

Premium Online Quilt Magazine – Vol. 5 No. 1

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Letter from the Editor

Jody Anderson

Hi!

Happy New Year, and Welcome to 2014!! If you're anything like me, now that the Great Christmas Rush is all over, it's time to plan out some projects for the New Year, and look forward to what it may bring.

I've decided on making a proper effort to get rid of those UFO's piled up in my sewing room, and I've found it really quite liberating to be able to finally let go of a few too. I just don't have that 'happy' feeling about finishing them, so rather than stress over that, they're getting bundled away until I find something better to do with them. I'd much rather feel that creative excited buzz when I'm sewing.

I have a looooong list now of new projects to tackle this year, and to help you get started on yours, we have three new projects for you in this issue. There's some great pointers from Leah on when to quilt, or not, and plenty more hints, tips and how-to's. Brannie made a road trip over Christmas too...

Check out Page 58 too – we've had requests for a Global Friendship Quilt program, and we're looking for your expressions of interest, so we can get one started for you.

It's going to be a Great Year!





To Quilt, Or Not To Quilt

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

A Reader, Tina, recently emailed me about her beautiful storm at sea quilt and asked an interesting question:

How can you tell if a given area on a quilt even needs to be quilted?



In truth, there's only one rule that governs whether an area of your quilt should be quilted or not: the rating of your batting.

So let's say Tina is using Quilters Dream Poly (I have no idea what batting she's using, this is just an example) - this batting as clearly listed on the website can be quilted up to 12 inches apart.

Clearly the white triangles around the purple diamonds are much smaller than 12 inches, so Tina could leave them open.

But what if she was using a different batting that said "quilting up to 2 inches." In that case, I might feel pushed to work into those areas to fill simply to ensure the batting didn't shift or bunch up after the quilt was finished.

So understand - when it comes to the utilitarian necessity of lines of quilting holding the 3 layers together, you only have to quilt within the rating

of the batting and you're done.

This might be a relief for those struggling through UFOs that has already taken loads of time.

Quilt it minimally by using a batting like Quilter's Dream that can be left VERY open. There's no sense making a troublesome project last longer than it has to!

But in there is a flip side of Tina's quilt - the artistic addition of texture and another layer of design created by the quilting stitches.

Does it NEED more stitching - not as a utilitarian "holding it all together" thing, but as an addition to the other stitched designs within the quilt?

The answer here is entirely subjective and honestly, entirely up to Tina. I might quilt this quilt entirely differently or entirely the same.

The only way to know what works and if the quilt needs it is to audition more designs!



These are just simple sketches I drew up this morning with my cup of tea. I like the idea of feathers or rings of circular echoes simply because they would add formality and structure to the quilt.

There's a lot of organic wiggliness going on and these might add a nice contrast.

Notice the difference of the two feathers (top and bottom). The top has the feathers stretching out from the diamond, the bottom has the feathers curling in. See how that simple change of direction really alters the entire effect of the block!

These are just 3 ideas. There are literally hundreds of ways this block could be filled. Ultimately Tina will need to make the decision based on how she's feeling about the piece and how much time it will take to fill these areas as well.

So that's the most simple rule of thumb when it comes to filling more of your quilt - are you having fun yet?!

If yes, keep going and enjoy the process of adding more texture!

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If no, slap a binding on that monster and get it out of your sewing room. No sense in making difficult quilt into an intense torture session!

Let's go quilt, 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

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Making A Quilt With Men's Flannel Shirts

By Tricia Deed from www.Infotrish.com

Christmas, holiday birthdays, and the New Year celebrations have come to an end. New clothing gifts came into our lives replacing the old clothing.

Here is a quick suggestion for flannel shirts. Do not throw away those shirts; start your new year making a quilt with men's flannel shirts.

The men's plaid flannel shirts can be mixed and matched with solid matching fabric (flannel) colors.

After you combine your quilting pattern squares and rectangles you will have a new quilt to be used for a sofa throw or a cover up for your favorite sporting event.

As a quilt maker, you will have many other ideas other than the above mentioned two suggestions. I feel sure about this because as you look over these flannel shirts you will recall many memories of camping trips, hiking paths, fishing and canoeing, and many other outdoor activities you shared with family and friends.

Study these shirts with a keen eye:

- Save less worn areas
- Cut away worn and stained areas
- Save buttons, cuffs, and pockets which are in good condition

Making a quilt with men's flannel shirts will be rather easy to do.

- Choose a favorite quilting pattern
- Cut squares, rectangles, and strips from the flannel shirts to suit your pattern

- Count how many of each cut are available
- Decide how many pieces are missing
- Purchase coordinating colors to complete quilting design
- Hand stitch, machine stitch or use a combination of these sewing techniques to piece your quilt
- · Add batting and backing and quilt
- Enjoy your quilt made with men's flannel shirts

Other benefits of using not so worn out shirts include:

- · They are readily available and free
- All family members can donate their unwanted flannel shirts
- It will be a unique memory quilt

As an added note the quilt design may or may not need to have a border. If you decide to use a border accent your squares with a border representing your special outdoor activities as portrayed in the fabric patterns.

If you cannot find a border which will accent your quilt as you would prefer, consider making



appropriate appliques to show off those important memories.

Another important item to include in your quilt is your name, address (if you wish), your name, and the date. More times than not making a quilt with men's flannel shirts worn by the men in your family may become an heirloom in the future for a family member.

About the Author: Tricia Deed of www.lnfotrish.com brings to you through internet marketing, hobbies for your leisure and recreation and business hobbies to increase your household income. I invite you to my web pages to visit and review hobby companies of your choosing. Do take advantage of their free giveaways.

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

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



www.FreeMotionProject.com





Project - Quilted Jelly Roll Cushion Cover

By Jody Anderson from www.QuiltBlockoftheMonthClub.com

After I'd made a bag, and my sewing machine cover, I STILL had some Jelly Roll strips left over, and this great scrappy project is one of the most fun for using them up. This throw pillow cover has a pieced and hand guilted front panel with an easy folded back.



This throw pillow cover is 16 inches square, but you can make yours to whichever size you like.

You Will Need:

A selection of 2½ inch (Jelly Roll) strips. I used the ones I had for as much variety of fabric as I could manage.

Scraps of plain fabric for contrast strips

fabric for backing and for the back half of the cushion cover (approx. 1 yard)

piece of batting slightly larger than your pieced cushion front

Piecing:



Piecing this top is quick and easy, and very random.

Piece a couple of strips together, then add more across the end or above or below, to build up a pieced design.

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Use the contrast fabric strips to add a bit of definition.



Try piecing strips first, then adding that whole strip to one side.

(I also added some of the diagonally pieced offcuts I had from my sewing machine cover as well.)

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Keep adding pieces until you get to the size you want.



When finished, square up and trim the pieced panel.

Layer your pieced top with batting and backing and pin, ready for quilting.

(Cut the backing and batting slightly larger.)





I hand quilted my panel as I wanted that kind of more 'hand-made' look, but quilt yours as you wish. I used 3 strands of a light and darker pink embroidery floss to quilt my top, and I also used some silver embroidery floss for accent as well.

I quilted a series of straight lines across the top, as well as some quilting around specific pieced shapes. Finally, I quilted a two-tone spiral to break up the straight lines a bit as well.

Assembly:

Square up and trim your quilted front panel.

From the backing fabric, cut two rectangles measuring the width of the quilted square x % of the width of the quilted square. For example, our square was 16 inches x 16 inches, so we cut the two backing rectangles 16 x 12 inches.

Hem one full width (16 inch) edge on each piece. Fold down the edge a ½ inch, then fold over again about 1 inch and pin and topstitch to hem that edge.

As shown below, lay the quilted square face up on a flat surface, then lay the two back pieces on top. Match all side edges, and overlap the two hemmed edges. Pin and sew around all sides. Clip corners and turn right sides out before stuffing with a cushion insert to finish.





Old Doll Quilts

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

Did you know that often girls two hundred years ago made their first quilt by the time they were seven years old? And frequently that first quilt might have been made for their doll.

Yes, doll quilts. While charming in their own right, they are difficult to find because during the period they were made, they were considered unimportant and insignificant.

Many were made from leftovers and got hard use from the little girls who owned them. Quilts made by young girls are likely to reflect their lack of refined skills in hand stitching.

Girls in the early nineteenth century were trained from the time they were very young in what was thought to be their life's work. Since a young girl would likely be stitching all of the clothing, linens and bedding for her home, before sewing machines, hand sewing was an important skill to learn.

It seemed natural, then, that doll quilts would be the perfect practice piece. Not only were they small, but a girl could start with something simple, like strips, and then work up to making a nine patch, and even sewing curves.

Beyond that, if she chose, a young girl could piece a more complex design, using triangles as well as squares in her doll quilt.

Both girls and boys were taught to sew by their mothers, often before they learned how to read.

A very small child might begin sewing using an unknotted thread, and then gain even more practice by counting threads on a scrap of fabric.

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It was not uncommon for girls to be expected to complete a nine-patch by the time she was nine years old. Amazingly, some mid-nineteenth century diaries record quilt tops being finished by girls as young as five.



One quilter, Edith Bell Sims, says she began a quilt at age three, with her mother cutting the

fabric, marked the sewing lines, and pinning the pieces together. Edith then stitched the patches initially by hand and later on her new treadle sewing machine. Edith finished her quilt top by the time she was six.

Sewing was (and probably still should be) believed to inspire virtues deemed necessary for every child: neatness, attentiveness, patience, perseverance, and acceptance of routine and repetition.

Girls in upper class families also learned to do needlework, although they used finer materials and more intricate designs. It's not unusual to find crazy quilts using velvets, wools and silks that were made by children in upper class families.

Unlike children today, children in the 1800s had little other than their imagination to play with. Only the upper class could afford to purchase dolls imported from Europe, so children created dolls from sticks, hankies, corncobs, or whatever else they could find.

It wasn't surprising that girls would want to create something just like they had for their dolls.

Often, the girls would take pieces left from worn out quilts and make them into quilts for their dolls.

Sometimes, they would replicate a bed size quilt using smaller pieces, to be sure to re-create the pattern of the bed size quilt top. Other times, they would use patches left over from bed size quilts to make their doll quilts, even though the quilt top design would be lost.



(Photo courtesy of www.maidatoday.com)

This doll quilt came with an old note that was hand sewn to the quilt. Its faded lettering has the following written:

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There is a name (illegible)

June 18, 1829

Harper's Ferry

Virginia

Another name (also illegible)

fifty years ago 1882.

Most of these quilts are pieced, not appliqué, and some have been made from children's handkerchiefs printed with holiday or religious themes.

Due to labor saving devices, and smaller families, twentieth century mothers had more time to include creative components in their doll quilts - nursery rhymes, animals, and even pastel colors.

Quilts today are made in all different sizes, each for a different purpose. Some large quilts have never seen the top of a bed, even though they are the size of a king size bed quilt.

It's not unusual for a small quilt to be made to be a wall hanging, with no intention for it to be used

as a doll quilt. I wonder whether maybe some of those tiny quilts hung on walls and not doll beds.



(Photo courtesy of www.karenguilt.blogspot.com)

About the Author: Penny Halgren is a quilter of more than 27 years, and enjoys sharing her love of guilting with others. Sign up for her free quilting tips, quilt patterns, and newsletter at

http://www.How-to-Quilt.com

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PROJECT - Diamond Nine Patch Quilt Pattern

By Rose Smith from www.ludlowquiltandsew.co.uk



I designed this diamond nine patch quilt pattern with a fixed idea in my mind of where I wanted to create diamond shapes but not much idea of what to put in the rest of the quilt, so this really was a case of making it up as I went along.

I am really pleased with the result and it is definitely a simple quilt to make – not a triangle in sight. The idea was for a main central black diamond shape with part diamonds in white lurking in the background.

I have used about $\frac{1}{2}$ yard each of black and white and about 1 yard each of light blue and dark blue. The quilt finished size is 44 inches by 48 inches.

Cutting requirements

black fabric: six 4½ inch squares, four 2½ inch strips cut across the width of fabric

white fabric: six 4½ inch squares, four 2½ inch strips cut across the width of fabric

dark blue: ten 2½ inch strips cut across the width of fabric

light blue: eight rectangles 4½ inches by 6½ inches, nine 2½ inch strips cut across the width of fabric

(I may have mis-counted the numbers of 2 ½ inch strips as I was cutting them as I went along, but I hope that the above requirements are broadly correct.)





(photos show a dark blue middle row square added – this should be light blue)

Making nine patch quilt blocks

I used a bit of strip piecing to save time. Sew together 2½ inch strips of black/light blue and of white/light blue. Cut these at 2½ inch intervals to make strips of either black and light blue or white and light blue.

You will also need to cut individual 2½ inch squares of both light blue and dark blue. Place these strips and squares together in three rows of three with either a white diagonal or a black diagonal.

I have placed a dark blue square in the alternate corners that aren't either black or white, with a light blue square added in the middle row.



Sew the squares together across each row and then sew the rows together.

Make sixteen black nine patch units and twenty white nine patch units. These are all 6½ inches squares.



Rows one and eight of the quilt

Make the corner units for the quilt with a white 4½ inch square and two dark blue rectangles – one 2½ inches by 4½ inches and one 2½ inches by 6½ inches.

Sew the 4½ inch rectangle to the top of the white square and then sew the 6½ inch rectangle to the side. You will need two of these for the first row of the nine patch guilt, but make four altogether.



The block at the middle of the first row is a 4½ inch black square with a 4½ inch by 2½ inch dark blue rectangle sewn to the top, and two 6 inch by 2½ inch dark blue rectangles sewn to the sides of the block.

Make two of these.



Lay the quilt blocks out for the first row: corner unit, black nine patch, white nine patch, middle block, white nine patch, black nine patch and corner unit. Check the photo to see which way the black or white diagonals of the nine patch units should lie.

Make two of these rows: the quilt is symmetrical and so rows one and eight are the same as each other. Row eight is row one turned upside down.

Sew the squares together across each row.



Rows two and seven of the nine patch guilt

For the second row you will need another different quilt block for the centre of the row. Cut a light blue rectangle 4 ½ inches by 6 ½ inches and sew a 6 ½ inch by 2 ½ inch dark blue strip to each side.

Make eight of these although you only need one for this row.

The row is made using a black nine patch, white nine patch and black nine patch on each side of the central block. Again, check the photo to see which way the diagonals point. Make two of these rows – row two and row seven.



Rows three and six of the nine patch quilt

There is another quilt block to make for row three: a black 4½ inch square with a 4½ inch by 2½ inch dark blue strip across the top and a 6½ inch by 2½ inch dark blue strip on one side. Make four of these: two each for row three and row six.

Row three layout: one white nine patch, black square as shown (to the right), white nine patch, light blue/dark blue (central) block as made for row two, white nine patch, black square block (to the left), white nine patch. Make two of these: row three and row six.



Rows four and five of the nine patch guilt

Just one more block to make for the middle of the quilt: cut a white 4 ½ inch square and sew one dark blue 4 ½ inch by 2 ½ inch rectangle to one side of the square. Make two of these.

Row four layout: black nine patch, white nine patch, light blue/dark blue (central) block, white square as shown in photo, light blue/dark blue (central) block, white nine patch, black nine patch. Make two of this row – row four and upside down for row five.

Sew the squares together across each row and then sew the rows together to complete the diamond nine patch quilt top.



About the Designer:

Rose Smith was born and brought up in Zambia in Africa. She moved to the UK when she was 18 and now lives in Shropshire, indulging her passion for quilting and sewing. She has sewn all her life - 'anything that stood still long enough' in the words of her children - but now finds that patchwork and quilting have taken over her life. She indulges this passion by posting patterns and tutorials on her website for all to share. www.ludlowquiltandsew.co.uk



Hints and Tips From Brannie

By "Brannie" Mira-Bateman

We've just come back from a Big Trip to visit the little people for Christmas. We took our new van, but I got to travel in the car.

I wanted to sit up the front, but on the back seat I went, in my harness. The best seat in the car, I told them, is along that shelf at the front window. Dad could see over me (I'm only little when I lie down), but, no, the back seat it was for me and my little box.

I talked all the way, of course, and I had to keep checking that our little house was still coming along behind us. I could stand up tall at the side window, front feet on the little shelf and watch the world go by. "Are we there naow?" I would

ask. "I can see our haouse." I would tell them.
"There naow?" They were very quiet in the
front - just the odd groan every now and then.

When we first got in the car, we hadn't been going long when I suddenly remembered something. "I want to get aowt!" I said. "Naow!!" I said. "I want to go back to the haaouse!"

I kept it up, so they found a rest area quickly and pulled up. "Brannie must want the litter box" my Dad said and they put me into the van at great speed.

I didn't want that.

I had remembered that I only ate half of my breakfast, so I raced down the back and started

eating. They weren't impressed, but they had a drink and some food, too while we were stopped.

When we drove on, I kept asking questions until Mum said, "For goodness sake, can't you be quiet! Look out the window and count cows or something." So I did. "There's a CaOW!" "Another caow, naow!" "Thaousands of caows!!" (Another groan from the front.)

It got very hot as we drove on. I was all right in the car, but when we stopped for food and all got back in the van, it was really hot! "It's 41 degrees!" said my Dad.* It was good in the car though.

I talked all the way down to just before Auntie Jody's. I was standing up at the side window looking for cows when suddenly the window went down and a blast of really hot air started coming in!

Wow! That shut me up quick and I retreated into my box. Who did that? Wasn't me! Mum said,

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"She's opened the window now! Put the child lock on quickly."

There were no children that I could see, but I didn't say another word until we got back in the car to come home. There were little people later, but that's another story.

(* About 105 deg. F)

Love Brannie,

the Quilt Block of the Month Club Cat!





Quilting Excuses and How To Beat Them

By Irette Patterson from www.easyquiltingcentral.com

Have you ever wanted to learn how to quilt, but keet talking yourself out of it?

Have you looked longingly at pictures of quilts in museums and magazines? Perhaps you have even bought a quilting book but you just can't make yourself take that next step.

Well, here are the top five excuses that I've heard from folks about why they can't learn how to quilt and how you can overcome them.

1. I Don't Know How to Sew

Oh, this is an easy one. You just follow the instructions in the sewing machine manual. That's how I taught myself how to sew.

You really don't need to be able to be all that good, either. If you pick the right pattern, you can finish a quilt without knowing how to sew a

perfect straight line.

Besides, quilters and sewers are very generous by nature. Just put the word out that you're interested in learning how to sew, and I'm sure you'll be able to find someone to give you a quick lesson.

2. I Can't Stand Those Itty Bitty Pieces

The days of cutting itty bitty pieces using temples are over. With current, strip quilting techniques, you really can finish a quilt top painlessly. You just need the right tools such as a rotary cutter, self-healing mat and ruler.

3. I Have No Color Sense

I don't either. That's what fat quarters and fabric shops are for. If you have a local quilt shop, pay them a visit. One of the reasons why you may pay a bit more for the fabric is their expertise in the shop. The employees will help you coordinate your fabrics.

For the first quilt that I finished, I brought in my quilt pattern book. The ladies at my local quilt shop helped me pick out the fabrics. And this was for a log cabin that I used seven different fabrics.

If you don't have a quilt shop, head online. There are online fabric shops that sell coordinating fat quarters. You don't have to do anything but point, click and pay.

If you still do not trust yourself, just find a pattern that requires only two colors - use white as one color and a pick your favorite color as the other one. Two color quilts are striking.

4. Quilting Is Hard

Quilting is as hard as you make it. You can purchase a quilt panel to get you used to sewing and making the "quilt sandwich."

From there, you can make a quilt just using big, twelve inch squares.



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Then, as you get comfortable, you can explore harder patterns.

Take it slow, give yourself plenty of time and let yourself be a beginner. So what if it isn't perfect?

A beginner's quilt is supposed to look like a beginner's work. The only way to get better is to keep quilting.

5. I Don't Have The Time

You really only need ten minutes a day. Now, you'll probably get frustrated because it will take you a long time to finish a quilt.

Twenty minutes per quilting period is a good number. Get out your kitchen timer or use the timer on your oven and get to it. The great thing about quilting as a hobby is that it's easy to pick up once you've stopped. Once you get going on your machine, however, you probably won't want to stop.

So, you see there really is no excuse for not quilting except that you're not interested. But, if you are, get on a forum or pick up a book.

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Quilters are some of the nicest people in the world. So get busy and get quilting!

About the Author: Interested in more easy quilting tips, techniques and tricks? Visit Irette's website at http://www.easyquiltingcentral.com.

Article Source: http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Irette Patterson

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www.ludlowquiltandsew.co.uk



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".



Front Porch by Jan Patek for Moda Fabrics

This new collection from Jan Patek sings about warm evenings on the front porch, with lightning bugs twinkling and the geraniums in full bloom!

Or a cool summer morning with a great cup of coffee and the watering can. Can't you just feel it?

See this collection at:

http://www.fatguartershop.com/moda-fabric/frontporch-jan-patek-moda-fabrics



Grant Park by Minick & Simpson for Moda Fabrics

Americana beauty in classic reds, whites, and blues, these traditional and vintage inspired prints will have you inspired to take a trip to America in the early 20th century.

See more at:

http://www.fatquartershop.com/moda-fabric/grant-park-minick-simpson-moda-fabrics



Little Black Dress 2 by BasicGrey for Moda Fabrics

Just like your favorite Little Black Dress, BasicGrey's Little Black Dress 2 fabric collection has elegance covered. Subtle suiting greys, soft creamy neutrals, and bold blacks create a striking ensemble of beautiful designs!

Check out this range at:

http://www.fatquartershop.com/moda-fabric/littleblack-dress-2-basicgrey-moda-fabrics



Piecemakers by Kathy Schmitz for Moda Fabrics

Inspired by quilt guilds, Piecemakers is filled with graphic notions, quilty quotes, and cute guild names. The color palette of sepias, browns, and blues will definitely keep you warm and cozy!

View this range at:

http://www.fatquartershop.com/modafabric/piecemakers-kathy-schmitz-moda-fabrics Have You Checked Out
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Project - Buckled Up Bucket Bag

By Jody Anderson from www.BagMakingPatterns.com



With two feature inset zip pockets on the front, and an adjustable buckled strap, this simply styled Bucket Bag is one you'll be happy to take anywhere.

It has a folded base and magnetic clasp closure to make sure your everyday purse items stay just where they should.

Bag Dimensions are 10 inches wide x 11½ inches high, and 2 inches deep.

You Will Need:

½ metre (½ yard) fabric for the outer bag.

½ metre (½ yard) fabric for the lining

½ metre (½ yard) fusible light-weight pellon / batting

¾ metre (¾ yard) fusible light-weight interfacing

Piece template plastic at least 2 inches x 10 inches

1 x 7 inch zip in a colour to contrast with the outer fabric

1 x 9 inch zip in a colour to contrast with the outer fabric

1 x large magnetic clasp

1 x buckle with a 11/4 inch inner width

5 x eyelets (and eyelet insertion kit)

Scraps medium and/or heavy weight interfacing for inserting magnetic clasp

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Bag Construction:

Please read all instructions fully before beginning. All measurements are in inches, and unless stated otherwise, a ¼ inch seam allowance has been used.

Referring to the attached Cutting Guide, carefully cut the required bag pieces from the bag fabrics, pellon and interfacing. Iron the interfacing to the wrong side of all pieces as indicated in the Cutting Guide. Fuse the pellon on top of the interfacing for the bag outer pieces as required.

Handles:



First prepare both parts of the strap. The long strap piece has a shaped pointed end as shown, and the shorter buckle strap piece has the buckle sewn to the end.

To shape the point on the strap piece fold in half lengthways with right sides together. Measure down 1 inch from the end and mark a pencil line across the width as shown.

Mark a point on that line a ¼ inch in from the open side for the seam allowance. Mark a second point for the top, centred and also a ¼ inch down from the top.

Sew from the side to the point and down to the other side as shown to form the strap point.

Trim excess and clip corners before turning right sides out. Using your iron, fold in and press the seam allowances down both sides of the length of both handle strips.

Fold the strap in half lengthways with wrong sides together, pinning and topstitching closed. Topstitch around the point and down the other side of the strap as well.

With right sides together, sew the short seam across one end of the buckle strap. Clip corner and turn right sides out before folding handle in half lengthways, pinning and topstitching closed. Topstitch down the other side of the handle as well.



Next, follow the instructions on the eyelet kit and insert 5 eyelets approximately 1 inch apart and starting about 3 inches up from the pointed strap end.

The buckle end is folded through and over the centre bar of the buckle, and the prong needs to fit through a small buttonhole opening.

Make a small (¼ - ½ inch) buttonhole about 1½ inches down from the tucked in end of the buckle strap. The buttonhole needs to be centred and running parallel with the long edges of the strap. Cut the centre of the buttonhole and poke the buckle prong through and fold the end of the strap back on itself. Sew the end to the strap to secure the buckle in place.

Bag Outer:

The next step is to insert the two zips on the front panel of the bag.

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To start, mark and make a hole for the zip. Lay the lower outer fabric pocket piece on the front panel with right sides together. It should be 1 inch in from the right side as shown, and 3 inches from the top edge.

Use a fabric marking pen or lead pencil and draw a rectangle 5½ inches long and 3/8 inch (1cm) high as shown. This rectangle needs to be drawn 1½ inches (3½ cm) down from the top of your pocket piece. Then draw a centre line along the rectangle, with a 'V' shape at each end as shown.

Sew the pocket piece to the bag side panel along the marked outside lines of the rectangle. Taking care not to cut the stitching, then cut along the marked centre line and along the 'V' shapes to the corners of the rectangle.



Pull the pocket piece through the hole to the wrong side of the bag panel and carefully press seams on both sides to flatten.



With right sides facing up, then position the zip carefully under the hole, (so that the zip is also facing up), and pin in place. Using your zipper foot, topstitch around all four edges of the rectangular hole to secure the zip in position.



(Note – the zip is slightly longer than the hole, so you will need to centre the zip and trim the ends after sewing in place.)

Turn the side panel over and lay the remaining (lining) pocket piece right side down on top of the sewn in pocket piece.

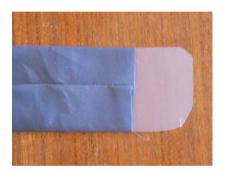
Sew the pocket pieces together around all four edges, taking care not to catch the bag side panel.

Repeat this to add the longer top pocket and zip. Position the outer fabric top pocket piece on the bag front panel, 1 inch in from the right side and 1½ inches down from the top. Mark the zip rectangle 7½ inches long, and insert in the same way as you did the first. Make sure the right hand ends of both zips are aligned.

With right sides together, sew down both sides and across the bottom to join the two bag outer panels together.

To make the bag base, pinch together the bottom corners – align the side seam on top of the bottom seam, mark down 1 inch from the sewn corner point and sew across that line at right angles to the other seams. Repeat for the other corner.

The next step is to make the bag base sleeve and attach it to the bag outer before trimming and turning the bag.



With right sides together, sew down the (long side) length of the template plastic cover and turn to form a tube.

Trim the piece of template plastic to fit — check the length against the bag outer by measuring from corner seam to corner seam, then take off a ½ inch allowance if needed.

Round corners and insert plastic into the sleeve.

Lay the stiffened base sleeve on the bottom of the bag outer as shown below. Pin each end of the sleeve to the sewn corner triangles, then sew each end of the sleeve to the bag outer on the same line of sewing as you made to create the folded corners. Trim each end to no more than ¼ inch wider than the seams, and turn bag right sides out.

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Finally, sew the strap to the bag outer. Fold up 1 inch of the end of the long strap and position over the side seam on the right side so the folded edge is 2 ½ inches from the bag top raw edge.

Topstitch a rectangle over the end to enclose the strap end raw edges and attach it securely to the bag.

Repeat for the buckle strap on the other side as shown.

Magnetic Clasp

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 1½ inches on that line and mark that point with a lead pencil.

Cut a square of heavy interfacing approximately 1½ 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.

Lining:

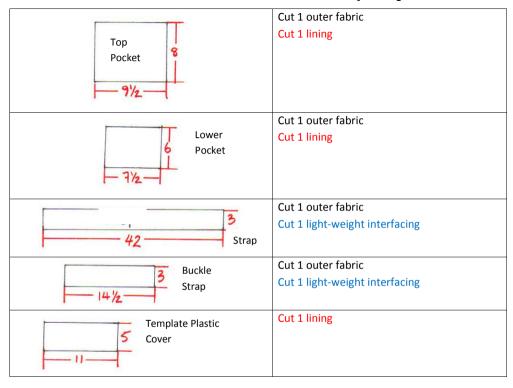
With right sides together, sew the lining panels together, making sure to leave most of the middle of one side open to turn the bag through later. Form the base in the same way as you did for the bag outer.

Place the bag outer into the lining bag and pin and sew the tops together around the bag. Turn the bag right sides out through the hole in the lining. Tuck in the seam allowances and topstitch that hole closed before pushing the lining into the bag outer. Topstitch around the top edge seam to finish.

Buckled Up Bucket Bag Cutting Guide

	Cut the required number of each piece according to the measurements on each diagram. * Please note – all measurements are in inches.
Side 13	Cut 2 outer fabric Cut 2 lining Cut 4 light-weight interfacing Cut 2 pellon

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For more Original Bag Patterns, check out our website www.BagMakingPatterns.com



The Quilting Craze

By DeDe Hallett from www.embroideryquilter.com

It was 14 years ago, today, that I discovered the world of online quilters! Because of my husband's work schedule, I had been feeling a bit glum that he wasn't home the day after Christmas, so I decided to spend some time on our new computer and the internet, which I wasn't really familiar with at the time.

At first, I just had the idea for a small quilted book cover for the next year's family gifts. Instead I found a treasure trove of others, like me, who enjoyed nothing more in life than making quilts. It was something I hadn't expected to find and something that has changed my life. For the better, I hope!

Not only did I find endless sources for free patterns and quilting supplies, I also discovered the world of fabric and block swaps of all types! At the time, swapping squares for Y2K (Year 2000) quilts was all the rage and collecting squares from those all over the world was completely addicting! Sending and receiving squishies through the mail was a source of endless delight.

Swapping fabrics and blocks was so much a part of my new life that my husband finally had to ask me when I was going to get around to actually making quilts! That brought my entire freight train of swapping to a complete stand-still as I thought about this simple question.

Since I had been quilting for years, I had plenty of quilting supplies, but with all the new sources I had found, I felt that I didn't have the right supplies.

Goodness knows all the other quilters were saying that my trusty Singer machine wasn't good enough, no matter how straight a stitch it made! I didn't have 'over-priced' fabric from the quilt

shop, expensive scissors that cut no better than my Fiskars, and everything from my pins to my threads were sub-par. This was a depressing thought... I could make all the quilts I wanted, but they weren't considered to be real quilts by my new online friends because my supplies and tools didn't cost enough.

Then, at our local county fair, two of my quilts won second and third place ribbons. Finally, I understood that I didn't have to have expensive quilting supplies, a sewing machine that cost more than my car or fabric from the local quilt shop in order to be making quilts my way! At long last, I had validation to confirm my belief that quilting was supposed to be fun!

Since then, I've slowly distanced myself from the online quilt police and have become a firm advocate of the art that is quilting... art that is created with all types of supplies and materials!

I graduated to a nicer machine when my Singer really couldn't do some of the things I wanted it to and received Gingher scissors as a gift from my beautiful, late mother-in-law.

I've added long-arm quilting to my repertoire, staunchly doing it my way! And, I've fallen in love with embroidery quilting, for both beautiful embroidery designs on my quilts and for the intricate quilting stitches that are so easy to reproduce with embroidery quilting designs.

I still enjoy the online community of quilters and embroiderers, but I have learned a lot in these last 14 years!

First, that making quilts is a very personal form of artistic expression. I make bed quilts while others make art quilts.

Second, that there is no single right way to do any of it! My particular set of quilting supplies will dictate what I'm able to do, and how, while someone else's supplies will allow them to do something else.

Finally, I've learned that I love quilting of all types and styles. I'm not capable or interested in creating every type of quilt, but I can appreciate the work and artistry that each quilter puts into their creations.

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Without the internet, I wonder if I would have received such exposure to so many beautiful things. I do know that I never did get around to making those quilted book covers!

About the Author: DeDe Hallett of Embroidery quilter offers the highest quality in machine embroidery designs digitized by the finest artists in the industry. We provide you quality quilt products, courteous service and the best values on the internet with a complete online quilt embroidery design library at your fingertips.

www.embroideryquilter.com

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



Machine quilting made easy!

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

http://www.how-toquilt.com/machinequiltingperfection.php



Book Review

By Annette Mira-Bateman from www.QuiltBlockoftheMonthClub.com



"Painted Applique – A New Approach" by Linda M. Poole

Filled with gorgeous designs, projects and photos, this book is a pleasure to read! (And if you haven't considered colouring your own applique designs before, then this book will open a whole new world to you.)

Linda clearly illustrates a range of options for applique – whether for appliqueing multiple coloured fabric pieces (with freezer paper and glue stick), or larger, painted applique pieces.

She includes a comprehensive list of options for materials and supplies, to take the guesswork out of trying this technique.

Linda says - "My book concept was to marry painting and applique together. A beautiful union using both fabrics and painted applique."

"I decided for every pattern in the book, I would make 2 quilts offering the instructions for traditional applique with fabrics and then another instruction on painted applique."

"But wait!!! I also intermingle fabrics and painted parts. It's a book loaded with lots of options. By learning to paint, you also are on your way to learning whole cloth painted quilts if that is something you are interested in too."



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There are 15 original designs in this book, and it is published by and available through AQS Publishing, P.O. Box 3290, Paducah, KY 42002-3290 or look up www.AmericanQuilter.com.





Recipe Corner - Sticky Date Dessert Muffins



Ingredients

1 cup chopped dried dates

1/3 cup golden syrup

1/2 cup boiling water

1/2 teaspoon bicarbonate of soda

2 1/2 cups self-raising flour

2 teaspoons ground ginger

1 cup walnuts, chopped

1 cup milk

1/2 cup vegetable oil

1 egg, lightly beaten

Toffee dessert sauce & double cream, to serve

Method

Preheat oven to 190°C/170°C fan-forced. Grease a 6-hole, 3/4 cup-capacity texas muffin pan. Place dates, golden syrup and boiling water in a heatproof bowl. Stand for 5 minutes. Stir in bicarbonate of soda.

Combine flour, ginger and walnuts in a bowl. Make a well in the centre. Add date mixture, milk, oil and egg. Stir with a wooden spoon until just combined. Spoon mixture into holes of prepared pan.

Bake for 25 to 30 minutes or until browned and cooked through. Stand in pans for 5 minutes. Turn out onto a wire rack to cool. Serve warm with sauce and cream.



Reader "Show and Tell"

This month we continue our regular segment of "Show and Tell" quilts made by our Online Quilt Magazine Readers. It's been another busy month too!

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

"I thoroughly enjoy your magazine each month and thought I'd send you some photos of Rose Ludlow's patterns that I've made from the magazine.

The first is a Charm Pack quilt using Aussie charm squares from Vol 3: 5. I particularly liked the sashing effect – which inspired a floral charm

quilt for my mother-in-law's 80th(second photo) and lastly from Vol 3:12 a charm quilt for my nephew for Christmas."

- Alison A., Australia



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"My husband of many years only recently told me he had always liked the paintings of Jean Miró, a Spanish painter. When I looked online at the artist's gallery, I thought "birthday wall quilt." The attached photo is my "Reproduction Miró" which pleased my husband and now hangs in our living room. While the design took a good bit of thinking, I enjoyed doing this enough that I look forward to trying my hand at another."

- Mary H., Panama







"I send you a copy of my last quilt made with a special ruler "Angle Play ruler". It was very pleasant to made this quilt. You have to think a little bit before cutting, but the result was very nice. The other two are handbags from old jeans."

- Jacqueline B., Belgium









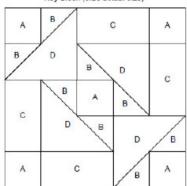
Block of the Month

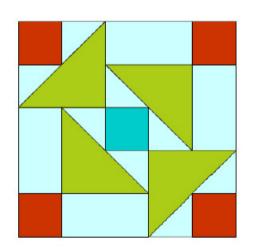
This month's block is an interesting mix of triangles, squares and rectangles, and we think it looks great in a quilt design!

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.

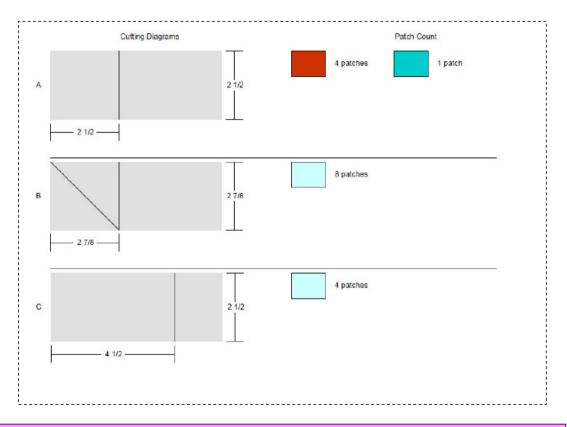
Grandmother's Puzzle

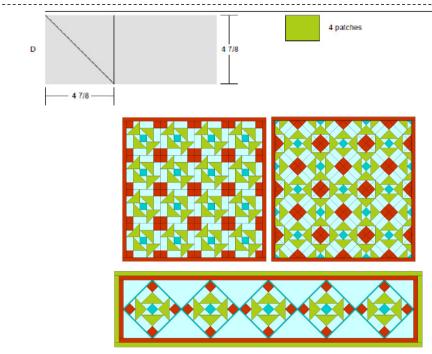
Key Block (5/20 actual size)





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Try in a simple straight layout, or position the blocks on point and flip alternate ones for a great geometric effect. Makes a lovely table runner too...!

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

Today's Tips:

While chenilling can be combined into a quilt, chenille panels are good too for the sides of a bag. Throw pillow covers are also an ideal use for this technique.

This technique is easy and very effective to create texture.

You can achieve a great effect if you use a patterned panel as the top layer - for eg - a large print bunch of roses.

Cut this panel a bit larger than you need the finished panel to end up as. Layer about 5 other fabrics in a pile, with your patterned panel on top. (Plain colours might be best to show the top picture clearly, but feel free to experiment with any combination you like. This is not a bad way too of using up any fabrics you don't like so much - put them in the middle of the stack and you won't see much of them!)

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Start with a piece of backing fabric, then layer the 5 other fabrics and your patterned panel on top. Pin all these layers together.

Stitch parallel lines through all layers at a 45 degree angle to the straight grain of the fabric and 1/2" apart using the machine foot or fabric marker as a guide.



Cover the whole stack with these parallel rows of stitches. Then, take your chenille cutter and slit midway between the rows of stitches through all layers except the last backing fabric layer.

This leaves frayed edges which can be brushed to fluff them up, or you can wash the fabric a couple of times to achieve the same effect.

Your fabric must be 100% cotton or it won't fray well. As long as your stitching rows are at 45 deg. to the grain of the fabric, this will give you a "fluffy" picture for your quilt or bag.

You will achieve different effects with different colours of material in the layers.

- * Wind two bobbins with the same amount of thread. Use one in the bobbin case and one for the top thread. When the top one is about to run out, it is time to replace the bobbin.
- * Warm-up your quilting stitches on a practice piece before you begin a new quilting session on your actual quilt.
- * Use the pointed end of a chopstick for all poking and stuffing needs when quilting.

We've had a couple of requests recently about starting a **Global Friendship Quilt project** for 2014 through the Online Quilt Magazine's Readers.

If you would like to be involved in this fun project, please send your name and email address to Jody at jody@onlinequiltmagazine.com and I can put

you into groups. Please let me know before the end of January.

We are happy to provide suggestions for your quilts (eg 12 inch star blocks) and provide a few basic rules, and then we can put you in touch with the others in your group, so you can get started.

This would be a fantastic opportunity to meet quilters from around the world, and we think it sounds like a lot of fun! Get involved today.

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

"Quilt-y" Quotes...

- Quilting is my passion ... chocolate comes in a close second.
- Behind every quilter is a big pile of fabric.
- A messy house is the sign of a happy quilter.

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