



Online Quilt Magazine.com

**Give Your Quilts
Personality With
Embellishments**

**PENNY TALKS
ABOUT SEAM
ALLOWANCES**

**BONUS PROJECT –
Fat Quarter Quilts**



**What's New
From The Fat
Quarter Shop**

**Suggestions For
A Perfect 12 ½
Inch Square**

Online Quilt Magazine Table of Contents

Seam Allowances.....	Page 4
Embellishments Give Your Quilt Personality.....	Page 8
Suggestions For A Perfect 12 ½ Inch Square.....	Page 12
Hints and Tips From Brannie.....	Page 14
What's New From The Fat Quarter Shop.....	Page 16
BONUS PROJECT – Fat Quarter Quilts.....	Page 19
Poem For Computer Users Over 40.....	Page 24
Extended Quilt Care & Hanging Display Quilts.....	Page 26
The Way To Use Templates In Quilting.....	Page 29
BLOCK OF THE MONTH – Santa Fe Block.....	Page 32
Today's Tips.....	Page 34
Quilters' Horoscope.....	Page 35
YES – We Want To hear From You.....	Page 36

Cover Photo: "Summer Sampler" from www.QuiltBlockoftheMonthClub.com



Letter from the Editor

Jody Anderson

Hi!

Welcome to another jam-packed issue of our Online Quilt Magazine. This month we have a few hints and tips and an article sent in by Readers, and we thank you – please keep them coming!

Another month, and it seems another natural disaster affecting our communities. We keep our friends in New Zealand firmly in our thoughts this month and we wish them all the very best in coming to terms with the Christchurch earthquake, and rebuilding their lives.

It's times like this that we reflect on the wonderful, generous and caring nature of the larger Quilting Community, and I for one, am thankful to be a part of it. Thanks too to those readers who helped 'spread the word' for me last month – we welcomed quite a few new readers this month, and I hope we can continue to welcome many more.

Please enjoy this month's selection of articles, a quick Fat Quarter quilt project and a fun poem I found online – it's not strictly quilting-based, but I'm sure you'll be able to empathise!

Take Care and Have A Great Month,

Jody



Seam Allowances

By Penny Halgren from www.How-To-Quilt.com

Use ¼” seam allowances.

Unless there are other instructions, seam allowances are ¼” wide. Before you start cutting fabric, it’s a good idea to see whether the pattern you are using includes the seam allowances.

Often patterns do not specify a seam allowance, especially block patterns in books of block patterns. For example, when a pattern designates a 2” patch, it usually is a finished size. That means you need to add ½” to cover the ¼” seam allowance on both sides of the patch, and cut your fabric 2½.” square.

Fold your seam allowances together.

Unlike other types of sewing, seam allowances for quilting should remain together and folded to

one side. This takes the pressure off of the thread that holds the pieces together, and distributes it to the fabric, giving your quilt a longer life.

Fold your seam allowances to the darker side of the patch or block.

Generally you will fold your seam allowances to the darker fabric. Although this isn’t always possible, folding the seam allowances under the darker fabric helps hide them and shows the design of the quilt better.

Fold the seam allowances in opposite directions when you sew seams.

Keeping in mind that you want to fold the seam allowance under the darker fabric, it’s also preferable to fold the seam allowances in

opposite directions when you sew patches or blocks together.

Folding the seam allowances in opposite directions will allow the seams to match up better, stay in place as you sew, and give you square corners and pointed triangles. One caution is that you want to check any seams that have already been sewn to be sure that the seam allowance continues to face the same direction when you sew the other end.



Just a Few Simple Techniques Can Turn Your Machine Quilting Nightmare into a Beautiful Quilting Dream Come True

From Puckers and Tucks to... a Smooth Back

Unlock the secrets for beautiful machine quilting using your home sewing machine by simply watching this video on your TV or computer.

My machine quilting journey began with quilt backings full of puckers and tucks. Now, after sorting out hundreds of machine quilting tips, the backs and fronts of my machine quilted quilts are flat and my quilts are beautiful.

Using just a few simple techniques, your machine quilting will be beautiful and your quilts will be treasured as masterpieces for generations. You'll see exactly how to stop and start your stitching, hiding your knots inside your quilt.

Using the techniques presented in **Secrets for Beautiful Machine Quilting**, your stitches will be even, and your quilts will be pucker-free!

<http://www.how-to-quilt.com/machinequilting.php>

The reverse side of an Iowa Barn Quilt Block (above). Notice that the seam allowance where the blue sky and yellow silo come together, the seam allowance is pressed toward the yellow - even though it is the lighter fabric. This is because I wanted the silo to stand out, which will happen when the patch has the seam allowance folded behind it.



The seam allowances in this DragonFly block have been folded away from the center of the triangles in the corner patches to allow the points to have

less bulk in the tips and lie flatter. The seam allowances in the 4 corner patches could have been pressed to either side. As you press your blocks, you may notice that some seam allowances go naturally to one side. This would be the time to let them face the direction they want to.

As with everything with quilting, these are just guidelines. As you sew your blocks and quilts, some of these techniques won't work, and you will need to adjust your sewing or pressing to fit your quilt and the look you want.

When you press a seam allowance behind a patch, it will stand out from the patches next to it.

When joining patches to previously sewn patches, check to see how the seam allowances have been folded in the previous seams, and fold them the same direction in the new seam. This will make your quilt easier to quilt and lay flatter.

You may also consider how you will quilt your quilt before you decide which direction to face your seam allowances. Quilting on top of seam allowances looks different than quilting "in the ditch." If you plan to quilt in a grid, you may want to attempt to keep the seam allowances facing the same direction along your potential stitching lines. Your hand quilting will be easier when there are fewer layers of fabric to quilt through.

About the Author: Penny Halgren

<http://www.How-to-Quilt.com> Penny has been a quilter for more than 29 years and enjoys sharing her quilting knowledge with beginner quilters so they can avoid the mistakes she made as she was learning to quilt.

"Bag" a Bargain

With Our

MARCH MADNESS SALE

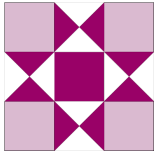


Join the
**Bag Making Patterns
Club Now**

and Pay **ONLY 99¢** for
Your First Month,
and Receive Over \$30 of New
Member Bonus Downloads, As
Well As TWO New and Original Bag
Patterns Every Month!!!

Register Now and Quote **Bonus Code 4BD**
to Claim Your Special Sale Rate.

www.BagMakingPatterns.com



Embellishments Give Your Quilt Personality

By Jan Myers

Nowadays, embellished quilts are the 'in-thing'.

Embellished quilts look very trendy and we can experiment with a variety of options with which to decorate the quilts. The primary objective of a good quilt is to keep us warm in bed. But many families use quilts also to celebrate different events of our life like weddings, birth of a baby, Christmas and other festivals and events. Many are used simply for decorations.

There are two important ways to guarantee that an embellished quilt is attractive to the eye. First and foremost, the quilt making has to be technically sound. If it is not constructed well, no matter how much we adorn it, the quilt will not look good and will wear out.

Second, we must keep in mind that the accessories not only make the quilt attractive but also add weight to it. Thus the foundation fabric or the fabric with which the quilt has been constructed, must be strong enough to support the embellishments.

Lace, Ribbon, Beads or Paillettes, and Other Embellishments

The list of potential quilt embellishments is limited only by your unique creativity. Following are just a few of them:

o Paillettes - These are small, circular pieces of luminous metal or plastic sewn on garments for decoration. They shine wonderfully when they catch light or sunlight. They can be used to decorate clothes, handbags and accessories. They

are also great accompaniments for crafts such as frames, jewelry, lamps, and more. They are also fashionable as a knit, crochet and quilt embellishment.

o Beads - Beads can be used to add visual appeal. They can be attached anywhere while adorning the quilt top or block and/or after the quilt sandwich has been created. We can attach the beads to the top coating or through the top layer and batting or through all three layers after creating the quilt sandwich.

o Buttons - Buttons can be sewed on in small clusters to enhance the appeal of a plain area. Buttons stitched onto folded ribbon or embroidery can also go a long way in making your quilt look exciting.

o Charms - Charms have gained tremendous popularity and can be found in discount stores, jewelry stores, flea markets, garage sales, and all over.

o Doilies - Doilies and other specks crochet can plug a plain shape marvelously.

o Embroidery - Embroidery can be done with the help of floss or silk ribbon. They go a long way in adding a delicate touch to the quilt. We can also use French knots for consistency and use outline stitches to characterize the edges of an area, which might need more focus.

o Lace - Lace can be added in numerous ways. It can either be stitched on flat or assembled to give it a full, more three-dimensional look. Lace can also be used in a pieced seam or inserted under the rim of an appliqué patch. We can even be fasten it on top of a seam to conceal it.

Lace can successfully set up a contrast of texture yet is light and appealing to sew. Embellishment used on top of a lace such as stitching or beading areas intensifies the visual texture. It creates a intense feel both literally and visually and also helps the eye to slow down as it considers the area.

o Ribbon - Ribbons can be added in the shape of streamers and bows.

However, we must remember that the heavier the embellishment we use, the more quilting is

required to prevent it from sagging. If the quilting is not done with care, the quilts will not lie flat.

If heavy embellishment is used, hand quilting may make for a better quilt to avoid ruining the embellishments with machine quilting.

Or, for the safety of the embellishments, the quilt, and the machine, machine quilt first, then embellish.

With a bit of care, embellishments can add a whole new personality to your quilt and make it a one-of-a-kind creation.

About the Author:

Jan Myers is the author of numerous articles and books on topics from organizational development and leadership to quilting. It was her avocation, the love of [quilting](#), that inspired the popular online membership site for [quilters](#) known as the "world's largest quilting bee" at www.quiltingresourcecenter.com

LUDLOW QUILT AND SEW

Discover new and exciting projects to quilt and sew each month with clear and easy to follow instructions.

Visit the website and subscribe to Ludlow Quilt and Sew's free monthly newsletter now.

www.ludlowquiltandsew.co.uk



Are You Looking For the Best Value, Best Looking Bags in Town?

Stop Paying Up To \$17 For Each Bag Pattern
You Buy. Discover How You Can Grab a
Favourite Collection of Original Designer
Bag Patterns For A Fraction of What You're
Spending Now AND Support the McGrath
Foundation at the Same Time!

Our “Favourite Bag Making Patterns” CD-Rom contains 12 Full Size Original Bag Patterns – some of our Bag Making Patterns Club Members’ favourites. There are full size templates where needed, and plenty of clear instructions and photos to help You make these bags for yourself. Just pop the CD-Rom into your computer (PC or Mac) and print off the pages you need.

At \$27 plus postage, that’s only **\$2.25 Per Pattern**, **AND we will donate \$5 on your behalf to the McGrath Foundation** to help provide Breast Care Nurses in communities across Australia.

PLUS – As our Bonus to you, we have also included an Extra Chapter on Useful Bag Making Tips & Tools, and a Second Chapter covering our Popular Workshop on “Bag Making Fun – 20+ Ways to Embellish Your Bags”. **We have ALSO included a SECOND CD-Rom with Another 12 Original Bag Patterns – Completely FREE!!!**

That’s 24 Patterns for \$27!!! (Plus Postage \$7 Australia-wide)

Order online at www.quilts-n-bags.com



Suggestions for a Perfect 12 ½ Inch Square

By Judy Brownd

This article came from our Reader Judy and we thought you'd appreciate her tips too...

I am involved in a block of the month, and some of the blocks are, to say the least, a bit small and/or wonky.

When we quilt for ourselves, all the blocks end up the same size and it doesn't matter if they are a bit too small. But when doing a block exchange, we really work hard to make the blocks to a 12-1/2" size.

When I first started to make quilt blocks the hardest thing was, and still is, to make them square and to the right size. The bigger the block and the more pieces to the pattern, the smaller it got!

Experienced quilters know how to get things to work out perfectly but I am still a novice, so I know the things I do are not conventional, and the Quilt Police will have a field day with my methods.

The main thing I found was that the more pieces in the block, the smaller it became! I must make sure the original pieces are cut to the right size. If pieces are off as little as even 1/8", by the time the block is put together, it will make a difference and your block will come out smaller than you anticipated.

By adjusting your machine's needle needle one or two positions to the right, you are making a slightly smaller seam, and it works like a charm.

You will have little or no material to trim to square up the block. Experiment with your machine's settings.

When making a block with many seams, when possible I cheat on the last row. (and it usually is possible.)

For example, a standard log cabin block starts with a 2-½" center square, with 1-½" strips added - 5 strips of each color combination, to make a 12-½" block. At least it is supposed to come out that size!

My solution: I cheat on the last row - cut all four pieces of that last row 2" instead of the 1-1/2" wide. Then press, square up and trim. Works like a charm and you don't need to adjust the needle position.

I found that a 12-½" square ruler was an invaluable tool, the best and easiest way to get a 12-½" block to perfect size. They are not that expensive when you have a 40% off coupon at

the fabric store. (And there are more sizes than the 12-½")

Mark the CENTER of your square ruler with a red or blue sharpie and draw a circle around the dot. Place the dot in the center of your center square, square up the lines on the template with the pieced block and trim.

The main thing you MUST do, is to MEASURE your block to make sure it is to size. Don't guess, and don't assume it is right



Hints and Tips From Brannie

By "Brannie" Mira-Bateman



I have just discovered a foolproof way to get dinner. I thought I would pass it on to other 'quilty-cats' to use when all else fails.

My Mum sometimes forgets that it is my dinner time. She doesn't have all that much to do for me - you know, get my food, pat me, play with

me, pat me some more, talk to me, pat me again, talk to me, get more food - not much really. So when she gets busy sitting at that little whirring thing that goes ta-ta-ta-tat putting bits of fluffy stuff together, sometimes she forgets my dinner!!

Usually, I just have to go in and enquire nicely and she will hop up and feed me. Occasionally it requires a bit of a smooch on the leg and a tickle with the tail to get her moving, but the other day nothing seemed to work. On and on she went going ta-ta-ta-tat with the whirring thing and I couldn't get her attention.

Finally I did a very big smooch right down her leg and finished with a really hard head butt on her foot. The whirring thing got louder, the ta-ta-tat went real fast and she said "Oh no!!" and jumped up in a flash! Wow that got a reaction!

"You can't DO that!" she yelled, but I HAD, apparently! Not sure what I did, but I think it was

pressing hard on her foot that did it. Then she said, "All right. All right. I'll get your food while I am up."

At last, I thought. My Dad will be in for his tea soon and I can't smell any of that coming either.

Finally my plate was handed down. "Here you are." she said. "Now eat up, and leave me alone." It's nice to know that food is there. I wasn't really hungry by then, so I went and sat in front of the window to look at the birds while I pondered on my success.

Try it on your Mum if she gets carried away with the ta-ta-ta-tat thing and forgets the food. It is all to do with priorities. Let me know if it works. I want to tell you about fur next time.

Love Brannie,

the Quilt Block of the Month Club Cat!

Have You Checked Out
Our Online Clubs Yet?

FREE

Patterns to download on both...

www.QuiltBlockoftheMonthClub.com
www.BagMakingPatterns.com

And a Great New Range
of Quilt & Bag Patterns!

www.QuiltBlockoftheMonthClub.com

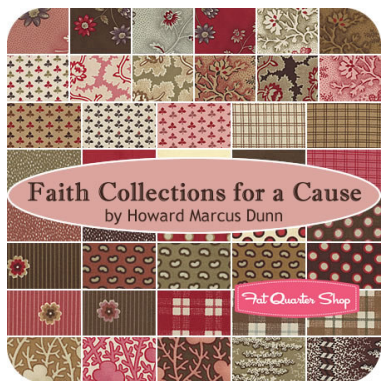
©2009 QB



What's New from The Fat Quarter Shop

by Kimberly Jolly from www.FatQuarterShop.com

We're pleased to be able to bring you a selection each month of the Newest Fabric Releases and the new season fabric "must haves".



Faith – Collections for a Cause by Howard Marcus Dunn for Moda

Find the ultimate pink and brown collection in Faith – Collections for a Cause by Howard Marcus Dunn for Moda.

Forty-two pieces remarkably reproduced from an antique quilt bring the 1800s textiles to life.

Proceeds from the Collections for a Cause benefit numerous charities, including breast cancer research, juvenile diabetes and Quilts of Valor.

Faith – Collections for a Cause is available in Fat Quarter Bundles, Fat Eighth Bundles, Jelly Rolls, Layer Cake, Charm Pack and yardage. Be sure to check out our Moda quilt kit.

For more information go to:

<http://www.fatquartershop.com/Faith-Howard-Marcus-Dunn-Moda-Fabrics.asp>



Lily & Will II by Bunny Hill Designs for Moda

Elegant and playful, meet Lily & Will II by Bunny Hill Designs for Moda! Whisper soft shades of aqua and yellow blend stylishly with chocolate brown.

Bunnies, toile medallions, dots, small flowers and more offer beautiful possibilities for baby or adult!

Lily & Will II is available in two colorway Fat Quarter Bundles, Jelly Rolls and Layer Cake, as

well a complete collection Charm Pack, yardage and coordinating satin trim and woven fabric. You'll love our cute, exclusive Bunnies & Bows Quilt Kit.

Check out this range at:

<http://www.fatquartershop.com/Lily-and-Will-Bunny-Hill-Designs-Moda-Fabrics.asp>



Pom Pom de Paris by French General for Moda

Ever been to Paris in the Spring? If not, here's the second best thing - Pom Pom de Paris by French General for Moda!

This 40 piece collection is filled with birds, flowers and a French toile print. The fresh color palette of butter yellow, pink and red will add a touch of Spring all year long!

Pom Pom de Paris is available in Fat Quarter Bundles, Fat Quarter Bundles, Jelly Rolls, Layer Cakes, Charm Packs and yardage. Enjoy a Spring fling with our exclusive Parisian Romance Quilt Kit and coordinating backing set.

View this range at:

<http://www.fatquartershop.com/Pom-Pom-de-Paris-French-General-Moda-Fabrics.asp>



Sugar and Spice by Quilted Fish for Riley Blake Designs

Exuberant splashes of color will appeal to all ages in Sugar and Spice by Quilted Fish for Riley Blake Designs. Vibrant turquoise, pink, lime and melon will brighten your world. This collection offers wide stripes, whimsical flowers, big dots and more. Sugar and Spice is available in Fat Quarter Bundles and yardage.

See this range at:

<http://www.fatquartershop.com/Sugar-and-Spice-Riley-Blake-Designs-Fabric-The-Quilted-Fish.asp>



Fat Quarter Quilts

By Rose Smith from www.ludlowquiltandsew.co.uk

Do you find yourself picking up fat quarters of fabric because you love the fabric? Do you then find that you're not sure how to use them? Yep, that's me. I have loads of fat quarters that I've picked up over the years, but somehow they are never quite big enough for any projects that I do. So, I decided that it was time to think up a fat quarter quilt so that I could showcase some of my fat quarters.



I made a lap quilt measuring 40" square using the Building Blocks quilt block. I used four fat quarters. Each fat quarter was used to make one Building Blocks quilt block, one piece of sashing and the rest was used in 2.1/2" squares in the border.

The total requirement for this fat quarter quilt is four fat quarters, 2.1/4 yards of light fabric for the background fabric, 42" squares each of wadding and backing fabric, four 2.1/2" strips of border fabric.

Yes, I know - the backing fabric can be made from one piece of fabric with no piecing! That was an unexpected bonus.

In fact, I used three fat quarters and then used another fabric for the fourth quarter so that I could make the binding from it as well.



The Building Blocks quilt block is a lovely quilt block. It is quite striking to look at but very easy to assemble - not a triangle in sight!

To make each Building Blocks quilt block you will need:

Dark fabric: 8 strips 6.1/2" by 2.1/2", 16 squares 2.1/2"

Light background fabric: 4 strips 6.1/2" by 2.1/2", 20 squares 2.1/2", 1 square 6.1/2"



The easiest way to make the Building Blocks quilt block is to cut 2.1/2" strips across the width of fabric and sew them together as shown: one strip of dark, light, dark fabric and one strip of light, dark, light fabric.

The strips of the fat quarters are not full length so I sewed two lengths of fat quarter fabric to one length of background fabric.

Cut eight 2.1/2" strips from the light, dark, light strip and four 2.1/2" strips from the dark, light, dark strip.



Sew three strips together as shown to make a nine patch square and then repeat the process to make three more squares.



Cut four 6.1/2" lengths of dark, light, dark fabric to make 6.1/2" strip squares.



Arrange the Building Block quilt block patches as shown, with a nine patch square in each corner, the light 6.1/2" square in the middle and the 6.1/2" strip squares between all the nine patch squares.



Sew the patchwork pieces together across each row and then sew the rows together.

Repeat with the other three fat quarters to make four 18" quilt blocks.



Sew one 18.1/2" length of 2.1/2" fabric to the right of one of the quilt blocks and then sew a second quilt block to the right of the sashing.

Sew the other two quilt blocks together with sashing in the same way.



Sew an 18.1/2" strip of sashing to either side of a 2.1/2" square of the background fabric (using the two colours that you haven't yet used in sashing). This will be the sashing joining the two pairs of quilt blocks together.

Sew this strip of sashing to the bottom of the first pair of quilt blocks taking care to match the central block with the sashing between the pair of blocks. Sew the remaining pair of quilt blocks to the bottom of the sashing.



Sew the remaining strips of the fat quarters and background fabric together in pairs and then cut these at 2.1/2" intervals to make pairs of squares. Sew the squares together to make long lines of squares for the border. I sewed these together randomly rather than in a fixed order of colours.



Sew a strip of 19 squares across the top and bottom of the quilt and a strip of 21 squares down each side. That's the fat quarter quilt top complete and you should have used up all of the fat quarters. Press carefully on wrong side and on right side.

Place the backing fabric right side down, lay the wadding on top and lay the quilt top above that. Quilt and bind.



I quilted straight lines across both diagonals to make a cross hatch quilting pattern.

There: that's a few of my fat quarters used up. I'm not even going to count how many still to go!



About the Author:

Rose Smith was born and brought up in Zambia in Africa. She moved to the UK when she was 18 and now lives in Shropshire, indulging her passion for quilting and sewing.

She has sewn all her life - 'anything that stood still long enough' in the words of her children - but now finds that patchwork and quilting have taken over her life. She indulges this passion by posting patterns and tutorials on her website for all to share. www.ludlowquiltandsew.co.uk

Poem For Computer Users Over 40

(Author Unknown)

Every evening
As I'm laying here in bed
This tiny little prayer
Keeps running through my head

God bless my mom and dad
And bless my little pup
And look out for my brother
When things aren't looking up

And God, there's one more thing
I wish that you could do
Hope you don't mind me asking
But please bless my computer too?

Now I know that's not normal
To bless a mother board
But just listen a second
While I explain to you 'My Lord'

You see, that little metal box
Holds more to me than odds & ends

Inside those small compartments
Rest a hundred of my 'BEST FRIENDS'

Some it's true I've never seen
And most I've never met
We've never exchanged hugs
Or shared a meal as yet....

I know for sure they like me
By the kindness that they give
And this little scrap of metal
Is how I travel to where they live

By faith is how I know them
Much the same as you
I share in what life brings them
From that our friendship grew

"PLEASE" Take an extra minute
From your duties up above

To bless this scrap of metal
That's filled with so much love!

A computer was something on TV
From a science fiction show of note
A window was something you hated to
clean

And ram was the cousin of a goat

Meg was the name of my girlfriend
And gig was a job for the nights
Now they all mean different things
And that really mega bytes

An application was for employment
A program was a TV show
A cursor used profanity
A keyboard was a piano

Memory was something that you lost
with age.

A CD was a bank account,
And if you had a 3-in. floppy
You hoped nobody found out.

Compress was something you did to the
garbage,

Not something you did to a file,
And if you unzipped anything in public
You'd be in jail for awhile.

Log on was adding wood to the fire.
Hard drive was a long trip on the road.
A mouse pad was where a mouse lived,
And a backup happened to your
commode.

Cut you did with a pocket knife.
Paste you did with glue.
A web was a spider's home,
And a virus was the flu.

I guess I'll stick to my pad and paper,
And the memory in my head.
I hear nobody's been killed in a
computer crash,
But when it happens they wish they
were dead.



Extended Quilt Care & Hanging Display Quilts

By Kim Wutzke

Aunt Mable spent two years making that charming quilt with the quirky border for your cabin. You can extend the life of her efforts by taking the time to implement a few preventative steps and cleaning precautions. Today's hand stitched cabin quilt with the quirky border could be one of your family heirlooms someday.

Sunlight and artificial light will cause fading and in time, fabric deterioration. Light damage is irreversible. If you choose to display your quilt try to place it in a location where the light is distributed evenly on the entire quilt. Never use nails, staples or pins to hang a quilt. Instead, sew a sleeve or tube of fabric along the top back side of the quilt, stitching through all layers every inch or so, then run a rod through the sleeve and

attach the rod ends to the wall (wood curtain rod and wood curtain hangers work perfect). This distributes the weight of the quilt evenly and eliminates stretching and maintains the quilts shape.

Even hanging display quilts need cleaning. Occasional light vacuuming and airing will remove surface dust. Do not throw your quilt over a clothes line and beat it. If you hang it outside on an overcast day and either lay a sheet over it or at least hang with the backing face up to prevent sun damage to the top.

Do not dry clean a soiled quilt unless directed to do so by the manufacturer. Improper dry cleaning with harsh chemicals may damage your quilt. To wash it safely first test for color fastness by gently

rubbing each fabric with a wet (water only) cotton swab. If no color comes off then the dyes are set.

If you choose to machine wash your quilt use the gentlest cycle with warm/cold water and a very mild detergent such as Dreft, Ivory or Orvis. Orvis is an extremely gentle, Ph balanced detergent that leaves no residue. It is used for animals and can be purchased at your local feed supply or veterinary hospital. Never use bleach. Remove the quilted item from the washer promptly. Leaving them in the washer too long will have your quilt smelling like mold or mildew quickly. These odors can be very difficult to wash out.

Dry your quilted items in the dryer. If you choose to line dry, hang the quilt with the backing facing the sun and put a clean sheet over it to protect from sun exposure. While the quilt is still damp it can be fluffed in the dryer to reduce wrinkling.

For cleaning your quilt to preserve as a future heirloom it is preferred you hand wash with cold

water and a mild detergent letting the quilt soak for up to four hours in the tub. Squeeze out excess water by pushing the quilt against the side of the tub, never wring it out. Rinse several times. If you have very hard water with a lot of minerals you may wish to do the last rinse with distilled water. This maintains the crisp colors. Again, gently squeeze out water and lay flat to dry. Lay a sheet over the quilt if you are drying it outside.

If you plan to store your quilt use an acid free box with only one item per box, acid free tissue wrap, an old pillow case or a piece of pre-washed muslin. Be sure to replace the tissue wrap or wash the fabric wrapper once a year. Also, refold the quilt along new fold lines.

Never store quilts in plastic bags, cardboard boxes or blanket chests. Besides poor air circulation they can also be stained and the weight of stacked quilts can cause fibers to break down.

Museum quality, heirloom and antique quilts need to be preserved and cared for by specialists and should be referred to a professional quilt conservator.

By keeping your quilt out of harmful light, cleaning carefully, hanging your quilt properly and storing them properly you will decrease the damage to your quilted items. Following these basic procedures will greatly increase the life of your quilted treasure. That cabin quilt with the quirky border and fond memories of Aunt Mable will be around for your family to enjoy for years to come.

About the Author:

Kim Wutzke owns [Log Cabin Fever Gifts & Decor](#) where you will find additional articles on cabin decorating, rustic bedding, fishing quilts and unique wildlife gift ideas. [Experience Rustic Cabin Quilts](#) for your home and family!


Parisian Romance
Quilt Kit

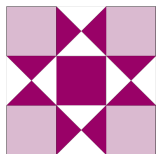
Featuring Pom Pom de Paris
by French General for Moda Fabrics

44" x 54"

Visit our website for more details!

1-866-826-2069
www.FatQuarterShop.com





The Way to Use Templates in Quilting

By Leo R Reynolds

With the recent increased involvement in quilting and other crafts, makers are forever searching for new products to make quilting easier for active modern crafters. One of the innovations that has become essential is quilting templates.

Usually comprised of sturdy clear acrylic, and designed to be used over and over again, templates make marking and cutting pieces for a quilt block a breeze.

Templates generally have seam line and other markings on them for the convenience of quilters. The best templates are laser cut to make certain exact precision for measurement.

With quilting templates, a rotary cutter, and a mat, you can cut the pieces for numerous blocks at one time. Before templates and the use of

rotary cutters, a quilter used paper patterns and cut block pieces with scissors, in a comparable way that dressmakers cut patterns.

For quilters who are sometimes cutting small pieces for blocks, cutting in this manner meant precision in measuring was very hard. In quilting, accuracy is crucial.

One of the frustrations of quilting was ensuring the pieces of the quilt block fit together, and with the dated archaic style of cutting, it was a constant problem. But with templates all such worries are a matter of the past.

Quilting templates are available in every size and shape imaginable. Every geometric shape is represented, and you can obtain a set of basic templates for squares and circles and rectangles so you always have them on hand.

You can also buy sets of templates for a certain quilt block. For instance, if your daughter is getting married and you want to make her a Double Wedding day Ring quilt, you can obtain a set of templates for that pattern. Or perhaps your best friend is having her first baby, a son. You'd like to make a quilt for him, and so you select a set of templates for a square that appears like an airplane. The options are truly almost infinite.

Beginning quilters will want to commence with simple shapes like rectangles, squares and circles. The process is simple-lay your neatly ironed fabric on the rotary mat, put the acrylic template atop it, hold it tightly and use the rotary cutter to trim about the edges.

Once you get the hang of it, you can trim several layers of fabric at once. Using templates, you can spend sixty minutes or two cutting pieces for quilt blocks, and get through the actual sewing and quilting so much more speedily.

Quilters may in addition want to spend some time to browse the world wide web or go to the library or local bookstore for books. Many quilting sites and books contain useful details about using templates, with hints and systems listed that will make the process even easier.

The quilting sites contain are regularly also laden with photos showing the application of templates in a pace-by-step manner, which can be very useful. Although the process of using templates is simple, there are always trade secrets that can make it even easier.

Investigate the employment of templates in quilting right now, and you'll discover renewed pleasure in your craft.

Article Source:

http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Leo_R_Reynolds



Online Quilt Magazine.com

This is purely personal, but I'm hoping you can help (And a BIG thanks to those who have already)...

I've had a dream of growing our Free Online Quilt Magazine to a reader base of 50,000, and when I told my Dear Husband that it was kind of a New Year's Resolution of mine to do this, this year, he LAUGHED!! He couldn't believe that there would be that many quilters (in the World, mind you!) who would be interested in my 'little magazine'. Obviously I told him he was wrong, but now I have to prove it, and this is where I'm asking for your help...

As much as I love him, I would LOVE to be able to prove him wrong and get to that number as quickly as possible. (I'm not a betting woman, but I reckon there's potential for Him to add to MY stash if we can do this!) We've made a great start, but as a personal favour to me, if you have quilting friends, or colleagues at Guilds or Online Forums that you think would be interested in our Free Monthly Magazine, PLEASE refer them to our website www.OnlineQuiltMagazine.com where they can Register for Free, and receive their first copy straight away. And to say a Big THANKS to you All for your help – When we reach that number, I will send you ALL out a couple of new patterns to show you my appreciation for your support in the best way I know how.

Thanks so much, *Jody*

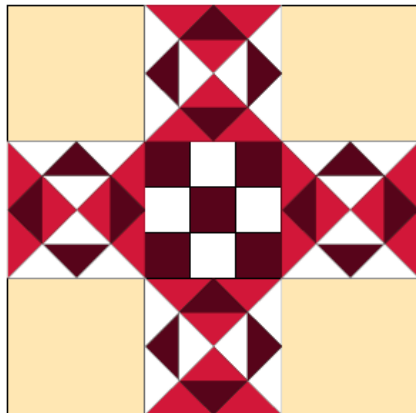
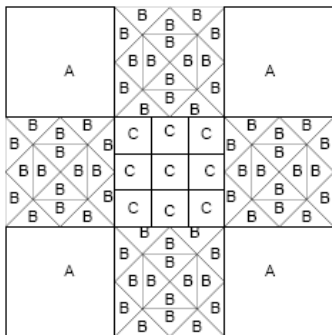
Block of the Month

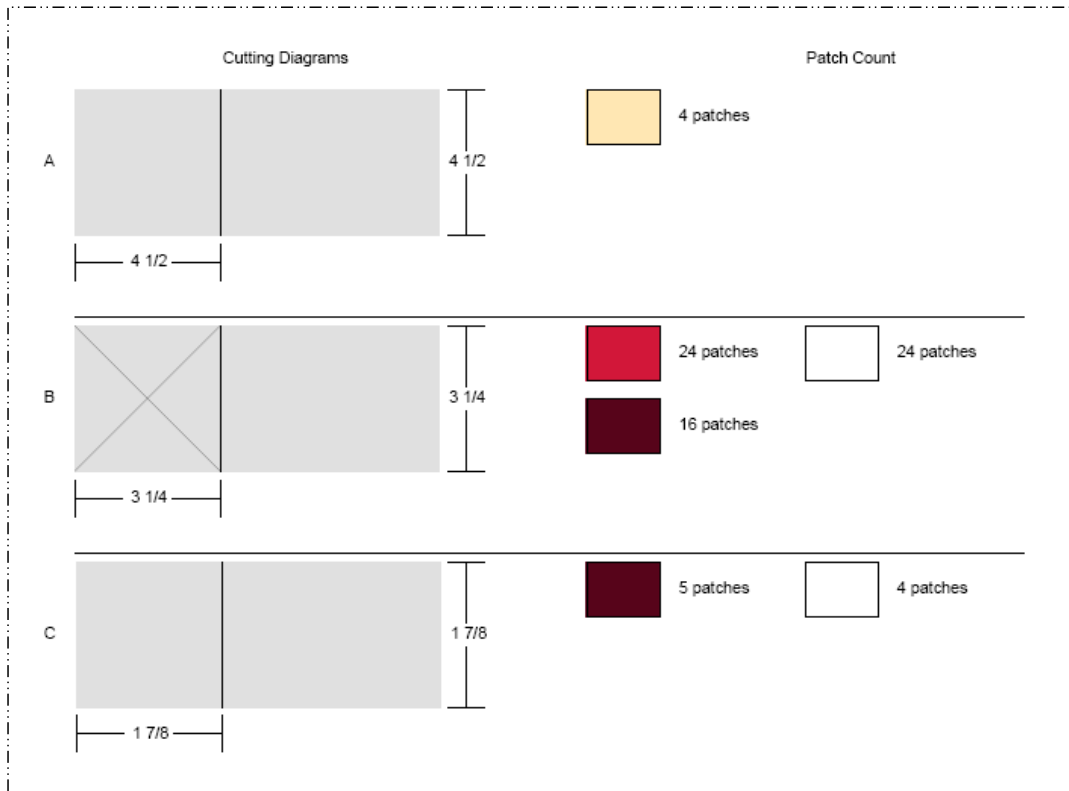
This month's block is a stunning pieced block that you will be happy to add to your Quilt Block Library. You will be able to chain piece much of it, and remember to take extra care with the seam allowances.

To make this 12 inch block as shown, you will need four different fabrics and once you have rotary cut the pieces according to the Cutting Diagram, you can piece them together as shown below.

Santa Fe Block

Key Block (1/5 actual size)





Today's tips:

This first tip was sent in by Toni from Tailoring By Toni, in Sleaford, England.

"I have to change the thread colour in my machine many times a day, and one of the time saving and nerve saving tips my master tailor first taught me was to cut the thread from the spool you are using and remove the spool from the machine....

Replace it with the new colour and tie the new colour to the old colour and from the needle, take hold of the old thread and just pull it clear thru the machine and through the needle. A gentle nudge sometimes helps coax it thru the needle, but don't just pull if it doesn't want to come thru.

This works for sergers as well, but you have to run the machine thread thru using the foot peddle."

And Judith said:

"A hint a friend told me, as I am not much at Quilting in the ditch, ditch with one of the fancy stitches on the machine, works great."

And we liked these too...

- Before you start cutting fabric for your blocks, look for pattern pieces that can be chain pieced or strip pieced together to save you time
- When loading the needle in your hand quilting, you can use the visible bits of the needle to check on the evenness of your stitches. It is easier to withdraw the needle and correct it at this point rather than having to unpick stitches you have just made.
- Make sure the wadding you select for your hand quilted project is smooth and even in texture, without lumps or otherwise to interrupt the flow of your stitches.

Quilters' Horoscope

By Pauline Rogers from www.QuiltersWorld.com.au

A humorous compilation of character traits of quilters according to their zodiac signs. Compiled by a quilting tutor with over twenty years experience teaching patchwork and quilting but zero years writing horoscopes.



Pisces are dreamers. When they quilt they usually are creating poetry.

Although they are kind and make projects to bestow on friends and family they are most likely envisioning themselves snuggled beneath the very quilt they are working on. Although they can lack self-confidence their imagination and intuition makes them artistic quilters.

Their sensitivity can lead them to shy away from displaying their creations. Generally you will find that a Pisces has more than one project on the go and can easily manage both.

Whatever they choose to work on they need a project that requires plenty of variety. Patchwork that includes embroidery or other needlework is well liked by them.

Pisces design from the "Quilting With The Stars" quilt from the Quilt Block of the Month Club.com

YES, We Want to Hear From You!

As our Online Magazine continues to grow each month, we need your feedback in order for us to continue to improve our publication for you.

- We want to know how you liked it.
- We want to know the topics you're interested in.
- We want to know if you have any suggestions, Hints or Tips of your own that you'd like included, or if you know anyone we should include a story on!

Please send me an email with your Testimonial, Suggestion or Enhancement – I'd love to hear from you!

Send all emails to:

jody@onlinequiltmagazine.com

"Quilt-y" Sayings...

- Quilters are the Piece Makers
- A fat quarter is not a body part!!

If you'd like to submit an Article, or a Project for Publication, or take advantage of our Very Very Reasonable Advertising Rates, please email details or queries to Jody at jody@onlinequiltmagazine.com .