



# Online Quilt Magazine.com

**Meet  
Australia's Own  
Award-Winning  
Quilter Merelyn  
Pearce**

**Do You Really  
Need A Sewing  
Machine  
Cabinet?**

**Make Our NEW  
Quick and Easy  
Easter Project**

**Bumper-  
Sized Reader  
"Show and  
Tell"**

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## Letter from the Editor

Jody Anderson

Hi!

Easter already??? I know, it's early this year, and whilst it seems we're still getting over Christmas, the hot cross buns and chocolate eggs are well ensconced in our shops now. So, not to be left out, this issue we have Annette's great egg-shaped pot holders for a fun and quick Easter project for you to make.

We're thrilled this month too, to bring you a story on one of our popular Australian quilters. Merelyn Pearce has won numerous awards for her stunning quilts based on the ideas of Margaret Preston's beautiful Australian paintings and prints, and I do hope you enjoy looking at her work as much as we do!

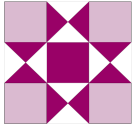
There's more for you this month as well – a HUGE Reader "Show and Tell" segment (thanks – keep them coming!), a new book review, more yummy fabrics to find and more!

So much to do, and so little time...!

Have a great Month, and Happy Easter!

Regards,

*Jody*



## Feature – Australia's Own Merelyn Pearce

By Annette Mira-Bateman



Since Merelyn Pearce discovered quilting in 1989, she has progressed to become world famous as a prize-winning quilt artist.

Her early years as a secondary school art teacher and then with her own ceramics studio gave her a good grounding in sculptural work and the appreciation of colours and visual impact.

Merelyn prefers making pictorial quilts and loves appliqueing by hand and indeed, her beautiful applique is an integral part of most of her quilts.

She was drawn to the work of Australian Artist Margaret Preston because of the dramatic, energetic vitality of her work and its very essential reflection of Australia.



"Tribute to Margaret Preston iiiii"

She especially loves the lino-cut style of Margaret's work and receives much inspiration from her prints that showcase uniquely Australian plants and birds. (Perhaps this affinity comes from sharing the same initials too!)



"Tribute to Margaret Preston iii"

Merelyn says each quilt is an evolution. She has a vision of the completed quilt and always has the central block drawn up before beginning. As there is "a lot of thinking time while doing applique", decisions on size, width and number of borders are made as the work progresses. Merelyn loves border prints too, often using them as the inspiration for designing a quilt.

As Merelyn says "Colour is a predominant element in my quilts, and I use cotton and silk fabrics, often enhanced with hand embroidery."



"Bird of Paradise"



Merelyn's "special" quilts are those she has made for her family using them as subjects or from drawings they have done.



Detail of Merelyn's Applique



Emu Applique detail from "Preston Dreaming" quilt (below).

Whilst Merelyn has won many ribbons for her quilts, her major awards include: Best of Show at New South Wales Quilters' Guild Show in 2002, 2005, 2008 and 2011; Best of Australia in 2002, 2008 and 2011; the inaugural Australian Quilting World Masters in 2005 and Best of Show at the Australian Quilt Show in 2005.

Many Australian quilters have seen Merelyn's quilts on display and found her beautiful work to be truly inspirational.



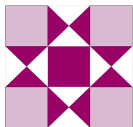


Preston Dreaming" -  
2011

This quilt won Best of  
Show at the NSW  
Quilters' Guild Show,  
and also Best of  
Australia 2011.

(The emu applique  
detail taken from this  
quilt.)





## Project – Easter Oven Mitts

From [www.QuiltBlockoftheMonthClub.com](http://www.QuiltBlockoftheMonthClub.com)



Enjoy Easter this year with a fabulous pair of oh-so-practical themed pot holders.

### **You Will Need:**

2 Fat Quarters in Easter-suitable print fabric (or you may want to piece your own 'eggy' strips)

Approx. ¼ metre / yard  
batting

At least 36 inches bias  
binding

These Pot Holders are approx. 9 inches long x 7 inches wide.

**Cut:**

Using the template provided, from each of your two fabrics, cut 2 full (black) egg shapes and 2 half (red) egg shapes.

From the batting, cut 4 full egg shapes and 2 half egg shapes.

**Assembly:**

You can make a matching pair of mitts, or, as we did, swap the fabrics around so each top side is different.

Make the top (half egg) first. Pin and sew the dart in each of the four half egg pieces. Press.

Cut the dart shape away from the half egg batting pieces, then layer the fabric and batting as you would for a quilt. Backing fabric face down, batting on next, then the top fabric with right side up. Repeat for the second mitt and take care to match the dart seams on each.

Pin and stitch the three layers together with a fine zig-zag stitch very close to the edges.

Stitch the bias binding across the straight edge on the back, then fold over to the front and machine stitch in place.

Now make the whole egg shapes in the same way. Use 2 layers of batting between the fabric layers for extra heat protection.

We stitched 2 straight rows across the width of the egg to hold all the layers together. Make the first row about 3 inches down from the top, and the second about 6 inches down. Sew around the edges again with a fine zig-zag stitch as you did for the halves.

Place one half egg shape right side up on the right side of one of the matching whole egg pieces. Pin the edges together, noting that the top half egg will bulge up slightly in the middle.

Join both pieces with a fine zig-zag stitch around the edge again, then finish off with the bias binding right around the egg shape.

Repeat for the second mitt, and you're now ready to slip your hands in and get those Hot Cross Buns out of the oven!



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

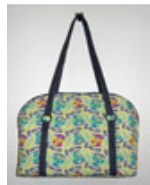
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[www.OnlineQuiltMagazine.com](http://www.OnlineQuiltMagazine.com) to  
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**AMENDMENT for Last Issue:**

Thanks for your great magazine. I was reading the article "A Yarn about threads" and thought "that's not correct" when I read this:

*Keep in mind that needle sizes work like dress sizes which is the opposite of how thread works. The lower the size on the needle the smaller or thinner it is, and the lower the weight of thread the thicker it is.*

Then I realised that Bev was talking about **Machine Needle** sizes. I was thinking Embroidery/Tapestry/Chenille/Milliners/Quilting needle sizes where the opposite applies - the higher the number, the smaller the needle. – Regards Val L.



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## What's New from The Fat Quarter Shop

From Kimberly Jolly at [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".



**Twenty Thr3e by Eric and Julie Comstock for  
Moda Fabrics**

Modern, graphic, youthful and fun, we hope the fresh energy of 2wenty-Thr3e inspires you to get sewing!

Make hip quilts, camera printed camera bags and funky skirts with a line that has as much style as you do.

Shop the full collection of yardage and pre-cuts, or indulge in the Just the Ticket Quilt Kit!

Check out this new range at:

<http://www.fatquartershop.com/2wentyThr3e-Eric-Julie-Comstock-Moda-Fabrics.asp>



### Calliope by Stitch Studio for Riley Blake Designs

Flowers, paisley, dots and gingham, Calliope is full of springtime whimsy.

Whether picnicking on a quilt or twirling in a sundress, Calliope by Stitch Studio will perfectly capture the feelings of warmth and carelessness.

Shop the collection, choosing from yardage and pre-cuts!

See this collection at:

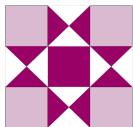
<http://www.fatquartershop.com/Calliope-Stitch-Studios-Riley-Blake-Designs.asp>

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## Do You Really Need A Sewing Machine Cabinet?

By Erin Lynn Rhodes

Whether you've had your machine for a while or have just pulled it out of the box, everyone who uses their machine with any regularity eventually finds themselves asking if it's time to get a real sewing machine cabinet.

There's only so long your family will let you get away with taking over their desk, the dining room table, or even the kitchen counter as workspace for all of your fabric, patterns, and notions.

A true sewing cabinet often has a recess or well that the machine can fit into so that the needle plate is flush with the table top of the cabinet. A cabinet may also have drawers and shelves for storage and even specialty racks to hold spools of thread.

However, there are also desks, computer stations, and tables that can be used as a sewing table and they may come with drawers, too. A

few additions like drawer dividers and spool racks would make them just as effective as a cabinet.



No matter what, clearly you need some sort of permanent work station. If even a few of the following statements are true for your situation, you probably should consider buying something and a cabinet may be the answer:

1. I need to have the workspace of the machine flush with the table top of my work area.
2. I am going to sew often enough that having special cabinet features geared towards sewing would help me work faster and more efficiently.
3. I have absolutely no designated work space for sewing right now and it is causing a problem.
4. I won't consider my craft room complete without a true sewing machine cabinet.
5. My notions, accessories and tools are spread all over the place with no true "home" of their own.

Quilters, for example, often prefer to have a table with insert so their machine needle plate is flat to the top of their table. This lets the quilt sit flat while being worked on and can prevent the excess fabric from dragging on the part that's currently being sewn.

Anyone who makes lots of clothing or does a lot of clothing alterations may not get as much benefit from a flat working surface because they

need to get sleeves or pant legs around the free arm of the machine.

If you already have a designated work space for all of your sewing projects and your machine has a nice home of its own, the fact that it's not an actual sewing machine cabinet shouldn't be reason enough to go buy something new. You might just need a few more organizational solutions to keep your supplies at hand and you'd have the perfect arrangement.

However, if you find yourself having to constantly move around your house in order to get any sewing done because your machine is stored in the closet when not in use, maybe it's time to look for a better solution. In that case, don't think the only answer is a cabinet. There are lots of ways to create a great place for you to work.

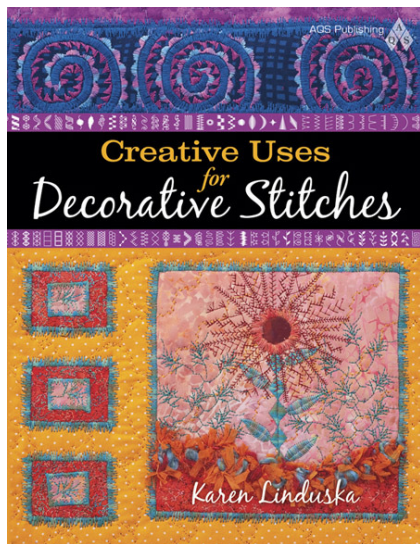
**About the Author:** Learn how to find great deals on new and used sewing cabinets and tables by following these steps: [Read More Here](#). You can also compare popular machines side by side here: [Visit the Site](#). Article Source: [http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Erin\\_Lynn\\_Rhodes](http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Erin_Lynn_Rhodes)





## Book Review

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



**“Creative Uses for Decorative Stitches”**

**By Karen Linduska**

Almost all sewing machines have a wide range of decorative stitches available now. These stitches are designed to be used in place of hand embroidery.

Karen Linduska's book explores the use of these stitches in a fascinating way.

There are 11 separate projects clearly illustrated, but you'll be inspired to try her techniques on wall hangings or quilts of your own.

The explanations and photos in Karen's book are very clear. She discussed the use and thicknesses of threads, machine tension, the use of stabilizers and the placing of different patterns in ways you've never dreamed of, to create very interesting flowers or leaves.

You could work several of Karen's projects to create an interesting wall of designs, but I think, once you've experimented with her techniques, you'll be wanting to add original stitchery elements to your quilting blocks.

Don't worry if you can't draw. Just follow the instructions and you'll soon be sewing wonderful pictures with these very creative techniques.

**"Creative Uses for Decorative Stitches"** by Karen Linduska is available from AQS Publishing, P.O. Box 3290, Paducah, KY 42002-3290 or through [www.AmericanQuilter.com](http://www.AmericanQuilter.com)

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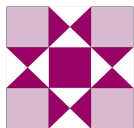
## "Achieve Machine Quilting Perfection on Every Quilt You Make . . . While Learning How to Make the Most of Fat Quarters, Fabric Scraps, and Fabric From the Bolt"



Machine quilting made easy!

Your friends and family will be amazed to see what you can do with small bits of fabric, whether they come from **brand new fat quarters or cut up shirts from the thrift shop.**

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



## Recipe – Spiced Chocolate Hot Cross Buns

### Spiced Chocolate Hot Cross Buns

(serves 16)

1 ½ cups milk, warmed  
2 sachets (14g) dried yeast  
¼ cup caster/white sugar  
4 cups plain flour  
1 tsp mixed spice  
½ tsp ground cinnamon  
60 g / 3 tsp butter  
1 egg, lightly beaten  
1 cup Dark CHOC BITS  
100 g Dark Melts, melted

#### GLAZE:

1 tsp gelatine

1 tbsp caster sugar

1 tbsp water

1. Preheat oven to 200°C, grease a 23cm square slab cake pan.

2. Combine milk, yeast and sugar in bowl, cover, stand in a warm place 10 minutes.

3. Sift flour, mixed spice and cinnamon in bowl, rub butter into flour. Add yeast mixture and egg, mix to combine, cover, stand in a warm place 40 minutes or until dough has doubled in size.

4. Knead dough on well-floured surface until smooth, add Dark CHOC BITS, knead until evenly distributed.

5. Divide dough into 16, form into balls, place on prepared pan, cover, stand in a warm place 10 minutes.
6. Bake 20 minutes or until cooked. Cool buns on wire rack. Brush warm glaze over buns.
7. Pipe Dark Melts to form crosses on top of buns.

Glaze:

1. Heat all ingredients in pan without boiling until dissolved.



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**Do You Love Quilting Too?**

Bonus blocks, hints and tips added all the time!!

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Do-You-Love-Quilting-Too/271888039492644>

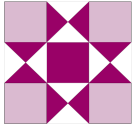
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## Reader “Show and Tell”

This month we continue our regular segment of “Show and Tell” quilts made by our Online Quilt Magazine Readers. It’s been a busy month too!

We will include them as long as you can send them to us, and that way we can all share in the wealth of creativity and inspiration abundant within our quilting community.

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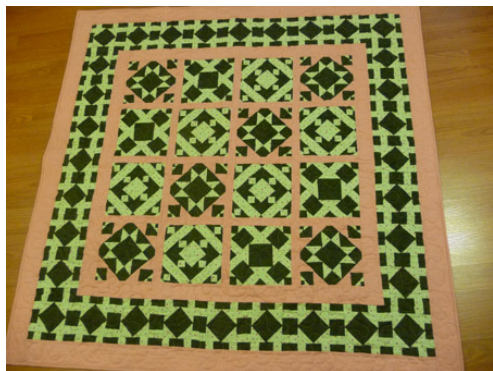
*“I’m enjoying your magazine and would like to share with you one of my ‘step out of my comfort zone projects’. I decided to make three very bright quilts for my granddaughters using the same materials with slight block alterations. I then used each girls name as the all over quilting pattern. Then I used some of the left over fabric to make them a matching cat cushion.” Maureen M.*





Mary E. made our Online Quilt Magazine 2012  
Mystery BOM –

*“I really enjoyed doing it. It gave me the opportunity to try some things I had never done before, like cut up blocks and sew them together in a different combination, and making a reversible quilt!  
Thanks for doing it!”*



WOW!! What a wonderful  
number of Show and tell  
quilts this month!  
Keep it up quilters!!



*"I thought you might like to see the bag that I made from the Olive Hobo Bag that I downloaded from one of your bag cd's. Instead of a zip I put a little flap with a buttonhole in it & I sewed a nice button onto the bag. I made it for a friend who loves anything purple, so I made it with purple featured fabric & lined it with a dark purple fabric." – Vivienne B.*

An advertisement for a quilt kit. The top half shows a colorful quilt with geometric patterns in red, yellow, green, and blue on a white background, draped over a brick wall. The text "From A to Zap Quilt Kit" is written in a large, white, cursive font. Below the quilt, it says "featuring the PB&J collection by BasicGrey for Moda Fabrics". At the bottom, there is a logo for "Fat Quarter Shop" which is a stylized blue and white cube with yellow rays, and the text "1-866-826-2069" and "www.FatQuarterShop.com".

*From A to Zap  
Quilt Kit*

featuring  
the PB&J collection  
by BasicGrey for Moda Fabrics

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

Fat Quarter Shop

Jacqueline B. from Belgium has been busy lately too, and here's a couple of her latest quilts:



*"I made these bargello quilts a few years ago; the wall hanging from the left-overs of the bed quilt."* – Rajele W.



*"This is my first "Art Quilt", which evolved when I saw a photo of the "Painted Desert" by friends. I really enjoy your magazine and glean many ideas for my quilting.*

*I have an extensive stash, collected over many years, anticipating many quilts in my mind.*

*I had the photo of the painted desert (on the quilt) enlarged onto material and used some complimentary whole cloth, with the addition of applique for the tree and ground plants, as well as enhancing the colour of the soil." - Leona B.*



*"I made this wall hanging for a missionary couple in our church - thought it might be pretty enough for you to include in your show and tell section." – Judy C-H*



*"I thought I would send you photos of the 3 items I made from friends as their Christmas present. As you can see, two of the recipients just love pink and one loves cats, as well. The cushions are different on each side, with buttons to close the opening in the back. The apron I made was a big hit too!" – Katharine S.*



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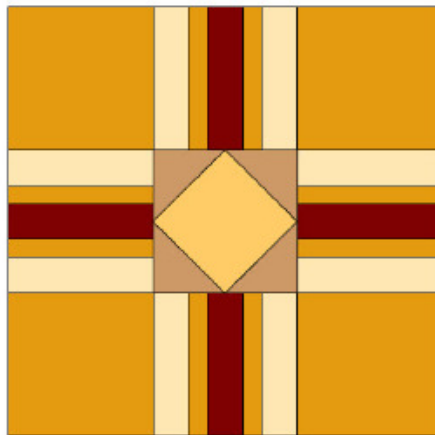
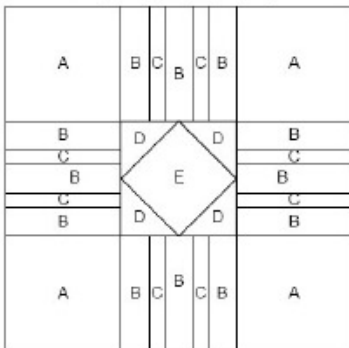
## Block of the Month

This Month's Cross 13 Block is fairly easy to piece together and has a great effect when completed. You could use it for a feature block, a border or repeated whole quilt block as well.

To make this 12 inch block as shown, you will need 5 different fabrics, and once you have rotary cut the pieces according to the Cutting Diagram, you can piece them together as shown.

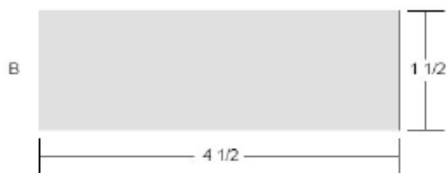
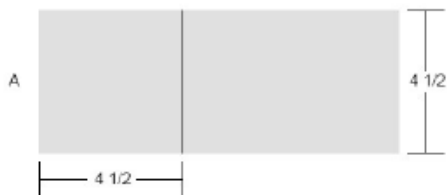
### Cross 13

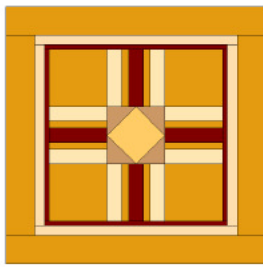
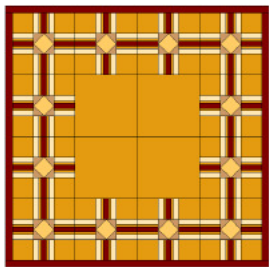
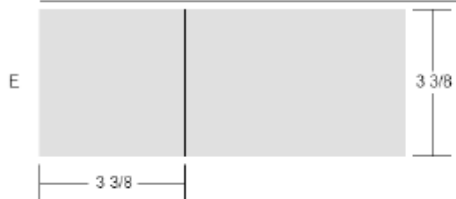
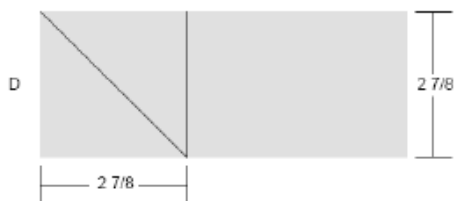
Key Block (1/5 actual size)



## Cutting Diagrams

## Patch Count





## Today's Tips:

"I save all my used dryer sheets. I use them to applique. I draw the pattern on the right side of the fabric. Place the dryer sheet on top of the right side. Pin in center of design. I sew all around the pattern line. Slit the back and turn inside out. It gives a nice finished edge and ready to applique. Also adds a fresh scent to the quilt for awhile."

- Barbara D. , Inverness Florida USA

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*"Our church has been making quilted wall hangings. We needed a 12 1/2 inch template. We only have 1 quilt shop and it didn't have that size.*

*To order online adding postage made it almost \$30.00. I remembered that I had a portion of plexi-glass from making a window in my shed.*

*I drew the outline using a carpenters square (my dad's) and cut it out with the little dremel tool. I also marked a line through the center for lining up the middle of quilt squares.*

*Works like a charm and cost me nothing but time."*

- Shirley D. Dawson Creek BC,Canada

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A 'classified' Ad....

Lonely Quilter seeks Man with interest in fabrics and an ability to show appreciation for quilting. Own machine an advantage. Must be able to cook, clean and help pin quilts. Please send picture of sewing machine.

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*Remember to send in your handy hints and tips to share next month too...!*



## YES, We Want to Hear From You!

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

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

Please send me an email with your Testimonial, Tip, Suggestion, “Show and Tell” Quilt or Enhancement – I'd love to hear from you!

Send all emails to:

[jody@onlinequiltmagazine.com](mailto:jody@onlinequiltmagazine.com)

### "Quilt-y" Quote...

Really I don't dislike to cook, but what you cook is eaten so quickly. When you sew, you have something that will last to show for your efforts. ~Elizabeth Travis Johnson

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