

by JoAnn Belling

# Dazzling Carsidium



DAZZLING CARSIDIUM, 52" x 40½", by JoAnn Belling

Not even master gardeners have had the opportunity of viewing my imaginary flower, the carsidium. It has a dazzling beauty from spring until late fall, never losing its brilliance. The awkward and seemingly heavy leaves are veined with unusual red threading. Drops of thorn juice feed the flying insects.

For more detailed information on making quilts, see the AQS Quiltmaking Essentials at [www.AmericanQuilter.com](http://www.AmericanQuilter.com).

## Getting started

Refer to the “Colorwash Strata for Fantasy Flowers” article in the March 2012 issue of *American Quilter* magazine for help in choosing fabric for your project. For the DAZZLING CARSIDIUM strata you will need 1½ strips of nine different fabrics in widths (from top to bottom) of 1¼", 1", 1¼", 1¾", 1", 1", 1¼", 1", and 1¼".

Following instructions in the article, make the stra-

ta. You will need 1½ strata for this project. When you cut wedges from the strata, align the 10" line on a 9° circle wedge ruler to the top and bottom to cut the strata into wedges, as shown in photos 5 and 6 in the article. After sorting the wedges, select 7 from one set of wedges for the small flower, 11 from another set for the large flower, and 9 wedges for the medium flower.

### Preparing the appliqué

Prepare the flower wedges as in "Preparing the flowers" in the article. Prepare 3 flower bases of medium green print fabric using patterns B, C, and D, following the instructions in the article.

Trace a leaf pattern E onto the paper side of the fusible web. Cut out leaving ¼" margin all around. To reduce bulk, also cut out the interior of the fusible web ¼" from the drawn line (photo 1). Fuse to the wrong side of the medium-dark green fabric. Cut out on the line. Repeat to make 3 E leaves and 2 Er (reverse) leaves. In the same manner and using the small leaf pattern G, prepare 3 G and 1 Gr leaves.



Photo 1

FABRIC & CUTTING REQUIREMENTS		Skill level: Intermediate
Quilt size: 52" x 40½"		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requirements are based on 40" fabric width.</li> <li>• Strips are cut from selvage to selvage.</li> <li>• An extra 2" has been added to the length of the border strips to allow for adjustments.</li> </ul>
9 assorted bright print strips – ⅔ yard		• see "Getting started"
Medium green print – 1 yard		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• stems, 1 bias strip 3½" x 36½"</li> <li>• appliqué – see "Preparing the appliqué"</li> </ul>
Medium-dark green print – ¼ yard		• see "Preparing the appliqué"
Dark green print – ⅓ yard		• see "Preparing the appliqué"
Red print – ⅔ yard		• thorns, 2 bias strips 2½" x 25"
Medium-light gold/pink print (optional) – ⅓ yard		• see "Preparing the background"
Gold solid – 1⅓ yards		• 1 A
Orange print – ⅓ yard		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• border #1 top/bottom, 2 strips 1¾" x 45½"*</li> <li>• border #1 sides, 2 strips 1¾" x 31½"</li> </ul>
Large-scale print – ⅔ yard		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• border #2 top/bottom, 2 strips 5" x 54½"*</li> <li>• border #2 sides, 2 strips 5" x 34"</li> </ul>
Binding – ½ yard		• 6 strips 2¼" x 40" for 195" of continuous binding
Backing – 2⅔ yards		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 panels 31" x 49"</li> <li>• sleeve, 1 piece 9" x 52"</li> </ul>
Batting		• 49" x 60"
*These strips need to be pieced.		
SUPPLIES: 9° circle wedge ruler, fusible web, assorted beads (see "Quilting & finishing"), beading needle, silamide thread		
ROTARY CUTTING		Rotary dimensions include seam allowances.
	A	A – 29½" x 41"

In the same manner, prepare 3 F, 2 Fr, 3 H and 1 Hr veins from the dark green fabric.

Cut 1 strip of fusible web 3" x 36". Apply to the wrong side of the 3½" x 36½" bias stem strip. Trim excess around the fusible

web. From the prepared strip, cut 3 strips ½" x 36".

Cut 2 strips of fusible web, 2" x 24". Apply to the wrong side of the 2½" x 25" bias thorn strips. Trim the excess around the fusible web. Draw a line ¼" from

each long edge. Draw the thorns between these lines (photo 2). Cut apart on the thorn line to make 2 thorn stems (photo 3). Repeat to make 4 thorn stems, 2 from each thorn bias strip.

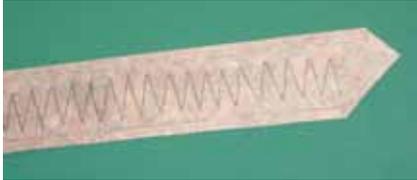


Photo 2

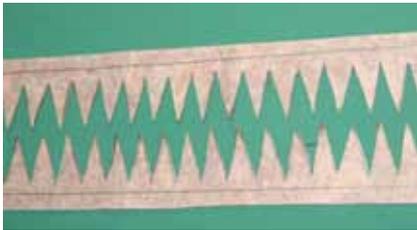


Photo 3

### Preparing the background

If desired, fussy-cut and fuse a piece of pink/gold print fabric on top of background A, as I have done. This provides an interesting ground cover behind the flowers. Free-motion zigzag to the background.

Since I like my flowers to hang out over the borders, I add the borders before doing the appliqué. Measure the vertical length of the quilt through the center and cut 2 border #1 strips to this measurement. Sew them to the sides of the quilt. Press all seam allowances toward the border. Measure the width of the quilt through the center, including the side borders you just added. Cut 2 strips this length and sew them to the top and bot-

tom of the quilt. Add border #2 to the quilt in the same manner.

### Positioning & appliqué

Place the background with borders right-side up on the ironing board. Remove the paper backing from the fused appliqué pieces. Referring to the quilt photograph, position the prepared flowers, stems, and leaves on the background. Stick pins into the ironing board if necessary to hold the pieces in place (photo 4). Trim stems so the ends will fall under flowers or leaves. Notice how the green stems cover  $\frac{1}{4}$ " of the red thorny stems.



Photo 4

When you are happy with the composition, carefully remove the flower bases. Fuse the leaves, thorns, and stems to the background. Using a matching thread, topstitch close to the edges to secure (photo 5).

Pin the flowers in position at the top end of the stems. Appliqué using an open-toe embroidery foot and a blind hemstitch.

Position a flower base over the end of each flower and stem. Ap-



Photo 5

pliqué using an open-toe embroidery foot or open darning foot and buttonhole stitch.

### Quilting & finishing

Layer the backing, batting, and quilt top. Baste the layers together. Stitch in the ditch along the flower stems. Quilt veins in the leaves and flower base. Stitch straight lines in the petals, from the base to the outside edge of the flower. I stitched faerie ferns (photo 6) in the background of my quilt. Quilt around interesting elements in the border.

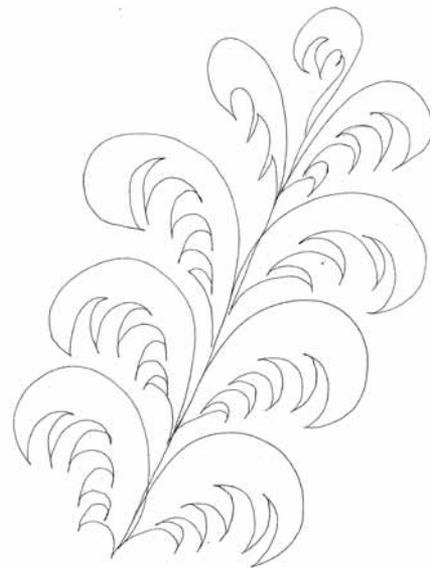


Photo 6

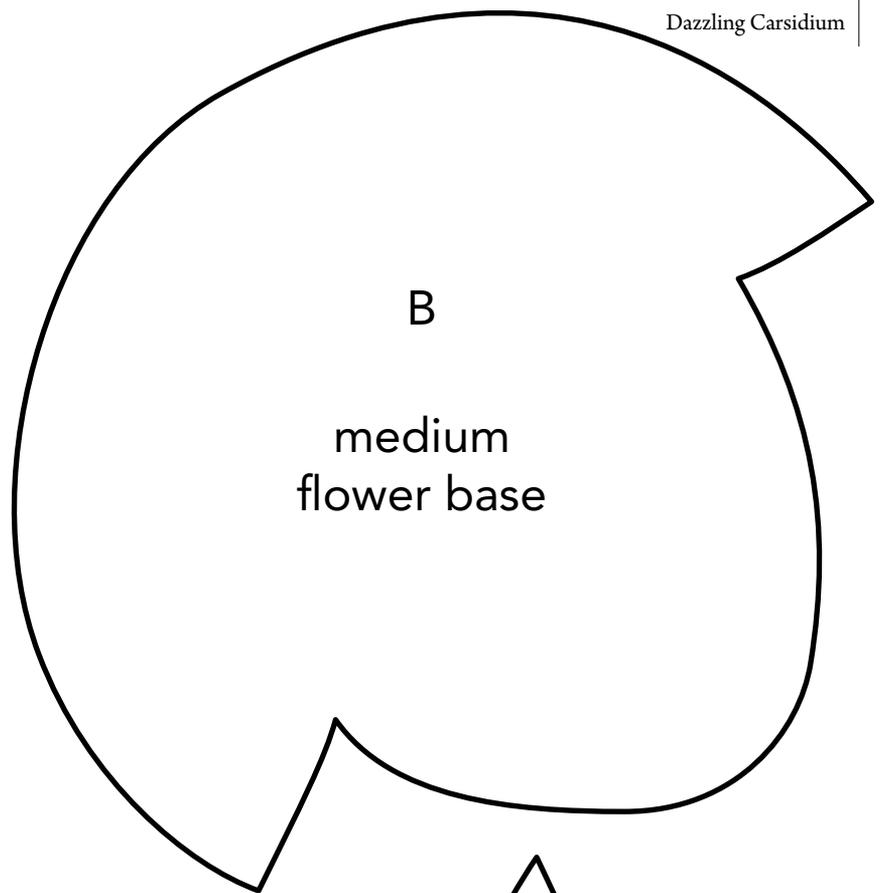
Thread and knot a beading needle with double silamide thread.

Pull the knot through to the inside of the quilt sandwich and bring the needle up at the point of a thorn. Stitch a seed bead, noodle, or bugle bead, and then another seed bead. Hide the end knot inside the quilt. Repeat for all thorns (photo 7).

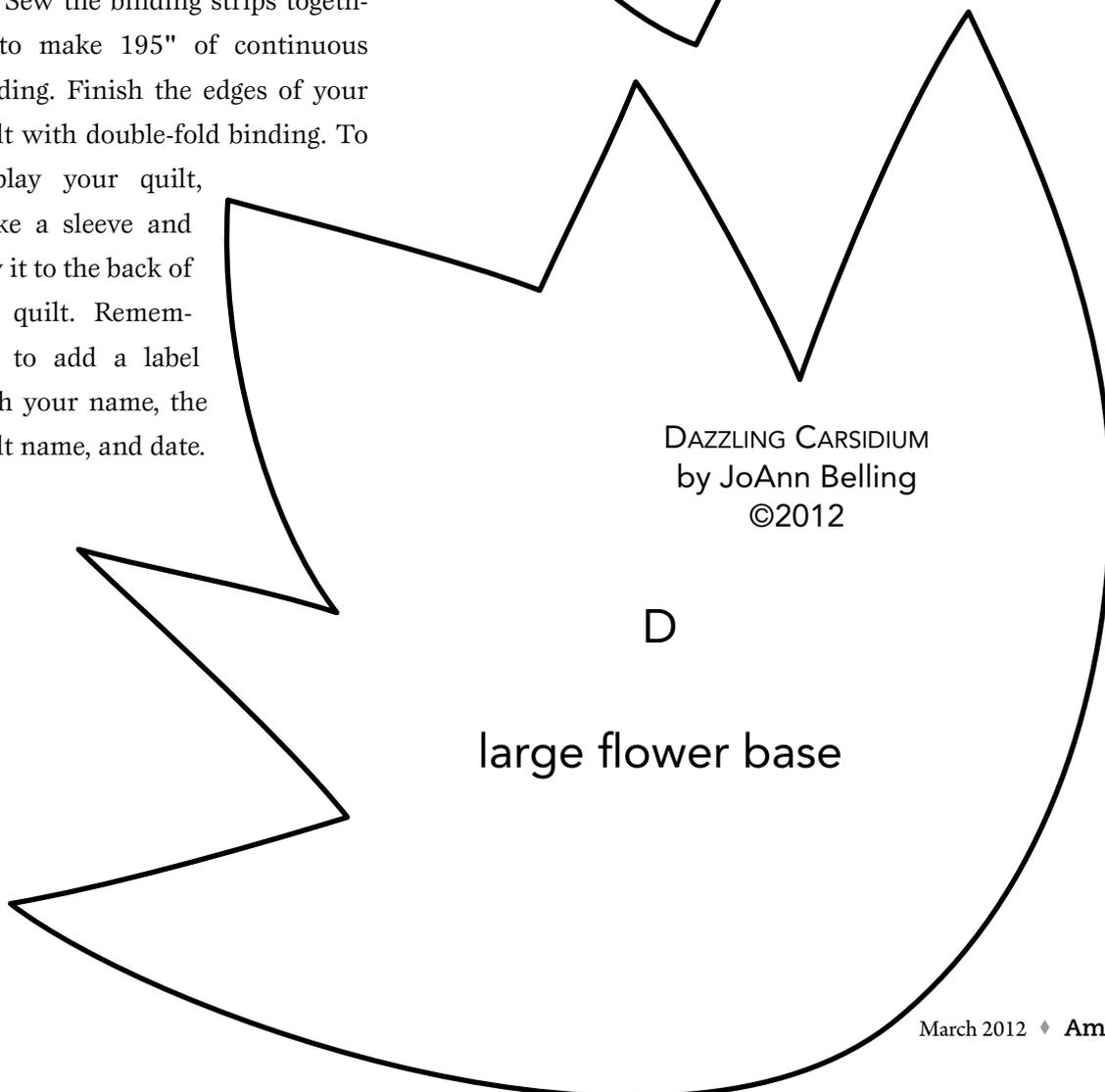


Photo 7

Sew the binding strips together to make 195" of continuous binding. Finish the edges of your quilt with double-fold binding. To display your quilt, make a sleeve and sew it to the back of the quilt. Remember to add a label with your name, the quilt name, and date.



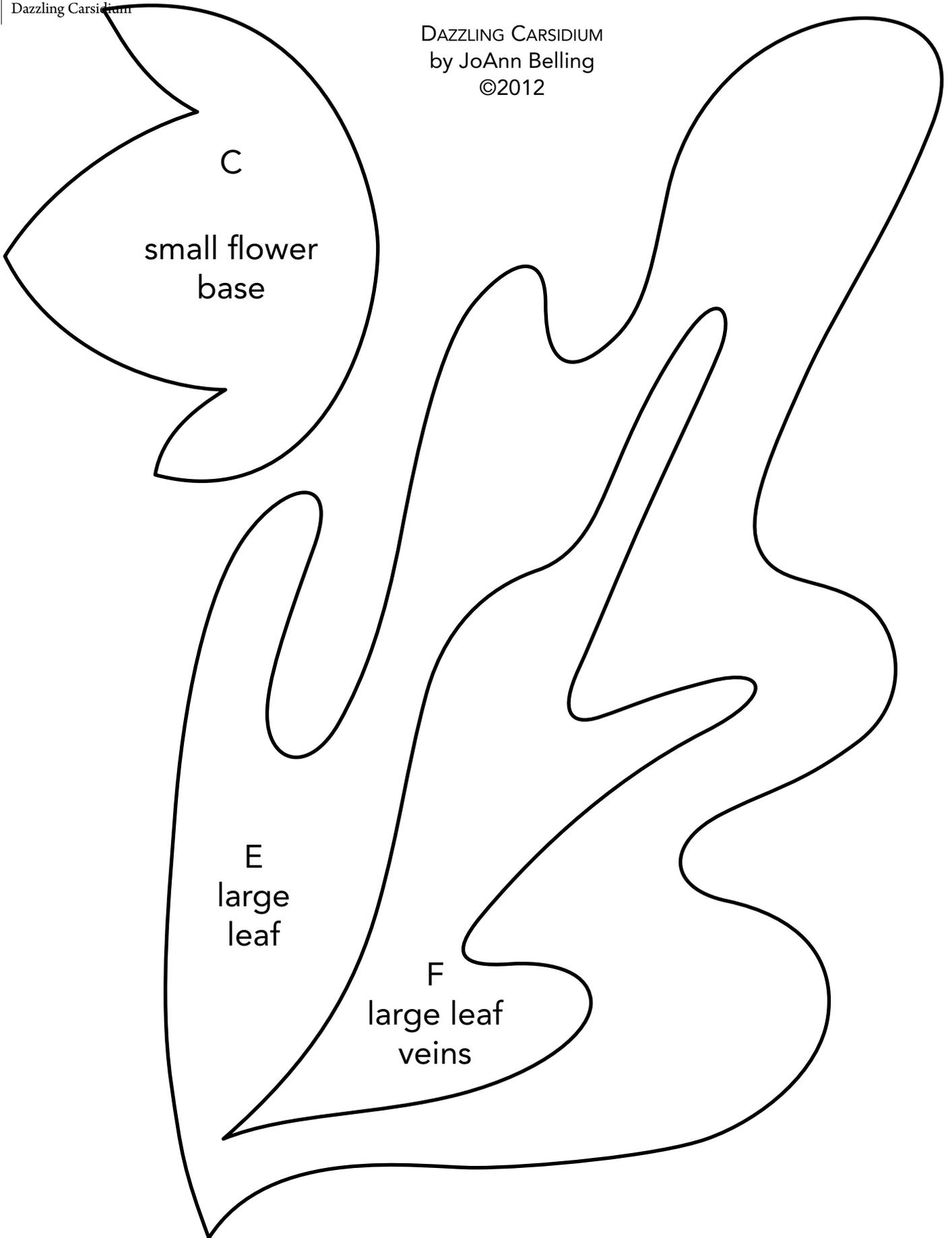
B  
medium  
flower base



DAZZLING CARSIDIUM  
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D  
large flower base

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C

small flower  
base

E  
large  
leaf

F  
large leaf  
veins

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