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## Letter from the Editor

Jody Anderson

Hi!
It's Winter here, and I'm feeling just a touch envious of those of you lucky enough to be entering a Northern Hemisphere summer. Still, it's not too bad here really, and my spring bulbs have started flowering early, which makes the view outside my window look pretty anyway. I'm just not looking further than the bulbs in the garden - our young Labrador puppy has pretty much decimated the rest of the yard, and let's just say that it's not so pretty right now.

Speaking of puppies though - check out our new feature on page 28, where you'll find download links for a couple of FREE patterns, including a very cute puppy applique! This month we're thrilled to share our newest quilt pattern too, for our Liberty Log Cabin on the front cover, there's Month 5 for our Exploring Block Sampler BOM Quilt, and a new bag pattern to play around with as well.

Lori, Leah and Rose have some great articles and "How To's", and there's tons more!
Grab a cuppa, put your feet up, take a look at this issue, and enjoy the sunshine wherever you are!

## Jody



Whether you are a veteran quilter or a "newbie" just ready to begin your first quilt, like any great craftsman, having the right tools for the job and knowing how and when to use them is important to the success of your project.

In my family quilting has been passed on from generation to generation. As a result, the new ideas and techniques, along with innovative tools and shortcuts have been passed on from one to another, so that the craft can continue to develop.

Always be proud of your work, sign and date all of the quilts that you make, so that you and those you give them to will enjoy them for many years to come.

There are basic necessities that are needed in quilting. For example, you can use almost any type of fabric, as long as the different fabric of the quilt has approximately the same fiber and
weight. Cottons are used most often, but quilts made from flannels, polyester cotton, or even old blue jeans or men's neck ties can give you creative materials for a quilt.

All fabrics should be prewashed by hand and in hot water. If the fabric bleeds, use a combination of $11 / 4$ cups of white vinegar and $1 / 2$ cup salt to set the colors. Allow the fabric to soak in the washing machine for at least 4 hours or more. The quilt should be labeled "dry-clean only."

Choosing a color for your quilt is a personal preference. Use a color wheel to pick colors that either compliment the room in which the quilt will be kept or if you are making a baby quilt, design the quilt to fit the new baby or keep soft pastels that would be perfect for any nursery decor.

How much fabric should you purchase depends on the pattern that is chosen. Yardage amounts
will be listed on each. If you intend to enlarge the quilt, increase the size of the borders or add additional borders. If the quilt is too large, reduce the size or numbers of borders.

Cotton batting is traditional, but polyester batting is much more common and easier to care for.
Depending on whether you plan to hand quilt or machine quilt, choose the batting right for you.

Since you want your quilt to stand the test of time, always select the best-quality thread. Cotton thread is the best, but often cotton-covered polyester thread is much more readily available and works just as well. If you are sewing the pieces by machine or machine quilting, use needles \# 14 or \#16. If you plan to hand quilt, a needle \# 7 or \# 8 is perfect.

Keep your sewing machine is good running condition, well-oiled, and the thread tension on the correct setting. Change your needle after each project. Have your machine serviced annually. Unfortunately, there are many UFOs (UnFinished Projects) sitting out in sewing rooms due to improperly cared for equipment.

My Grandmother would be amazed with a rotary cutter and mat, since she only used cardboard templates to make her patchwork quilts.

I recommend you buy the smaller sized cutter, even though they come in large and small, because I find that it is easier to handle and requires less pressure when cutting. Don't forget to purchase the mat, if you are a "newbie". The larger mat is better, even though the initial investment is higher because it allows for more work/ cutting area. Always remember to place the mat underneath your fabric before cutting or the work surface will be badly scored and the cutting blade will dull quickly.

Acrylic rulers are needed to measure and cut the fabric. These come in various sizes, shapes and are marked to support the cutting process. An alternative to acrylic is Plexiglas.

For some patterns, drawing on your fabric is needed. Washable pens and pencils are available. A fine-line ballpoint pen is an option if you are marking the wrong side of the fabric and then cutting on that line.

Pressing as you sew is important, so keep your iron on hand. It is easier to connect subsequent
pieces when the seams on the first ones are pressed down.

The quilter's best friend is your seam ripper. No one is perfect, so this tool allow us to get rid of our mistakes quickly and cleanly.

From start to finish, from one generation to the next, quilting has evolved and changed. Quilts have become more innovative and yet still resemble those of their "patchwork" past. One thing is still certain. The correct tools of the quilter's trade are needed to create these magnificent works of art.

Take time to quilt.
About the Author: 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.
Sharon Camp has been quilting for over 30 years.

Article Source:
http://EzineArticles.com/expert/Sharon_Camp/198826

## Free Motion Quilt Tutorial - The Greek Key

By Lori Kennedy from www.theinboxjaunt.com



The Greek Key is a motif found in art, architecture, fashion and garden design and dates back to ancient history.

Today's motif maintains the classic look, and is easy to stitch.


Begin by drawing two parallel lines. This motif can be very narrow or very wide. In the tutorial below, the lines are one inch apart.

Begin stitching on the bottom line.

Stitch straight up to the top line.
Stitch straight across the top line.
Stitch straight down, stopping above the bottom line.

Stitch over two or three stitches, then stitch straight back up, stopping below the top line.


Stitch over four or five stitches.


Stitch down to the bottom line.


Stitch on the bottom line, underneath the first motif. Stitch beyond the first motif to begin the next Greek Key.


Continue stitching several motifs in a row.


Change the look of this motif, from square to more rectangular by adjusting the number the stitching on the top line. (By shortening the stitching on the top line, the motif becomes more
narrow and rectangular.)


Create interest by varying the rows.


The Easy Greek Key is the "squared off" version of The Paperclip. To make learning The Greek Key even easier, try Paperclip first. Once you have mastered the rhythm of the Paperclip, The Greek Key will be EASY!

Can't wait to see what YOU make with this gorgeous border pattern!

Happy Stitching,

## 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 Divide and Conquer: Creative Quilting for Any Space, and Creative FreeMotion Techniques, From Doodle to Design


## Project - "Liberty Log Cabin" Quilt

By Jody Anderson from www.QuiltBlockoftheMonthClub.com


What better way to show off a few more stunning Liberty fabrics than with a simply pieced Log Cabin Lap Quilt?

We used left over lengths of the new print fabrics from the selection of 16 fat quarters we used for our special Libertyinspired projects last month.

This classic design shows off the print fabrics beautifully in a riot of colour, and still gives plenty of plain contrast negative space, for you to have fun quilting in!

This quilt is 54 inches square.

## You Will Need:

11/2-2 metres/ yards plain white fabric
16 assorted Liberty fabric prints - we used left over lengths from last month's projects. We used a Fat Quarter pack for this quilt (and all of our other Liberty fabric projects).

Batting measuring at least $58 \times 58$ inches
Backing fabric measuring at least $58 \times 58$ inches

## Cut:

You need to make 16 Log cabin blocks for this throw sized quilt. (It is easy to upsize for a bed sized quilt too - just make more blocks to repeat the pattern and add more height and width to this quilt, as required.) The cutting guide below gives amounts for ONE block.

## Liberty Log Cabin Block



$\square$ 1 patch


1 patch
c


1 patch

$\square$ 1 patch


1 patch


F


1 patch

G

$\square$ 1 patch

H


1 patch

Note - read pattern through fully first before cutting, as we recommend you cut lengths for your border strips first, before cutting the plain white strips for your blocks.

## Log Cabin Block Piecing:



These $\log$ cabin blocks are really easy to piece.
You simply start in the centre and work your way out.

Do take care with your seam allowances though they need to be consistent within each block for the best results.

To start, join piece $G$ to the centre square $H$.
Press seam.


Add the print piece $F$ to the right hand side, and press.

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Now add the plain piece $F$ across the bottom, and press.


Now add plain piece E to the left hand side and press.


Sew patterned piece E across the top, and press.


Add patterned piece D to the right hand side and press.

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And add plain piece $D$ to the bottom. Press.


Sew plain piece $B$ to the left hand side and press.


Add patterned piece B across the top. Press.


Sew patterned piece $C$ to the right hand side. Press.


And add plain piece $C$ to the bottom. Press.


Finally sew plain piece A to the left hand edge to finish.

Press block well, and repeat to make 15 more, so you have 16 in total.

Remember to keep the prints all to one side, and have fun mixing and matching your different patterned fabrics.

## Assembly:



This quilt is laid out in a simple $4 \times 4$ grid, however you do need to arrange your blocks in 4 sets of 4 first, as shown, in order to achieve the layout pattern.

Then position the four sets of 4 blocks next to each other like a big 4-patch, as pictured in the top quilt photo, so you end up with a patterned circle in the centre.

When you are happy with the positions, sew the blocks into rows and press seams in alternate directions between the rows.

Join the rows together and press well.

## Border:



There is a single plain white border around your pieced log cabin blocks.

The border strips are cut $31 / 2$ inches wide.
Measure the quilt first, and cut the border to suit. (If you are cutting the border strips first, cut 4 strips about 55 inches long, and you can trim them to fit later.)

The two side border strips should measure about $48^{1 / 2}$ inches long, and you will need two strips about $541 / 2$ inches for top and bottom borders.

Join the side borders first, and press, then add top and bottom.

## Quilting:

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

Pin the layers together in preparation for quilting. We quilted a frame in the negative space around the centre circle, then filled in the space with patches of dense quilting, and evenly spaced

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parallel lines. We quilted star spokes in the patterned $\log$ cabin sections. An edge to edge quilting pattern would look great too.

## Finishing:

Trim the batting and backing to match your quilt top.

Cut sufficient $2^{11 / 4}$ inch binding strips from the remainder of the white fabric and join together with 45 degree seams. Press the $1 / 4$ 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 to finish.

For More Great Quilt Patterns, Go To: www.QuiltBlockoftheMonthClub.com


## Brannie's New Book is Out Now!

We know you'll love Brannie just as much as we do, and this selection of Brannie's best stories will have you in stitches!

## Go to

https://www.createspace.com/5561384
to order your copy today.


## Want Five (5) FREE Bag Patterns???



Join our Bag Making Patterns Club this Month and receive:

* A Brand New Bag pattern EVERY Two weeks - patterns are downloadable, with lots of photos, detailed instructions and ready-to-go templates
* Two-weekly newsletter
*Extra Bonus - This Month ONLY - 5 of our Favourite Bag Patterns!
And all this is yours for LESS THAN \$10 per month!
Check it out and Join the Club at www.BagMakingPatterns.com


# Quilting Questions Answered 

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.

How much free motion quilting per day or week did you do to get so good so fast?

Was there a point when you had a break through (what was that?) and thought, wow, I can quilt anything? Did you take a lot of classes or mainly just practice at home? At what point did you start entering quilt shows? Did you enter local shows? Did you get any feedback from entering shows that helped you become a better quilter?

To answer your question simply: Quilting Daily, not really for any particular length of time, just getting on the machine a bit every day, is the key to mastering free motion quilting.

Personally, I learned free motion by mastering one design at a time. I learned Stippling from the first machine quilting class I took back in 2006,
and pretty much stippled every quilt I made for 2 years.

This is a large reason why we've stuck with stippling for so long this year. I think it's a great design to start with and can cover so many bases for learning free motion.

I stuck with that single design until I found Karen McTavish's books in 2008 and learned McTavishing. I'd say that was a huge turning point - reading "Quilting For Show", a book that is basically a blueprint for creating show winning quilts.

Up until that time, I'd bounced around with quilts of all styles: art quilts, bed quilts, etc, but that book really focused my attention solely on quilting for show.

I thought if I could make a fantastic quilt, it would show around the country and I'd win cash prizes and help support my family. It was my
idealistic idea for turning quilting from a hobby into a business without having to actually sell my quilts or quilt for service, two things I didn't want to do.

So another turning point was The Duchess, my very first show quilt, and the first wholecloth quilt I ever tackled.


The Duchess is very elaborate and was a huge challenge to design and quilt. I worked on it daily
for several months and, by the end of the process, I had definitely seen a giant leap in my quilting ability.

That is the nature of a challenge though - to force you to grow and change and adapt. When making The Duchess, I was still using cotton thread, still dropping my feed dogs, still doing lots of things that made quilting more difficult.

By the end, most of those habits had gone, replaced through trial and error with new materials that worked better. Trust me, you can't make a quilt like this when your thread breaks or nests every 5 seconds!

While I'd entered shows before, entering The Duchess was like walking into a gun fight armed with a Uzi. I knew she was a knock out, and wholecloth quilts generally do well because they don't have a lot to complete against.

In the three shows this quilt competed in, I did learn a bit from the judges, but it certainly didn't change my quilting. Mostly their comments
enlightened me about competing and what judges see and don't see.


The Duchess wasn't perfect. I'd accidentally scorched the dead center of that quilt when attaching hot fix crystals (you can see this in the close up image above), but the first judge didn't even see the mistake. It was good to learn that judges won't see every mistake because they don't know where to look!

Of course, the real turning point for free motion quilting is most definitely starting this project. The challenge of stitching 365 designs (for Leah's 365 Free Motion Quilting Designs Project and book) forced me to quilt every single day, and to start playing with the designs more creatively in quilts.

I'm not being modest when I say that I wasn't that great at free motion quilting when I started this project. I really wasn't! But stitching new designs every day was a terrific way to learn and grow with this skill.

And growth never really stops! I've learned LOADS about free motion quilting by quilting on a larger scale. You're not the only one learning new skills here - I am too!

There is always something new to learn, and no matter what you want to do with this craft: show quilting, bed quilting, art quilting, you can always find challenges to push yourself to the next level.

So if you're really wanting to see a lightning fast
explosion in your quilting ability, try quilting every single day for an entire month.

It really doesn't matter how long you quilt, or if you even get a project done. The key is just getting on your machine every day.

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



I think I do more sleeping than I used to.
I have an after-breakfast nap, sometimes followed by a pre-lunch snooze in the sun, but this might depend on how much help my Quilty-Mum needs during the morning.

A bit of lunch, a bit more sun and I'm ready for the afternoon nap. Then it's dinner time and a sit on the knees while they watch the picture thing.

They then go to bed.
Well, .... now I'm all rested up and ready for a game! My Quilty-Mum goes to bed first and I jump across and on her a few times for starters and fly up and down the slippery floor in the passage.

## Hints and Tips From Brannie

By "Brannie" Mira-Bateman

"It's bed time!" she moans. "Why didn't you run around before?"

I was asleep before - didn't feel like it then.
My Dad sloshes water around in that other room, then comes to the bed and starts a strange game with me.

There I am, all snuggled up beside Quilty-Mum, when he lies down on the floor at the other side of the bed and disappears!

I HAVE to look. Where has he gone? Even if I am nearly asleep, I just HAVE to jump over to see what he's up to. I settle down on his side of the bed and look down at him.

He waves his legs slowly up and down, up and down. It's like playing Boo with his knee. What is he up to? He sits up, lays down, sits up, lays down.

I can no more shut my eyes and ignore him than fly. They laugh at me, but I don't know why.

If someone disappears and I know they are still there, I HAVE to go and look. It's a cat thing.

My Quilty-Mum has just finished another quilt. She spent a lot of time arranging squares on the floor, then moving them around to another position.

I raced across them a few times to give her an idea of a new arrangement. I'm fairly sure she ended up stitching the pieces together in one of my suggestions. She got very excited about it anyway.

I can play silly-devils during the day if I want to, it's just that I often don't think about it until bed time.

The new quilt looks good now it's finished though. I wonder what's next?

Never a dull moment at our house.

## FREE Quilt Pattern Roundup!!!

(Check out what's available for FREE!!)


Isn't this gorgeous? Click the link below to download your FREE Pattern for this "With All My Heart Red FREE Quilt Pattern"
http://shrsl.com/?iaen


And who wouldn't want to take this cute puppy home? Click the link below to download this FREE Applique pattern.
http://shrsl.com/?iaeo

# Quilt Ideas - Quilt Designs for Beginner Quilters 

By Rose Smith from www.ludlowquiltandsew.co.uk

My first point would be that a small project is far more likely to be completed than a large quilt.

While a large quilt top can be made first in small parts and then sewn together, it can still be difficult for a beginner to cope with layering and quilting a large project if they have not done it before. This is why I often start beginners on a tote bag, baby quilt or cushion cover. This way they can learn to make patchwork quilts - and find out what the jargon means - relatively quickly.

This gives the satisfaction of seeing something beautiful that is hand-made and the desire to make another quilt soon follows.

There are several things to look for when searching for quilt designs for beginners.

The first and most simple design would be using squares and making a design through the different colours of the fabrics used. This is simple to measure, cut and sew, making it an ideal beginner quilt pattern.


Next a pattern that introduces rectangles as well could be attempted. This quilt design will have right angles only, so that the construction is simple, but there is now a bit more complexity introduced by virtue of the differing sizes of the quilt blocks.


One of the most simple quilt design ideas for this stage is the log cabin quilt. This is one of the most traditional quilt blocks, even having been used by the ancient Egyptians.

The basic $\log$ cabin design is for a red square in the middle which represents the hearth. This is surrounded by frames of rectangles
representing the logs. Variety is achieved by using different colours and different widths of rectangles for the logs, giving stunning results when the quilt blocks are sewn together.


Once a beginner quilter has a little confidence, different shapes can be introduced into the quilt design ideas.

Triangles are the most obvious next step but it would be best to stick to right angled triangles at first. These are made by cutting
two squares of different colours along one diagonal and then sewing two triangles of different colours back together again. This obviously gives you a square again, although it will be a smaller square than those that were originally cut along the diagonal.


At this stage the number of quilt designs that can be used by the beginner increase dramatically. Using careful placement of colours, stars and flowers can be created using just squares and half square triangles.

When considering quilt design ideas, it is not only the shape of the quilt blocks that needs to be considered - the size of the blocks also has a bearing.

It is more difficult to make a quilt with lots of small, fiddly constituent parts. Big blocks are more easy to work with and also help the quilt to grow more quickly. This again helps the confidence of the quilter.

For more information on learning how to quilt, visit Ludlow Quilt and Sew. Sign up for the free newsletter to receive a simple tutorial for a new beginner quilting project each week. http:// www.ludlowquiltandsew.co.uk

Article Source:
http://EzineArticles.com/expert/Rose_A_Smith/789576


## 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".


## Petites Maisons De Noel by French General for Moda Fabrics

Petites Maisons de Noel is a fun holiday collection which features our favorite French holiday prints combined with our own illustrations of small Christmas houses.

Filled with our favorite reds, pearls and greens, this collection will be the perfect addition to all your holiday sewing.

Petites Maisons De Noel by French General for Moda Fabrics is available in precuts, yardage and a coordinating pattern by It's Sew Emma.

Check it out at:
https://www.fatquartershop.com/moda-fabric/petites-maisons-de-noel-french-general-moda-fabrics


## Howdy by Stacy Iset Hsu for Moda Fabrics

Howdy! Pull up your boot straps and grab you favorite cowboy hat, these cute cowpokes are headed to the corral. Add a little bit of "western" style to your next project with cowboy boots, horseshoes, bandanas and country roses in a beautifully versatile color palette. Howdy by Stacy Iset Hsu for Moda Fabrics is available in precuts, the Fat Quarter exclusive Jolly Bar, two kits and yardage. Giddy up!

See More at:
https://www.fatquartershop.com/moda-fabric/howdy-stacy-iset-hsu-moda-fabrics


## Snowberry by 3 Sisters for Moda Fabrics

A bright red berry frozen by a winter storm was the inspiration for the color palette of Snowberry. Icy whites and grays, shades of blue and vibrant red - all the colors of a bright winter day reimagined in classic 3 Sisters' floral prints to create a sophisticated collection that will work in any season. Snowberry by 3 Sisters for Moda Fabrics is available in precuts, kits, cotton yardage and coordinating woven prints.

View this range at:
https://www.fatquartershop.com/moda-fabric/snowberry-3-sisters-moda-fabrics


## Gooseberry Lane by Kansas Troubles Quilters for Moda Fabrics

Gathering with family and friends is one of the true gifts of the holiday season. Whether it's sharing a walk in fresh snow or a cup of tea by the fireplace, we'll remember the time we spend with our loved ones forever.

Wrap them in love with a Gooseberry Lane quilt and enjoy the warmth of the Christmas season.

Gooseberry Lane by Kansas Troubles Quilters for Moda Fabrics is available in precuts, the Gooseberry Sampler kit, yardage and coordinating patterns.

See this Collection at:
https://www.fatquartershop.com/moda-fabric/gooseberry-lane-kansas-troubles-quilters-moda-fabrics

## 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

## 2017 Project - Exploring Blocks Sampler Quilt

By Jody Anderson from www.QuiltBlockoftheMonthClub.com
This month we're still 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 $1 / 2$ 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.

www.AliceCaroline.co.uk

## Block 5 - Twelve Triangles Block



## You Will Need:

Four (4) fabrics that contrast. We used pewter, yellow, orange and pale blue.

* You will need to make THREE (3) of these 10 inch Twelve Triangles blocks. Refer to the rotary cutting guide below for cutting directions and quantites for EACH block.


## Twelve Triangles

Key Block (5/20 actual size)


Cutting Diagrams



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## Assembly:



Lay out each block as shown.


Start by joining opposite orange triangles to the centre square. Press seams.


Now join the remaining two orange triangles and press well.

Trim off the 'dog ears' at the seams.


Continue adding triangles. Next is the opposite yellow pair.


And then add the remaining yellow pair of triangles.

Press well and trim dog ears.


Add two opposing pewter triangles.


And to finish, add the remaining pewter triangles and press well.

This is a nice block to repeat, and would be a good one to show off a larger scale print fabric in the centre square, or separate out on point with a matching background block, for a more modern style layout.


## 4-Patch:

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

We're going to try a couple of different variations on this theme, this month.


Cut one of your Twelve triangles blocks into 4, as shown.

As your finished block should measure 101/2 inches square, you should be able to cut in half vertically once at $5 \frac{1}{4}$ 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 centre square and through the points of the centre diamond as shown.


Rotate each quarter 180 degrees to make a pinwheel style block, as shown.


Join the units into pairs and press seams so they face in opposite directions.


Join the pairs together to re-complete your block.

Also - as you have cut and re-pieced your 101/2 inch block, the finished block will now be about a $1 / 2$ 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 an even 9-patch.

Measure to check (and square up your block if you need to first), and cut twice vertically and twice horizontally to cut your block into 9 even sized squares.

For a $10^{1 / 2}$ inch block, you need to cut at $3^{1 / 2}$ and 7 inches across, both horizontally and vertically.


You have a couple of options with rotating the pieces for different effects.

Try moving the yellow point blocks a quarter turn to the left.


Or, rotate the middle blocks 180 degrees as we did.


Carefully piece the units together into rows.
Press so the seams alternate directions between the rows.


Finally join the rows together to reveal your new re-pieced 9-patch Twelve Triangles Block, with a new star revealed in the centre.

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.

## Proper Seam Pressing In Quilts

By Jan Myers

Pressing the seams in your quilt is one of the most important tasks for the completed work. A good press will mean that the quilt is assured a smooth flow from piece to piece both visually and to the touch.

Most quilters will find that they have a style of pressing that suits them best, but before you find that style it is important to realize what pressing is not.

## What Pressing is Not

Pressing the seams in your quilt is not the same as ironing. Although you will be using an iron and an ironing board, it is absolutely critical to remember that you are not ironing (that is, running the appliance over the seam
with gentle pressure) but just coaxing the seam down in order to seal it and make it less visible.

Pressing the seam is often thought of as a way of strengthening the seam, but this is not really the case. No strength is added to the seam itself by having it seam pressed down; instead, pressing the seam will mean that should any stitch come undone, the cotton batting in the quilt will not push up through the seam. This can be said to strengthen the integrity of the quilt somewhat, but it does not make the seam itself any stronger.

What Pressing Is

Pressing uses the weight of the iron itself to
create seam allowances that might otherwise result in lost fabric. In a work such as a quilt, which requires many pieces put together, lost millimeters on each piece can mean a big difference in the end product. Pressing quilt blocks as they are made eliminates this problem.

Pressing will also create a good loft which will come in handy when it comes time to attach the pieces. Finally, pressing will help give the quilt a uniform appearance and feel.

Types of Pressing

There are two types of pressing; side pressing and open pressing. Side pressing is simply pressing the seams to one side, and is generally advocated by most quilting instructors.

Open pressing involves application of the iron both to the back and the front of the
blocks to open the seam allowances and press them flat. This can take twice as long as side pressing, but those who use it say that it greatly helps in the appearance of the quilt.

This style is most appropriate when using machine stitched pieces, which are stronger than those done by hand; the stitch is less likely to come undone, and therefore hiding a hole will not be necessary.

Pressing Technique

When you are pressing blocks in the full quilt, the seams should be pressed towards the dark patches.

If your quilt involves a more intricate pattern, with spirals and compass shapes, then try pressing in a clockwise pattern; at the very least, make sure that your presses are all uniform in direction.

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This will lessen the bulk in the middle of the pattern when all the seams are pressed.

Pressing seams is probably one of the dullest aspects of quilting, but it is important to make sure that you do it accurately. It will help to maintain the integrity of the quilt and can also make piecing that much easier.

One last hint, don't use steam! The heat from the iron will be sufficient for pressing.

Moisture may cause colors to run, and will make the blocks more susceptible to distortion.

About the Author: Jan Myers is the author of numerous articles and books on topics from organizational development and leadership to quilting. It was her avocation, the love of quilting, that inspired the popular online membership site for quilters known as the "world's largest quilting bee".

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## ******

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Bonus blocks, hints and tips added all the time!!
http://www.facebook.com/\#!/pages/Do-
You-Love-Quilting-Too/271888039492644

## Modern Zebra Tote

By Jody Anderson from www.BagMakingPatterns.com


Join the growing
'Modern' movement and piece your own fun tote with randomly placed strips. Our mid-sized over-the-shoulder bag has comfortable padded handles and a magnetic clasp closure. It's quick and easy to make, and is a fabulous 'take anywhere' kind of bag that you'll find yourself using all the time.

Bag Dimensions are 13 inches wide at the base $x$ $11^{1 / 2}$ inches high and $2^{1 / 2}$ inches deep.

## You Will Need:

$3 / 4$ metre ( $3 / 4$ yard) plain (olive green) fabric for bag outer

Assorted fabric strips to piece in bag sides (we used red, yellow, dark blue and orange)
$1 / 2$ metre ( $1 / 2$ yard) fabric for lining
1 metre (1 yard) medium-weight fusible interfacing
$1 / 2$ metre ( $1 / 2$ yard) light-weight fusible pellon
$1 \times$ magnetic clasp
Piece template plastic measuring $2^{1 / 2}$ inches x 13 inches

Scraps of heavy weight interfacing for inserting magnetic clasp (otherwise medium weight will work fine)

## Bag Construction:

Please read all instructions fully before beginning. All measurements are in inches, and unless stated otherwise, a $1 / 4$ inch seam allowance has been used.

Referring to the attached Cutting Guide, carefully cut the required bag pieces from the bag fabrics, interfacing and pellon as required. Piece the bag outer sides first, then fuse the interfacing and pellon to the wrong side of the bag pieces as indicated in the Cutting Guide. The lining is just interfaced.

## Bag Outer:



To start, lay out the pieced side panel with your strips placed on top, to get an idea of how you'd like to piece the sides.
(Our strips were cut as: dark blue - 1 inch, red - $1^{1 / 2}$ inches, orange -1 inch and $1^{11 / 2}$ inches, green - $11 / 2$ inches, and yellow - $11 / 4$ inches.)

We made both sides the same.


To piece yours like ours, measure up $1 / 1 / 2$ inches from the bottom edge and cut the pieced side panel on that line. Insert the dark blue strip and press well.

Measure in 3 inches from the left hand side and cut and sew in the red strip as shown. Press well.


Sew the orange and green strips together and press, then cut an angled line and insert that strip into the panel.


Measure down about $11 / 2$ inches and cut another angled line to insert the yellow strip.

Press both panels well.


Trim panels to measure $71 / 4$ inches $\times 161 / 2$ inches.


Sew the top and bottom strips to each panel.
Press seams then fuse the interfacing and pellon to the wrong side of each.

With right sides together and taking care to match the side seams, sew the two bag outer panels together down both sides and across the bottom.

To make the bag base, pinch together the bottom corners - align the side seam on top of the bottom seam, mark down $11 / 4$ inches from the sewn corner point (so the width of the seam is $2^{1 / 2}$ inches) and sew across that line at right angles to the other seams. Repeat for the other corner.

Next, make a sleeve from the template plastic cover piece. With right sides together, fold the panel in half around the piece of template plastic. Pin so it fits snugly, then remove the plastic and sew together. Turn the tube right
sides out. Round the corners of the template plastic and slide it into the fabric cover.


As shown, pin and sew the cover to the folded bag base.

With the seam facing towards the bottom of the bag, pin one end of the template plastic tube to one of the sewn triangle ends at the base.

Sew on the same seam you made to form the base, and join the covered template plastic slip to the bag.

Make sure the base is firmly pulled to fit the bag base, and repeat with the other end. Trim away the excess fabric at each end once that's done. Turn bag right sides out.

## Handles:

Now make the two handles. Fuse the pellon strips down the centre of each handle, on top of the interfacing. Use your iron to fold up and press the $1 / 2$ inch seam allowances down the length of each strip.

Fold the handle strip in half with wrong sides together and pin. Topstitch the length of the seam to secure. Also topstitch down the other long side of the handle. Our handles were also stitched a further three times down the length for decoration. Use your $1 / 4$ inch sewing machine foot and sew a parallel row a $1 / 4$ inch to the inside of each of the edge
topstitched rows. Sew the final row spaced halfway between the inner rows to finish. Repeat for the second handle.

The handles are placed 3 inches in from each side seam at the bag top. With right sides together, pin and sew the handles to the bag top with a scant seam.

## Lining:

Sew the remaining plain olive green top strips to the top of each lining panel. Press seam and fuse interfacing to the wrong side of each panel.

The next step is to attach the magnetic clasp near the top of both lining pieces. Fold one lining side in half vertically to make a crease up the centre. From the top of the bag, measure down 1 inch on that line and mark that point with a lead pencil. Cut a square of heavy interfacing approximately $11 / 2$ inches square and iron it to the back of the lining piece on top of the light weight lining and
centred over the marked dot. This will help protect the fabric in your bag and stop the clasp from wearing through with repeated use. (You can use the medium weight interfacing here if you do not have any heavy weight, although the heavier weight gives better protection.)

Push the two prongs of the top half of the clasp (with the centre part raised) into the right side of the fabric to create indents, then use your unpicker tool to make two tiny slits in the fabric there, to push the clasp through. Make the slits smaller than the width of the prongs. Push the clasp prongs through to the back, turn the lining side piece over, slip on the 'washer' provided with the clasp and fold the prongs over onto themselves, over the back of the clasp. (If you splay them out, you run the risk of them eventually piercing through the bag fabric.)

Cut an approximate 2 inch square of the medium weight interfacing and place it over
the top of the folded prongs on the wrong side of your lining side. Use the iron again to fuse it in place, as another safeguard to protecting your bag fabric. On the right side then, sew a square around the clasp to finish it neatly, and hold all layers securely together.

Repeat this with the other half of the clasp on the other lining side piece.

Pin the two lining panels together as you did for the bag outer and sew down the sides and across the bottom, making sure to leave most of the middle of one side seam unsewn, to turn the bag through later.

Pinch and sew the bag base exactly as you did for the bag outer.

Place the bag outer into the lining bag, and tuck the handles down between the layers. Pin the bags around the top, matching side
seams and sew. Turn right sides out through the gap left in the lining bag.

Tuck in the seam allowances and pin and topstitch the gap closed, before pushing the lining into the bag outer.

Topstitch around the top of the bag, and carefully pin the top strips together too (through both thicknesses), so you can sew a second row around the top of the bag on the line where the top strip is sewn to the pieced panel.


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## Modern Zebra Tote Cutting Guide



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For More Great Bag Patterns, go to: www.BagMakingPatterns.com

## Book Reviews

By Annette Mira-Bateman from www.QuiltBlockoftheMonthClub.com


"Jo's Little Favorites II - A Classic Collection
of 15 Small Quilts" by Jo Morton

This second book of Jo's Little Favorites follows the success of the first. It includes some really beaut. ideas for decorating your home with quilts - like lining small baskets (pattern out) or hanging several rolled-up quilts in a row. The quilts are small; fat $1 / 4$ 's or fat $1 / 8$ 's are often all you need.

The patterns are really cute, but the photos showing decorating ideas are as important.

With block sizes around $5^{\prime \prime}$ to $6^{\prime \prime}$, the completed quilts measure about 25 " to 30 ", with a few smaller or larger.

One is up to $55^{\prime \prime}$ and looks great as an outdoor tablecloth.

If you want to continue making quilts (and don't we all?) and you've got every bed
covered and are starting on the walls, then this book is for you.

Change the decorations in your house, showcase your works of art and best of all, keep on quilting.
"Jo's Little Favorites II" is another winner and you'll love sewing these little gems.

It 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)



"Stunning Stitches - 21 Shawls, Scarves \& Cowls You'll Love to Knit" by Jen Lucas

Jen Lucas loves stitch patterns. She has produced a wonderful collection of accessories to be worn around the neck.

This book features 7 different sets of garments which each contain 3 designs that feature the same stitch pattern. A lace pattern may be used for the whole shawl or just as an edge on another design.

There are patterns for cowls, dickeys, shawls, stoles and scarves. Advanced or beginner knitters will all find inspiration here.

Jen likes soft, squishy yarns to create these lovely, richly textured pieces.

The patterns are written as row-by-row instructions, or, if you prefer, in a graph form. Very detailed photography shows all you need to work these pretty designs.

There are some great suggestions on the use of colourful yarns in these patterns.

It's always knitting time, so get out the needles. Casting on and off instructions are very well illustrated and also joining seamlessly. Abbreviations and needle sizes are all there; a really lovely knitting book.
"Stunning Stitches - 21 Shawls, Scarves \& Cowls You'll Love to Knit" 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)


## Recipe Corner - Lemon and Coconut Brownies

## Method:

Step 1 - Preheat oven to $180^{\circ} \mathrm{C}(356 \mathrm{~F})$. Line a 20 x $30 \mathrm{~cm}(8 \times 12 \mathrm{in})$ (base measurement) slab pan with non-stick baking paper.

Step 2 - Melt the butter in a saucepan over medium heat. Remove from heat. Stir in sugar. Add eggs, 1 at a time, and stir until mixture is thick and glossy.

Step 3 - Sift the flour over the egg mixture and stir until well combined. Stir in coconut, lemon rind and lemon juice. Spread over base of prepared pan.

Step 4 - Bake for 30 minutes or until a skewer inserted into the centre comes out clean. Set aside in the pan to cool completely. Cut into pieces. Dust with icing sugar.

## 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 month we've had several quilts and sets of blocks sent in by participants of our most recent Global Friendship Block Swap Project. They've come together really well, and the results are brilliant!
"...trying to decide what fabric to use for my sashing. Sandeep has chosen his favorite block :)"

- Julie G., USA

$\qquad$
- Maria B., Australia

"Here is a picture of the blocks I have received so far. Thanks so much every one. such a treat to get your handiwork !!"
- Sharon T., USA


Sharon also sent in a quilt she made recently for a granddaughter's birthday -

"I have just finished the border, but have yet to decide on the quilting, this may take a while!!!"

Jan K., Australia


Terri E., has just finished the border on hers, and it's $59 \times 92$ inches in size.


Have You Checked Out Our Online Clubs Yet?


Patterns to download on both...
www.QuiltBlockoftheMonthClub.com www.BagMakingPatterns.com

And a Great New Range of Quilt \& Bag Patterns!

www.QuiltBlockoftheMonthClub.com
"Here's the photo of my quilt blocks. I love them all, and the stories that came with them. I haven't quilted it yet, not sure if I want to add a border and finish $i t$, or add to it with another set of friendship blocks. I've enjoyed working on this both making blocks to send and receiving blocks to assemble."

- Tammy W., USA

"I have just finished this quilt".
Liz N., Australia


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"For several weeks now I've been working on this quilt as each house pattern becomes available on line via a weekly newsletter from a New Zealand fabric shop. It was fun to make and a great way to use up left over scraps from previous projects."
- Valerie D., Australia

\(\qquad\)
"This quilted mosaic wall-hanging was inspired by a ceramic tile sculpture. It is made up of small pieces of fabric that were fused onto a background fabric and then quilted, using a meander free motion technique. It was finished with a facing, rather than a traditional binding, to make it look more like an artwork to hang. It is 2' by \(3^{\prime}\). Hope you enjoy it!"
- Lisa, Ontario, Canada

"My husband and I are teaching in China for 2 years so I decided to make Dresden plates of anything significant about our stay in China. I don't have a sewing machine here so hand paper piecing is the way to go...I am calling it my China quilt.

These are a few of my blocks so far..."
- Debbie W., Ningbo, China

\(\qquad\)
"This was fun ! A lot of stuff was out of my way, and beautifully arranged! The quilt was made on a very nice workshop, and must be quilted now!!!!
-Jacqueline B., Belgium


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!

"This is a photo of an adaption I made to your original pattern " At Home Among the Gum Trees " which I got from BOM Club quite early on.

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I needed to have a basic pattern that would allow me to add several photos to it and didn't have a lot of time to make the quilt.

It was made for my brother's 6oth birthday at the end of April this year."
- Glenys P., Australia


\section*{Kelly Ashton Kellyquilter Designs}

Teacher, Designer, Author, Pragmatic Quilt-maker, Color-Lover,
 Fervent Fabric Collector
"Have quilts. Will trave!!"
Hexagons, Diamonds. Triangles and More:
Skill-Building Techniques for Sixty-Degree Patchwork (Martingale)

Quilt Patterns and Kellyquilter (acrylic)
Templates
Presentations / Trunk Shows

Website/Blog: kellyquilter.com E-mail: kelly@kellyquilter.com Facebook: Kelly Ashton: Quilting Lectures \& Workshops (Please "Like" my FB page!)
Instagram: kellyaquilter

\section*{Block of the Month}

This Block is a classic pieced block, and would be great combined with some bright appliquéd flowers. Piece the triangle basket together first, then the side strips and triangles and finally the larger two triangles to complete the block.

To make this 10 inch block as shown, you will need 3 different fabrics, and once you have rotary cut the pieces according to the Cutting Diagram, you can piece them together as shown.

\section*{Basket}




Use a layout like this for a lap quilt, and applique some bright flowers in the baskets to create a quilt all of your own design. Make a cushion or throw pillow cover with a single block.

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

\section*{Today's Tips:}

Jan B., from NSW Australia sent in this really handy tip this month:
"I came upon a handy tip for your online magazine. I have been making some quilted placemats for my granddaughter, and after quilting, needed to round the corners prior to binding.

My granddaughter chose a nature print fabric with wolves in their wild surroundings, and nothing seemed to show up when I tried to mark the rounded corners, difficult trying to mark through the quilted sandwich.

I tried special pencils, biros, etc. and nothing seemed to show up. Then I remembered what a very old friend used - the worn down remnant of a cake of soap, used like tailor's chalk! It worked like a dream. The only other, and slower alternative would have been to cut a paper
template of the rounded shape, and pin it in each corner to cut around - very time consuming."

We found these tips again this month and thought they might help too -
* To reduce seam allowance bulk when machine piecing, seam allowances that meet should be pressed in opposite directions whenever possible.
* When doing stitch-in-the-ditch machine quilting, stitch as close to the seam as possible, on the lower side of the seam (the side of the seam opposite the seam allowance bulk).
* To keep bobbin thread from tangling on the back when machine quilting, always bring the bobbin thread to the top of the quilt before beginning to sew.

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\section*{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

\section*{"Quilt-y" Quotes...}

You Know you are a Quilter If........
* There's more Fabric in the House than Food
* "Fat Quarters" are not the heaviest part of your body
* Your ironing board is always set up but you never iron clothes
* You think of your job as an interruption of your quilting time

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