



**How To Master
Independent
Quilting
Designs**

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

**TWO
Bonus
Projects**



**Quilt
Backing
Ideas**

**Top 8
Quilting
Niches To
Sell In**

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Cover Photo of "Butterfly Flight" from www.Quilts-n-Bags.com



Letter from the Editor

Jody Anderson

Hi!

Now that we're in the second half of the year, the weeks are just RUSHING by! I don't want to be the first to say it, but it will be Christmas before we know it, so if you've a spare minute here or there, it might pay to start thinking about what you need to get ready for this year's Festive Season. If you're planning on making some presents – get a head start now, or decide now if you need a new tree skirt or mats for your table. We have a couple of quick projects to consider in this issue for you anyway...

This issue also has a few great articles on quilting too. Penny covers quilt backings, and Leah has some fantastic tips on how to get you started with your own Independent Quilting Designs. Check out her 'how to' diagrams and you'll be all set to start!

Sadly, this is the last month for our Quilters' Horoscope too, but we have another special monthly item to slot in there from next month, and I'm sure you're going to enjoy that!!

Have a great month!

Jody



Quilt Backings

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

With so much emphasis on the quilt top, don't forget the importance of the quilt backing.

A beautiful quilt top is only as beautiful as its backing. After all, the backing helps secure the stitches that quilt your project. You should **select a fabric backing that is appropriate for the quilt top.**

The quilt backing should be a **light or medium weight fabric made of the same fiber as the quilt top.**

So, **how do you get fabric large enough for a large quilt backing** when most fabric is only about 45 inches wide?

It is simple to create a backing the correct width. The easiest way is to use one length of fabric. Cut

another length of fabric as long as the first one. Cut it down the center, lengthwise. Add one of the new long sections of fabric to each side of the original full-width length. Piece them together, press the seams and trim any excess as needed.

Using that technique, you have one wide backing strip in the center of your quilt and two narrower strips on each side.

You may also **piece the backing together** width wise rather than length wise, using two lengths of fabric and the seam running from side to side through the center of the quilt.

Another way to make your backing fabric larger is to actually **piece your backing.** Many quilters take large rectangles of fabric and sew them together. Other quilters use blocks sewn together as backing fabric.

If you are piecing your backing, you may want to keep in mind whether the fabric you are using for your backing will show through to the front of your quilt.

Several years ago I made an Irish Chain quilt using white fabric and green fabric. I decided to piece the backing using a light fabric in addition to a brown fabric. I didn't realize until after the quilt was finished, that the brown cast a shadow onto the front of the quilt.

What made it especially bad was that the brown was in two strips on the top and bottom of the quilt back, with the light fabric in between. This showed through onto the front and made two darker strips on the top and bottom of the quilt. Very disappointing!

In short, here are a couple of things to keep in mind as you piece the backing:

- * Use fabric that won't show through to the front of your quilt, creating a kind of shadow

- * The seams in your quilt backing may make it difficult to quilt, especially if you are hand

**They Laughed When I Said
I was Going to Make
a Quilt with Curves Because They Knew
I Had Just Barely Learned How to Quilt -**

**But Their Laughter Turned to Amazement
When They Saw My Beautiful Quilt
With Its Perfect Curves**



The idea of making a quilt for quilting daughter, Stephanie's Sunday School teacher was mine. But, it wasn't my idea at all to make a quilt that had all of those curves in it!

After all, I had been quilting for only a few years, and was still trying to master sewing straight seams with perfect quarter inch seam allowances. Now you can avoid all of the stress of figuring out how to sew quilts with beautiful curves!

Our brand new Secrets for Sewing Perfect Curves in Quilts DVD Mentor includes an amazing amount of information to make your curved quilting even easier than if you simply attended a workshop.

Check it out: <http://www.how-to-quilt.com/quiltswithcurves.php>

quilting. Keeping the number of seams on your backing at a minimum might be a good plan

* You may sew two lengths of fabric together creating a seam through the center of your quilt. Often it is better to run the seam in the backing from side to side instead of from top to bottom.

On the other hand, sometimes it's fun to have a complete surprise on the back of the quilt. In the quilt below, I used a tropical print on the back of a quilt with a fish theme. I ran out of fabric for the back, so I added the two rectangles to each side - deciding it would look too un-balanced if I added one turquoise rectangle someplace.

This is a wall hanging that rarely is used as a quilt, so nobody sees the back!



This is the front of my quilt. This was a clamshell-style quilt with an ocean fish theme.



The backing fabric is a complete surprise. It is a tropical print, and because I ran out of fabric, I pieced the turquoise strips on each side of the back.

About the Author:

Penny Halgren is a quilter of more than 27 years, and enjoys sharing her love of quilting with others. Sign up for her free quilting tips, quilt patterns, and newsletter at <http://www.How-to-Quilt.com>



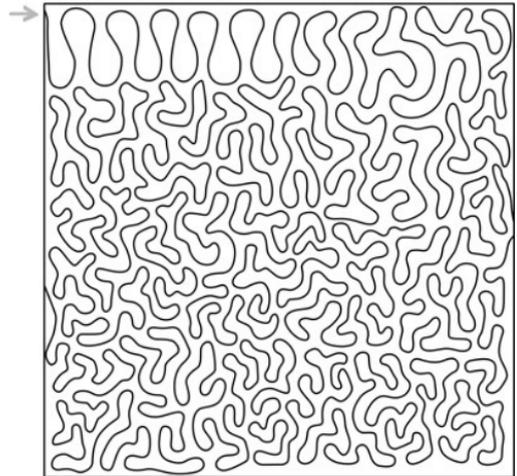
Let's Master Independent Quilting Designs!

By Leah Day from www.FreeMotionQuilt.blogspot.com

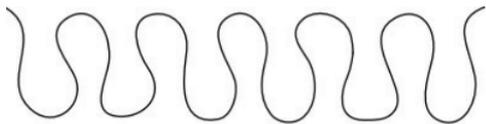
The first question I'm sure you're asking is *"What the heck is an Independent Design?!"*

This is a name I use to describe an entire family of free motion quilting designs. They're a family because they are all quilted very similarly. Once you learn just one of the designs in this family, you should be able to quilt all of the rest with no problem.

The mother of Independent Designs is **Stippling**. This is one of the most popular quilting designs, and because of that, it is often the design quilters want to learn first when learning free motion quilting.



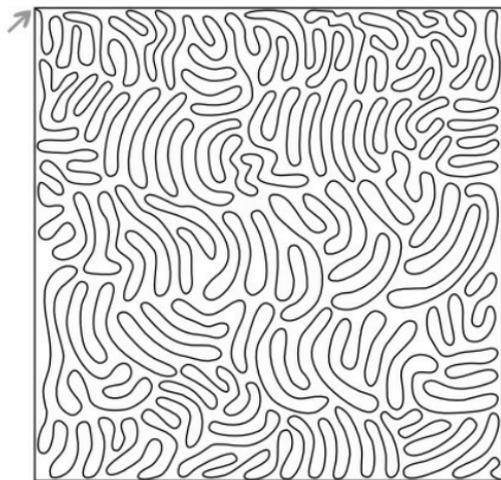
To quilt Stippling, the easiest way to start is by stitching these simple “U” shapes. Just swirl your line of quilting up and down, and get used to making this soft, simple curving shape.



Once you get the hang of stitching this wiggly “U” shape, you’re ready for the next step.

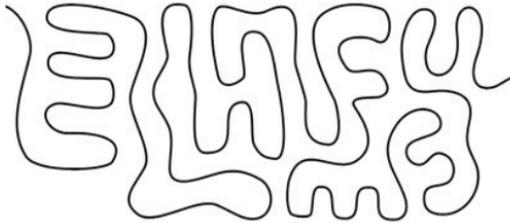
Start by making the “U” shape much longer and more wiggly. The longer the “U” the more interesting the design will be!

Here’s a design called **Alien Fingers** that is basically created by stitching very long, very wiggly “U” shapes on your quilt:



Once you get the hang of Alien Fingers, then try Stippling. Make the “U” shapes much shorter and make sure to curve and bend them around so the design becomes more complex. A great thing to think about while Stippling is cartoony letter shapes.

Check out this example of Stippling below and try thinking about the letters “E, L, H, F, M, C U” as you quilt this design:

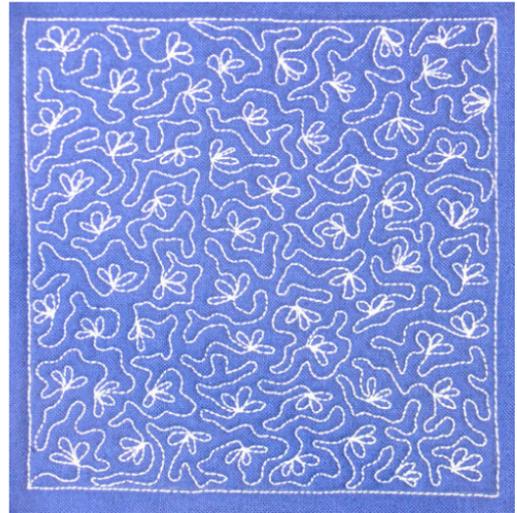


The best possible way to get the hang of any of these designs is to quilt them over your whole quilt in All Over Quilting style. You can learn more about this technique and watch videos to see how it's done right here:

<http://www.daystyledesigns.com/alloverquilting.html>

Once you get the hang of Stippling, now you're ready to start mixing other shapes and angles with this design to create new designs!

Here's a simple Independent Design that incorporates clover shapes into the wiggly Stippling line. This is called **Wandering Clover**:



You can make these designs as simple or as complex as you like simply by playing with adding different shapes to the Stippling base line. Here's

what it looks like when you add hearts to create
Heart Ripples:



Just keep in mind that all you need to do is master ONE of these designs. Quilt one over your whole quilt and memorize how it works.

Once you have that first design mastered, stitching more Independent Designs should be no problem because all of these designs work in very similar ways. Check out this entire family and watch videos on how to quilt them at:

<http://www.daystyledesigns.com/365fillerdesignmain.htm>

About the Author:

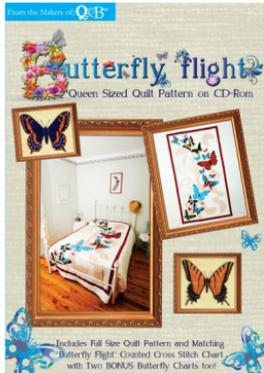
Leah Day is the author of the [Free Motion Quilting Project](#), a blog project dedicated to creating new free motion quilting designs each week and sharing them all for FREE! Leah is also the author of From [Daisy to Paisley - 50 Beginner Free Motion Quilting Designs](#), a spiral bound book featuring 50 designs from the project. www.daystyledesigns.com



New Release Pattern

From www.Quilts-n-Bags.com

After months of requests, we are thrilled to be able to add our signature “Butterfly Flight” quilt to our Quilts-n-Bags collection of patterns on CD-Rom. This is by far the Most Popular Quilt from our Quilt Block of the Month Club.com range, and we are delighted to be able to finally share it with you too. Now You Too can Show Off Your Quilt-Making Skills on this quilt with Definite Wow Factor!



This striking (but easy to make) Queen sized quilt shows a flight of butterflies swirling across a pale Drunkard’s path background. The inspiration for this spectacular quilt came from our Original Cross Stitch design of the same name, and we are very happy to be able to include this Counted Cross Stitch Pattern too as a Free Bonus for you to stitch as a Companion Piece.

We have also included Two More Bonus Counted Cross Stitch Charts of large single butterflies, and as with all of the butterflies on the quilt, all are fairly true to life representations of butterflies from around the world.

And remember, as always, our patterns on CD-Rom are suitable for PC or Mac – just pop the disc in your computer and print the patterns you need. Check out this month’s Cover Quilt at:

www.Quilts-n-Bags.com



Top 8 Quilting Niches To Sell In Online

By Nicola Baume & Fran Smith

Quilting has become more and more popular over the years and with this popularity has come several opportunities for the entrepreneurial quilter to make a successful business.

Deciding on the right quilting niche for you to start selling in is imperative and will take some research. We have put together our top eight quilting niches as a guide to what is possible;

1. **Made To Order.** Making quilts for people who know what they want is a lucrative niche, as these people already have exactly what they want in their head and are willing to pay to get the result they are looking for. This niche can be broken down into smaller niches, such as using memorabilia to make a quilt (eg t-shirts or

2. **Pet Quilts.** The pet industry is enormous and the money spent on pets each year is staggering. People are very willing to spend large amounts of money on their animals so suggesting specialty quilted items such as sleeping mats, coats or travel rugs can make for a profitable business. Think about other opportunities within the pet market such as individualizing the quilt with the animals name or perhaps shaping the quilt to fit the animal.

3. **Aged Care.** As people get older, their needs change from home products to maybe hospital or nursing home products. The introduction of special needs quilts is a niche. Hospital beds are thinner than normal beds, so a caring family would be very willing to undertake whatever was necessary to make their family member comfortable.

4. **Wheelchair quilts.** People in wheelchairs often suffer from the hard surface of the chair and a quilted blanket made to measure for the wheelchair could make all the difference. When thinking of wheelchairs also think about carry bags that could be secured to the chair or arm rests, etc. These could also be made to measure and produced in colors to stand out and give the wheelchair a bit of personality.

5. **Holiday Quilts.** Making quilts associated with special holidays, Easter, Christmas, Halloween, Passover, etc. People tend to dress their homes for holidays so producing quilts with holiday themes meets the need of the customer.

6. **Baby Quilts.** Cradle and cot quilt sets have always been extremely popular so think of a twist to make yours stand out, such as made to measure or individualized in some way. A new child is a very special event and nurseries are a very big part of getting ready, with much thought going into the decorating and design.

7. **Baby Quilted Sleeping Bags.** Babies need portable sleeping bags so they can sleep comfortably where ever they happen to be. Warm strong and washable are the things to think about in this category.

8. **Using One Type of Fabric.** Being known for producing quilts made from one type of fabric is another niche. Try for instance, silk or second hand kimono fabric. The emphasis in this niche is to be the expert on a particular fabric which people want to have quilts made from.

We hope these quilting niche ideas have started you thinking about the possibilities of starting your own quilting venture and have stirred your imagination to come up with some of your own that inspire you to create a business that you will be proud of and will allow you to quilt to your heart's content.

Article Source: <http://EzineArticles.com/2968738>.



Quarter Square Triangles Quilt

By Rose Smith from www.ludlowquiltandsew.co.uk



You can make quarter square triangle units with just two colours and then the patchwork squares all look the same or you can use several colours and come up with some lovely blocks, but you do need to watch out for mirror images. For this quilt I have used the simplest quarter square triangle blocks, but I've given some examples of the more complicated ones at the end of the article.

The quilt block that I have chosen delights in the name of Swamp Angel and is basically a square surrounded by half square triangle blocks and quarter square triangle blocks. To make a lap quilt (or throw) measuring 64" by 46", I have made six of the Swamp Angel blocks and used a wide border with quarter square triangles in the corners. I have used five different fabrics.



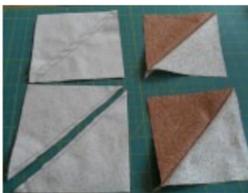
Cut two strips across the width of two of the fabrics 6.1/2" wide and cut them at 6.1/2" intervals to make squares. You should get six squares from each strip of fabric. Place a square of each colour with right sides together and mark a line along the diagonal.

Sew a seam $1/4$ " either side of the diagonal and then cut along the marked line. This gives you two squares each made of a half square triangle of each of the two fabrics. Press the seam towards the dark fabric.



Take two of these half square triangle blocks and place them with right sides together and mark a line along the diagonal - the diagonal that goes across both fabrics. Sew a seam $1/4$ " either side of the marked line and cut along the marked line. This gives you two squares each made up of four quarter square triangles.

It really is as simple as that, and you haven't had to work with fiddly small triangles to make the block. Great, isn't it! Continue with the remaining squares to make 24 quarter square triangle blocks for the main quilt top. You will also need four quarter square triangle units for the corners which means cutting another two $6.1/2$ " squares of these two fabrics.



For the half square triangle blocks, cut two $6.1/4$ " strips each of another two fabrics and cut them at $6.1/4$ " intervals to make squares. Place one brown and one cream square with right sides together, mark a line along the diagonal and sew a seam $1/4$ " either side of the diagonal. Cut along the diagonal line to give two squares made of half square triangles. This is obviously the same as the first part of the quarter square triangles above but with slightly smaller squares.



Cut one strip 5.7/8" wide from the fifth (olive) fabric and cut at 5.7/8" intervals to make squares. Lay the olive squares in the middle with a quarter square triangle block above and below and to each side and then add a half square triangle in each corner. Check the photo to see which way all the triangles face.



With right sides together and using a 1/4" seam, sew the quilt squares together in rows and then sew the rows together. This will give you six swamp angel quilt blocks. Sew them together in pairs and then sew the pairs together to give a quilt top of three rows of two blocks.



For the first part of the border, cut four strips of olive fabric 5.7/8" wide. Cut two of them into lengths of 33" and use the leftovers to sew to the other two lengths to give two lengths of 49.1/2". Sew the 33" lengths to the short edges of the quilt top. Sew one quarter square triangle unit to each end of the 49.1/2" lengths and then sew these strips to the long edges of the quilt top.



The quarter square triangle units were going to be right in the corners of the quilt top but then I decided that I wanted to frame them. To do this cut two lengths of cream fabric 43" by 2.1/2" and sew them to the short edges of the quilt top. Cut two lengths 59.1/2" by 2.1/2" and sew them to the long edges of the quilt top.

The quarter square triangle quilt top is now ready to be layered, quilted and bound. It's a very simple design but gives practice in both half square triangle units and quarter square triangle units.



Now for the other options when making quarter square triangle units.

If you sew together a half square triangle unit with a plain square you get two blocks as shown on the right. Note that the yellow/red triangles are reversed to give mirror images.



If you sew together two different half square triangle units you get two blocks of four different triangle units, but note again that they are not the same as each other.

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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www.ludlowquiltandsew.co.uk



Hints and Tips From Brannie

By "Brannie" Mira-Bateman

When my Mum and Dad get tired of quilting, we can go for a holiday in our bus. Dad took all the seats out of a big bus and built a table with seats and a bed. There is also a fridge for my food and various things for me to play with.

The first time we went for a big trip, they stopped for the night at a farm a long way from here. I always travel in a harness and sit on a chair under the table. When we stop, they let me off to run around.

The first thing I do is go to the front window to check out the view.

Now you know I am an inside cat with a sheltered existence, so imagine my fright when I jumped up

only to find two of the biggest 'dogs' you could imagine, right there looking in the window!! I was stuck! I frizzed up and froze. If I could only keep still they mightn't notice me.

They were chewing and chewing and staring right at me and occasionally one would say, "Mmmmmm."

Were they chewing a cat?? I couldn't move, but gradually they strolled away and with the greatest care and stealth I was able to creep down from the window. Whew!

What were they? Mum laughed at me and took a photo; they didn't seem to realize the danger I was in.



I have been on many other trips now and I am used to seeing other animals. Last week, there were horses all round us as we had stopped in the middle of a pony club meet. I am very superior to any passing dogs, of course and I can ignore them very disdainfully especially if they bark at me. What silly things they are.

The bed in the bus is very soft although it doesn't have a quilt on it.

Too much dust, I think Mum said. Usually I just enjoy lying around in the sun when we go for

holidays. They are always saying something about "brown fur", but you get that.

It was good to hear from quilting cousins Georgia and Fettiina. Thank you for the pictures. You must be a great help to your Mum, Georgia with all that long fur on her quilts. How would they manage without us?

Today we are doing something called "foundation piecing". It involves a lot of getting up and down and talking to oneself. A new quilt on the way, I guess. Watch this space....

Love Brannie,

the Quilt Block of the Month Club Cat!

Don't keep this Online Quilt Magazine all to yourself – it's **FREE**, so share it with your Quilting Guilds and Friends!

Don't wait - Invite them to www.OnlineQuiltMagazine.com to Subscribe and receive each New Issue as soon as it's Published!



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".



Amelia by Me and My Sister Designs for Moda

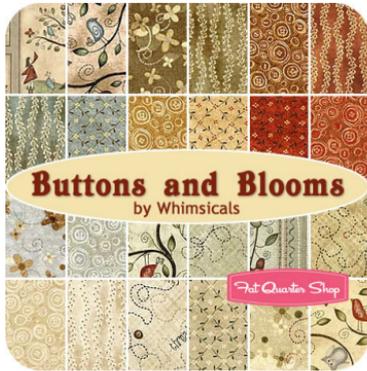
Amelia is full of soft and feminine floral shapes with a BRIGHT attitude! It started out with stronger flower shapes and morphed into something completely different and softer.

Amelia with her sweet florals begged to be printed on flannel, too, so we were happy to oblige in favor of an extra cuddly cloth.

Amelia by Me and My Sister Designs is available in fat quarter bundles, fat eighth bundles, jelly rolls, layer cakes, charm packs, cotton and flannel yardage. Don't miss our Easy as Ten Quilt Kit, as some cheer to your day in no time!

View this range at:

<http://www.fatquartershop.com/Amelia-Moda-Fabrics-Me-and-My-Sister-Designs.asp>



Buttons & Blooms by Whimsicals for Red Rooster

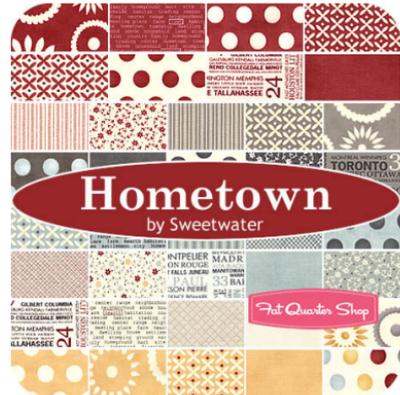
Buttons & Blooms by Whimsicals for Red Rooster combines motifs from both sewing and gardening in her newest fabric collection. The thematic quilt panel includes one large block and two smaller blocks that depict a button tree and flower garden tenderly cared for by a sweet friend. The panel's side borders will work well as frames for pillows or handles for a tote!

Soft, warm colors are used throughout the collection that uses Terri's signature neutral

palette accented with redwood, faded denim and silver gray. Your creative ideas are sure to flow when using this delightful fabric collection! Available in fat quarter bundles and yardage. You'll love our Buttons and Blooms Quilt Kit!

Check it out at:

<http://www.fatquartershop.com/Whimsicals-Fabric-Red-Rooster-Fabrics.asp>



Hometown by Sweetwater for Moda

Hometown, everybody has one, or two or three. See if you can spot your hometown in Sweetwater's latest collection for Moda!

Dots and spots, stripes and criss-cross prints are all great accents to the main "town square" print. Muted shades of red, mustard, gray and blue give this collection classic appeal.

Available in fat quarter bundles, jelly rolls, layer cakes, charm packs and cotton and canvas yardage. Rediscover your hometown with our exclusive Home Sweet Home Quilt Kit!

See this collection at:

<http://www.fatquartershop.com/Hometown-Sweetwater-Moda-Fabrics.asp>

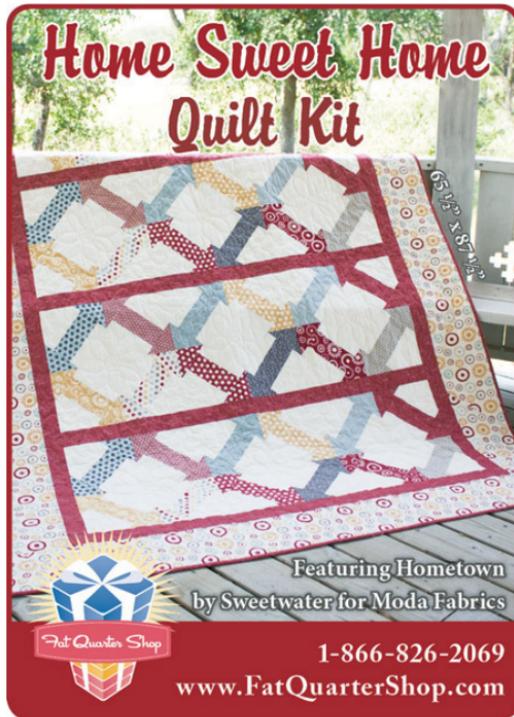


Together by Brannock and Patek for Moda

A picturesque country cottage is the ideal gathering place for family and friends this autumn. Celebrate the unity of being together with a lovely quilt from this collection of bold, dramatic florals, ornate vines, and delicate blossoms in deep, rich colors that will warm your hearts and homes. Available in fat quarter bundles, jelly rolls, layer cakes, charm packs and yardage.

Find this range at:

<http://www.fatquartershop.com/Together-Brannock-and-Patek-Moda-Fabrics.asp>



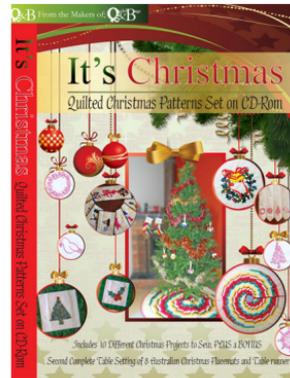
**Home Sweet Home
Quilt Kit**

Featuring Hometown
by Sweetwater for Moda Fabrics

Fat Quarter Shop

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

The image shows a quilt with a geometric pattern of arrows in red, blue, and yellow on a white background. The quilt is displayed on a wooden deck in front of a window with greenery outside. The text 'Home Sweet Home Quilt Kit' is written in a red, cursive font at the top. Below the quilt, there is a logo for Fat Quarter Shop and contact information.



NEW RELEASE

What's
Christmas
without all
those lovely
handmade
goodies?

This set of 10 Different Christmas projects on CD-Rom has something for everyone.

And all of these make great gifts by themselves too! Featuring simple applique, piecing and embroidery techniques, these festive projects are suitable for everyone, from Beginners to Experts.

This set also includes our Christmas Bonus to you - a Second Complete Table Setting with 8 Different Placemats and another Tablerunner to match!

Grab your copy NOW at

www.Quilts-n-Bags.com



Bonus Project – Clove Teapot Stand

From www.QuiltBlockoftheMonthClub.com

Although most of us aren't really ready to think about it yet, Christmas is getting closer and closer, and it's time to start thinking about presents for friends and family.



This Clove Teapot Stand is very quick and super easy to make, and would make a great present for a friend, or to put with something else as part

of a bigger present.

This teapot stand or trivet is made from a single piece of fabric, and filled with rice and whole cloves, so that when a hot teapot is placed on the stand, the heat releases the scent of the cloves for a deliciously warm spicy aroma.

You will need:

A piece of fabric measuring $8\frac{1}{2}$ x $16\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

Approx 1 cup of dry rice

Approx 2 teaspoons whole cloves

To Make:

Fold fabric in half with right sides together. With the folded edge at the bottom, sew down both side seams with a ¼ inch seam.

Turn right sides out and using a lead pencil or blue water erasable pen, mark inch-wide lines down the length, parallel with your side seams. You should have 7 lines marked.

Starting at the bottom folded edge, sew up each line through both thicknesses, stopping about a ½ inch from the top.

Using a funnel (much easier this way!) fill each row with a mixture of rice and cloves until it's also just under ½ inch from the top.

Carefully tuck in your seam allowance along the top, pin, and topstitch to close your filled rows.

All done! Time to put the kettle on and make a pot to tea to try this out for yourself!



What? 24 Bag Patterns For only \$27???

Go To www.Quilts-n-Bags.com and check out our Expanding Range of Bag and Quilt Pattern Sets on CD-Rom.

CD-Rom is the new way to access your patterns – just pop the disc in your computer (PC or Mac) and print off the pattern pages you need. Couldn't be simpler!!

See our full range of patterns and 'Bundle & Save' Specials at www.Quilts-n-Bags.com today.

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Get Ready To Quilt Your Quilt

By Bev McClune

When it comes to quilt making the final product is a reflection of the skill of the quilter.

Accomplished quilters know how all of the steps in the process are essential to the outcome of the quilt. Even preparing your quilt top is important and is not the time to take shortcuts.

Here are some handy tips to make getting your quilt ready for quilting easier - without compromising on quality.

Choosing the backing

How much backing you will need depends on the size of your quilt. It is best if it is 4" larger all the way around than your quilt top. This will require the backing to be 8" wider in width and 8" longer in length than the size of your quilt top.

If you are joining two pieces of fabric together for use as a backing, it is best that you make the join on the lengthwise grain. Sewing the material in this manner will produce the absolute best "environment" for the back of your quilt, ensuring fewer problems when pinning and machine quilting.

Many quilters like to "piece" the backing for their quilt, using up left over fabric. It is important that you are aware that this can create problems for you when you attempt to machine quilt the quilt.

The possibility of the fabric "swimming" and creating puckering is much higher when the backing has many joins, as they are not always on the straight grain.

For easier and more successful quilting try to stick to just one join down the lengthwise grain. Once you have completed pinning your quilt, you do

not want to have regrets about a decision made to save a few dollars - one that could end up taking the fun out of quilting. Make wise choices to get the best results.

Making the sandwich

Now that you have your quilt top and your backing, you need to decide on the type of wadding you will use.

Your wadding, like your backing should be 4" larger all the way around than your quilt top. This allows the use of tape or bulldog clips for anchoring the backing and batting down. On top of these layers, you will place your quilt top in preparation for pinning.

It is wise to press your quilt top and backing before you attempt to assemble the quilt sandwich. Many times quilters take shortcuts, such as skipping pressing, which can have an undesirable effect on the outcome of the final product.

Learn How to Free Motion Quilt ALL OF THESE DESIGNS at:



www.FreeMotionProject.com



Pinning the quilt top

What is one of the most important tips for pinning a quilt top? Use only good quality stainless steel safety pins.

Using cheap pins in your quilt can end up being a very expensive lesson. What if something happens and you have to postpone the quilting? If you have used inferior pins, you run the risk of rust ruining your quilt.

The ideal pin size is approximately 1¼" long pin. As the pin needs to go through three layers, any smaller will be too hard to close. A larger gauge pin will leave too big of a hole. Remember to use the good quality pins found at your quilt shop. If you use cheap pins you risk having rust ruin your quilt.

A great tool that makes pin basting your quilt layers easier, safer and faster is the KwikKlip. Using KwikKlip the safety pins close with ease, preventing broken nails, pricked fingers and sore fingertips. The time it takes to pin baste is reduced dramatically.

Choosing marking tools

There are some great choices when it comes to marking quilt designs - there is no need to get in a sweat about it!

The decision depends on what type of design you desire on your quilt. Some options are: freezer paper, quilt and tear paper, Clover blue washout marker, Clover Chaco liner, and Clover water soluble pencils. Often a quilting class is the ideal place to gain skills, learn in detail about the different alternatives and discover which you prefer.

Templates are used by some quilters, but are not as popular a choice as the other options for marking. They can be clumsy and restricting to use. They are a more expensive choice and do not always offer the flexibility that the other marking alternatives provide.

Since discovering quilting ten years ago Bev McClune has become an award winning domestic machine quilter, a professional machine quilter and a popular tutor. She has four how-to quilt DVD's available at <http://www.quiltersworld.com.au>

Article Source: [http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Bev McClune](http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Bev_McClune)

14,287 Pieces of Fabric

Behind the painted picket gate
There lived a quilter known as Kate
She had one son, a boy named John;
One daughter, whom she doted on.
She had one husband and one house
One pup, one cat, one little mouse...

And 14,287 pieces of fabric.

-Author Unknown



Reader Pauline sent this in this month:



"My Mum gave me this saying, she had stitched it and added a little patchwork heart for effect & then framed the lot. I have it hanging in my sewing room, its lovely. "

Families are like quilts,
Stitched with smiles and tears
Coloured with memories
And bound by love

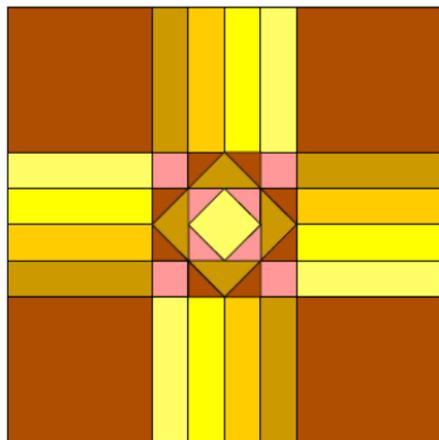
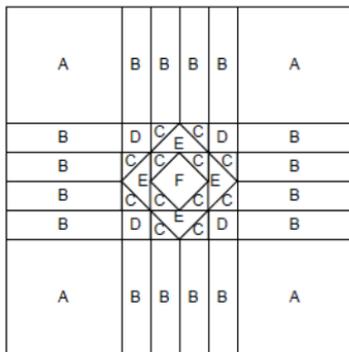
Block of the Month

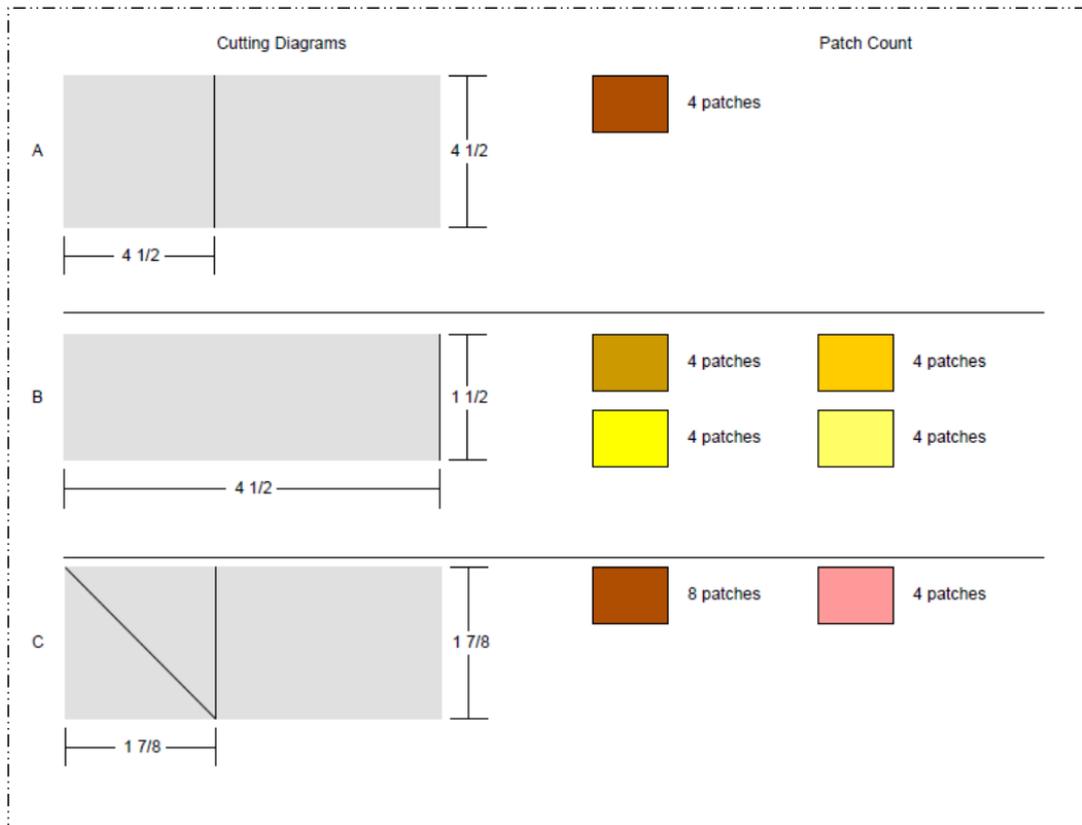
This month's Block is a lovely pieced cross block that will look fantastic in a border or cornerstone setting. Repeat for a more geometric design, or use by itself in a small project. (Try as a throw pillow cover perhaps).

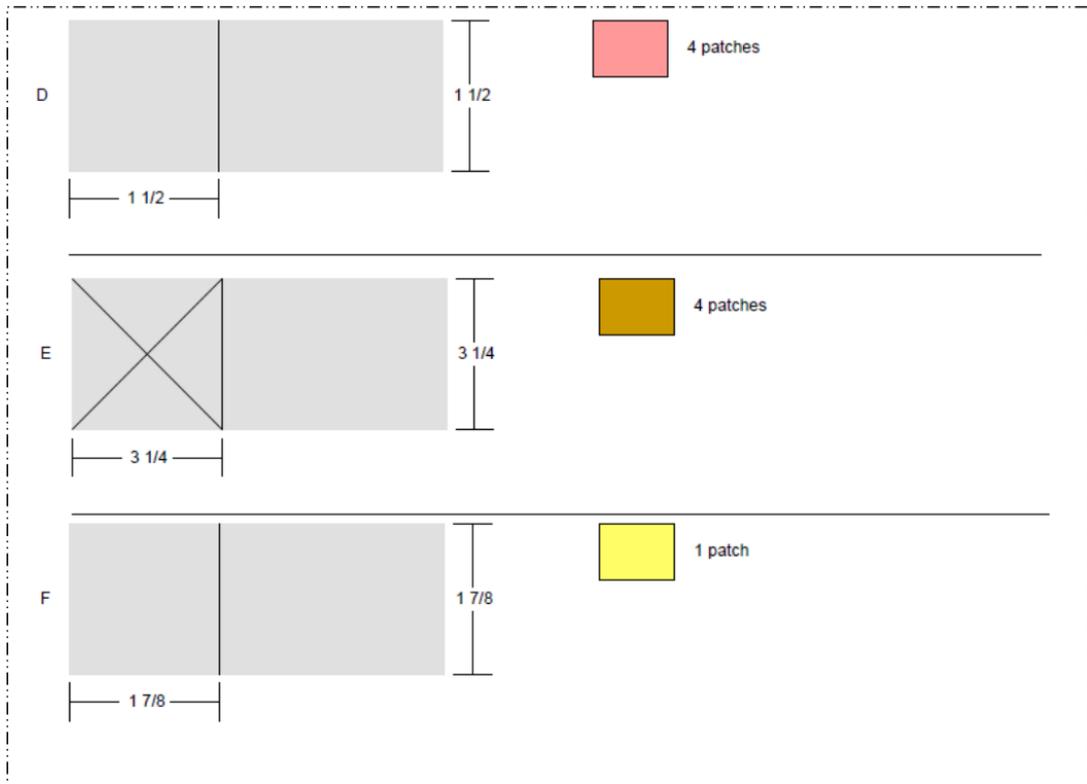
To make this 12 inch block as shown, you will need six different fabrics and once you have rotary cut the pieces according to the Cutting Diagram, you can piece them together as shown below.

Cross 9

Key Block (1/5 actual size)







Today's Tips:

Reader Lynne sent in her ironing tip:

“Mix equal amounts of water and vinegar in a spray bottle and spray fabrics or clothes, brilliant, no smell and what could be cheaper to buy, than vinegar.

I find that if you use pressure cans of spray starch, that in time if fabric, garments or linen are stored for a while, rust marks appear.”

And Reader Jackie in Wales sent in a couple of her own:

“First, instead of temporary adhesive spray which is just sooo expensive in the UK I use the cheapest hairspray I can find. It really works well. The largest quilt I've used it on is a single.

I use the Sharon Schamber method of layering using planks of wood - where she tacks/ bastes I

spray. If you don't know about this method there's a youtube video of it.

Second, I use a teflon sheet anchored down with masking tape as a slider sheet when I Free Motion Quilt. As I was having difficulties with Free Motion Quilting a friend told me about the pink slider which again is expensive and I had just bought a teflon sheet to put in my oven.

So nothing to lose, I tried it and it made moving the quilt much easier. Still need hours of practise but with this and you sending me to Leah Day's site I have hopes that I will finally "crack" the FMQ technique.”

Great tips ladies, and thanks for sharing!!

Send your tips to share to Jody at jody@onlinequiltmagazine.com and we'll include them in a future issue.

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.



Leo - July 23 to August 23

Being one of the most creative signs Leo quilters make wonderful masterpieces. As they are generous and warm-hearted their friends and family are usually lucky recipients of their beautiful creations. They love to read all the patchwork and quilting magazines looking for ideas that they can use. They are always up-to-date on the latest crazes. Although they know quite a bit about their chosen craft and can usually discover straight away where a quilter has run into problems in their projects, they tend to be too bossy when attempting to help fellow quilters. They are great as companions to go fabric shopping with, as they know where the best deals are to be found. They are also great help in selecting coordinating material but be prepared to go along with their decisions or suffer the wrath. They don't like to waste their precious time providing opinions that get ignored.

Leo design from the "Quilting With The Stars" quilt from the www.QuiltBlockoftheMonthClub.com

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jody@onlinequiltmagazine.com

"Quilt-y" Sayings...

- In the crazy quilt of life, I'm glad you're in my block of friends.
- LOST: Husband, dog, and sewing machine. Reward offered for sewing machine!

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