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Letter from the Editor

Jody Anderson

Hi!

What a month it's been!! I love the excitement and possibilities of starting a New Year, but for us, it's always the 'get-over-Christmas' thing, and the kids are still on their summer holidays... Traditionally it's been hard to get straight back into the swing of things in January, and when you add in a new puppy, plus a seemingly-neverending series of days where we're getting to over 40 degrees C (That's 104+F), and it's been really quite tricky for me to get my head properly in order to launch into this New Year.

Of course, now that January's over, I'm raring to go!! School's back, and so am I. This month we start a really fun new project for 2017 with our Exploring Blocks Sampler Quilt (on page 30), and you're going to love it! We're also delighted to feature a great quilting-with-your-walking-foot project from Melissa Marginet on page 8. I love her walking foot quilting design ideas so much, that I've ordered her book too, so I can have a proper go at a whole lot more!

Lori shares a Valentine's themed FMQ tutorial, and Annette has made a fun 'Hearty Flowers' wallhanging that you can make in time for the 14th if you so choose.

It's going to be a big busy month! Enjoy!!





Free Motion Quilt Tutorial – The Heart Leaf Vine

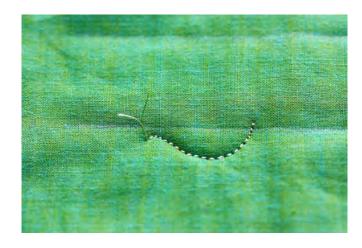
By Lori Kennedy from www.theinboxjaunt.com



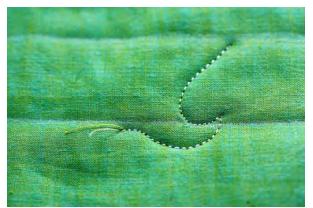
This month, we are stitching **The Heart Leaf Vine**. It is a very sweet pattern that looks great on any summer quilt. Stitched in pink, it would make a great Valentine motif as well. Today, we are going to start with the *basic version*, then add an

optional "second pass".

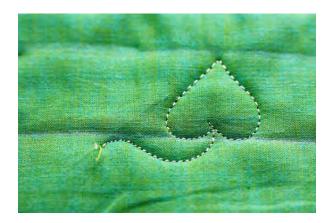
First, *draw* two lines –one inch apart– to serve as "rails". Begin stitching below the rail, and sew a curved line down and up again. Stitch a few stitches above the *rail* and stop.



Next, stitch the left half of the heart by stitching down, to the left and curve to the top line. Stop here.



Now stitch the right half of the heart.



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In the center of the heart leaf, add three loops, then stitch out the bottom of the heart, below the "rail" line and swoop to the right to begin the next leaf:



These leaves look great as is, but if you'd like to add another "pass"...

Stitch to a point at the top of the motif to maintain the heart shape.



Then scallop back down the right side of the motif.



Start stitching above your previous line of stitching. Echo quilt the vine, then "bounce" up the side of the heart—creating a scallop effect.





Perfect!



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This pattern looks great in a larger scale –so if your border is much wider–give it a try...

Lori

About the Author: Lori Kennedy claims she has been passionate about quilting since birth and believes quilting is in her blood--her grandmother, mother and two sisters are all quilters. She can't stop talking (about quilting) and can be found discussing free motion quilting daily at www.theinboxjaunt.com and bimonthly in her column, 'My Line with Lori Kennedy' in American Quilter Magazine.

When she's not blogging, taking photos or quilting, she can be found hiking the trails of Minnesota with her husband, six kids and two Australian Shepherds.

Look for her Craftsy Classes <u>Divide and Conquer: Creative</u> <u>Quilting for Any Space</u>, and <u>Creative Free-Motion</u> <u>Techniques, From Doodle to Design</u>



Project - Green with Envy Table Runner

By Melissa Marginet from www.melissamarginet.ca





Walking Foot Quilting

Not everyone enjoys free motion quilting and not everyone can afford to send their quilts out to be quilted. Or maybe we just don't want to because we feel a need to complete the work ourselves.

I quilt all my quilts on my domestic sewing machine with a walking foot. I like the even stitches I get with my walking foot and the patterns are endless. Most of my designs are created with lines that begin at one edge and end at another edge. Unless you break your thread or your bobbin runs out along the way, you will not have any threads to bury. Here is a table runner pattern to get you started with your walking foot.

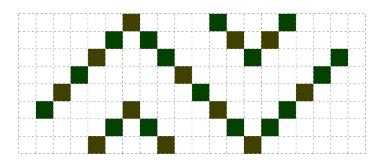
Green with Envy Table Runner

Finished size 17" x 40"

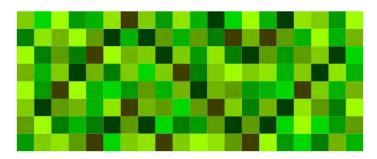
Supplies

- * 1 Kona Cotton Pleasant Pastures Palette Charm Square pack (42 charms)
- * ¼ yard for binding Bethan Janine Sweet Escape (Floral) by Dashwood Studio
- * 20" x 45" low loft batting
- * 20" x 45" fabric for backing (You can piece a backing or use a solid fabric so the stitching shows well to make the table runner two sided.) Fuchsia pink thread for quilting
 - 1. Cut all charms into four 2½" squares.
 - Arrange the two darkest fabrics as per the diagram. There are 7 charms of dark fabric.

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3. Arrange the remaining 2½" squares randomly around the design. You will have a few leftover pieces.



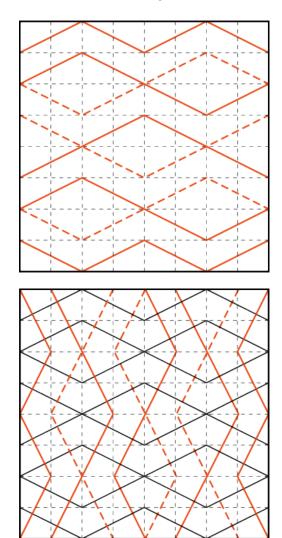
 Stitch the pieces into rows. Press seams in alternating directions from one row to the next then sew the rows to one another locking your seams together to get nice intersections.

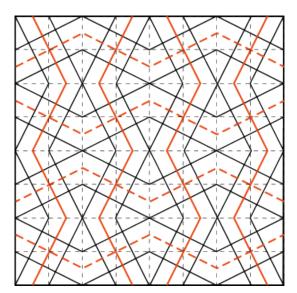
- 5. Layer your backing, batting, and pieced top. Baste it using your preferred method and you are now ready to guilt.
- 6. Following the orange lines in the three diagrams, and using your Walking Foot, quilt the table runner.

There is no need to mark your project as you will be using the patchwork intersections and seams as your guide as to where to go next.

When you come to a change in direction, stop with your needle in the down position, lift your presser foot and turn your project aiming in the direction of the next stopping point.

Some machines have a presser foot that automatically lift when you stop. My Juki TL2010Q does not have this feature so I use my knee lift. The knee lift allows me to keep my hands on my work at all times.

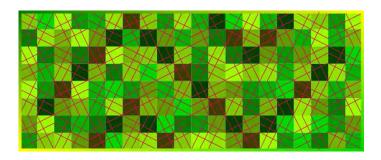




7. Trim away the excess backing and batting. Cut 3 strips from your binding fabric. I cut mine at 2¼" by width of fabric.

There are many good binding tutorials online so I am not including directions here. Sew your binding to the front of your table runner and hand stitch it to the back.

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About the Author: Melissa Marginet sewed and had made a couple of quilts prior to 2001, but it was a Log Cabin class that she took that year to 'get rid of' some fabric she had laying around that began her passion for quilting.

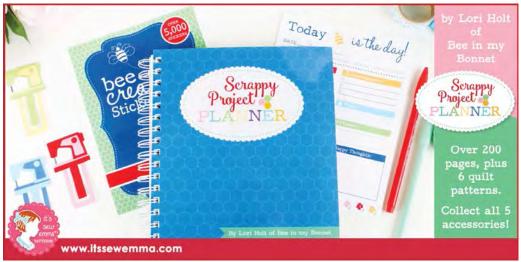
Melissa leads a quilt group in her small town of Beausejour, Manitoba, Canada and is involved with the Provincial quilt guild, Manitoba Prairie Quilters, as well as Quilt Canada.

She designs, pieces, and quilts all her own quilts and encourages others to do the same by teaching a variety of classes. She has several quilt patterns and she has recently published the book <u>Walking Foot Quilting Designs</u> which are available in her <u>Etsy</u> shop.

Find out more at www.melissamarginet.ca

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Improving the Stitches of Handmade Baby Ouilts

By Sharon Camp from www.uniquebabyquiltboutique.com

Improving the stitches of handmade baby quilts can be completed with a few very basic guidelines. Though quilting stitches can be as personal to a quilter as their fingerprint, following these standards can help the quilter make improvements.

To begin, analyse your quilting stitch by doing some quilt stitching. Make a design or motif on a piece of fabric and make a practice quilt sample.

Include in this design straight lines and curves so that you can check your skill in completing both types of stitching on future handmade baby quilts.

A contrasting thread color will be easily visible from both sides of this practice piece. Now analyse your quilting stitches based on the stitch

types, length, tension and whether stitches were skipped.

Look at your practice piece initially for the stitch length.

Though tiny stitches are not essential it is important for the durability of the baby quilt. Since baby quilts will be washed and dried many times larger stitches run the risk of being pulled loose or broken.

Anywhere from 6 - 12 stitches per inch is considered standard that is counting only the stitches made on the top of the baby quilt. If you are a novice quilter, be patient and practice your stitches.

Over time and with experience, as you develop a quilting rhythm, the stitches will decrease in length. Ideally, the quilt stitches should be the same length on both the front and back of the quilt.

Practice makes for better stitches on your handmade baby quilts. If you are making lines of quilting, these should be straight.



To avoid making a distorted or wobbly line of quilting, use the rocking method of stitching. Because multiple stitches are loaded onto the needle, it is easier to achieve a smooth and more consistent rhythm.

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As opposed to the stab method, in which one stitch at a time is made. This is more difficult to control and the quilting on the handmade baby quilt is often not straight.

Curved lines should also flow or have not rough or jagged edges. When using the rocking method, reduce the number of stitches on the needle. This allows you to follow the curved lines more easily.

If puckers appear either on the front or the back of the handmade baby quilt, this is often due to the tension on the thread. Reduce the number of stitches on the needle or run you needle through a bar of soap or beeswax to help it glide more easily through the layers of fabric.

When you finish your baby quilt, every stitch should be visible on the back as well as the front. To avoid skipped stitches, remember to bring the needle to a full vertical position which is perpendicular to the baby quilt top before beginning each stitch.

This applies to both the rocking or stabbing method of hand quilting. Skipped stitches are usually caused by angling the needle as you insert it as you quilt. Be sure that when you slide your needle and thread from one spot to another, that you check the back for stray threads before pulling the needle through.

Following these few easy guidelines will improve the stitches of your handmade baby quilts.

About the Author: Sharon Camp, The "BabyQuiltLady," has been quilting for over 30 years. Come and choose one our handmade children's quilts, a lasting keepsake, a unique birthday gift, or Christening gift, for that special "little one." Visit my website: www.uniquebabyquiltboutique.com and chose of one unique handmade children's quilt from my collection for your child's birthday or other special event.

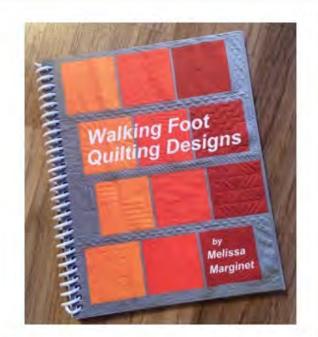
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Quilting Question Answers

By Leah Day from www.FreeMotionQuilting.blogspot.com.au

This month, we're continuing a series of everyday quilting questions that have been answered by Leah.

If I cut through the areas that are microstippled to square up my quilt, will this make the stitching more likely to come apart? Is it best to cut outside the quilted area?

To square the quilt, you will most likely have to cut through some of your microstippling area.

No, this shouldn't make your stitching come apart. Microstippling is a dense design and isn't likely to come unraveled. I've left sliced quilts (lots of threads cut) unbound and the stitching hasn't come out.

Keep in mind that you're cutting the quilt down and immediately binding it, which will send a line of stitching right over the stippling, locking it in place. If you're concerned about stitches coming out, just cut it down and bind it all in one day.

The only way your stitching could possibly come out is if you sliced the edges of the quilt, then washed it, dried it, slept under it, gave it to your dog to play with, then washed and dried it again and THEN decided to bind it.

The stitches on the top of the quilt look pretty darn good but the back...not so much. I have not been able to wrap my mind around leaving the feed dogs up. I guess my question to Leah would be — would leaving the feed dogs up help with

the "pokies"?

This is a significant reason why I quilt with the feed dogs up, so yes, I believe it will definitely help you stop seeing pokies (I call them dots) on the back or front of your quilts.

Our machines are mechanical wonders of engineering, but keep in mind that the machine is built with the intention of the feed dogs working and feeding fabric forward.

That is a core function of a machine - for the needle to drop, the bobbin to spin, and the feed dogs to move all in harmony together.

So I believe that when these teeth are dropped into the machine, or disengaged in some way, this changes a necessary mechanical function in most machines. Most machines will show a difference in stitch quality with the feed dogs down.

This change can be as subtle as tension dots

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showing on your quilt, or as extreme as giant loops and bird's nests.

By leaving the feed dogs up, the machine is still functioning as it normally functions, therefore if wild thread issues aren't happening when you piece, they shouldn't be happening when you free motion quilt.

Keep in mind, setting your stitch length to 0 and / or covering the feed dogs with a Supreme Slider or piece of paper will achieve exactly the same point - getting them out of the way so you can quilt in all directions.

Dropping feed dogs is definitely NOT a requirement for free motion.

Also - it's good to keep in mind that little dots are going to be something you deal occasionally, no matter whether the feed dogs are up or down.

It could be the weather, or the alignment of the planets, or the way the wind is blowing, but it's

very rare to stitch a perfectly balanced stitch (no dots on either side) all the time.

This is why it's essential to match the color of your top thread with your bobbin thread. It saves you many headaches of trying to balance your thread perfectly, which can sometimes be impossible.

Minor dot or pokie issues like the one in the photo really can be hidden completely with matching thread.

Should one aim for a particular stitch length or is it more important to be consistent?

Because we're not using our machines in a traditional way, it's impossible to "set" a specific stitch length. The best thing to do is aim for consistency.

No matter whether your stitches are tending to

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be small or tending to be large, if they're all around the same size, you're definitely on the right track.

Generally as you gain more skill and practice with free motion quilting, your stitch length will get smaller.

Even when you sit down at your sewing machine, you might find in the beginning your stitches will be bigger, but as you warm up, your stitches will get smaller.

It's not something to obsess about, it's not something to pull out a ruler and measure. Just quilt and aim for your stitches to be roughly the same size, even if that size looks "too small" or "too large" for you right now, and accept the fact that this will change.

Consistency is key because a single GIANT stitch is very noticeable in the middle of a sea of little stitches. Just work for evenness and go with what

length feels comfortable for you.

Many quilters seem quite stressed out by their stitch length. Please stop obsessing about it! There isn't a "wrong" length any more than there is a "right" length with this.

Stitch with the length that makes the design you're stitching look good. For Microstippling, that will be a smaller stitch length than Stippling stitched on a 1/2" scale because the stitches need to be tighter and more compact in order to create a tiny design.

Leah

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, and she now has three Free Motion Quilting classes available through Craftsy.com. www.daystyledesigns.com

Learn How to Free Motion Quilt All of these Designs at:



www.FreeMotionProject.com





Project – Hearty Flowers Wallhanging

By Annette Mira-Bateman from www.QuiltBlockoftheMonthClub.com



Celebrate this Valentine's Day, or maybe the coming of Spring with our cute little appliqued and quilted floral wallhanging.

This is an easy applique, as the pieces have raw edges, and the quilting secures them.

This looks lovely as an entrance way wallhanging in your home, or would work equally well as a table mat.

This wallhanging measures 16 x 16 inches.

You Will Need:

Piece of cream or white fabric for the background, measuring 16½ x 16½ inches

Small amounts of coloured fabrics for the flower appliques

Fusible webbing for applique

Threads to match the flower fabrics

Fat Quarter of fabric for the binding

Batting measuring at least 17 x 17 inches

Backing fabric measuring at least 17 x 17 inches

Note – a heat-resistant applique mat is very useful for this project. If you don't have one, a see-through baking sheet is ideal.

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Applique:



Print out and join the two applique template sheets.

The black lines are the applique templates, and the red are the quilting lines for later.

Trace the flower, leaf and stem shapes onto the paper backing of your fusible webbing. Make note too of which pieces overlap others.

Fuse the separate pieces to the wrong side of your selected coloured fabrics, and cut them out.



Place the template under your heat-proof applique mat.

Peel away the paper backings and arrange your shapes so you are happy with the arrangement, and that the correct pieces overlap others.



Fuse the shapes together with your iron.



Carefully peel the applique off the applique mat, and place it in the centre of your white backing fabric.

Press well to fuse the shapes in place.

Quilting:

Place your backing fabric face down on a flat surface, then smooth the batting on top. Put your appliqued top on top of that, centred and smoothed flat.

Pin the layers together in preparation for quilting.



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Using matching threads, quilt around each flower, leaf and stem shape as shown by the red lines on your template.

Add more thread play on the flowers if you wish. Quilt the heart shape in a coloured thread – one or more times, as you choose.



We quilted the background with vertical lines 2 inches apart, in matching thread. We added small

free motion heart shapes randomly between the lines too.

Trim and square up your quilted wallhanging.

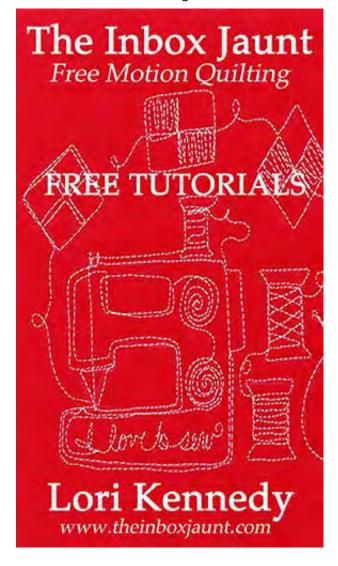
Finishing:

Cut sufficient 2¼ inch binding strips from the fat quarter of binding fabric and join together with 45 degree seams. Press the ¼ inch seams open, then fold the strip in half, right sides out and press.

Join the binding to the right side of the quilt edge with a quarter inch seam, mitring each corner as you go. Turn the folded edge of the binding to the back and slip stitch it in place with thread that matches the binding. Add a hanging sleeve, and you're finished!

Download the Applique templates at:

http://www.onlinequiltmagazine.com/members/content/f/id/528/





Hints and Tips From Brannie

By "Brannie" Mira-Bateman

Well we have had a busy time lately. It's taken us all a while to recover.

Firstly my Quilty-Mum and Dad and I did the big trip down to the Little People's house. I was <u>very</u> good in the car and my Mum said, "You're the BEST little girl in this car!" So there. Wasn't that good?

I sorted the Little People out with a few growls when they got too excited, then they behaved better.

That big tree was in the corner of the room again with the dingly things on it and one day the other family arrived as well.

There were people everywhere - then parcels and torn paper. It was all a bit much, but the crumpled up paper was the best bit.

Eventually they all went away except for 2 little people. For many days it was just my Quilty-Mum (no time for quilting), my Dad and 2 busy Little People. Very stressy all round!

Finally their parents came back and we did the big drive home.

Wow! Freedom and home at last!

Just us three.

I raced around the house being silly. One big jump landed me on the drawers in the bedroom. I hadn't tried that before, so I looked around.

With another big jump I made the bed. What fun! I jumped again onto the big pile of quilts in another corner. Up high again! New view! Back onto the bed in one. Wow! This was fun. A new game.

I discovered that the chair by the door wasn't as high as the other 2 vantage points, but with a little more effort I could reach the bed again in one jump.

I practised these big jumps several times in the night. I'd wait until everyone was asleep, then fly through the air and land on the bed. Whump!

Quilty-Mum would jump, too, yell at me, "Cut that out! I was asleep. You frightened the heck out of me! Go away!"

I'd go away, but come back in a little while and find another jumping-off spot for the next big leap. Whump!

"Hey! You darn cat. Cut it out!"

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Eventually I was tired and needed to sleep too. I like finding new games. I'll give the jumping ones a miss for a while though. My Quilty-Mum is back to quilting now, so I'm hanging out in the sewing room again.

It's nice to be home.

Love Brannie,

the Quilt Block of the Month Club Cat!





What's New from The Fat Quarter Shop

From Kimberly Jolly at 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".



Spring-a-Ling for Moda by American Jane

2017 Designer Mystery Quilt Kit

This is a fun, annual sew along from Fat Quarter Shop! The kit features a parade of 12 blocks designed by 12 Moda designers, each measuring 12".

The program features the Spring-a-Ling fabric collection by American Jane, and is perfect for quilters of all skill levels! Fat Quarter Shop will release one block every month, starting in June 2017, and the finished quilt design will be a mystery! You will watch the beautiful quilt unfold month by month!

Spring-a-Ling is a beautiful Moda collection showcasing a range of primary colors, and also some neutrals. You will love the variety of the size of prints, too!



Patchwork Quilt Along

The Patchwork Quilt Along is the 2017 Charity Quilt from Fat Quarter Shop! The kit features the beautiful Bonnie & Camille Basics collection! Basics includes small to medium-range prints in darling colors including white, tan, lack, red, lime, citrus, aqua, and peach! The year-long event benefits Make-A-Wish Foundation with donations pledged in exchange for each month's pattern!



Double Widen Dresden Ruler from Me & My Sister Designs is the traditional Dresden Ruler that you know and love – but even more fun, AND easier, too!

This 36 degree ruler makes it fast, fun and easy to make Dresden Plates! Cut your time and work in half and make Dresden Plates in no time, without raw edges!



Sweetie Pie Quilt Kit

What's new from Lori Holt? We have the most darling quilt kit just waiting for you!

Featuring the Sew Cherry 2 collection, the Sweetie Pie Quilt Kit showcases some naturally sweet treats! Premium Online Quilt Magazine – Vol. 8 No. 2

If you loved Sew Cherry, you'll adore Sew Cherry 2, and the Sweetie Pie Quilt Kit will be such a fun project for you to tackle!





2017 Project – Exploring Blocks Sampler Quilt

By Jody Anderson from www.QuiltBlockoftheMonthClub.com

This year, we thought we'd go exploring... Quilt Blocks, that is!

Over the course of this year, we're going to take a good look at a different block each month, and we're going to investigate some fun ways of playing around with these classic blocks, to discover whole new layouts and designs.

Of course, there's not much point making practice blocks without then being able to do something with them at the end, so after our final block in the series, we will show you how to put them all together into a fun Exploring Blocks Sampler Quilt, so it's always there and easy for you to use as a reference for when you want to try some of these blocks again in other projects.

For This Project You Will Need:



As the blocks will all be incorporated into a quilt at the end, we chose to make our blocks from a selected range of colours. What you choose to do is up to you, but we selected plain colours for ours.

You will need at least a ½ metre/yard of each fabric. We want a more modern looking quilt, so we chose 8 colours, ranging from a maroon, red,

orange, yellow, charcoal, pewter, silver, to a very pale blue. We bought slightly more of each fabric, but this was just to piece a quilt backing from as well.

At the end, you will need also to add fabrics for the sashing and borders, but you can leave this until the final month, as you will not need them until then.

All blocks will start as 10 inch blocks. Please try to keep your seam allowances consistent, as this will make it easier to manipulate the blocks.



Block 1 - New Album Block



You Will Need:

Two fabrics that contrast. We used the maroon and orange fabrics for this block.

* You will need to make three of these 10 inch New Album blocks, and the quantities to cut below are to make all three blocks.

Cut:

- * From the maroon fabric, cut 12 squares, measuring 2½ x 2½ inches
- * From the maroon fabric, cut 6 squares measuring 3.7/8 x 3.7/8 inches, and cross cut in half diagonally once, to make 12 triangles.
- * From the orange fabric, cut 3 squares measuring 4¾ x 4¾ inches
- * From the orange fabric, cut 12 strips measuring 2½ x 6½ inches

Assembly:



Lay out your block pieces as pictured here.



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Start by joining two opposite triangles to the centre square/diamond.

Press well.



Then sew the remaining two triangles to the two other sides, so you have a diamond in a square.

Press and trim off the 'dog ears' from the seams.



Join your pieces into three rows, as shown.

When you press the seams, press the top and bottom rows so the seam allowance faces towards the middle, and press the centre row so the seam allowances face out.

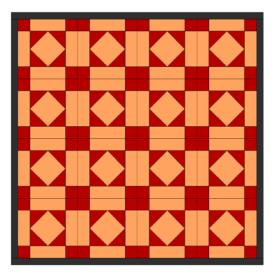
This will help nest the seams when you join the rows together.

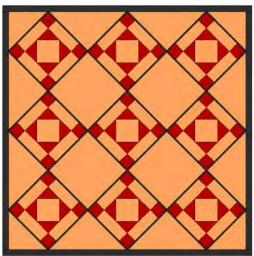


Finally join the three rows together and press your block well.

Make two more blocks just like this.

Used by itself, this New Album Block has some pretty quilt design options.





4-Patch:

And now the fun starts! This block can also be cut into a 4-patch block, the units rotated, and repieced, for a completely different block.

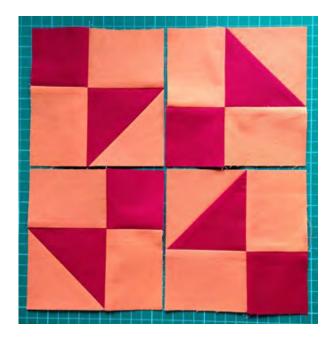


Cut one of your New Album blocks into 4, as shown.

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As your finished block should measure 10½ inches square, you should be able to cut in half vertically once at 5¼ inches, and do the same horizontally.

However – if your block is slightly out, don't worry – make the cuts so they run straight through the points of the centre diamond, so that each quarter is cut evenly to match the design.



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Rotate the top right and bottom left quarters so that the corner little squares now meet in the centre of the block.



Sew together in pairs, and press the seams so they face in opposite directions.



Join the pairs together to re-complete your block.

Yes – you will lose the points of the centre triangles, but this just adds to the charm of this block variation.

Also – as you have cut and re-pieced your 10½ inch block, the finished block will now be about a ½ inch smaller all round.

This is fine, and we will take it into account when we put the quilt together.

9-patch:

And don't stop there! Now let's try a 9-patch as well!!



This is not an even 9-patch.

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Again, measure your block to double check, but you should be able to measure and cut 3 inch wide strips vertically from each side, and again horizontally, as shown.

Most importantly, make sure the cuts are even – so the same size point is cut off each of the centre diamond points.



For this block, rotate all of the sides.

Turn the corner squares 180 degrees, so the big square points in, and turn the side strips so the small triangle is to the outside.



Carefully piece the units together into rows, and press so the seams alternate direction between the rows.



Finally join the rows together to reveal your new re-pieced 9-patch New Album Block.

As before, this finished block will be smaller than your original block (approx. an inch), but we will take care of that when we assemble the quilt top at the end of this project.

Keep an eye out for our new block next month.



Make Money Quilting - 5 Methods

By Tricia Deed

Start making plans to open your quilting business and operate from your home, a rental location, or a commercial building which you own.

Make money quilting a personal stash to sell, represent other quilters, sell quilting services, and retail quilting supplies.

Five methods to make money quilting:

1. Make your own quilts

Through time you have built an inventory of your quilts. Do continue to quilt and accept custom orders

2. Sell products which other quilters have made

Some people have a problem representing others; however, it is good business to open your doors to other merchandise made by other quilters.

Their products can be a welcomed asset to your business. Purchase wholesale or do consignment. Have rules, regulations, and contracts to avoid any misunderstandings.

Monies are made from quality merchandise and reputable quilters.

3. Sell quilting services

Teach quilting classes or have out-of-town guests teach. This will attract more customers to your location.

Have available quilt machine repair services, sharpening scissors, and other professional sewing services available for your customers.

4. Retail quilting supplies

It pays to have a section of quilting supplies, cloth, tools, and accessories. This will be additional income from classes and customers.

5. Duplicate these services online

Let your computer be the other silent salesman for your thriving business.

All of the above or part of it can also be duplicated online. Own an online quilting business. It can be used as a great starting point from a home based business or as a complement to a brick and mortar location.

If you are passionate about your quilting and this is the lifestyle for your next career then also be enthusiastic about your business. Start part-time or full-time. The choice between these two is your decision. You are the boss.

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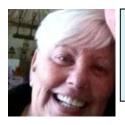
It is exciting owning and operating a business with products that you have a passion to share with others. Start your own quilting business today. If you continue to hesitate for any reason it will never be done.

If there is a chance you are hesitating, thinking that is a grandma thing, and no one would really be interested.

You will need to recognize that the quilting market is a multi-billion dollar industry. Grandma did not do it. Quilting has become very popular and worldwide in the new market place.

This is exciting for many quilters. There is an outlet for any interest which a quilter may have from designing and sewing quilts to dyeing or making their own cloth. There is profit in specialty niches or as a generalist.

Article Source: http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Tricia Deed



History of The Amish Quilts

By Fran E Kestner from www.amishcrossroads.com

The Amish people can be understood better just by the origin of their Amish quilts.

The Old Order Amish Community shun the modern society way of life for a much slower paced quiet peaceful life. They live off the land with very little or no help from the outside world.

That means no electricity, no telephones in their homes, no automobiles or anything with rubber wheels, no inside plumbing and no art, or pictures.

Art is looked down upon by the Amish people because it doesn't really serve a real purpose.

Although many Amish people are very talented artists, it is considered to be a sin of pride to use that talent for self-purposes.

The Amish women began putting their artistic ability in many of their quilt designs, because the quilt itself served a purpose.

Although this practice of art in Amish quilting didn't become a tradition in many Amish homes until the end of the 1800's.

This tradition was actually brought to America by the British Quakers. The Amish used a simple covering for their beds like their neighboring Mennonites and the Pennsylvania Germans. The Amish didn't start using quilts or the Art in their quilting until it was no longer considered to be fashionable by the other communities.

Between the years 1850 and 1870 the Amish began to design their own signature quilts by using solid colors and piecing squares, rectangle, and triangles together to form a patterns.

These simple colored patterns evolved into bolder colors and eventually the style included beautiful grapevines, flowers, and baskets.

They first were placed in just the corners and the borders, but finally made their way to the centers and became the focal points of the Amish quilts. You can almost tell the age of a traditional Amish quilt by the design and the colors that are used in them.



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Many Amish quilters of the late 1800's worked alone on their quilts during the colder months but found great pleasure in early spring and summer months quilting with the other Amish quilters to form what became their quilting bees.



These quilting bees gave the Amish ladies a chance to catch up on any family or town news.

The beginning of the Amish quilts were, at that time, use for dowry purposes or special gifts. Eventually the Amish began to sell their quilts for profits.

It wasn't until the 1970's that owning an Amish quilt was a must-have purchase for the more wealthy families. This caused the Amish quilts to finally become appreciated and wanted as a work

of art. Many Amish even found their quilts being stolen right off their clothes lines.

Then the Amish started making their quilts for the very purpose of selling them at their local markets and craft stores. Even though the Amish still wanted and enjoyed their privacy, they were able to find a balance between their simple life and still benefit from the sale of their hand stitched quilts. This also started the Amish women on using brighter colors and more unique patterns.



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Quilts have always been rooted in our attraction of the past and our history. Even though the Amish quilt makers have maintained their solitary existence, they have impacted the way the world looks hand stitched quilts.

Even though the variety, colors and designs have changed over the past 100 or so years, the craftsmanship of the Amish quilts are still timeless and will remain a treasure for any one fortunate enough to own one.

About the Author: My name is Fran Kestner and I have been fortunate enough to have been raised around Amish communities and my best friends today are Amish. I have seen first hand how Amish women create their colorful Amish quilts. Because of my love for the Amish and their way of life I have opened and online store carrying many of their products. We have several of the more famous Amish handmade cotton bed quilts on are website. Each one is hand stitched in an Old Order Amish Community in Northern Ohio. You can add a unique look to your country decor as well as owing a piece of Amish history. http://www.amishcrossroads.com

Article Source: http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Fran E Kestner



Book Reviews

By Annette Mira-Bateman from www.QuiltBlockoftheMonthClub.com



"Baby Bliss" - Adorable Gifts, Quilts and
Wearables for Wee Ones by Kim Diehl & Pat
Wys

This book is nearly worth getting for the cute baby pics alone. We all love making things for babies - they're always beautiful, small and very rewarding when finished. (I'm not talking about the babies.)

When Kim and Pat both became grandparents at around the same time, their obsession with all things baby was also born.



This book is a collaboration of wonderful baby projects to make. Beanies, Onsies, Receiving Blankets, Leggings, Quilts, Laundry Bag, Sock Teddies, Bibs, a wonderful round Floor Rug, Tethers for teething toys and pacifiers (dummies), Strap Covers for seat restraints, Overalls - the list goes on - and they're all beautiful.

The embellishments, of course, are just the cutest things around, (apart from...you know.) You'll be amazed and delighted with the projects in this ebook.

You'll never be short of gifts for the new babies in your life.

"Baby Bliss" - Adorable Gifts, Quilts and Wearables for Wee Ones by Kim Diehl & Pat Wys is published by Martingale and is available through your local craft book shop or online from: www.ShopMartingale.com (Photos courtesy of

Brent Kane, Martingale)



"19th-Century Patchwork Divas' Treasury of Quilts" - 10 Stunning Patterns, 30 Striking Options. By Betsy Chutchian & Carol Staehle Premium Online Quilt Magazine – Vol. 8 No. 2

The blocks and quilts showcased in this 115-page book are as follows: Postage Stamp, Pine Tree, Album, Wild Goose Chase, Log Cabin, Indigo Basket, Sunburst, Feathered Star, Ohio Star and Sunflower.

This group of quilts was inspired by the approaching 20th Anniversary of the 19th-Century Patchwork Divas' block exchange group. Almost 50 exchanges have been made since the group's inception.

Concentrating on their shared passion for traditional quilts and reproduction fabrics, this group is an inspiration for other quilters who may be interested in group exchange programs.

Ten blocks and 40 quilts are included, covering all levels of ability. Step-by-step instructions for each particular block and one quiltusing it then lead on to 3 more stunning quilts using the block in different ways.

Good advice on starting and organising an exchange group is very helpful. This wonderful

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book of ideas is indeed a Treasury of Quilts and is well worth a read by any quilting group.

"19th-Century Patchwork Divas' Treasury of Quilts" 10 Stunning Patterns, 30 Striking Options by Betsy Chutchian & Carol Staehle is published by Martingale and is available through your local craft book shop or online from:

<u>www.ShopMartingale.com</u> (Photos courtesy of Brent Kane, Martingale)









Recipe Corner – Five-spice Flourless Chocolate Cake with Choc-Hazelnut Sauce



Ingredients

100g/3.5 oz dark chocolate, coarsely chopped 100g/3.5 oz butter, chopped 2 tablespoons hot water 1 tablespoon cocoa powder 100g (1 cup) hazelnut meal 140g (2/3 cup) caster (fine white) sugar 1 tablespoon Frangelico hazelnut liqueur 1/2 teaspoon Chinese five spice2 eggs, separatedDouble cream, to serve

Nutella sauce

100g (1/3 cup) Nutella hazelnut spread 80ml (1/3 cup) thickened cream 100g dark chocolate, finely chopped

Method

Step 1 - Preheat moderate oven to 180C (356F)/160C fan forced. Grease six 85ml (3/4 cup) dariole moulds or Texas muffin pans and line the bases with baking paper.

Step 2 - Combine chocolate, butter, water and cocoa in a heatproof bowl over a saucepan of simmering water.

Cook, stirring, for 5 minutes or until mixture is melted and smooth, Remove from heat, Add hazelnut meal, sugar, liqueur, five spice and egg yolks. Stir to combine.

Step 3 - Use electric beaters to beat egg whites in a clean, dry bowl until soft peaks form. Add half the egg white to the chocolate mixture. Stir to combine.

Gently fold in remaining egg white until just combined. Spoon mixture among prepared moulds. Place on a baking tray.

Bake for 25-30 minutes or until cooked when tested with a skewer.

Set aside for 5 minutes to cool slightly. Turn onto a wire rack to cool.

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Step 4 - Meanwhile, for the sauce, combine the Nutella, thickened cream and chocolate in a small saucepan over low heat. Cook, stirring, for 5 minutes or until chocolate melts and mixture is smooth.

Step 5 - Place cakes on serving plates and drizzle with the warm chocolate hazelnut sauce. Serve with a dollop of double cream.

LUDLOW QUILT AND SEW

Discover new and exciting projects to quilt and sew each month with clear and easy to follow instructions. Visit our website and subscribe to Ludlow Quilt and Sew's free monthly newsletter now.

www.ludlowquiltandsew.co.uk



Reader "Show and Tell"

This month we continue our regular segment of "Show and Tell" quilts made by our Online Quilt Magazine Readers.

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.

** Remember to keep sending in photos of your latest quilt projects to share. Please send to: jody@onlinequiltmagazine.com.

"This is a photo of a Chinese themed Christmas party I had.

Some months ago you had a small table runner with hexagons in the centre. These photos are of a dinner party I had with the table runner

idea. I turned it into a table cloth. It was a big hit. Thank you again for such great ideas."

- Judith K., Australia



(Original table runner pattern in Vol 7 No 5 – May 2016)

"I was just reading your January edition and as always enjoy all the content. I was reading about projects and noticed that we can send in our projects. So here are my 2 most recent.

I designed these myself by colouring on graph paper and the making strips of the correct colours. The purple cross has 1" squares and hangs in our front entryway. The blue cross is made of 1 1/2" and hangs in our church. (finished size squares)"

- Joan L., Balaklava, SA





"...another sizzix cutting fabrics quilt, and a felt table runner for Xmas, as a gift to our eldest daughter."

- Jacqueline B., from Belgium





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"A busy Christmas season with 6 throws to make. This was a custom design for a friend's Granddaughter.



This was for my grandson...

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This is a custom quilt for a great granddaughter. She loves sea otters."

- Mary M., USA



"I have just finished this small quilt made from 6 fat quarters and some yardage of the green fabric which I used in the long border down one side.

Using an apple shaped stencil I quilted apple shapes all down this side and in the red squares."

- Valerie D., Australia



We love sharing the quilts you've made, and the hints and tips you have. If you have any, please send them to jody@onlinequiltmagazine.com, as we'd love to include yours!



Keep up to Date with What's Happening on our Facebook Page – 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



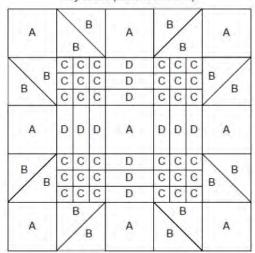
Block of the Month

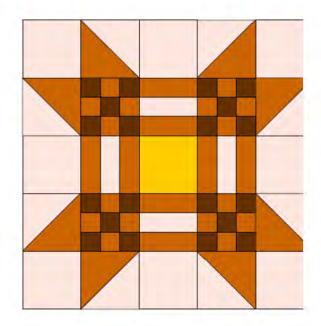
This month's block is a striking pieced star. You may like to team with a complimentary nine patch block for a different effect too.

To make this 10 inch block as shown, you will need 4 different fabrics, and once you have rotary cut the pieces according to the Cutting Diagram, you can piece them together as shown.

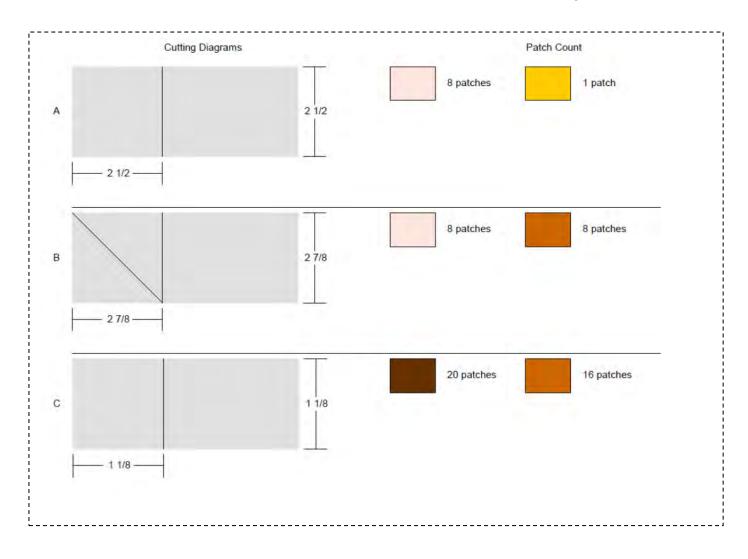
Missouri Puzzle

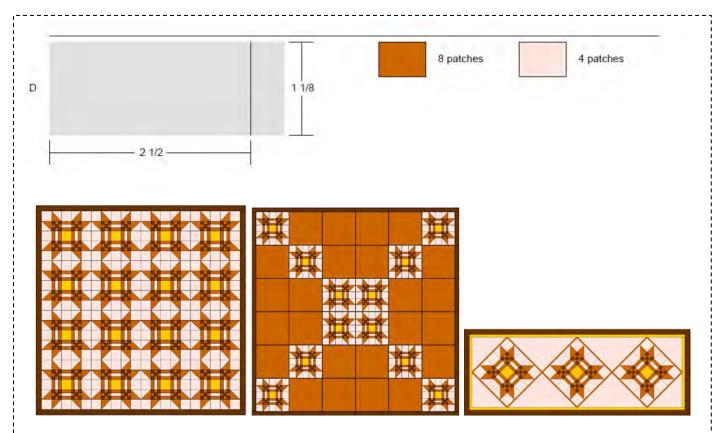
Key Block (5/20 actual size)





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Straightforward layouts give classic geometric quilt patterns.

For more great quilts and blocks, visit www.QuiltBlockOfTheMonthClub.com

Today's Tips:

I was reminded of another good tip this week:

Use the selvedge of a print fabric with the small colour dots as a guide. Those colours all go together, so you can match plain/solid colour fabric with those colours for a nice palette of fabrics that will all work really well together.

Use plain water only when washing out water soluble marker pens from your fabric, and hand wash well, as detergents and ironing may set the ink permanently.

(And we have heard too in some cases where when not properly washed out, the blue pens have actually rotted the fabric.)

She who has the most wins! The most important tool for quilting is your fabric collection. Build a

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good stash and then you'll always be able to find that special piece you need to complete a project.

(And who really needs an excuse for this?)

We loved this! Both Jennifer G., and Valerie D. from Australia sent me this to share with you this month...!!!! (Just not sure about 1949 priorities!)

Advice from a Singer Sewing Machine Manual from 1949

Prepare yourself mentally for sewing.

Think about what you are going to do. Never approach sewing with a sigh or lackadaisically. Good results are difficult when indifference dominates. Never try to sew with a sink full of dirty dishes or beds unmade.

When there are urgent housekeeping chores, do these first so that your mind is free to enjoy your sewing. When you sew, make yourself as attractive as possible. Put on a clean dress. Keep a little bag of French chalk near your sewing machine to dust your fingers at intervals. Have your hair in order, powder and lipstick put on. If you are constantly fearful that a visitor might drop in or your husband will come home, and you will not look neatly put together, you will not enjoy your sewing.

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

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"Quilt-y" Quotes...

- * Quilting is a gift you give yourself.
- * Quilting is cheap therapy.
- * Quilting with a friend will keep you in stitches.
- * Quilters know all the angles.

To subscribe to our Monthly Online Quilt Magazine, please go to www.OnlineQuiltMagazine.com and register so you don't miss another issue!

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