch and therefore a cutaway backing must be used when embroidering. I recommend PolyMesh because it is stable while remaining soft.

**RULE #4** – Buy another box of pins!

**RULE #5** – There is no such thing as over pinning when working with Minkee®.

**RULE #6** – Pin whether you want to or not. I consider myself an anti-pinner, not because I don't think you need to pin, just because I don't like to pin. I skip it whenever possible. Refer to rule #1.

**RULE #7** – Allow yourself some slack. Slightly crooked seam, points don't match perfectly, embroidery is a bit crooked. Who cares! You are your own worst critic, and I really don't think that baby will turn to you and say, "Wow, who made this? It has a crooked seam!" More than likely, you are the only one to notice any imperfections.

## Embroider Dimensional Animals (Blocks 8 and 10)

Ok, so I've laid out the rules, now let's break them! The Minkee® Mayhem collection contains many stitch'n'turn animals that are simply adorable, but I didn't want to make stitch'n'turn animals and tack them on my quilt. I did, however, want to incorporate them into the quilt while adding dimension. So bear with me while we embroider blocks 8 & 10. Then we'll get back on track with the rules.

1. Hoop a piece of Minkee® with one layer of Ultra Clean & Tear Tear-Away stabilizer in your standard 4" x 4" embroidery hoop. Do not adhere the two together with spray adhesive.
2. Apply a layer of water soluble topping. **Tip:** To keep topping in place, I moisten my finger and touch it to one corner of the topping then stick it to embroidery hoop. Repeat for remaining corners.
3. Attach the hoop to your machine and prepare machine to embroider the animal of your choice.
4. Skip the first color, this is a placement guide used for the stitch'n'turn feature of the animals.
5. Stitch design starting with color number 2 and proceed until you reach the second to last color change which is described as "Ribbon Placement Guide". Again, skip this color change as it also is a feature used for the stitch'n'turn technique.
6. Before stitching the final color, remove the hoop from the machine, but do not remove the fabric from the hoop.
7. Gently remove the excess water soluble topping. **(Photo 01)**
8. Carefully turn the hoop over and very carefully score the stabilizer with your scissors and very gently remove stabilizer. Practice your patience (refer to rule #1) on this step. Do not rip stabilizer off, be very gentle and try hard not to disturb the now unstabilized fabric that is still hooped. I realize that this is breaking every embroidery rule, but the reasoning is so



there is nothing to prevent the front of the embroidery from puffing up.

**(Photo 02)**

9. To provide dimension to the animal, using temporary spray adhesive, adhere 2-3 layers of low loft batting together then adhere to wrong side of embroidery being gentle as not to disturb hooped fabric. **Note:** If your machine does not have an adjustable presser foot you may need to work with multiple smaller layers. Apply 1-2 layers of batting, proceed through step 13 which will sew the “Seam Stitch”. After applying another 1-2 layers with the firm fabric or heavy weight cut-away, re-stitch the seam “Seam Stitch” and proceed to step 14.
10. Spray a piece of either a firm fabric such as canvas or a piece of heavy weight cut-away stabilizer and adhere over the batting.
11. Return the hoop to the machine.
12. Adjust presser foot up so that it does not drag on the now puffy fabric.
13. Stitch the last color which is referred to as the “Seam Stitch”. This will define the edge of your animal.
14. Remove the hoop from the machine and the fabric from the hoop.
15. Carefully remove excess batting and firm fabric/heavy weight cutaway stabilizer by cutting close to “Seam Stitch” being cautious not to cut the stitches. **(Photo 03)**
16. The firm fabric/heavy weight cut-away stabilizer is meant to force the “fluff” toward the right side of the fabric.
17. Cut the fabric to a 6” x 6” square and set aside for piecing later.



**Photo 03**



**Create Block 17**

1. Cut a piece of cotton fabric 12” x 12”.
2. Hoop fabric with two layers of PolyMesh Cut-Away Stabilizer.



**Photo 04**



**Photo 05**

3. Embroider grass design (#CM490\_48) keeping bottom edge of design close to the center of the fabric. (It is not necessary to keep the stitching perfectly straight and centered as we will be cutting down the fabric after embroidery is complete.)
4. Remove hoop from machine and fabric from hoop.
5. Carefully cut away excess PolyMesh.
6. With right sides together, create a fold 1” below embroidery. **(Photo 04)**
7. Press fold to crease.
8. With a water soluble marker, draw a line 4” up from the fold. **(Photo 05)**
9. Stitch along this drawn line to create a “tube”.
10. Trim excess fabric ¼” from stitched line.
11. Turn “tube” right side out.
12. Press with embroidery side down.
13. This creates an embroidered band. **(Photo 06)**
14. Cut an 11” x 11” square of Minkee®.
15. Spray back of embroidered band with temporary spray adhesive.

16. Adhere band 2" from bottom edge of Minkee® square, keeping embroidery placement as desired on square. My embroidery is offset to the right side.
17. Use a zig-zag stitch along top and bottom of band to secure band to the Minkee® Square.
18. Square up edges and cut off excess band. **(Photo 07)**
19. Set aside for piecing later.

### Embroider and Cut Remaining Blocks

For each remaining block with embroidery:

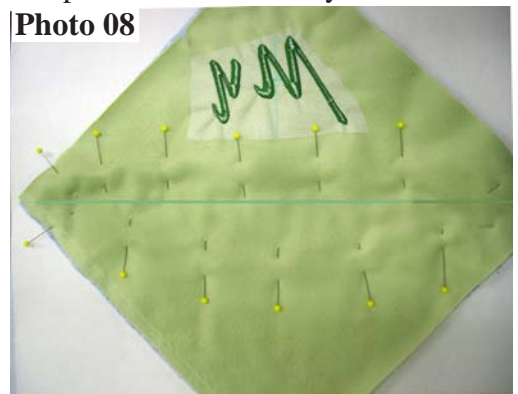
1. Cut Minkee® larger than required. Because Minkee® has stretch you must embroider the pieces then trim to size.
2. Hoop Minkee® with 2 layers of PolyMesh Cut-Away Stabilizer. Note, Minkee® must be hooped, do not cut corners by hooping the stabilizer and adhering the Minkee® to the stabilizer.
3. Apply a layer of water soluble topping. **Tip:** To keep topping in place, I moisten my finger and touch it to one corner of the topping then stick it to embroidery hoop. Repeat for remaining corners.
4. Embroider design.
5. Remove hoop from machine and fabric from hoop.
6. Carefully cut away excess stabilizer. Remove excess water soluble topping by gently tearing away. Small pieces can be removed with tweezers or just leave them as they will be eliminated the first time the quilt is laundered.
7. If needed, lightly iron fabric by placing a plush towel on ironing board, laying fabric face down on towel and ironing on wrong side with warm iron. Do not use highest setting. You should know that ironing may reduce or eliminate any texture of the Minkee® such as dots or raised stripes. Test the heat of your iron on a scrap before ironing. **Disclaimer:** I have only tested ironing on authentic Minkee®; I have no claims of effects of ironing if you use one of the Minkee® knockoffs.
8. Trim block to size as directed on the cutting guide.

For each remaining block without embroidery:

1. Cut blocks to appropriate size following the cutting guide diagram.

### Create Block 2

1. For block 2 you should have 2 pieces of Minkee® that are trimmed 11" x 11" with "My" embroidered in one diagonal top half.
2. On wrong side of embroidered Minkee® draw a diagonal line from corner to corner using a water soluble marker or tailors chalk.
3. Lay the two squares with right sides together.
4. Pin the pieces together on both side of drawn line. **(Photo 08)**
5. Stitch along drawn line.
6. Trim excess fabric ½" from seam. Be sure to trim away the unembroidered side. **(Photo 09)**



7. Press seam open.
8. Straighten edges if necessary.

### Assemble Quilt Top (refer to cutting diagram)

Use ½" seam allowance.

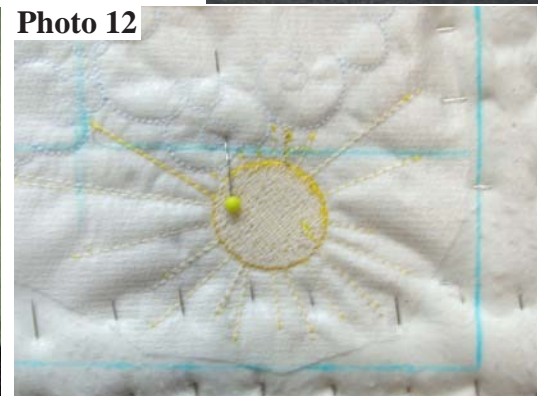
1. Pin the right hand side of block 1 to the left hand side of block 2 with right sides together. Place pins no further than 1" apart.
2. Stitch block 1 and block 2 together.
3. Press seam open.
4. Pin the bottom of block 3 to the top of block 4 with right sides together. Place pins no further than 1" apart.
5. Stitch blocks 3 and block 4 together.
6. Pin the right hand side of block 2 to the left hand side of block 3/4 with right sides together. Place pins no further than 1" apart.
7. Stitch blocks 2 and block 3/4 together.
8. Press seam open.
9. You have successfully completed row 1. Set this row aside and construct rows 2, 3 & 4 using the above method. **(Photo 10)**
10. In the same manner, pin row 1 to row 2, stitch and press seams open.
11. Repeat to add rows 3 and 4.
12. Square up edges if necessary.



**Photo 10**



**Photo 11**



**Photo 12**

### Attach Quilt Back to Quilt Top

1. Lay Minkee® for quilt back right side up on work surface. Smooth the fabric. Minkee® is a bit slippery and if it keeps moving, tape it in place with masking tape. It will hold it in place while not damaging your cutting table or the Minkee® fabric.
2. Lay quilt top on backing fabric with right sides together.
3. Pin quilt top to quilt back by starting at top and working your way to the bottom. Pin edges of quilt top placing pins no more than 1" apart. (I hope you read rule #4)
4. As you work your way down quilt go ahead and pin in the center of the quilt as you go. No need to place pins 1" apart, just enough to keep two layers still. **(Photo 11)**
5. Because Minkee® likes to crawl and you'll be stitching some long seams, you may want to use a straight edge to mark your seam line. **(Photo 12)**
6. Using a ½" seam allowance, stitch around perimeter of quilt, leaving an opening to turn quilt right side out. I left bottom of block 16 open.
7. Trim all side ½" from seam.
8. Turn quilt right side out. **(Photo 13)**



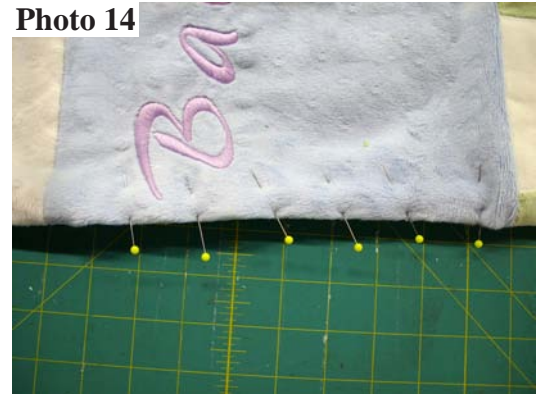
**Photo 13**

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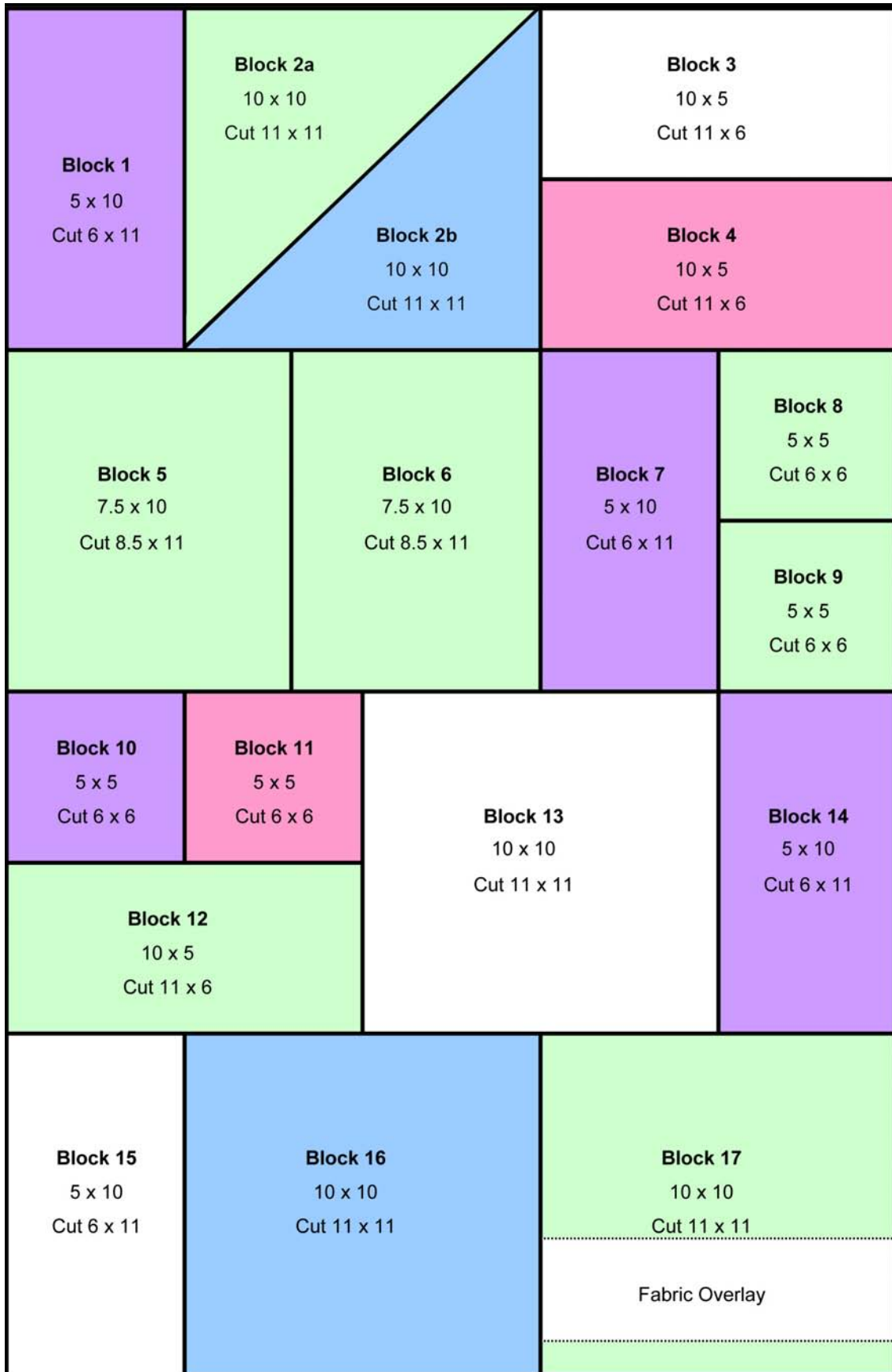
9. Turn edges of opening to inside, pin and hand stitch closed. **(Photo 14)**

### Finish Quilt

1. Finish quilt edges by top stitching around entire quilt  $\frac{1}{2}$ " from edge. Once again, I recommend pinning around perimeter of quilt before stitching. I know, I know, refer to rule #1 again!
2. Tie quilt by cutting six pieces of the  $\frac{1}{8}$ " wide satin ribbon ap proximately 15" each.
3. Using a sharp needle with a large eye, such as a darning or chenille needle, thread a piece of ribbon through the eye of the needle.
4. Lay down quilt and make sure both the quilt top and quilt back are flat and even. From front of quilt, insert the needle through both layers of the quilt and pull ribbon through leaving a tail on the front of the quilt.
5. From the back of the quilt, insert the needle through both layers of the quilt approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$ " from first needle penetration. Pull ribbon through so that you have two tails hanging on front of quilt.
6. Even up tails by pulling as needed, tie tails into either a standard or surgeons knot.
7. Tie tails into a bow.
8. With standard sewing needle and thread, tack center of bow so that it cannot be untied.
9. Clip off tails. **(Photo 15)**
10. Repeat as many times as desired. I tied my quilt in six places randomly along the seam lines. **(Photo 16)**

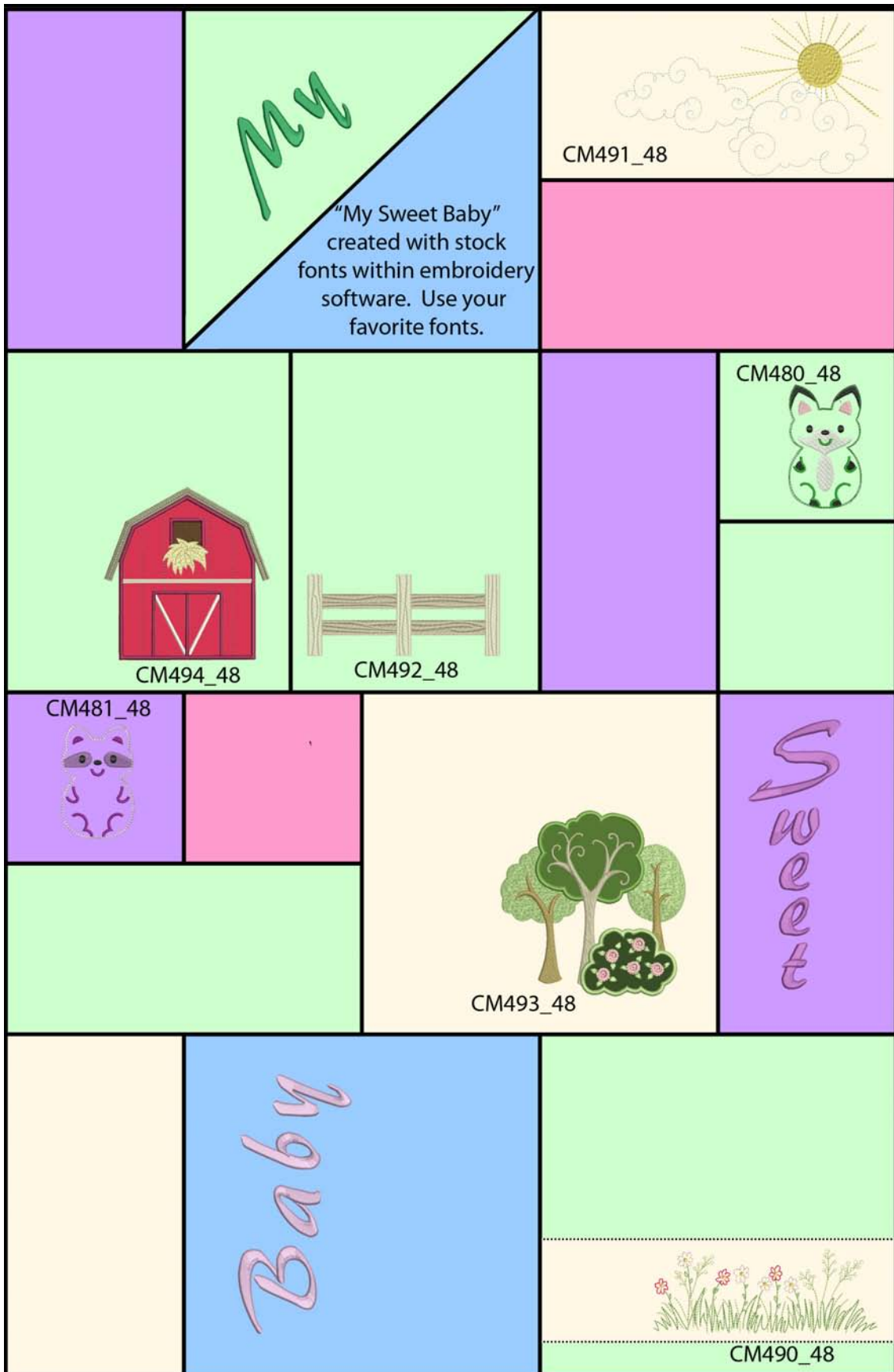


# Cutting Diagram



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# Embroidery Placement Guide



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