



Online Quilt Magazine.com

**Tips For Beautiful  
Machine Quilting**

**BONUS  
PROJECT  
Landscape  
Quilt**

**What is the  
Forty Quilts  
Project?**

**Pinning &  
Pressing for  
Perfect Points**

Vol.1 No.3 – August 2010

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## Letter from the Editor

Jody Anderson

Hi!

Welcome to our latest issue of the Online Quilt Magazine. There's some great articles and tips on machine quilting this month, and a wonderful Bonus Project from award-winning US quilter Pat Durbin. Her gorgeous landscape quilt will have you happily machine quilting in no time!

I'm thrilled too that we have such a wonderful array of readers. I've been in touch with one of them recently – Marie Woodward, and I'm sure you will find her story on Page 29 as inspiring as I did. Quilters truly are some of the friendliest, kindest and most giving people, and I am thankful to be a part of this close-knit community.

We have some interesting statistics for you too, from the recently released Quilting in America 2010 Survey, and a bit of fun as well on Page 32!

Happy Quilting!

*Jody*



## Tips for Beautiful Machine Quilting

By Penny Halgren from [www.How-To-Quilt.com](http://www.How-To-Quilt.com)

If you've been afraid to tackle machine quilting, gotten frustrated at some point along the way, or have given up completely . . . don't blame yourself.

When it comes to machine quilting, all of the books make it sound so easy. "Just layer your quilt, put your gloves on, and stitch away."

I've tried machine quilting dozens of times, and found that it isn't as easy as they say.

But over time I've gathered some great tips for beautiful machine quilting:

- Make sure your quilt is fully supported as you machine quilt - do not let it hang down the sides of your table. Place your table up against a wall, or surround it with chairs to prevent your quilt from falling

off, and scrunch the quilt up in your lap to feed it into your machine.

- Special gardening gloves can help you guide your quilt through your sewing machine. Those gloves are now available in quilt shops, too.



- Use blue painters' tape (from a hardware store) to mark your straight lines. Golden Threads tracing paper is good for creating pattern templates for quilting designs.
- Starch the backing of your quilt until it is stiff to prevent puckers and tucks on the back as you machine quilt.
- Use basting spray to baste your quilt layers together. That way, you don't need to work around pins or basting threads.
- Form a frame with your hands to guide the quilt through the machine. Spread your fingers around the needle area and have your thumbs touching as you guide the quilt. Remember, with the feed dogs down on your machine, your hands become the feed dogs. And if they aren't moving, your quilt isn't moving either.
- Begin your quilting on an outside border and work your way into the center of the quilt. That doesn't mean that you will quilt the entire border before you move into

the center. It means that you start in a corner, and then work your way around the corner and into the center.

- Have in your mind where you will be stitching, and what kind of shape you will be making. Then watch the fabric where you want to stitch - not the needle as it is stitching.
- Practice stitching on a fabric sandwich (2 layers of fabric with a piece of batting between) about 24 inches square. Practice stitching various shapes, and pay attention to the sound of your needle. The goal is to move your fabric about 1/8 of an inch as your needle goes up and down.
- Make sure that the tension on your sewing machine is set correctly

### **About the Author:**

Penny Halgren <http://www.How-to-Quilt.com>  
Penny has been a quilter for more than 28 years and enjoys sharing her quilting knowledge with

beginner quilters so they can avoid the mistakes she made as she was learning to quilt.

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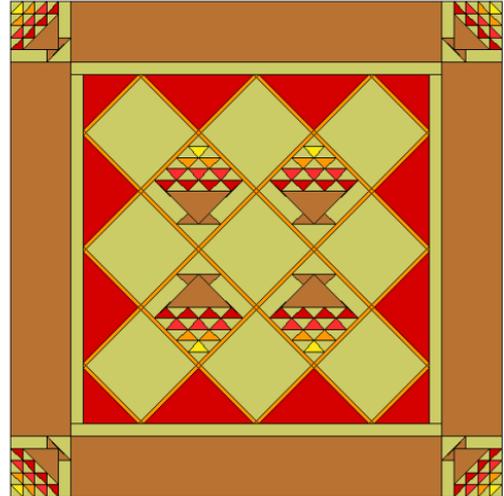
Unlock the secrets for beautiful machine quilting using your home sewing machine by simply watching this video on your TV or computer.

Everything you need to create a beautiful quilt any size you want – from start to machine quilting finish – is contained in this valuable **video quilting resource**.

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Includes proven techniques to make your machine quilting easy, beautiful and pucker-free.

**[www.MachineQuiltingAdventure.com](http://www.MachineQuiltingAdventure.com)**



Use our Block of the Month to create a quilt like this!

Block instructions on Page 37



## Pinning and Pressing for Perfect Points

by Pauline Rogers from Quilter's World

Once you've cut your pieces you're ready to move on to constructing your patchwork blocks.

A  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance is used in piecing. Before you start to stitch check that the  $\frac{1}{4}$ " foot of your sewing machine matches the  $\frac{1}{4}$ " on your ruler. To do so put your ruler (the same one as you used when measuring and cutting the pieces) under the sewing machine's foot and lower the needle until it's over the quarter-inch mark closest to the right edge of the ruler.

The right edge of your ruler should line up with the right edge of the foot. If it doesn't you need to move your needle position until it does. Once you've aligned the  $\frac{1}{4}$ " foot on your sewing machine you can test it out by sewing together three  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " wide strips of fabric. Then press the

seams and measure the centre strip. If it's exactly 1 inch you're ready to proceed. If it doesn't measure correctly you should take the time to check the foot again.

Pressing and pinning are important steps in the piecing process. Using the proper techniques will help you achieve matching points.

### Tips for Pressing:

1. Use a hot dry iron. A travel size iron is a great addition to your 'tool kit'. With the smaller sole plate of these mini-irons you have more control over exactly where you're pressing.
2. After sewing your patch together you need to 'set the seam'. Before you press the seam allowance, place the patch on

the ironing surface, unopened with the topside up. Lay iron on top of the stitching line and press down. Turn over patch and press the bobbin thread in the same manner.

3. Generally patterns will tell you in which direction to press your seam allowance. To avoid dark seams showing through a lighter fabric the rule of thumb is to press light to dark. Place the patch with the fabric facing up that you'll press the seam allowance towards. Flip the patch open and place your iron edge on the lower strip. Delicately work it towards and over the seam allowance.
4. When you're sewing long straight strips together (strip piecing) set your machine on a small stitch length such as 1.5 to 2 - as the longer the stitch the more twist you will get as you add strips. When you've finished sewing the strips together lay the pieced strips wrong side up on the ironing

board. Place the iron on each seam line to press the stitching lines, then turn over and press the bobbin thread. Next lay the strips right side up and with the side of the iron gently press back to the dark side. Repeat this process until you've all your seams set and pressed. Your strips should lay very flat with no twists.

5. When adding on your sashings and borders press in the same manner as for strip piecing.



6. A firm surface specially designed for ironing is needed. Having an iron mat beside your sewing machine saves a lot of time. The Clover Portable Pressing & Cutting Board is compact enough to keep handy and it folds for easy travel making it great for patchwork classes. With an iron and board close at hand, you wouldn't be as likely to skip the important step of pressing seams as you work.
7. Don't confuse ironing with pressing. When you iron you apply downward pressure and move the iron about on your material. This heavy handedness can stretch your fabric especially on small articles like quilt patches. Pressing is a more delicate technique where you let the weight and heat of the iron do the work while you raise and lower the iron.
8. Only use a good quality thread when piecing your quilts. As setting the seams is a must you certainly don't want to use a

thread that will melt under a hot iron.

Rasant thread is ideal for piecing. It has a polyester core wrapped with layers of cotton, making it strong and durable with the look and feel of cotton.

#### **Tips for Pinning and Piecing:**

1. Pinning is an important part of achieving accurate points and the best pins are fork pins. These very fine sharp pins are double pronged like a hair pin. They eliminate the problem of seams moving during pinning.

Match the seams by butting them up against each other, and push the pin through, so one prong is on one side and the other prong on the opposite side of the seam. They are such a fine pin they lay nicely and are easy to remove as you sew, although some quilters even sew right over them.

2. With Fork Pins when you pin your rows together they hold the seam at the back down while you sew over the seam which stops the feed dogs from pulling the fabric and flipping it back the wrong way.
3. Fork pins are very flexible when you have a lot of points to match together like an eight point star or a pinwheel. Squeeze the pin close together as you insert it either side of the seam and it will hold all the point's together - like no other pin can do!
4. If when you're piecing you find one piece is larger than the other, put the bigger piece on the bottom against the feed dogs, pin the top end where you'll start sewing, line the bottom end up and use a tapered tailor's awl to hold the ends together as you sew. The feed dogs will take up the excess and the awl will help in holding the ends together firmly.

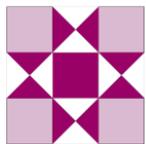
Incorporate these tips when you're working on your next project and you should get the perfect points you desire.

#### **About the Author**

Pauline Rogers has taught patchwork & quilting for close to 28 years. She travels extensively throughout Australia helping others learn and perfect the techniques of quilt making. Pauline's Schoolhouse programme is a popular way for quilt groups to share in her tool expertise. Visit Quilters World online at [www.quiltersworld.com](http://www.quiltersworld.com)

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## Choosing Threads and Needles For Machine Quilting

By Pat Strong

The choices of thread for machine quilting can be overwhelming, especially for the beginner quilter.

We often embrace the mistaken impression that 100 percent cotton or cotton-covered polyester sewing thread is the only thread to be used for our quilting masterpieces. Thread made with synthetic fibers, over time, may cut into cotton fabric, especially where blocks are joined. For this reason, cotton or cotton-covered polyester is often the choice of threads by quilters. However, there are OTHER choices of thread for machine quilting.

So many of our quilts are sewn for the experience of learning a new pattern, trying out our own designs or just for the fun of it. It's usually our intention that these quilts will be used for our

comfort or the comfort of our friends, children, grandchildren or our beloved pets. Our purpose is generally for our quilt to bring happiness to whomever the lucky person is that receives it.

I don't know about you, but I usually stipulate to the receiver to "use their new quilt and enjoy it". Doesn't it make you happy to walk into a home where one of your quilts live and see it on the couch, or on the floor in front of the TV instead of being hidden away in a hope chest?

It won't bother you to experiment and take a few risks with threads being used for quilting if you can have the attitude that it doesn't matter if all of your quilts will not become heirlooms which must last through eternity. If you feel a bit timid about trying other threads for your quilts, I hope the following information will help you muster

the courage to experiment and have fun with different choices of threads for machine quilting.

Threads are numbered according to size. The lightest weight thread has the highest number. The number on a spool that is 50/3 is telling you it is three-ply 50 weight thread. A 50/3 sewing thread is finer than a 40/3 quilting thread.

In most cases, I prefer a heavier thread because it will show more on my quilt top but that is just a personal preference. When sewing with different threads, you'll need to try a variety of needles to determine which one works best for your fabric and the thread you've chosen.

Your choices of thread for machine quilting also includes your bobbin thread. I have used cottons, rayons, Jean Stitch and acrylics with success. It goes without being said, your choice will depend on the look you want on the back. For instance, if you use the Jean Stitch, it will be more decorative than a cotton because it's much heavier.

A beautiful way to use the Jean Stitch is to choose an "all-over design" for your quilting pattern, such as meandering, turn your quilt "top side down" to quilt and let the bobbin thread show on top.

The monofilament, mylar and metallic thread are a little trickier to work with in the bobbin.

Often you will see instructions to adjust that little screw on your bobbin case. BEWARE. These are preset at the factory and you run the risk of having trouble when you try to set them back to the original setting. A better idea is to purchase a second bobbin case and only play with the settings on one of them. I dabbed a spot of red nail polish on the one I play with so I wouldn't confuse the two.

When using the monofilament thread, I experienced trouble with it falling off the spool even though I did all the usual "fixes". The answer for me was to set the spool in a small baby food jar instead of putting it on my spool holder.

Monofilaments are nylon or polyester, available in clear or smoke color and seem to sew better with a 90/14 needle. YLI and Sulky are good brands.

Monofilaments will give you an antique or hand-quilted look. If you sew on a dark fabric, the smoke color is best to use because the clear one will look shiny and be more visible.

A great 100% cotton thread to use is Mettler 50/3 wt and YLI 40/3 wt. These brands seem to have less breakage than others which as you know, is key to machine quilting. The Mettler thread is slightly stiffer than the YLI but the YLI has a more decorative look. An 80/12 sharp or 90/14 embroidery needle works well if you're using a cotton or rayon thread in your bobbin.

Rayon threads are often favorites to use by quilters because of the brilliant colors available. The finished result is silky and decorative because the rayon catches the light and really shows itself off. Generally, a 90/14 needle with a cotton

bobbin thread works well. Sulky and Maderia are great brands for rayon threads.

The metallic threads break quite easily. They also shred. The YLI is easier to use, but I think you will also like the Sulky and Madeira metallics. Your best needle size to use for the metallics will be a 90/14 embroidery or 80/12 Metallica.

The mylar threads are not as likely to break as the metallics and you'll probably like the wet and shiny look that the mylars give. The 50 wt cotton threads seem to do better in the bobbin if you use the metallics or mylar.

Here again, to help avoid the breakage, put the spool in a baby food jar beside your sewing machine instead of on your machine if you experience a problem. If you sew with the metallics, be mindful not to drop the cuttings onto the floor because they create havoc for vacuum cleaners.

YLI is the only brand that I know of that has the "Jeans Stitch" 30/3 wt thread. As you might guess

by the name, it gives a very heavy look. I would think twice before quilting a bed quilt with this because it's so much heavier than the fabric and will probably cause the fabric to shred. However, it creates a beautiful decorative stitch for wall hangings. The jeans/denim needle is the one to use for the Jeans Stitch because it has a larger eye than the embroidery needle.

#### About the Author

Pat Strong is an avid quilter and the owner of <http://www.MyQuiltingCircle.com>. You can chat with other quilters, join in forums, post pictures and video, view and post classifieds and articles, even create your own blog at My Quilting Circle.

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## Applique Landscape Quilt Adventure

By Pat Durbin

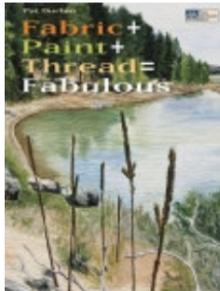
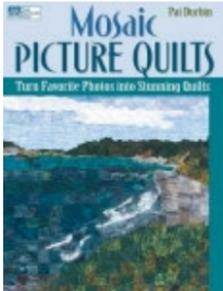
What makes landscape quilts so special?

Is it the workmanship or color choices? Those are important for sure, but I think that the most important thing is the feelings that the scene provokes in the viewer. So to me, a scene that makes me feel nostalgia, or peace, or appreciation of the Creator's hand makes a landscape quilt something that tugs at your heart.

1. As you work on your scene, use a background of the total size of the piece to build your picture.
  - a. This can be the sky fabric, a lightweight interfacing or even a tear away stabilizer.
    - b. In my example (this month's Bonus Project), I simply sewed the other pieces to the sky fabric.
2. Sky – sets the mood with light, dark, or stormy skies you build on the feeling you want to present.
3. Distant mountains will be faded or dark tones small prints or almost solids, as you come closer the trees will have more color and more detail; and the foreground can have lots of detail, even showing flowers.
4. Remember that you are the artist and the choosing of the fabrics is really what will define your picture. Use fabrics that please your eye.

## METHODS

There are many choices of technique. I've written two books using differing techniques: "Mosaic Picture Quilts", and "Fabric + Paint + Thread=Fabulous", both by Martingale & Co.



In this project, I'll show you a third method, - freezer paper and fusible appliqué.

### About the Author

Pat Durbin is an award winning quilter. You will see her work in many of the US national shows. She specializes in picture quilts both landscape and portrait. She is a pastor's wife and

grandmother and author. She also loves teaching the joy of quilting. Visit her website and blog at

<http://www.patdurbin.com/>



**Congratulations!!** Pat's large "Forest Walk" landscape quilt recently won 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize Pictorial quilt at the AQS Quilt Show in Paducah. This quilt will be on the cover of the AQS 2011 Calendar.

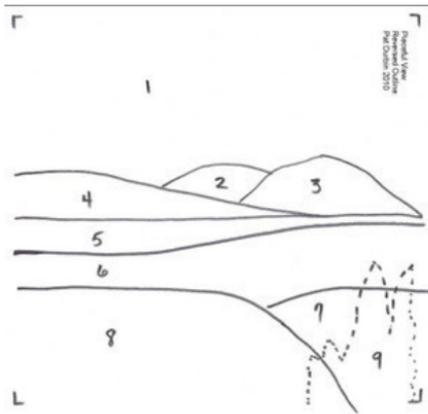
Bonus Project – "Peaceful View" from Pat Durbin



My little quilt, “Peaceful View” measures 16”x15”.

Following is a (reversed) chart of the fabric type and approximate size of the fabric you will need for each piece for those measurements.

However, you can enlarge the pattern to whatever size you desire; and use fabrics of your choice and color.



(Larger line design provided separately – increase size as you wish for your quilt.)

#### FABRIC REQUIREMENTS

1. Sky - blue batik – 17” x 16”, (used for background under all fabrics).
2. Mountain – charcoal mottled, 6” x 4”
3. Mountain – purple batik 8”x 4”
4. Grassy hill – dark green print, 12” x 4”
5. Water – blue/green batik – 17” x 3”
6. Land – green or tan print – 17” x 4 ½”
7. Left Foreground - dark green leafy print – 8”x 5 ½”
8. Right Foreground - grass print – 17”x 6”
9. Flower or other featured plant – scrap that can be fussy cut around the flowers.

Other needed supplies:

18” square of freezer paper

10 x 18" Cut of paper backed fusible

18" square of low loft batting (cotton)

18" square of backing fabric

1/8 yard of binding fabric

Beautiful threads to enhance the little quilt

#### CONSTRUCTION

- Place the waxed paper shiny side down over the line design and trace the lines.
- Number the pieces in the order that they will be placed.
- Cut the pieces apart as you use them.
- The top edges of pieces #2 through #7 will be turned under. Pieces #8 and #9 are fussy cut and applied with fusible.

1. Cut piece #2, iron the shiny side to the back of the mountain fabric
  - a. Cut a ¼" seam allowance around each edge.
  - b. Spray a little spray sizing or starch into a lid. Use a Q-Tip or small paintbrush to brush the sizing on the top edge seam allowance.



- c. Use the tip of a hot iron to press the seam allowance smoothly over the paper pattern until dry.
- d. Remove pattern, place the piece onto the background/sky and pin the top edge.

2. Cut piece # 3, and repeat the above steps.  
When you place this piece it will cover the seam allowance on the edge of the first mountain.
3. You should sew the top edges of each piece down as they are placed, trim threads and then place the next piece and repeat. Complete pieces 5 through 7.
4. Pieces #8 and 9 were appliquéd with fusible so that I could cut the grassy shapes – the edges are not turned.
  - a. Draw piece loosely onto paper side of fusible, cut out shape and fuse to back of fabric.
  - b. Cut the shape using spiky cuts to define the grassy print, remove paper and fuse in place.
  - c. Repeat for the flower or bush of the feature fabric. Sew these pieces down as you do the quilting.

## SEWING

- Decide if you want your stitches to show, or to hide. If you don't want them to show use invisible thread. I did this on the edges of the top pieces and then switched to fancy thread on the lower pieces where I thought they would look like grass.
- I used a blanket stitch and reduced the width of the stitch. You can also use a small zig-zag. In either case the right swing of the needle should just barely miss the appliquéd piece and the left swing of the needle should catch it, so the stitches will alternate from the appliquéd piece to the background you are stitching it to. Keep your stitches as smooth around the pieces as you can so your results will look neat.

## QUILTING

Free motion quilting on a landscape quilt can greatly enhance the feeling of the piece. My style

is to try to continue to paint with the thread as I quilt. I change threads often for interest. I used Superior Trilobal Poly for top threads and Bottom Line in the bobbin.

The center “land” fabric looked a little plain to my eye, so I used a zig-zag stitch and freemotion quilted it which added quite a bit of texture and made it more appealing.

#### FINISHING

1. Steam press your finished quilt from the back.
2. Trim edges squaring corners.
3. Bind with double fold binding, or other of your choice.
4. Put a sleeve on the back, or sew plastic rings to back for hanging.
5. Sign and date. - ENJOY



Picture Quilts by

Pat Durbin

[www.paldurbin.com](http://www.paldurbin.com)

[stitching@suddenlink.net](mailto:stitching@suddenlink.net)

Books: Mosaic Picture Quilts

Fabric + Paint + Thread = Fabulous

Commissioned art quilts



## Quilting In America 2010 Survey

By Annette Mira-Bateman from [www.QuiltBlockoftheMonthClub.com](http://www.QuiltBlockoftheMonthClub.com)

As an Australian quilter, it's always interesting to find out more about other quilters around the world.

Many of us have an interest in trends, new fabric ranges, and new and improved techniques used by those in other parts of the Globe.

The Quilting in America 2010 Survey is the sixth survey of US quilters done since 1994. Its purpose was to measure the amount of time and money quilters spend on their hobby, as well as look into key areas of the US quilt market.

We found this interesting reading and wanted to share a few of the statistics with you as well.

Here are a few key points of interest:

- 14% of US households (16.38 million) are home to at least once active quilter.
- Total quilters in the US now exceeds 21 million
- (And to prove this is not a small hobby) Estimated total dollar value of the quilting industry stands at \$3.58 billion

### Dedicated Quilters:

- Defined as those households that spend more than \$600 per year on quilting-related purchases.
- Who is the Dedicated Quilter?
  - Female
  - 62 years old
  - Well educated

- Spend on average \$2442 per year on quilting
- Her Quilting "Stuff"...
  - The majority (85%) have a room dedicated to sewing/quilting activities
  - On average, she owns \$3677 worth of fabric
  - She owns an average of 2.7 sewing machines (25% own more than 4 machines)
  - In the past 12 months, each purchased an average of 93.6 yards of fabric
  - On average, she has 152.8 spools of thread in her collection
- Fabric –
  - Favourite patterns – Small-scale florals (69%); Tone-on-tone neutrals (52%); Batiks (67%); Holiday prints (60%).
  - Colour schemes most often purchased – Jewel tones (56%); Bright colours (52%); Earth tones (52%); Neutrals (49%); Pastels (42%)
- Resources:
  - She subscribes to or reads an average of 4.4 quilting magazines – looking to learn new tips and techniques, get quiltmaking inspiration and to learn about new products.
  - 91% own a personal computer
  - 73% regularly access the internet, and spend an average 2 hours per week on quilting websites.

According to this 2010 survey, quilters' spending has increased by 9% since the release of the 2006 survey results.

"I'll admit, I was concerned that the news might not look good given the economic realities," said Karey Bresenhan, President of Quilts Inc, which was one of the two sponsors of this independent survey. "But as a fifth-generation quilter myself, I should have known better. *Nothing* keeps quilters from enjoying something that allows them to explore both their talents and their creativity."

Hear, hear, I say!!

### About the Author

Annette Mira-Bateman is one half of the mother/daughter design team behind the [www.QuiltBlockoftheMonthClub.com](http://www.QuiltBlockoftheMonthClub.com) and the [www.BagMakingPatternsClub.com](http://www.BagMakingPatternsClub.com). Both Clubs feature an exclusive range of downloadable patterns.

# BAGS!

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[www.BagMakingPatterns.com](http://www.BagMakingPatterns.com)  
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**New Bag Project!**



## What's New from The Fat Quarter Shop

by Kimberly Jolly from [www.FatQuarterShop.com](http://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".



**Summer's End by Kansas Troubles Quilters for  
Moda Fabrics**

Sweltering summers are drawing to a close for us here across the pond, and Lynne Hagmeier commemorates the season with Summer's End. She plays us out with a spray of summer blooms in the country. As always, Summer's End blends beautifully with all of the Kansas Troubles lines.

Though the line varies from navy blues to burnished golds, there is an extra smolder to this range, with an emphasis on dark umber and sienna red tones. Mix up the prints for a scrappy and blended look for autumn and fall projects. Along with yardage, it comes in Fat Quarter Bundles, Jelly Rolls™, Layer Cakes™, Honey Buns™, Charm Packs and the new Fat Eighth Bundles for easier cutting and more fun!

For more information on this Range, go to:

<http://www.fatquartershop.com/Summers-End-Kansas-Troubles-Quilters-Moda-Fabrics.asp>



### Let It Snow Favorite Batiks by Laundry Basket Quilts for Moda Fabrics

From Laundry Basket Quilts' previous Christmas lines, Let It Snow Favorites has emerged as a batik group that will stay a favorite for a long time! Icy blues and whites fill this winterscape with intricate batik-dyed snowflakes, flurries, whirls and frost.

A small range of 26 prints, each one is a work of art. Three of these prints are sold as panels with eight beautiful snowflakes on each. Available in yardage and Fat Quarter Bundles, Let It Snow

Favorite Batiks will leave you dreaming of a white winter all year long.

Check out this range at:

<http://www.fatquartershop.com/Let-it-Snow-Favorite-Batiks-Laundry-Basket-Quilts-Moda-Fabrics.asp>



### Fancy Hill Farm by Robyn Pandolph for RJR Fabrics

We're astounded yet again with Robyn Pandolph's gorgeous range for RJR Fabrics. It's

called Fancy Hill Farm and makes us long for Christmas, so we can get this fabric up everywhere!

Blossoms, bouquets, braided strips and dots adorn this joyful collection in perfectly shabby-chic elegance. Olive green, cardinal red, and butter cream relay notes of Christmas, but not overly so. In different combinations, this line will go year 'round.

Fancy Hill Farm is available in yardage, Fat Quarter Bundles by colorway, Charm Packs, and Twice the Charm Rolls. 108" wide backings are also available!

For more information on this range go to:

<http://www.fatquartershop.com/Fancy-Hill-Farm-Robyn-Pandolph-RJR-Fabrics.asp>



### Makin' New Friends

Also rounding out the “Christmas come early” season is Makin’ New Friends by Deb Strain for Moda. She always entertains us with her whimsical illustrations and bright, happy colors.

Makin’ New Friends is no exception – snowmen have come to play, and they’re dressed to the nines too! Decked in top hats and scarves (with buttons down the front, of course) they cavort about with little friends in the woods, birds included! Sprigs of ivy, hollies & berries, douglas firs strung with lights, snowflakes, and gold

Christmas stars fill the line with warmth and good cheer.

New friends are always welcome additions in Deb Strain's world, and we're glad it's so. Enjoy it in Fat Quarter Bundles, Jelly Rolls™, Charm Packs and flannel Fat Quarter Bundles!

View this range at:

<http://www.fatquartershop.com/Makin-New-Friends-Deb-Strain-Moda-Fabrics.asp>

### About Us

The Fat Quarter Shop is a leading online supplier of an extensive range of quality quilting fabrics. Fabrics are available in a good variety of specialty cuts, as well as yardage and shipping is quick and easy. Visit [www.FatQuarterShop.com](http://www.FatQuarterShop.com) for a look today.



**SUMMER**  
*Stamping Grounds*  
**QUILT KIT**

Summer's hues endure in our exclusive quilt kit featuring Summer's End by Kansas Troubles Quilters for Moda Fabrics!

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## The Forty Quilts Project

By Marie Woodward

Marie Woodward is an Online Quilt Magazine subscriber, with a fabulous story that we just had to share. I am sure you will find Marie's story in her words, both interesting and very inspiring.

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I was born and educated in the UK, but migrated to Australia in 1972. I have lived and worked as a teacher, in various parts of Western Australia, but have spent the last two years teaching English in India. I have a M. Ed (Hons) from Murdoch University, WA.

I have been married twice, but I am now a widow. My second husband was an Anglican priest and we travelled extensively throughout the State with his ministry and my teaching position. I have

four adult children, six grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

I was taught to sew by my mother at the age of three, doing English piecework on cardboard hexagons. It almost turned me off Patchwork and Quilting for life !!!!

I have been involved in various textile crafts since then, teaching macramé; knitting; crochet; sewing; beading and fabric collage, at various times in my life.

I returned to patchwork and quilting about 15 years ago, when living in the Pilbara, and have loved it ever since. I have a passion for beautiful fabrics and am thoroughly enjoying indulging it, here in India.

### The Forty Quilts Project

I have been working in India for the past 2 years, as a teacher, teaching English as a second language to very young children.

During this time, in my holidays, I have visited and helped out at an orphanage near Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, that was set up by an Australian friend of mine, 10 years ago."

The orphanage takes in 'Railway children' - children who beg at the Indian railway stations and on trains, to support themselves. Some of these children are only 3-4 years old!!

At the orphanage, they are cared for, as if in a family. They maintain their own cultural traditions, being cared for by other South Indians, some of whom were themselves 'rescued railway children'.

My role has mostly been in the area of administrative support, but I have now set up my own pet project, with the blessing of the organisers, to make each child and carer a 'Quilt' or 'Quillow', to provide winter warmth.

They don't need thick quilts, but appreciate a cover to put over them in the winter months.

Indians sleep on jute mats on the floor, so I am making 4 ft x 6 ft covers to be used over them.

Of course, the quilts will have a double benefit, for all of these children have been exposed to trauma in some form, so they also become 'comfort blankets', especially for the littlest ones!

I have individualised the quilts by asking each person for their pet theme, and have named each as it is being made. I call it 'My Forty Quilts Project' and it has been lots of fun to organise so far – and has taken my focus off me (No bad thing!!).

I'm enclosing a photo of some of the finished quilts. I still have a long way to go!! But I have set no time limit, and several quilts are currently in process.



"Flying Kites"

### **About the Author**

Marie is an Australian working in India. She volunteers at the Platform Children Orphanage, and has started her own project to provide them all with a quilt of their own. To find out more about "Railway Children" and the "Platform Children Society" orphanage to which Marie is connected, please go to:  
[www.platformkids.org.au](http://www.platformkids.org.au).



"Teddy Bears in the Garden"



## A Quilting Husband's Lament

I've always learned that life was full of obstacles and woes.  
I've learned to live with sickness, death, taxes, heaven knows.  
I've taken all these things in stride, the problems and strife,  
But one I didn't count on was a Quilter for a wife.

Come home from work, the stove is cold, the dirty clothes still there,  
The suit I wanted cleaned today, still laying on the chair.  
"Where's Mama, son?" I asked my boy, "This house is such a mess.  
Why, all the sheets are missing, we've been burglarized I guess."

"No, Mama stripped down all the beds and took the sheets away.  
She cut them into little strips and pieced two quilts today."  
"Why every pair of pants I own is cut in little squares."  
"I'm demonstrating applique" my lovely wife declares.

I show up in the office in my boxer shorts and tie.  
My secretary giggles and the clerks give me the eye.  
It's freezing cold, I'm shaking and my knees are turning blue.  
My boss considered firing me, but his wife's a quilter too.

I told him what happened and he said he could believe.  
I noticed that the coat he wore had only half a sleeve.  
A husband needs a loving wife to help him when he's ill.  
To soothe and comfort, mop his brow and help him take his pills.

Should influenza strike you, your life's not worth a dime,  
Particularly if it hits at Quilt Convention time.  
You'll lay there in an empty house in pain and deep despair,  
While the workshops and the lectures keep your wife's attention there.

You learn to ask no questions when she smiles and drives away,  
Rushing to the Fabric Shop for a big sale there today.  
She's gone for hours, then drags back home all bleary eyed and down,  
Now who'd believe a lie like that? She must be running round.

But I'll get by, I always do, some days are fine, some not.  
When your wife's a Quilter you tolerate a lot.  
I know that when my life is through and I have passed away  
They'll have to set my funeral so it's not a Quilting Day.

-Author Unknown-



## Selecting a Quilting Machine – What to Look For

By Linda Matthews

Sewing machines have been transformed in recent years. Manufacturers now offer electronic and computerized machines that are virtually trouble-free and much more reliable than previous versions.

With the addition of specialized features and functions, users are now offered a selection of machines suited to their sewing style.

Quilting machines, in particular, are specifically designed to make the [quilting](#) experience easy and trouble-free, and also provide the quilter with a machine that can give a professional finish to any project.

A quilting machine has special features which include:

### **Extended Bed Space**

The bedspace is the working area located between the needle and the inside of the machine. An extended bed space offers an area of approximately 8-9” wide by 5-6” high, which is larger than a standard sewing machine and provides more than ample space for a quilter to maneuver bulky quilts or large pieces of fabric

### **High Speed**

Most top-of-the-line quilting machines offer high speed stitching which is usually around 1000 stitches per minute. The high speed rating is normally applied to the straight stitch only, with slightly reduced speed for decorative stitches. This feature offers the quilter the ability to quickly piece and quilt their project.

### **Stitch Regulator**

Some manufacturers offer an optional

attachment for their machines called a stitch regulator. The purpose of the stitch regulator is to provide a consistent stitch length when doing free motion quilting, regardless of how slow or fast the fabric is being moved.

### **Quilting Stitches**

Specialty quilting stitches, such as buttonhole appliqué and faux hand-quilting stitches, offer a quick and simple alternative to these traditional hand-quilting techniques.

### **Manual Tension Control**

Some quilting machines are equipped with a manual tension control. This control offers the quilter the ability to regulate the top thread tension quickly and accurately. This offers an advantage over machines with automatic tension control.

As quilters often use different weights of thread in the top and bobbin, proper tension control becomes critical. With a manual control a quilter can easily and incrementally fine tune their top tension as they are stitching.

With an automatic control it is necessary to access the settings within the control panel of the machine which takes longer and can be less accurate.

### **Manual Stitch Length/Width Control**

As with the manual tension control, a manual stitch length/width control is also located on the front of the machine and similar benefits apply.

### **Needle Up/Down**

A needle up/down setting allows the user to stop [sewing](#) with the needle in the down position. This is an advantage when working with heavy quilts or when doing free motion quilting. When stopping with the needle down, there is less chance of the quilt slipping providing a continuous stitch line.

### **Auto thread cutter**

An automatic thread cutter is a very useful feature on a quilting machine. Cutting both the top thread and the bobbin thread in one simple action, it reduces both thread wastage and the time taken to manually trim thread tails.

### Feed Dogs Control

Dropping the feed dogs allows your quilt to move easily when doing free motion quilting.

When deciding if a quilting machine is right for you, shop around and visit your local sewing machine dealers. Try out two or three models and then decide which one is for you.

### About the Author

Linda Matthews is a textile artist, designer and teacher, and her website [CreativeTextileAndQuiltingArts.com](http://CreativeTextileAndQuiltingArts.com) offers an abundance of inspiration, education and motivation in the creative aspects of textile and quilt art.

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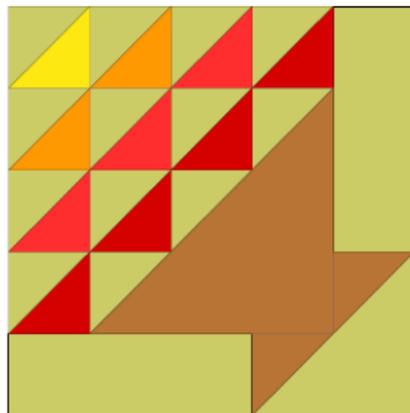
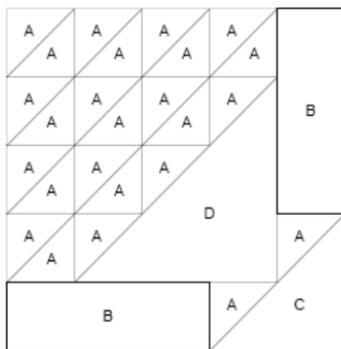
## Block of the Month

This month's block is a classic to add to your block collection. Care must be taken with the piecing, but when properly sewn together, you will be proud to include this Basket of Flowers Block in any of your quilted projects!

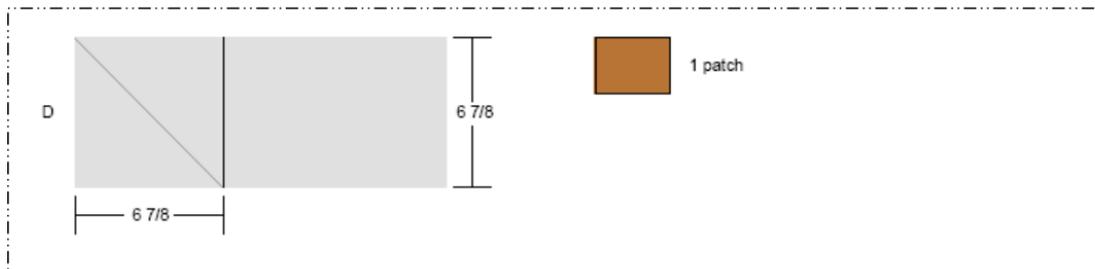
To make this 10 inch block as shown, you will need six different fabrics and once you have rotary cut the pieces according to the Cutting Diagram, you can piece them together as shown below.

### Basket of Flowers

Key Block (5/20 actual size)



Cutting Diagrams		Patch Count			
A			13 patches		2 patches
			1 patch		2 patches
			3 patches		4 patches
B			2 patches		
C			1 patch		



## Today's Tips:

### For Machine Quilting -

- Choose a busy print for the backing if you want your quilting stitches to be less visible.
- Spray starch the backing to make it move more easily on the sewing surface.
- Clean and spray wax your machine bed and table surface to help the quilt sandwich slide around easily.
- Rather than rolling the quilt into a tube, accordion-pleat it for greater flexibility under the sewing machine.
- When using invisible thread, choose clear monofilament to quilt a light-coloured top and smoky monofilament thread for dark colours.
- Placing the monofilament spool in a small jar behind the machine rather than on the spool pin may give better tension and keep the thread from unwinding too fast and tangling.

## YES, We Want to Hear From You!

We're still getting started and as our new 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!

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