



Finishing Instructions



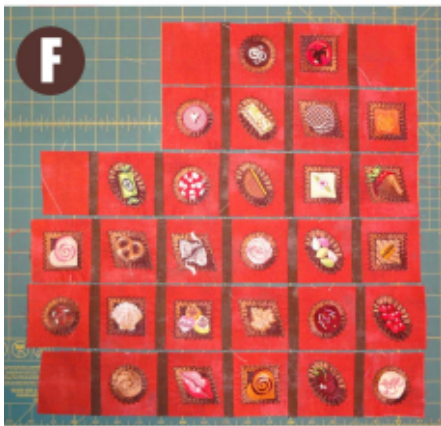
While winter storms rolled across the U.S and a historic heat wave broiled our friends Down Under, we hope the love of chocolate and machine embroidery took your mind off the weather for a few weeks and that you all took the time to stitch a bonbon or two this past month! From one chocolate to over two dozen, there's a project just waiting to be created. Our little mug mat measures 6" x 8" and uses a single bonbon; while our heart table topper with over twodozen goodies tops out at 30" square! Find something in between that's "just right" for you with these general instructions-- make a goal of having something, either simple or sensational, ready for Valentine's Day!

1. Grab some inspiration. First, we'd like to give you a little push. Already some of you have posted some beautiful things made with bonbons in our Yahoo group photo gallery and on Facebook. After looking through that folder, one of you made the comment, "I just wish I could do something like that!" Well, we'd have to agree to be honest about it—no, you can't! It's not possible for you to recreate someone else's work. BUT, there's a song that says, "No one else can say the words on your lips." So, if we may, "No one else can sew your bonbon project!" Remember, only YOU are capable of making YOUR finished bonbon project. And how much more special will it be, both to you and the ones you love, that it came from your hands—no one else's. This is true no matter what your skill level, or how many imperfections you see in your own work. And the best thing is, the more completed projects you have under your belt, the more you will be capable of the next time, regardless of how it went down this time. So let's go! We made a little project with one bonbon and then we made our "Bonbon Masterpiece" with a full complement of 28 candies. Your project may fall anywhere in between. We're posting both in a brand new bonbon gallery—let's see how many people we can get to join us with photos of their own finished work there—don't be left out—without your project big or small, our gallery will always be missing something! SO gut it out, push, and let's get this done! Make a connection with people across the world who love to sew.

2. Decide on a project. Refer back to our project guidelines included at the end of these instructions. Count up your bonbons and see what type of layout you can put together.

Beware of the thinking that you need more—this project may end up in a drawer if you never stitch as many as you think you should have. The bonbons are cut to 3" x 3"; just add pretty fabrics if you are missing squares. There are two basic layouts for finished projects—the rectangles and the heart shape. The rectangles are easier, so judge your own skill level and time allowance.



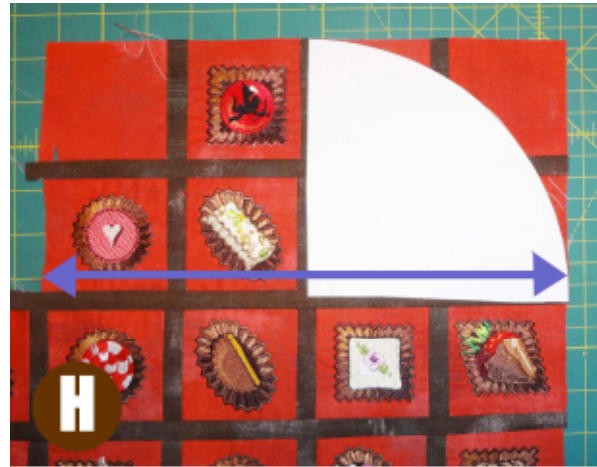


- 3. Trim up and layout your candy.** All bonbons should be trimmed to 3” x 3.” You may have had some shrinkage during stitching—don’t worry, as we will end up trimming slightly more off as we go along to keep a straight edge. Remove any remaining jump stitches and as much stabilizer as you can from the back. Then start arranging your candy according to how you’d like it to stitch together; follow the little diagrams on the Project Guide for heart shaped layouts; the rectangle layouts are straightforward. You have circle, square, oval, and diamond shaped candy; you’ll also have brown, red, pink, lemon, and some green candy colors. Try to make a good “mix.” You don’t want all the circles in one area, or lots of red in another area. Get a nice even spread of chocolates throughout. Missing pieces? Add 3” x 3” squares of pretty Valentine fabric as we did for our small project sewn. Or just go with a smaller layout, and use the leftover bonbons for another project. Other layout considerations are sashing and borders. For the large heart, we wanted to make a really big statement, and added a thin strip of brown between each and every candy to highlight the compartments. Think about the finished size you are looking for, and about how much time and extra materials you will need to add. For the hearts, you’ll need to cut some extra 3” x 3” blanks to fill in the corners—see Photo F.

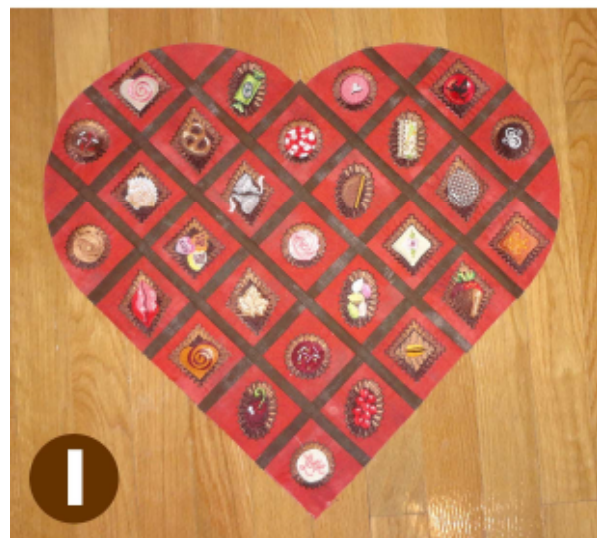
- 4. Stitch.** For a rectangular layout, simply stitch the rows together using $\frac{1}{4}$ ” seams. For the heart layouts, you’ll also be piecing rows, but they won’t all be the same length. Photos E, F, and G show how we progressed the piecing. If you want sashing, decide how wide and then add $\frac{1}{2}$ ” for

seams. Cut strips to that size and attach them in between each bonbon. When each row is complete, press and then even up the long raw edges with a ruler and rotary cutter—try to take as little off as possible. Press the seams one way across, and then the other way on alternating rows; this will help with seam alignment later. Cut more long strips of brown if you want to add sashing between the rows. Then pin the rows together, aligning seams, and stitch them from top to bottom. Piecing on rectangular pieces is now done—to complete the heart shape, follow step 5 below.

5. **Cut curved corners.** You may or may not have a dinner plate the right size to cut the curves on your heart! We've provided a set of paper templates to cut out on the last page of these instructions. Measure the width of one side of your heart shown by the blue line, whether it be the small, medium, or largest size of heart shown in the Project Guide. Our giant 10 lb. box needed the 12" template. If your measurement is in between sizes, just cut the template out in between lines. Place the template as shown in the photo, and mark the curve on your piece with a fabric pen. You will flip the template and mark four times to do all four corners of the upper heart. Then cut your heart out and it will look like Photo I.

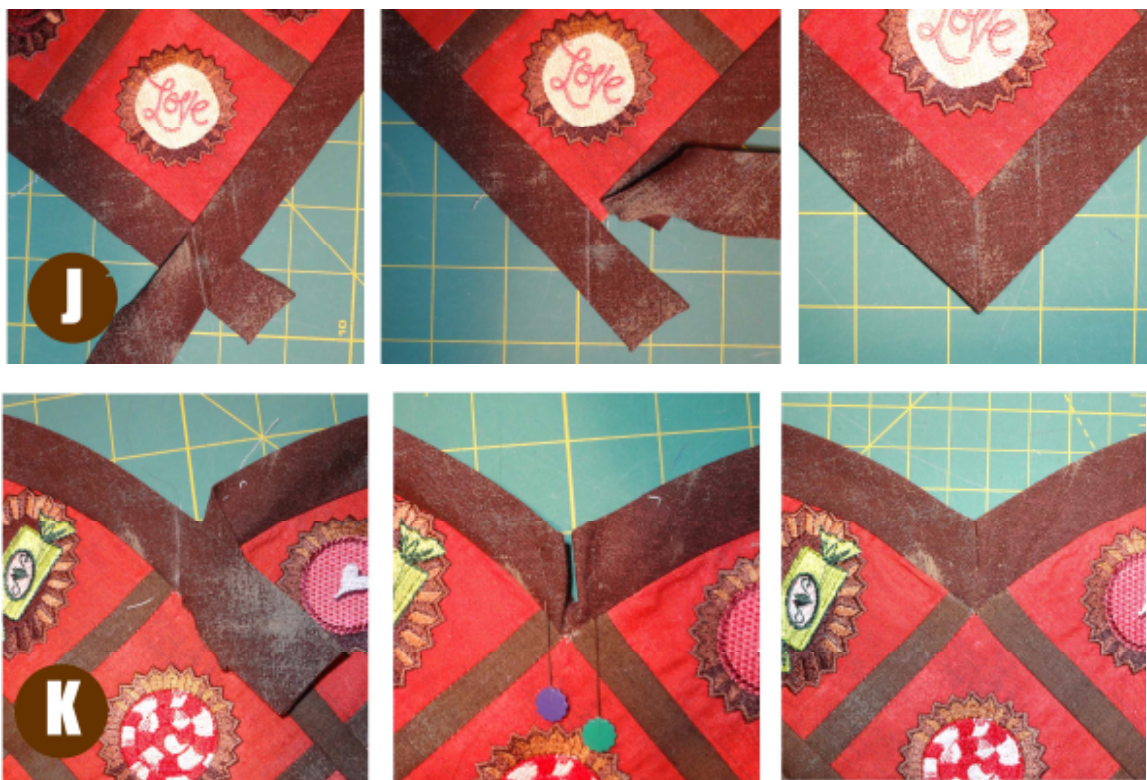


6. **Borders.** For rectangular pieces, adding borders is straightforward. Just cut strips for the sides and the top to the same width; these are straight seams and don't even need to be cut on the bias. Heart shaped projects are more difficult and the first border piece will need to be cut on the bias.

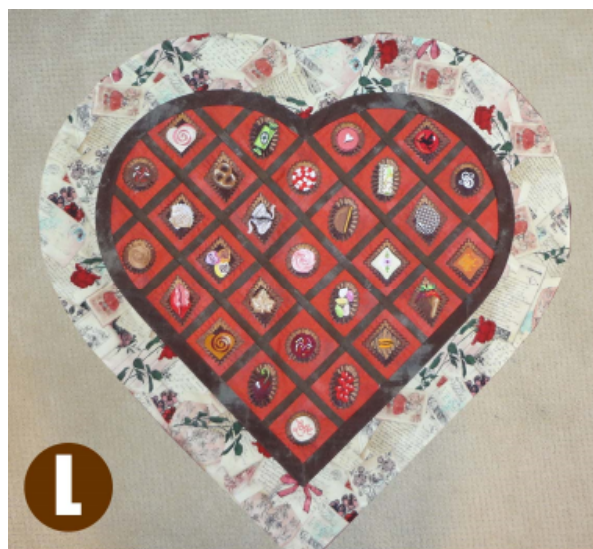


To add the narrow brown border around the heart, we used a technique similar to the way you would bind a quilt. These instructions are general-- if you need more specific information on how this is done, please look up some web resources. Cut a bias strip of border fabric 2-1/4" wide by the perimeter of your project (*for a smaller heart you may want to reduce the width of this strip—our 2-1/4" strip yielded a 1" brown border*); fold it wrong sides together and press it lengthwise. Now you will do something different than binding a quilt—cut the strip in two pieces, as each side of the heart is sewn separately. Mark a dot at the 1/4" seam line of the perimeter both at the top indent and bottom point of the heart—you will begin each seam by starting ending with a backstitch on each of these dots. Starting at the bottom point with raw edges together, sew your border strip to one side of your heart. Gently curve around each top, making sure not to pull the fabric strip tight—your need some ease in this to press it outward at the end.

When both pieces are attached, we found the best way to seam them together is by hand. Draw a white seam line on both pieces as shown in Photos J and K. Fold each piece back on the line and press; pin to hold if you like. Then just slip stitch each seam closed with a matching thread. Press the border outward—it will fall into place nicely.



The edges of the heart are now completely finished. We envisioned another large piece of sashing around the whole piece. To do this, place the heart on a large piece of Valentine fabric, and pin it down heavily all around the edges. Using a ruler, draw a line 3-1/2" away from the brown border all around on the Valentine fabric. Then topstitch the heart to the fabric as close to the edge as you can. Trim the sashing on the line you drew; your project will now look as in Photo L. Trim the pretty fabric out from behind the heart if you'd like to save it for another project. That completed our vision for the borders—we then attached prairie points on the edging. The back was left unfinished.



- 7. Finish...** Your bonbons are now fully pieced and your project can take any direction you'd like at this point. Only you can decide how you'd like to use your finished piece and what space in your home looks like it need to be filled. We have done four weeks of smaller projects leading up to this—a wall hanging, a potholder, a tablemat, and a pillow—those are

only a start! Use Google Images with words like “Valentine Crafts” and you’ll be rewarded with an absolute buffet of project ideas. There are also tons of resources and even videos on the web to help you learn any technique you need to complete your project. Do it! We have always wanted to make prairie points, and we took a class on “Craftsy” finishing techniques that helped us learn how to do just that on our large piece. Take a look in our Yahoo group BonBonBash finished project folder, or see what people have posted on our Facebook page. And when YOUR project is finished, use the link below to share—we’d love to see what you’ve been up to this month!

<http://www.sanfranciscostitchco.com/JoinUs.html>



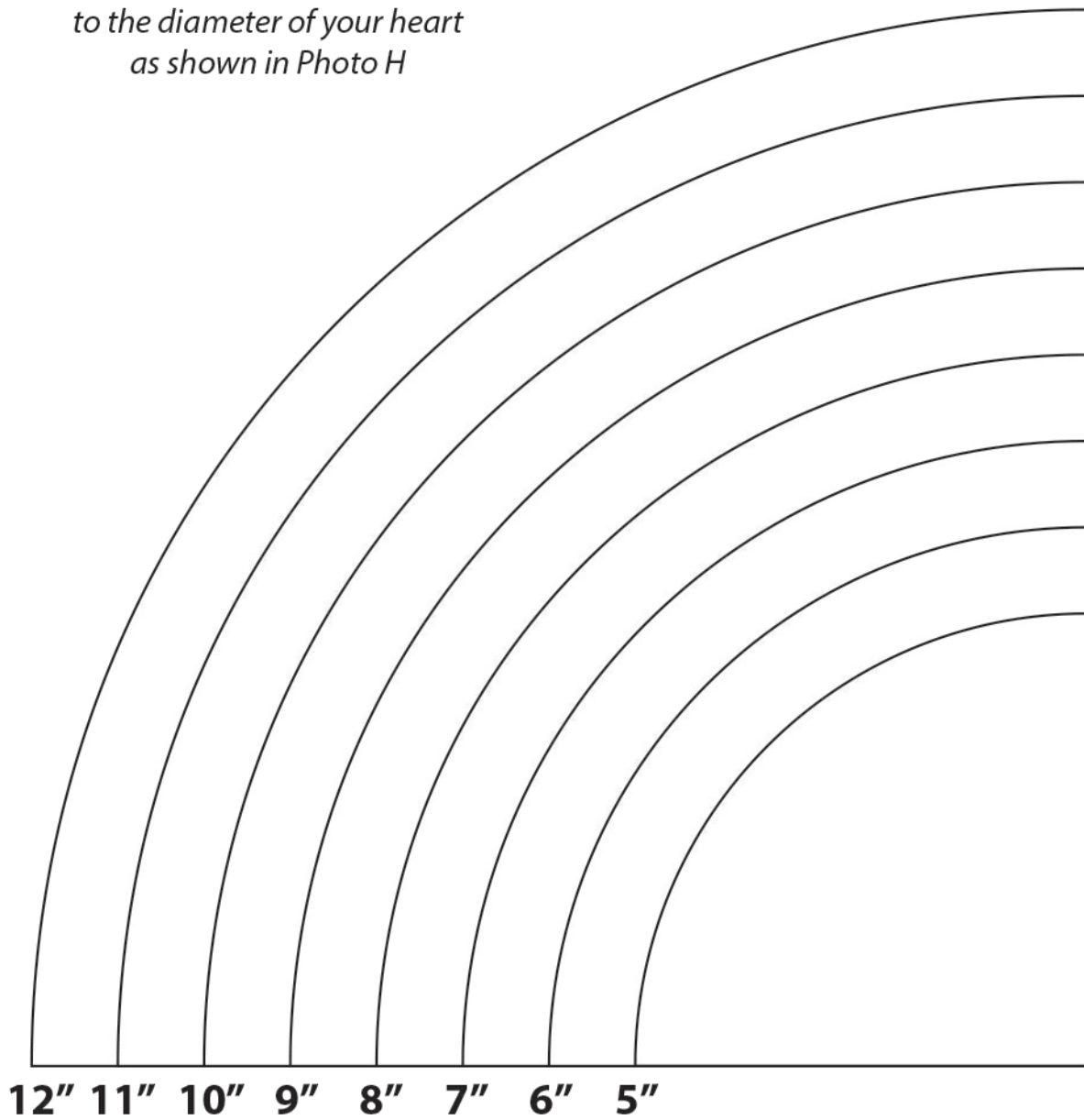
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It's a wrap!

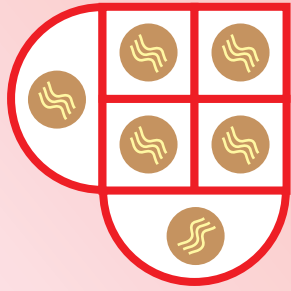


Curve Template

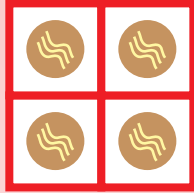
*Choose the size that is closest
to the diameter of your heart
as shown in Photo H*



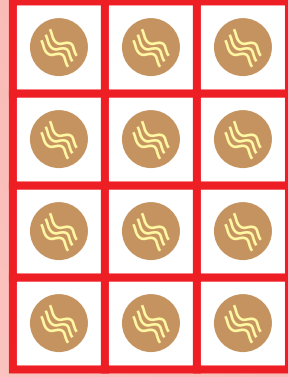
Snack Size Box! ... ok, we can all admit to purchasing this on impulse in the drugstore and it probably didn't make it home! Just stitch one free candy design each week and you'll have enough in a month to make a cute little square mug mat, 6" x 6."



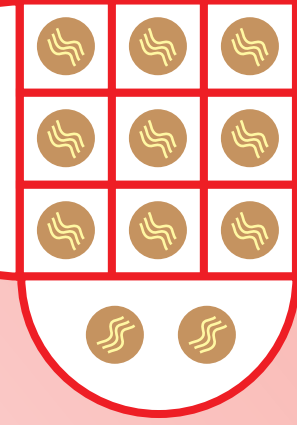
Tiny Heart! ... this is a slight upgrade on the snack size box that comes out for Valentine's Day and has a better chance of making it home! Stitch six bonbons this month and you'll have a potholder or hot pad ready for dinner on the 14th!



1lb. Box! ... now we are getting into a little more substance. Choose a rectangular layout of any size and multiply to figure out how many bonbons you'll need. Our 3x4 layout shown needs a perfect dozen for a 7-1/2" x 10" project.

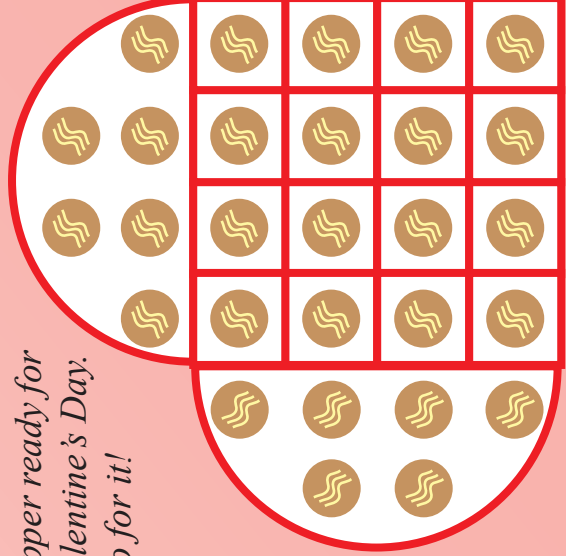


Valentine Special! ... a nice medium size piece that will say "I Love You" in a more lasting way than the real thing! Finished size will be about



12" x 12"
Make a placemat, or a cute pillow!

Chocaholic Assortment! ... here's the ultimate Valentine's Day gift! You'll need 28 chocolates for our biggest project, and you'll have a gorgeous 15" x 15" table topper ready for Valentine's Day. Go for it!



Project Guide:

To begin, you'll need just 4" square scraps of plain white, pink, red, or brown fabric for the backgrounds of your chocolate pieces. Hoop a piece of heavy stabilizer, then use 505 spray adhesive to stick your fabric square in the middle. Follow the color charts provided with each design for a start-- then make more pieces using your own color combinations for the biggest variety of bonbons!

Can't get enough candy? Use only the free designs provided, or purchase the upgrade sets of 6 designs each week. The diagram to the left shows approximately how many you'll need for various layouts.

All bonbon machine embroidery designs are trimmed to 3" x 3" (includes 1/4" seams all around) for a finished size of 2-1/2" x 2-1/2" when stitched together. Collect your stitched squares each week, and then, at the end of four weeks, we'll provide finishing instructions to make sure you don't end up with another UFO! And all in time for Valentine's Day!

Bon Bon Bash!