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Bonus Project – Valentine Heart Quilted Wallhanging

What's New From The Fat Quarter Shop

Fabric Advice For Beginning Quilters

Things To Look For When Collecting Antique Quilts

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Letter from the Editor

Jody Anderson

Hi!

Welcome to our newest Issue!

As this month includes Valentine's Day, we have a couple of lovely quilted heart wallhanging project ideas from regular contributors Rose and Penny that we thought you may like to share with your "someone special" (and if you decide to keep it for yourself, then there's ABSOLUTELY nothing wrong with that!!)

Valentine's Day aside, I have a request for your help on Page 12. My "someone special" has set me a challenge (based on an unwelcome opinion), and although I love him – I'd LOVE to prove him wrong!!!

This month we also have more great new articles, another block to try, a couple of hints, a wonderful poem, and of course, the regular monthly Horoscope for you Aquarians out there...

And to our Australian Readers who have been affected by the devastating floods in recent weeks, Hang in There! We all wish you the very best and we are thinking of you...

Take Care, *Jody*

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Navigating the Quilting Bakery - Fabric Advice For Beginning Quilters

By Annie B

For the person who is just getting into the art and craft of quilting, the first visit to a quilting store can tend to be a bit overwhelming.

On the surface, a person might thing that quilting is a simple as finding a pattern, finding the right fabric, having a few quilting specific tools and supplies. While this is true, like most things that are taken seriously by a lot of people, once you start peeling back the layers of the onion, there is a lot to learn.

Take fabric for example. Once you start your investigation you will begin to see lots of new and wacky terms. The conversation could go something like this; "Like this pattern? It is very easy, all you need is this quilt kit. However, is you like a different color, you could also make it with these pretty fat quarters, charm squares, jelly rolls, layer cakes or turnovers." Hold on just a minute! Are we trying to quilt here, or have we accidentally landed in a New Orleans Bakery? "Pass the beignets please!".

Here is a quick rundown of the terms that you will need to familiarize yourself with to help you navigate this strange new world of quilting fabric.

Quilting Fabric

The best fabric to use for quilting is 100% cotton. Most quilting fabric is 42" wide although you can find wider yardage that can be found to use for backing.

Obviously, quilting fabric comes in and infinite number of colors and patterns. It is usually recommended that the fabric be washed prior to using to minimize shrinkage and/or fading.

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Keep in mind, though, that fading and shrinkage is not quite as much of a problem with higher quality fabric. If this is a concern you can always wash a small piece of the fabric prior to using.

Quilt Backing

Quilt backing is the fabric panel used as the back piece of a layered quilt. Backing can be made from a single piece of fabric or it can be pieced or assembled in another decorative way.

Sometimes it is possible to find specific fabrics that are made in wider yardage that can be used specifically as backing. This may be a good approach for getting started with beginners quilting.

Quilt kits

Quilt kits contain all of the necessary fabric, in the yardage that you need, to complete the specific quilt patterns that you would like to make.

Usually the backing fabric, batting, and thread are not included in the kits. For the busy quilter kits eliminate a lot time, effort and initial confusion that it takes to pick out fabrics that will work for a specific pattern. It also minimizes waste.

Also, if you see a quilt kit that you like then you can be assured that yours will look the same.

Quilt blocks

Quilt blocks can be a single piece of fabric cut to your specification or pattern specifications or it can be a pieced block (several pieces already sewn together in a particular pattern).

A single quilt block can be used for different purposes such as a quilted wall hanging, quilted potholder, quilted table topper, quilted candle mat or several blocks can be sewn together to make a larger quilt.

For the beginning quilter or quilters on a budget, you may want to search the internet, or our quilt pattern section for a free quilt block pattern.

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Quilting Fat quarters

This is a one fourth yard cut of fabric that usually measures 18" x 22" instead of the typical 9" x 42" quarter-yard cut.

The advantage of a fat quarter is that it is a wider cut of fabric and more economical than the 9" wide quarter yard for certain quilting patterns.

There are many quilt patterns designed specifically for fat quarters.

Quilting Charm squares

These are also sometimes referred to as charm packs, are 5" squares of fabric from a specific fabric line. These come with forty squares in a pack with at least 1 square of every fabric in the line.

These may be used to make quick and easy small quilts by sewing coordinating squares together and bordering with coordinating fabric from that same fabric line or any other coordinating fabric of your choice. There are also new patterns out using charm squares to sew pieced blocks.

Jelly Rolls

These are 2 ½ inch wide strips of every fabric from a specific fabric line rolled up jellyroll style.

These are nice for sewing the strips together for strip quilts, eliminating the need for you to cut each strip.

They can also be used for checkerboard patterns but sewing the long edges of a desired number of strips together lengthwise and cutting across the seams.

These can then be arranged in the desired checkerboard pattern. Again, it is easy because there are a lot of patterns calling for 2" strips and this eliminates the cutting time.

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Charming Jelly Cakes

These are a charm pack, jelly roll and a layer cake of every fabric in a fabric line. There are patterns written specifically for these.

Layer cakes

Quilting Layer cakes are 10" squares with at least one of every fabric from a fabric line. Usually used in the same way as charm squares but for use in making larger quilts.

They can also be cut into half and quarter square diamonds to be used in piece blocks.

Quilting Turnover

These are 6" triangles each fabric in the line with 40 pieces in every pack. This eliminates the need for you to have to cut the charm squares into triangles

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Honey Buns

Honey buns (used to be called cinnamon buns) are 1 ½ inch wide strips of each fabric in a fabric line. Used the same way as Jelly Rolls, they honey buns eliminate having to cut the strips.

Quilt Panels

Quilt panels are a panel of fabric with a pre-printed design. The whole panel may be quilted or sections of the panel may be cut out and used in a pieced quilt.

These are time savers if you use the whole panel because they can be sandwiched and then hand or machine quilted.

Quilt Batting

Quilt batting is the middle part of the quilt that is sandwiched between quilt top and the back. The batting is what gives the quilt its depth and thickness.

There is a large variety of quilt batting to choose from. The batting that you choose for your quilt is basically a personal choice.

Specifically, you should think about what the quilt will be used for and also experiment until you develop a personal preference.

High loft batting is very puffy. 100% cotton batting is a thinner bat and is used when you want the quilt to have an aged appearance as it shrinks when washed, giving the quilt a slightly wrinkled appearance.

Pellon, which comes in several thicknesses, is a batting used for table quilts and wall hangings that you wish to have a flatter appearance.

Quilting Applique

This is the process of sewing one or more smaller pieces of fabric onto a larger background.

Applique can be accomplished by hand or by machine. Busy quilters generally use an iron-on applique product.

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These iron onto the back of the fabric, are cut out into specific designs and are then ironed onto the quilt top.

For seldom washed quilts this is all that is required, for quilts with heavier use a button hole or zigzag stitch holds the applique firmly in place.

About the Author:

For more tips, hints and advice on quilting and quilting fabrics as well as a calendar of regional quilting shows go to www.highplainsquilting.com.

http://www.highplainsquilting.com has been developed as a full service quilting web site that offers fabrics tools advise and a community forum where users can get together talk about upcoming quilt shows, give quilt store reviews and display their best work for others to see in the quilting gallery.

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www.HowToBindAQuilt.com

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A Heart Log Cabin Quilt

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

Whether it's Valentines' Day, Mothers' Day, or just another day to say "I love you," this quilt or wall hanging is easy to make and will make your loved one smile all year long.

The key to the design in a log cabin quilt or wall hanging is to determine **how you will lay out the logs** in each block, and then how to place the blocks in your quilt.

The logs in this quilt are a small 1/2 inch wide, and each block is 3 1/2 inches square.

This quilt was my first attempt at a Log Cabin quilt. It looked so easy, and the pattern said to cut 1 inch strips and then add them to each block and cut off the excess.

That sounded pretty easy, too. So, I started with 20 inch long strips, sewed a white strip and red strip together and cut 1 inch pieces to get the center two squares of the red-white blocks.

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From there, I took a white strip and **sewed the red-white square pairs to the white strips**.

Once the white strip was full of red-white pairs, I **cut the white strip to fit the square pairs**. I continued adding logs in the same fashion – sewing the strips onto the block, then cutting the fabric strip to match the block.

Although it seemed like a great plan, in the final analysis, it really **wasn't the best way to get square blocks.**

As you might imagine, because of the differences in the fabrics, some of them stretched more than others, and my final blocks range in size from 3 inches to 3 1/2 inches!

Part way through, I realized that this was becoming a problem, so I switched to measuring the logs before I added them to the partially-completed blocks.

Another lesson learned.

Some of the blocks are half red and half white

Other blocks are all red

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.

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I Need Your Help...!

(Please).....

This is purely personal, but I'm hoping you can help...

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*

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Collecting Antique Quilts - History, Heirlooms, and High Art

By Kimberly Clay

From the earliest days of the American colonies, quilts were an important part of everyday life.

They kept the family warm, sometimes covered the dinner table, and occasionally flew high as banners. Now those same functional and beautiful antique quilts are highly prized by modern collectors.

The Most Common Antique Quilts

Among the countless quilts tucked away in chests, antique stores, and museums, there are a few particular types that are most common.

The "Appliqué" quilt, most popular between 1775 and 1885, consisted of pieces of fabric design that were quilted onto a large, solid color-block.

The "Trapunto" quilt was a popular kind of appliqué quilt in which the designs were stuffed with cotton to create a raised look and feel.

"Album" quilts were made up of small sections, each section sewn by someone different, and then put together to form one large quilt.

"Patchwork" quilts were made of a distinct pattern, whether a square, a rectangle, or some other configuration. Though patchwork quilts were most common from 1775 to 1875, they have been embraced by quilters of all time periods.

"Crazy" quilts, popular from 1870 to 1890 (and well into the 1930's and '40's, especially in rural areas of Appalachia and the South), were made

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with anything a quilter could find that looked appropriate in their work, including bits of worn family clothing. They seemed to have no rhyme or reason, other than in the mind of the person who created them.

In part because of this, Crazy quilts are often believed to have been created more of necessity and household utility rather than a particular sense of design or pattern. Because of their personal nature, Crazy quilts often have great sentimental value.

From Household Chore to Works of Art

As the American cotton industry began to evolve in the early 1800s, so did the creation of quilts.

Before the time of the sewing machine, quilts were stitched by hand. Quilts created from 1800 to 1825 often show impressive levels of craftsmanship, with tiny stitches that were meant to last through years of use.

By 1850, practically every household in the United States had a quilter in their midst, and the needlework skill varied from the neat, distinct, and careful hand-stitching of experienced quilters to the uneven and less-attractive stitches of untutored amateurs.

In the years after the Civil War, the industrial revolution found a foothold, popularizing mechanized tools, and helping the sewing machine to become a household staple.

Gradually, the fine stitching of quilts became a much rarer craft, in favour of pieces that could be created faster, with less attention to detail. Quilts wouldn't be considered functional pieces of art until the late 20th century, when quilting saw an intense revival that continues to this day.

Family and Community Heirlooms

Some of the world's most beautiful quilts never find their way to a museum wall or even to an appraiser. They reside on the beds of family members who can tell you which ancestor

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stitched them together, when they did it, and why. These are the family heirlooms, often quilts made for a specific person, possibly given as gifts, and then passed down through generations.

As keepers of history, quilts are a story-telling medium. They were often created to honor someone's place in a community, to celebrate a wedding or a new home, and to mark special days.

Quilts were also used to make political or social statements. One of the best modern examples can be found in the AIDS Quilt, a project founded in 1987 that brings together the families of those who have passed away from the complications of AIDS.

What is Valuable...and How to Tell

When you are seeking the perfect antique quilt, knowledge of quilting techniques and materials is the key to getting the genuine article. Reproductions can sometimes be convincing enough to fool seasoned experts! To be certain you are getting a true antique quilt, keep the following points in mind.

- **What type of batting was used?** The polyester batting familiar to modern quilters is a relatively new development; polyester wasn't popular until the 1960s. Antique quilts will usually contain wool or cotton, and they will sometimes have silk batting. Another common practice was to use old, ragged quilts as batting in new ones.
- **Consider the thread.** Before thread was cheap and readily available, many women used the heavy cotton threads from feed sacks to sew their quilts together. On an appliqué quilt, is white thread used throughout? Matching threads in appliqué quilts is more of a modern standard.
- **Look carefully at the stitching.** The stitches should be small, evenly spaced, and very regular throughout the quilt.

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Most true antique quilts were made to be beautiful as well as functional, and the tight stitching insured that the quilt would not fall apart after years of use.

- **Examine the condition of the cloth.** The fabric of an old quilt will likely be very soft and possibly worn thin in places. Newer quilts might look pristine for decades, but true antique quilts were probably well-loved and used regularly.
- **Consider the size of the bed.** Bed configurations have changed over the years. A quilt large enough for a modern king bed, for instance, was not the aim of a quilter in the early 1800s.
- **What dyes were used?** Dyes in the early 19th century were made by boiling plants on the stove, usually in iron pots, in order to extract their color. Most of these colors were rather drab, and consisted of earthy colors, such as slate or light greens. Aniline dyes were popular around the time of the Civil War, and started out quite vivid, but faded over time.

So whether you collect antique quilts with an eye for design, an interest in the heritage they represent, or simply as a means of investment, it is very important to choose an antique dealer who has a good reputation.

Serious antique dealers will go the extra mile to secure the provenance, or the known history of the quilt, so far as they can trace it. And a reputable dealer can be the difference between a wall full of treasures and a chest full of reproductions.

About the Author:

For the best resource to buy antiques & collectibles and find dealers, shops, galleries and resources in Central Kentucky, visit http://www.CentralKentuckyAntiques.com.

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Valentine Heart Quilted Wall Hanging

By Rose Smith from www.ludlowquiltandsew.co.uk

There are any number of Valentine cards in the shops already, but nothing is going to say it as personally as a quilted wall hanging that you have made yourself. This will be a Valentine gift that someone will treasure!

I have made this Valentine quilted wall hanging using a simple heart in the middle and a fading outline in lighter shades of fabric. That leaves the middle of the heart free for you to embroider a name or a message if you wish.

The quilted wall hanging is made medallion style, beginning in the middle and working outwards.

To make the heart itself you will need four 2.3/4" squares each in red and white, two red 2.1/2" squares and six white 2.1/2" squares.

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Place the red and white 2.3/4" squares with right sides together and mark a line along the diagonal. Sew a seam 1/4" to either side of the marked line. Cut along the marked line and you will end up with two squares, each made up of a red and a white triangle.

Place the triangle squares as shown with two red 2.1/2" squares in the middle and two white 2.1/2" squares in the bottom corners. Place four 2.1/2" squares across the top of the heart - not shown as I forgot to take a photo at that stage! Using a 1/4" seam sew together across the rows and then sew the rows together.

For the next stages I found that roughly two 1.1/2" strips of red and two of white provided enough squares for the first frame, and three strips of each colour provided enough for the next two frames.

For the first frame round of quilt squares, cut a 1.1/2" strip each of red and white fabric across the width of the fabric. Using a 1/4" seam sew these together and cut across the width at 2.1/2" intervals to make squares.

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The squares are now used with the stripe either horizontal or vertical. Above the white squares of the heart the first row is made of one vertical square (red to the right), two horizontal squares (red at bottom) and one vertical square (red to the left). The row above that is one horizontal (red to bottom), two plain white squares and one horizontal square (red to bottom).

The first row beneath the heart is one vertical square (red to the left), two plain white squares and one vertical square (red to the right). The row beneath that is four horizontal squares (red to top).

Sew these two rows at top and bottom to the heart quilt panel and then make the strips to go down each side. The left hand strip is made of a horizontal square (red at bottom), five vertical squares (red on left), one horizontal square (red on top) and one white square. The right hand strip is the same but with the red on the right hand side for the vertical squares.

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For the next frame of quilt blocks I used a dark pink to start to fade from the red of the heart.

As with the red, there are two strips above, two strips below and one strip down either side.

The first row above the red frame is white square, vertical stripe (pink on right), two horizontal strips (pink on bottom), vertical stripe (pink on left) and white square.

The row above that is two horizontal stripes (pink on bottom), two white squares, two horizontal stripes (pink on bottom). Sew the squares across each row and then sew the rows to the top of the quilt panel.

The first row below the red frame is one vertical stripe (pink on left), four white squares, vertical stripe (pink on right).

The row below that is six horizontal stripes (pink on bottom).

Again, sew the squares across each row and then sew the rows to the bottom of the quilt panel.

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The left hand column is one horizontal stripe (pink to bottom), nine vertical stripes (pink to left) and one horizontal stripe (pink to top).

The right hand column is the reverse: one horizontal stripe (pink to bottom), nine vertical stripes (pink to right) and one horizontal stripe (pink to top).

That gives you two frames around the central heart. I went for one further frame in a pale pink.

The first row above the pink frame is two white squares, one vertical stripe (pink to the right), two horizontal stripes (pink to the bottom), one vertical stripe (pink to the left) and two white squares.

The next row up is three horizontal stripes (pink to bottom), two white squares and three horizontal stripes (pink to bottom).

The first row below the pink frame is one vertical stripe (pink to the left), six white squares and one vertical stripe (pink to the right). The row beneath that is eight horizontal stripes with pink to the top.

The left hand column is one horizontal stripe (pink to the bottom), thirteen vertical stripes (pink to the left), one horizontal stripe (pink to the top) and one white square.

The right hand column is one horizontal stripe (pink to the bottom), thirteen vertical stripes (pink to the right), one horizontal stripe (pink to the top) and one white square.

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(I'm sorry if that all sounds a bit like a knitting pattern, but it was the only way that I could think to explain it.)

For the border, a further row of 2.1/2" white fabric was added and for the binding I used the same red as for the heart to frame the quilted wall hanging, using a 2.1/2" strip.

Although this is a very simple pattern, I did find that I had to be very careful about which way the stripe faced (with pink to right or left) and I had to unpick several times when I had lost concentration and sewn the stripe the wrong way round! However, I think it was worth it to create such a personal Valentine quilted wall hanging.

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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

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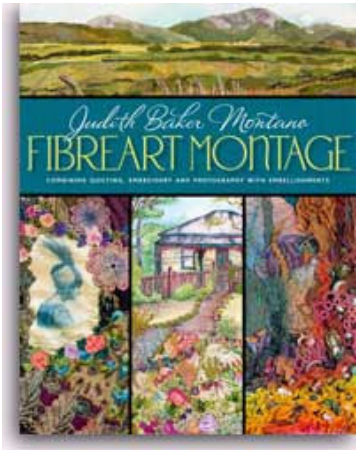
"You don't have to be Crazy...."

Book Review By Annette Mira-Bateman from www.QuiltBlockoftheMonthClub.com

When I decided that I needed a "crazy" background for a new quirky-stitcheries wall hanging, I realized that I required expert advice on making this look good.



Some enquiries of our quilting group produced Judith Baker Montano's book "Fibre Art Montage". The chapter on Crazy Quilting gave me all I needed to do this project. You'll have to wait for the" Flutterbies" CD to see the end result.

Judith explains very clearly the whole process of creating crazy quilting projects, from colour choices to fabrics, to embellishments. The accompanying photographs illustrate every step of the way. She summarises the main points as follows:

"*I have one cardinal rule for traditional crazy quilting and that is to never put pattern against pattern.*
This will create a very busy look and the embroidery stitches on the seam lines will not

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show up. Always bounce solids against patterns and textured solids."

Her Centrepiece Method gives step by step instructions with descriptions and pictures of the whole process.
She uses mainly rectangular pieces which may be trimmed to other shapes when doing the next round. I like the way she gives her name to the Montano Mitred Rectangles in the Montano Centrepiece Method.

She advises one third plain coloured fabrics, one third patterned and one third textured - not too many ribbons and braid and never place these over seam lines; these are saved for the embroidery. Her use of curved pieces breaks up the straight line patterns nicely.

I was quite getting into the swing of things with my wall hanging, when I reached the edges. Embroidering is always fun and a great excuse to try something new. You can hardly "go wrong" after all! Further back in the book is a very clear explanation of how to do as many embroidery stitches as you could ever wish for.

I finished my project and was feeling quite pleased with it when I turned the page and found a riot of Kaffe Fassett fabrics... Wow - maybe that's next! Or maybe one of those cottage gardens... or perhaps a landscape...

"Fibre Art Montage" is well worth buying. It's easy to read and understand and is well complimented by Judith Baker Montano's beautiful photographs.

About the Author:

Annette Mira-Bateman is one half of the mother/daughter design team behind the www.QuiltBlockoftheMonthClub.com and the www.BagMakingPatternsClub.com . They also have Pattern CD-Roms available at www.Quilts-n-Bags.com

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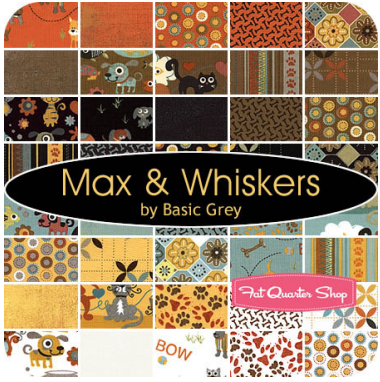
What's New from The Fat Quarter Shop

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".



Max & Whiskers by Basic Grey for Moda

Max & Whiskers by Basic Grey for Moda will bring out the animal lover in anyone!

This group features cute little dogs and cats in great whimsical prints. You'll love the dog bones, stripes doggy footprints and stitched dots that complement the main animal prints.

Max & Whiskers is available in Fat Quarter Bundles, Fat Eighth Bundles, Jelly Rolls, Charm Packs, Layer Cakes and yardage.

Check out this range at:

http://www.fatquartershop.com/Max-and-Whiskers-Basic-Grey-Moda-Fabrics.asp

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Lovely by Sandy Gervais for Moda

Full of bright summer fun, with Lovely by Sandy Gervais for Moda you'll long for those hot days of summer!

Imagine a garden filled with bright summer flowers in yellows, reds and blues … how lovely. Great florals are accented with polka dots, Sandy's solids, wavy stripes, plaids and swirls.

This bright and fun collection is available in Fat Quarter Bundles, Fat Eighth Bundles, Jelly Rolls, Charm Packs, Layer Cakes, yardage and the Perfect Arrangement Quilt Kit. Be sure to check out the coordinating patterns from Pieces from My Heart.

See this range at:

http://www.fatquartershop.com/Lovely-Sandy-Gervais-Moda-Fabrics.asp

Oasis by 3 Sisters for Moda Fabrics

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Relax and enjoy the soft, subtle tones of Oasis by 3 Sisters for Moda Fabrics.

Their latest collection features beautiful floral prints on cream, soft pink, butter yellow, soothing blue, rich red and cool gray.

Oasis is available in Fat Quarter Bundles, Fat Eighth Bundles, Jelly Rolls, Charm Packs, Layer Cakes and yardage. You'll truly relax with the Oasis Moda Quilt Kit.

Click the link below to see this collection:

http://www.fatquartershop.com/Oasis-3-Sisters-Moda-Fabrics.asp

Scarborough Fair collection by Robyn Pandolph for RJR Fabrics

Introduce a little romance into your life with the new Scarborough Fair collection by Robyn Pandolph for RJR Fabrics!

This pastel collection features Robyn's signature floral prints with great tonal prints, paisleys and vertical stripes.

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Scarborough Fair is available in five colorway Fat Quarter Bundles, a complete bundle, Twice the Charms, 108” wide yardage, Charm Pack and yardage.

See this collection at:

http://www.fatquartershop.com/Scarborough-Fair-Robyn-Pandolph-RJR-Fabrics.asp

Entries wanted for the

Rotary International Hoffman Challenge.

Its not often we can help to make the lives of others better just by doing something we love. This challenge does just that as all profit from your purchase of the challenge pack and your entry fee goes to Rotary International.

For more details just visit our web site www.bengeoretreat.com.au or contact

diane@bengeoretreat.com.au

(Sponsors include Bernina Australia, SewKnit, Victorian Textiles & Tasmanian Craft Fair. The Top 20 quilts will be exhibited at the Tasmanian Craft Fair.)

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Ode to my Wife the Quilter

(author unknown)

She Learned to Quilt on **MONDAY.**
Her stitches all were fine
She forgot to make us dinner
So we all went out to dine

She quilted miniatures on **TUESDAY**
she says they are a must
They really were quite lovely
But She forgot to dust

On **WEDNESDAY** it was a sampler.
She says stippling's fun
What Highlights What Shadows!
But The LAUNDRY wasn't done

Nine Patches were on **THURSDAY**
Green,Yellow, Blue and Red.
I guess she really was engrossed
She never made the Bed.

It was wall hangings on **FRIDAY.**
In colors she adores
It never bothered her at all
That crumbs were on the floor

I found a maid on **SATURDAY**
My week is now complete
My wife can quilt the hours away
The house will still be neat

Well, now it's only **SUNDAY**
I think I'm about to wilt
I cursed, I raved, I ranted
Cause ***the Maid has learned to QUILT !***

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Amish Quilts For Sale

By Betty Wolfe

Not just anyone can produce an Amish quilt. They are made by Amish people.

A book written by Bettina Havig "Amish Quiltmaker," says there is a difference among Amish quilts and Amish made quilts. Amish quilts are those truly used in Amish homes.

Amish-made quilts are made by an Amish quilter and sold to help supplement the household's income.

The quilts used by the Amish in their homes are actually rather simple and utilitarian. They are not at all like the detailed quilts Amish quilters produce to sell.

Instead, the quilts used by the Amish in their homes use simple solid color fabrics and simple piecing designs. Treadle sewing machines are used by many quilt makers in Amish communities

Then, the whole thing is hand quilted using a large floor frame to stretch it out.

You've probably noticed that you don't see a lot of applique in Amish or Amish made quilts?

There is a reason. Having explains that the Amish simply don't think it's frugal to layer fabric without need. They look at layering fabric as frivolous and not an good use of fabric.

Whether a home quilt has small prints in it or not often comes down to the community's acceptance. Some cautious communities will allow a small printed fabric to be used in home quilts.

The church usually has vast input in the community's opinion. The fact that some Amish communities are a little less conservative explains

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why you might see an occasional print in an Amish home quilt.

Now that you know this background information, why can't you make an Amish quilt?

Amish is a religious companionship. It's a Christian denomination known for its conservative, simple way of life.

The church dates back to the late 1600s. It would be disrespectful to claim to have made an Amish quilt if you were not indeed Amish.

What you can do is create an Amish inspired quilt. Select your quilt block pattern that you will use. Insure it's a simple quilt block, and that it's not too elaborate or it won't fit the trademark simplicity of the Amish.

Also select your colors accordingly. Keep the colors simple. The quilt should not be too bright or bold, although from time to time Amish quilters use jewel tones in their quilts to make them sparkle.

Colors like red or yellow aren't allowed to be used in sewing projects by some communities. Your Amish inspired quilt should not have many prints.

Most Amish quilts have borders...sometimes more than one border. Borders are included in Amish quilts because they are an effective, simple use of fabric. You definitely want to include a border on your Amish inspired quilt.

As you know by now, you will not see a lot of embellishing on Amish quilts.

Your Amish inspired quilt, then, should also have no embellishment. It is rare to have buttons on articles of Amish clothing, they certainly have no place embellishing a quilt.

The Amish rely on hook and eye closures and snaps for most of their every day clothing. Trousers may have a button for security.

Amish quilts don't need a lot of embellishing or bright colors because the hand work of the

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quilters is what makes them truly beautiful and extraordinary.

The muted colors and simple patterns allow the art of the quilted stitches to shine through. Elaborate quilting designs on a simple backdrop create quite a contrast!

About the Author:

Betty Wolfe has a large selection of Handmade Amish Quilts for Sale, or find quilt blocks; if you're making your own Amish inspired quilt.

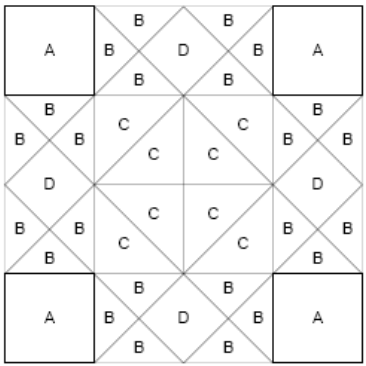
Block of the Month

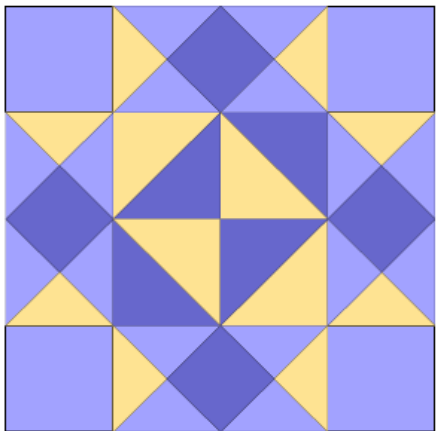
This month's block is a lovely star block that is largely pieced with triangles. You will be able to chain piece much of it, and remember to take care with the placement of the different colour triangles.

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

Girl's Favorite

Key Block (5/20 actual size)





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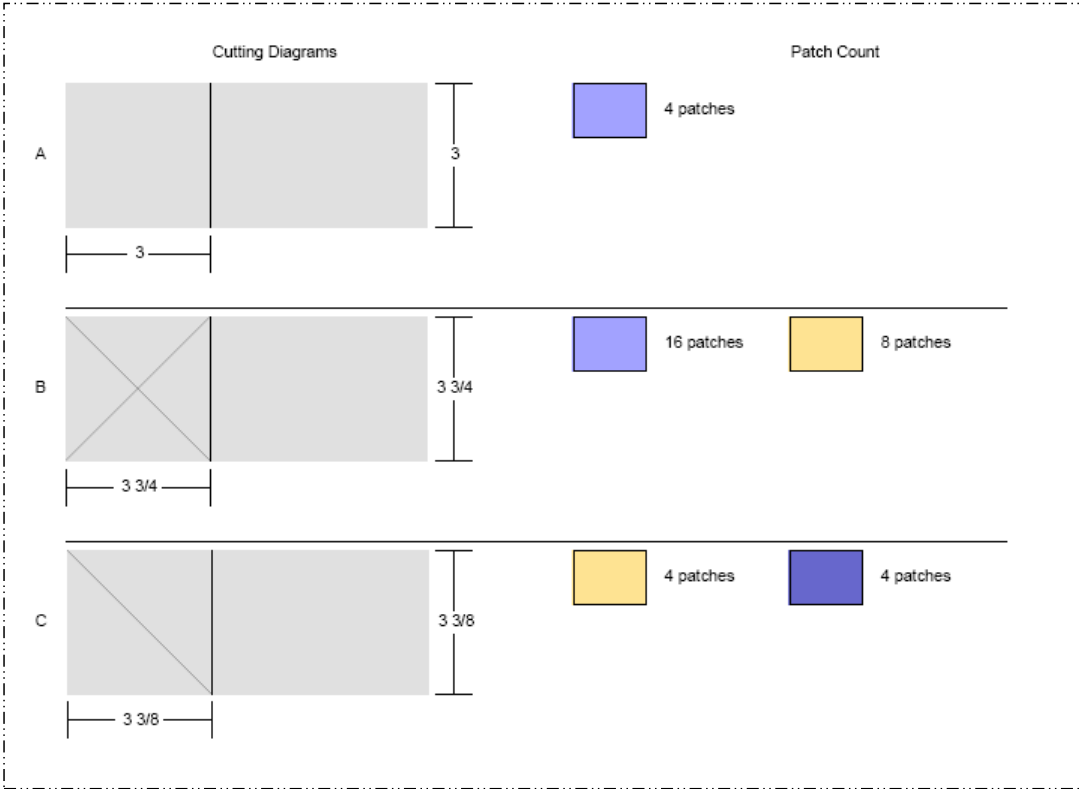

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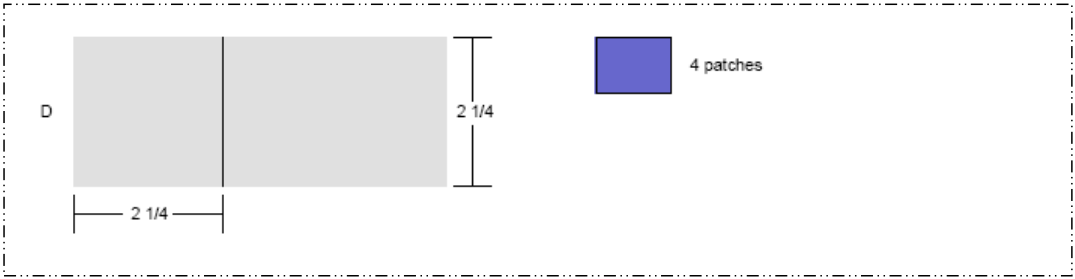

Today's tips:

- For best results when using invisible thread, use a clear thread for light coloured fabrics, and a darker colour for darker fabrics.

- If you want to show off special quilting threads, such as multi-coloured or metallic ones, increase your stitch length slightly to leave more thread on the top of your quilt.

- Aside from looking at the overall balance of your quilt, and the quilting on it, be aware also that concentrated patches of stitching may make your quilt lay differently and perhaps unevenly. Spread areas of concentrated stitching such as stippling evenly through the quilting design to avoid this.

- To have your quilted stitches more clearly visible on lighter coloured fabrics, pull the thread slightly more taut than usual.

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Quilters' Horoscope

By Pauline Rogers from www.QuiltersWorld.com.au

A humourous 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.

Aquarians are very gifted and produce exceptionally original quilts. They are known to invent new techniques that enhance the art form.

They are friendly but their independent nature leads them to prefer to spend time quilting by themselves. Although you can find them in a quilting class, they are the most likely of all signs to choose to learn from books or a video.

However if you ever have a patchwork or quilting dilemma they are the kind of person that you can turn to for help and advice.

They are nice and will be thoughtful when making a quilt for friends or family. They will create the quilt with careful consideration of what the individual would like.

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

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"Quilt-y" Sayings...

- When life gives you scraps - make a quilt.
- A yard a day keeps the blues away.

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