

SJSA
Block of the Month
February



CROWN

Hair for African Americans is more than just hair. Our hair isn't just called hair it has to be called 'natural' hair or 'ethnic' hair. We've been told for so many years that our kinky, curly crown is not acceptable. That it must be tamed. That it is not 'good hair'. That it must be *fried, dyed and laid to the side*. In 2020 our hair in its natural state is STILL not acceptable. It's not "professional". Discrimination for wearing your own hair in its natural state is just now becoming illegal in certain areas of the US. On the flip side it is also a novelty and treated like a feature in a petting zoo to some.

**No, you can't touch my hair.
It is my Crown.**



This pattern was designed for Social Justice Sewing Academy by **Latifah Saafir** based on an original quilt block by SJSA Youth Artist **Mailan Carr**.

Our February 2020 Block of the Month can be used for free, noncommercial use.

Make it. Share it. But don't sell it.

CROWN

Join Sara, Mailan, Latifah, and SJSA in a wakeup call to celebrate beauty in a socially conscious world.



Founded in 2016 by Sara Trail, the Social Justice Sewing Academy (SJSA) is an art program that bridges artistic expression with activism and empowers youth to amplify their voice through art that advocates for social justice. By using textile

art as a vehicle for personal transformation and community cohesion, SJSA empowers youth to become agents of social change. We support youth to become civically engaged artists as they are challenged to tackle current social issues in their community that directly affect their lives. A unique part of our program intentionally bridges generational, racial, and socioeconomic divides by sending youth art blocks to hundreds of embroiderers across the world.

To donate or become an SJSA embroiderer visit: <http://www.sjsacademy.com>

On Instagram: @sjsacademy

On Facebook: www.facebook.com/socialjusticesewingacademy/



Latifah Saafir is known for her bold and innovative modern quilts. Combining her training as an engineer with her lifelong passion for sewing, Latifah creates designs that are graphic and contemporary, featuring challenging techniques with meticulous attention to detail. A co-founder of both the **Los Angeles Modern Quilt Guild** and the worldwide **Modern Quilt Guild**, Latifah currently teaches workshops to guilds around the world. She has a line of patterns and templates that she has designed using her favorite techniques including a line for kids called **Quilt Cadets**. She designs fabric for **Me + You** with Hoffman Fabrics. She's been featured in over a dozen books and magazines and loves being an ambassador of Janome sewing machines.

See more of Latifah's work at: shop.latifahsaafirstudios.com

On Instagram and Facebook: @latifahsaafirstudios

Fabric:

Background Fabric: 13" x 13"

Fabric A (Body): 4 1/2" x 10 1/2"

Fabric B (Hair): 8" x 8"

Fabric C (Crown & Earrings): 9" x 7"

Crown: 3" x 1 1/4" piece

Earrings: 1/4" Bias Tape—two 9" pieces

Tools & Supplies:

1/4" Bias Tape Maker

1/4 yd. Fusible Interfacing
(like Heat N Bond Lite)

Fabric glue

Neutral thread or thread to
match each fabric

Standard sewing supplies



Think of the possibilities. A lap quilt might look something like this!

Instructions

(see *Stepout drawings on next page*):

1. Make bias tape by first cutting 2 strips 1/2" wide of fabric C across the diagonal (bias) of the fabric. Use the 1/4" Bias Tape Maker to make two pieces of bias tape. Trim ends to make each piece 9" long.
2. Trace Templates A, B, and C onto the paper side of the fusible web and then roughly cut out. *Note: to reduce bulk in the block, trim the center of the fusible interfacing out of the center leaving about an inch around the perimeter of the design.*
3. Using directions for fusible interfacing fuse shape from Template A onto the back of Body fabric and shape from Template B onto the back of Hair fabric, and Template C onto the back of Crown fabric.
4. Cut on traced lines. Use scissors to cut out hair to maintain the detail along the edges.
5. Center Body along the bottom of the background fabric. Press into place following the directions for your fusible interfacing.
6. Use a blanket stitch or tight zig zag to stitch the two "shoulder" edges down
7. Center Hair on top of the neck of Body and fuse into place. Appliqué all around the full edge of hair.
8. Place crown on top right side of hair as shown in illustration. Fuse and appliqué.
9. Sew the two ends of each piece of earring bias tape to form two rings. Using the block photo as a guide for placement use fabric glue to glue them into place, then use blanket stitch or tight zig zag to sew the bias tape down.
10. Square block down to 12 1/2" x 12 1/2".

Stepouts

Use these drawing as a guide to assembling and stitching your block.

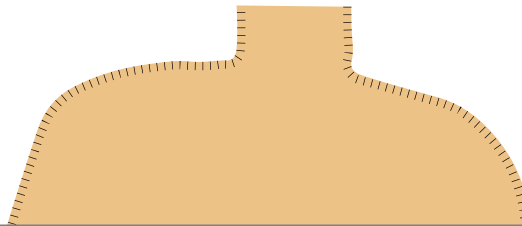
Options for assembly: turned-edge applique or fused raw edge.

Options for sewing the edges:

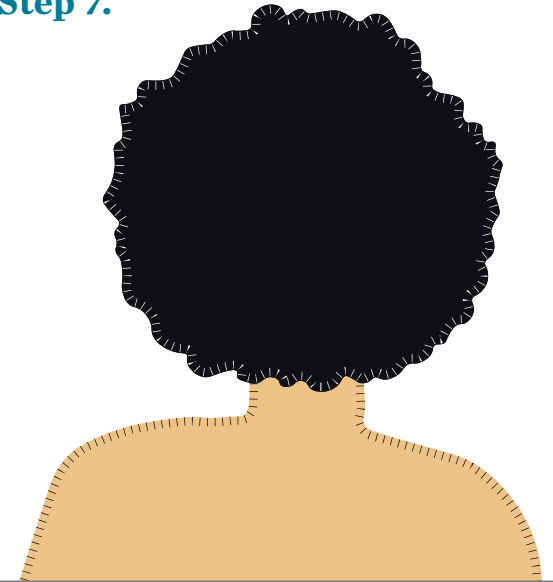
Machine zig-zag, hand embroidery using blanket stitch or another edge stitch like chain or a combination.

Further embellishing ideas? Make it yours. Stitch swirls into the hair. Add crown details.

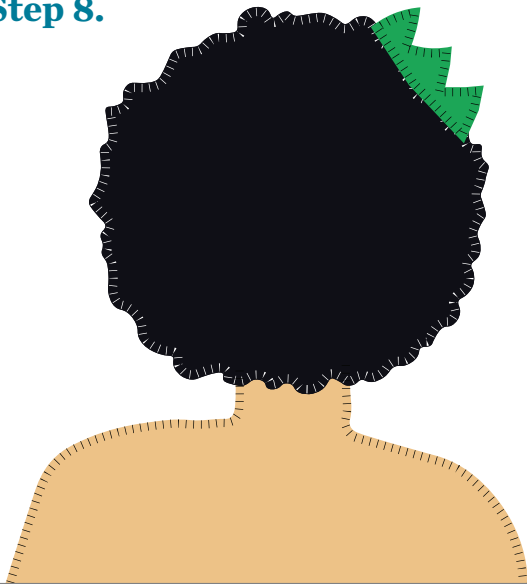
Step 6.



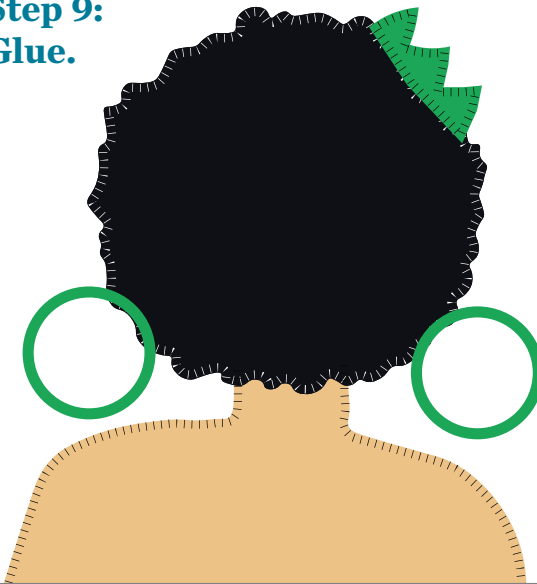
Step 7.



Step 8.

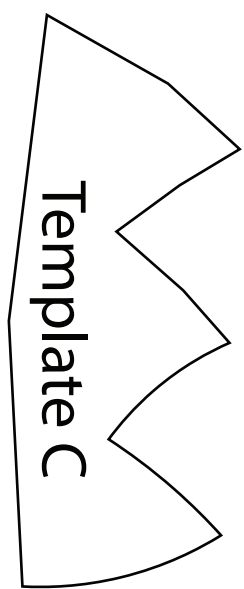


Step 9: Glue.

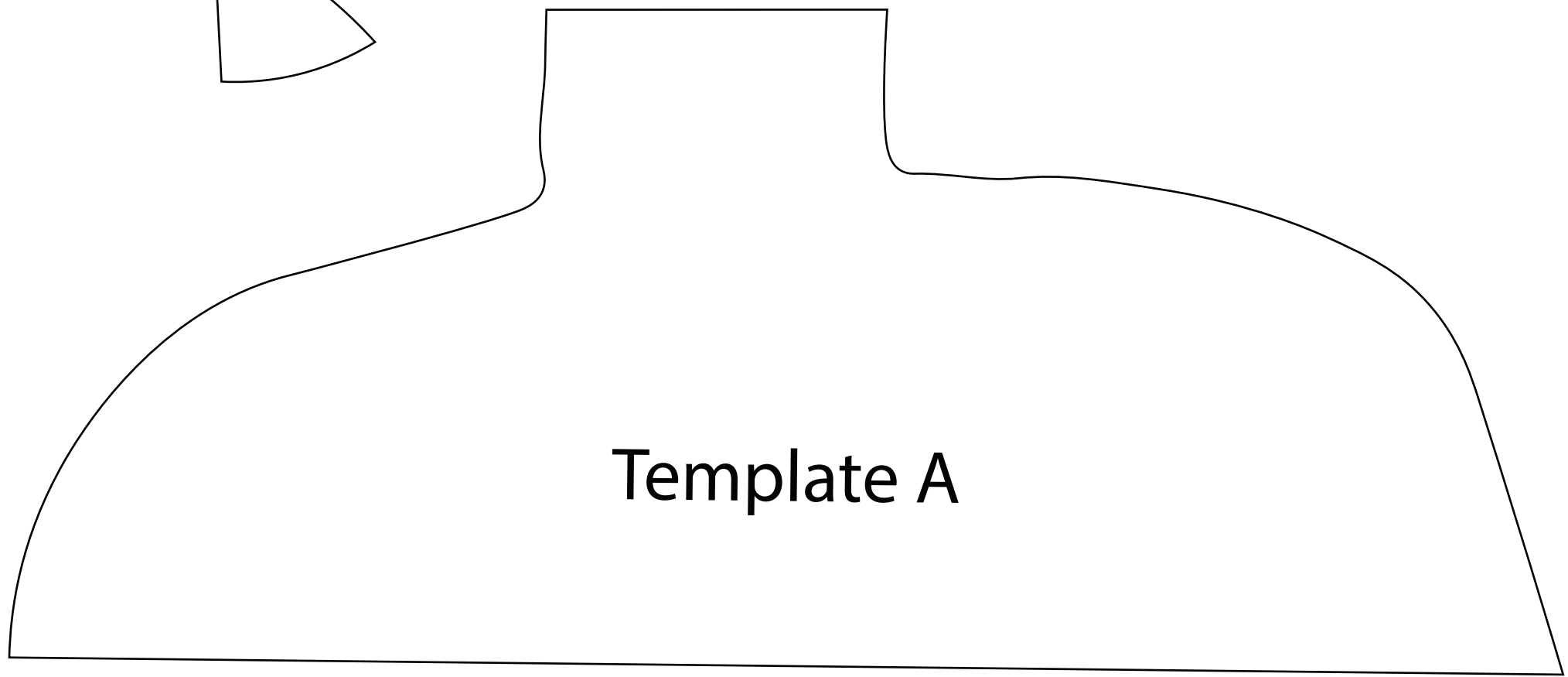


Step 6: Sew.





Template A





Template B- Hair

Trace on the paper on the fusible