



Online Quilt Magazine.com

**Quilt
Display
Options**

**TWO New
Book Reviews**

**BRAND NEW 8-
Part Block of the
Month Project!**

**PROJECT –
Summer
Dreams Quilt
Pattern**

**Quilt Marking
Tips and a
Look at
Lightboxes**

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Cover – “Flowering Gum Wallhanging”



Letter from the Editor

Jody Anderson

Hi!

My goodness- it's March already! And this month we're thrilled to be able to announce a Brand New and Exclusive 8-month Block of the Month Quilt project for our Premium Online Quilt Magazine subscribers! Featured on our cover, our "Flowering Gum Wallhanging" is a stunning sampler-style quilt, that will have you trying all sorts of different techniques along the way. Each new issue will bring you the next part of the pattern, and you'll be finished well in time to show it off at Christmas. You'll find all the details on page 13.

We also have another lovely quilt pattern from Rose, Leah takes a look at marking your quilting designs and lightboxes, and there's more new fabrics to drool over from the Fat Quarter Shop as well.

There's lots more to read this month too – all sorts of new articles, tips and ideas, and a catch up with your (and our) favourite "quilty-helper", Brannie.

Raid your stash, or visit the shops and get your fabric ready for our fab new Block of the Month quilt along project!

Have a great month!

Jody



Make a Crazy Patch Quilt For a Day of Fun

By Tricia Deed from www.Infotrish.com

Are you having one of those days? Restless, need a little spice in your life? Take that restless energy and make a crazy patch quilt. If you have never done this type of quilting start with making one block.

Do you know what a crazy patch quilt is? With a solid historical quilt-making background from Victorian times, it is an unconventional, no guide, make any shape you want quilt. Perfect for people that want to create a nonsensical, no rules, loose creative design. There is no right or wrong. Guess what? It turns out beautiful. It will be the quilt for a day of fun.

These quilts are great for the artists of today. Embellishments of every variety can be used.

This quilt is an art work which can utilize any scraps you have in your fabric bin. Mix all fabric types and textures, mix muted colors or bright colors, and play with prints, stripes, and novelty fabrics.



Photo from: www.needlework-tips-and-techniques.com

Choose your colors including light, medium, and dark. Fabrics can be wool, cotton, satin, velvet,

sheers, netting, ribbons, suede, leather, and any other fabrics you have available.

Cut your fabric swatches into desired shapes of squares, rectangles, petals, hearts, triangles, octagons, hexagons, as well as irregular shapes. Connect the different pieces using the standard 1/4 inch seam allowance. Are you getting the giggles or starting to smile?

For security and guidance place these irregular cuts on a foundation square of fabric. Some people use muslin, some use felt, and some use cotton. Use whatever fabric pleases you.



Photo from www.sewingwithreadles.com

After all of the pieces have been stitched together, take a quilters' square ruler, or make your own square which measures the same as the foundation fabric and cut away excess fabric so both the top and the foundation are the same size.

Go crazy with embellishments. This is your time to decorate - like the icing on a cake. Use trims, beads, sequins, feathers, cording, buttons, jewelry, ribbon, embroidery, appliques, yarns, fabric paint, and stenciling.

These items are not only decorating the entire block but they can also covering exposed seams or errors. Are you smiling and having a good time?

Use your imagination, look over your fabric stash and your thinking will fly with all you can do.

After the block/s have been completed, attach borders, batting, and backing and finish it the same way you would do any quilt. If using for a wall hanging add a rod and clips for hanging. Or you may want to frame as a picture or place in a

shadow box or use it to cover an unsightly appliance.

Inviting your loved ones over to enjoy arranging and sewing a crazy patch quilt for a day will be an enjoyable and fun day.



One of Allie Aller's stunning crazy quilts

Review Quilting Gems. Do not forget to download your free quilting pattern. Tricia Deed brings 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

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

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

About the Author: Learn to quilt today. Visit the hobby page of Tricia Deed at <http://www.infotrish.vpweb.com/>



Quilt / Block Marking Tips & Lightboxes

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

Are you ready to start quilting? Let me share some tips for marking your blocks so they are prepared and ready to quilt.

I know this isn't the sunniest time of the year, but even on the super cold, super gray day we were having yesterday, I was able to mark my block with the light coming through the front door.

Another alternative if you have a glass table in your house is to place a bright light below it so it shines up through the table.

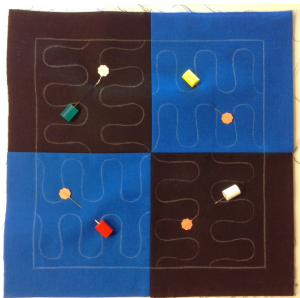
Finally, at last resort you can invest in a lightbox. I've seen simple, very small light boxes for under \$20 in the toy department of Walmart (look for the coloring area). Another option is to create one using a thin plastic bin like an Artbin and place a bright, battery powered LED light inside.

Personally I've built several lightboxes that stand at the same height as my cutting / pressing table. (More on lightboxes below...)

I use a lightbox almost every day for design, marking quilt tops or blocks, arrangement, etc. I find it to be a super useful thing to have...but they do take up a lot of space, and they aren't really necessary if you have a big glass window or door that's convenient for marking.

Of course, the most important thing about marking is not the lightbox or door you use, but the marking pencil you use to mark the quilting lines.

I've been using the [Fons & Porter marking pencil](#) because I'm working with medium to darker fabrics.



If you've chosen lighter fabrics, you might want to check out the Fine Line Water Soluble Pen.

Whichever pen you use, make sure to test it on a scrap of fabric from your quilt. Make a mark, then try to erase it following the directions on the package. If the marks don't erase completely, please go find another marking pen or pencil! I promise the last thing you want to do is get completely done with your quilt and find the marks don't come out.

Another thing to note is not to use heat around your block after it has been marked. Yes, some pens erase with heat, but for the most part, heat

sets the marks, making them permanent.

So BEFORE you mark, give your block a final press, then mark it, and remember NOT to hit it with the iron again until after the block is quilted and the marks have been erased.

And now to lightboxes:

I had this question asked not so long ago:

What type and size of light box do you use or suggest?

Does it work with dark/black fabric? If you are marking a larger quilt (larger than the light box) do you add registration marks on quilt and pattern so you can line it up properly?

This is a great question because light boxes are a tricky investment. I'd hazard the guess that more than 80% of light boxes sold are never used. Why? Because they're not set up to be used easily!

For quilting, we obviously need a lightbox to be flat and flush with the surface of our tables or

other work surfaces. Having a taller or shorter box is highly inconvenient and makes marking quite difficult.

I did quite a lot of research when I got into making bigger wholecloth quilts way back with “The Duchess” and I found a surprisingly small number of table light boxes (boxes with legs to set at the same surface as a table), and those I did find were SUPER expensive (\$700 plus).

So rather than keep searching in vain for the perfect light box to fit my studio (which I likely wouldn't be able to afford anyway) I simply built one myself:



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A lightbox is a very simple device: it's a box with lights inside with a translucent covering that allows the light to shine up through the top of the box.

My first lightbox came first from my grandfather who'd built the outside frame. I modified this and added an extra sheet of acrylic plexiglass to stiffen the surface. Truthfully, this has never been quite enough and the surface still bows considerably when pressure is applied.

Then using simple Waddell hardware and legs from Lowes, I turned the box into a table!



Using only this single lightbox, which is 42" x 22", I marked "The Duchess" in 4 sections. Here's how that worked:

I taped the pattern to the tables (the pattern was only 1/4 of the quilt) and folded the fabric in half lengthwise, widthwise, and diagonally and pressed to create guidelines for marking. I then centered the quilt up on the pattern and began marking from the center.

To secure the fabric, I literally used 3 rolls of masking tape to hold it securely in place for each section marked. Each time a section was completed, the quilt was picked up, rotated, then taped back down exactly to fit the markings.

Yes, this was challenging and yes, it took a very long time, so after creating this quilt I designed and built another light box:



This box is built on top of a simple craft / hobby table that happens to have the ability to angle to create a drafting table. Drafting table light boxes typically run around \$1500. I built this one for under \$350 using 1 x 4 boards for the sides of the box and plug-in under cabinet lighting for the lights.

The most expensive element to this project was the plexiglass which I found on Ebay and the seller cut it down to size. This is super expensive

stuff, but it's around 1/2" thick and forms a SOLID surface for marking.

The one downside with this table is the hobby table it was built on turned out to be too cheap and weak to hold the weight of the light box and plexiglass. I really need to take this table apart and throw away the base frame and rebuild the box on legs from IKEA.

So basically to answer Pat's question - I recommend building your own light box. It's far more economical and easy to build, and you can customize it to the exact size you want.

As far as size goes, I would recommend making your light box as big as you can possibly fit it in your sewing room. I'm in the process of designing a new lightbox that will cover my entire large table surface which is somewhere around 65 inches x 80 inches. I'm planning to build this box using tempered glass so I can iron over the surface without worrying about melting

plexiglass.

Of course, I'm a bit obsessive about this ;-)) I realized a long time ago how helpful lightboxes are and I've built my sewing room to accommodate them. This tool is helpful for far more than just quilt marking - I use them for applique, designing motifs, even designing wholecloth quilts.

Let's go quilt!

Leah

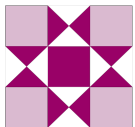
About the Author: Leah Day is the author of the [Free Motion Quilting Project](#), a blog project dedicated to creating new free motion quilting designs each week and sharing them all for FREE! Leah is also the author of *From Daisy to Paisley - 50 Beginner Free Motion Quilting Designs*, a spiral bound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

LEARN HOW TO FREE MOTION QUILT
ALL OF THESE DESIGNS AT:



www.FreeMotionProject.com





Project – Flowering Gum Wallhanging

By Annette Mira-Bateman from www.QuiltBlockoftheMonthClub.com



We are thrilled to announce a NEW Block of the Month Project exclusive to the Premium Online Quilt Magazine!

This gorgeous wallhanging is an 8 part block of the month project, and will be featured in the next 8 magazine issues. It is suitable for all levels of quilters.

This stunning quilted wallhanging will take pride of place on your wall. Inspired by native Australian eucalyptus flowers, this project will allow you to try your hand at a large variety of different techniques.

There's stitchery, applique, paper pieced hexagons, foundation pieced blocks, and hand quilted embellishment on the final border.

You Will Need For This Quilt:

Piece of very dark green fabric at least 13 x 16 inches for centre panel background (it is trimmed back slightly later)

Fat Quarter very light yellowish green for flower buds, hexagons and pinwheels

½ metre (½ yard) plain light green fabric for leaves, hexagons and pinwheels

1/3 metre (½ yard) grey-green fabric for leaves and hexagons

1/3 metre (½ yard) darker olive green fabric for leaves and hexagons

Fat Quarter mid-brown mottled fabric for branch and hexagons

½ metre (¾ yard) dark chocolate brown fabric for hexagons and border

¾ metre (1 yard) spotty mid-dark green batik fabric for hexagons, border and binding

Fat Quarter swirly mid-dark green batik fabric for hexagons

¼ metre (1/3 yard) pale grey-green fabric for pinwheels

¼ metre (¼ yard) OR piece at least 30 inches x 8 inches plain pale lilac purple fabric for border

Small amount plain pale pink fabric for applique and hexagons

Very small amount plain yellow fabric for applique

1½ metres (1¾ yards) plain cream fabric for pinwheels and border

Stabiliser (or light-weight fusible interfacing) at least 13 x 16 inches for back of centre applique panel

½ metre (½ yard) of backing material/paper for small foundation pieced pinwheel blocks. We used light-weight non-fusible interfacing for this.

Threads: 1 skein leaf green thread for centre stitchery

1 skein mid-brown thread for centre stitchery

1 skein each of DMC 603 and DMC 605 and DMC 739 for the pink flowers

1 skein darker green thread for hand quilted border embellishment

Mid green and light brown machine threads for appliqued leaves and stems

99 x 1 inch (side measurement) hexagon papers for paper piecing

Batting measuring at least 46 inches x 50 inches

Backing fabric measuring at least 46 inches x 50 inches

Fusible webbing for applique

Water soluble pen for marking designs on fabric

Erasable marking pen (or similar) for transferring the centre stitchery design on dark fabric

Finished Quilt Size:

The finished size of this quilt is 42 inches x 46 inches. (105cm x 115cm)

Preparation:

All fabrics are pre-washed and pressed before use.

It is assumed a quarter-inch seam is used throughout.

Please read through all instructions fully before beginning.

Printing Templates:

Please note – to print out your templates and designs at the correct size, you will need to ensure that you print on Borderless A4 format, from the Adobe Acrobat file that you receive the designs in. The templates will be emailed as a separate attachment to your magazine.

To do this, please ensure firstly that the picture is at 100%. (Check the box in the top middle toolbar, and click on the small black arrow beside it to change, if necessary.)

"Flowering Gum" – Month 1



This month you will stitch the background stitchery design on the centre panel.

You Will Need:

Piece of very dark green fabric at least 13 x 16 inches for centre panel background

Stabiliser (or light-weight fusible interfacing) at least 13 x 16 inches for back of centre applique panel

Threads: 1 skein leaf green thread for centre stitchery

 1 skein mid-brown thread for centre stitchery

Erasable marking pen (or similar) for transferring the centre stitchery design on dark fabric

Stitchery:

Print the attached templates and join where indicated.

Transfer the design to your fabric panel and add the stabiliser to the back.

The branches and leaf veins are stitched in brown, with the leaf outlines in green. Refer to the photo above as needed.

Stitch in backstitch or stem stitch as you prefer.

Next Month, you will add the applique layer on top of this panel.



A Quilt Idea: Dresden Plate Using Vintage Fabrics

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

You've heard that "everything old is new again?"
Fabrics are no exception!

The fabrics from the late 1800s to 1930s have become quite trendy in recent years. There are plenty of reproduction fabrics on the market. Plus, you can still run across some truly vintage fabrics.

How do you know what you are buying and should you use it in your quilt projects?

If you are buying reproduction fabrics, by all means, yes – use them in your quilt projects. The repro fabrics are great because they offer the technology and stability of today's fabrics along with the look from yesteryear.

If you have run across some real vintage fabric, however, proceed with caution. Depending on the year your vintage fabric was created in, it could be more than 100 years old. Chances are more likely that any existing vintage fabric might be from the 1930s or 1940s. Still, that's pretty old for fabric.

If you have vintage fabric you are considering, check to see if the fabric has rotted. If it feels too thin to become part of your project, it probably is. Another problem with vintage fabric is that technology has greatly improved fabric dyes.

If you happened to find a vintage piece of fabric still in good condition, it is likely to run or "bleed" when washed. You don't want an old fabric running

to discolor any new fabrics you include in your project.

How do you know the difference between vintage and vintage-look, or reproduction fabrics? One will be price. Vintage fabric will cost more because of its rarity. Reproduction fabrics should be priced similarly to other fabrics you can buy from the bolt.

That's another clue – the bolt. It would be very rare to find a bolt of vintage fabric. Most existing pieces are remnants. Remember, too, that some of the vintage fabrics you will run across are old feed sacks. They were never on a bolt. If you find fabric on a bolt, it is most likely reproduction fabric.

Many years ago, I happened upon a stash of bolts of fabric in an antique shop in a tiny mountain town in Colorado. The owner of the shop had picked up some 1950s fabric at an estate sale in Denver. The fabric was in perfect condition, and I

purchased several yards of it. (Should have gotten more!)

Because it appeared to be high quality fabric that wasn't really that old, I decided to create a Dresden Plate quilt using the fabric.



The top is finished, and is waiting for an additional border. The problem (like so many quilts) is that I have run out of the original fabric, and will need to introduce new fabric to the project, or leave it the size it is. But it really seems like it could use an additional border.

Should you bother buying that old vintage fabric that you have discovered? The best answer is to buy it if you love it. Maybe don't plan to use it in your latest quilt project. Instead, enjoy the fabric for its history and beauty.

On the other hand...

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



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!!

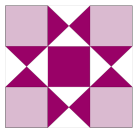
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Quilting Stores & Other Ways to Get Quilting Supplies

By Jenny Grant from www.quiltingadvisor.com

If you're looking for quilting supplies, you might be looking for a good quilting store.

If so, you're in luck since there are many types of quilting stores, both online and most likely somewhere near where you live. This is the type of place that you can walk into, and see many types of fabrics to choose from, as well as all of the other tools you need to create your next quilt.

While you might think you need to go to a quilting store itself to get these materials, you might be cutting out a lot of other stores that will also have the supplies you want and need. Here are some of the different kinds of places you can check out when looking for a good quilting store to get your quilting supplies from.

First of course is your local quilting store. It will most likely be a small shop with lots of fabrics and materials, and is totally dedicated to quilting. The people who own and run it are most likely very into quilting and will be able to answer all of your questions, as well as maybe even help you with quilting if you are having a problem.

They might even have lessons at certain times, or other meetings for quilters. Of course the big plus side to this is that you will be surrounded by people who know what they are talking about, as well as having many if not all of the materials you need. The down side is that because it's most likely a smaller run shop, they might not have as great prices, or as big of a selection.

This brings us to the craft store. While not totally dedicated to quilting, these stores are usually pretty big, and have a lot of different items in them.

Since many different crafts use fabrics, you will usually see a very large selection of fabrics, and maybe even some that you would not see at a quilting store. You will also see many quilting materials, alongside materials for other crafts.

Many of the people who work at these stores love crafts, and some will probably know specifics about quilting, but others might only be able to help you generally, or with finding materials.

The plus side to this is that because it's such a big store with many crafts, you'll usually see a very big selection. Also, (especially if it's a chain store) you will usually see better prices, and maybe even coupons to go along with the better prices. The down side would be that you might not be able to get specific quilting questions answered if you needed to.

One other way to buy quilting supplies is to go to a quilting store online. There are many different websites dedicated to quilting, and you will be able to find hundreds if not thousands of different fabrics and notions.

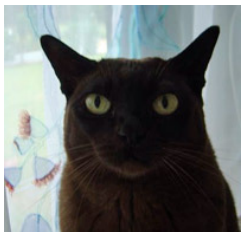
You will also see many different materials for your quilting as well. The plus side is that you will be sure to find a specific fabric or material you are looking for, and should be able to find whatever price you are looking for as well.

The down side to this would be since you're looking online, you might have to go to a few websites to find what you are looking for. If you have questions, you can still call most of the owners of the online quilting stores, so that shouldn't be a problem.

As you can see, there are many types of quilting stores, and each one has their plusses and minuses. So the next time you're looking for a specific fabric or other quilting material, think about all of the quilting stores you can go to in order to find them, and have fun!

About the Author: Jenny Grant enjoys quilting and loves to help others learn how to quilt. She wants to help you make quilts faster so you can make more quilts for friends and family and even earn money from selling them! If you want free tips on quilting, visit the [Quilting Advisor](#).

Article Source: http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Jenny_Grant



Hints and Tips From Brannie

By "Brannie" Mira-Bateman

This morning I helped my Dad with what he calls "exercises". That is, I sit on the mat and watch him rolling around on the floor and stretching his arms and legs out.

I call it "rolling around on the floor", but he gives it a fancy name.

Sometimes I get more involved. He sits up....lies back.....sits up - I walk behind him - he lies back and squashes me! "Get out of the way! Darn cat!" He rolls to the right, I lie down right against his back "How can I do this with YOU there?" I'm helping, I explain.

I like it when he does the arm out and opposite

leg out thing, on all fours. I can nearly do that one - one leg at a time anyway.

The other day he was in the office doing that. I crouched down in the passageway. Out the door came one arm, then down and out of sight. Out came the other arm, then down. Out came the first arm and I jumped and grabbed it.

More yelling required.

I ran away quickly to see if Mum needed assistance. I jumped up onto the hot board.

"You're in the way" she said, pushing me up to the narrow end. I lashed my tail around. "You'll be sorry if that gets ironed!" she warned.



I lashed my tail some more. Got pushed again. Right, I thought. I'm going up to the top shelf where the soft stuff is. Up I went. She went on ironing little squares below me.

Now it has been very hot here lately and it was really warm up near the ceiling on the top shelf, so I didn't stay long. I jumped back down on to the hot squares on the board. "Make up your

mind!" she yelled. "Go and tell Dad he needs you!"

I don't know. It's getting too complicated. I think I need a nap while they get over being grumpy.

Love Brannie,

the Quilt Block of the Month Club Cat!

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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".



**Bartholo-meow's Reef by Tim & Beck for Moda
Fabrics**

Set sail on a playful adventure with the new Bartholo-Meow's Reef collection by Tim & Beck for Moda Fabrics.

The nautical motifs and bright colors are really charming! We can't wait to see what you make with Bartholo-Meow's Reef.

Check out this range at:

<http://www.fatquartershop.com/moda-fabric/bartholo-meow-s-reef/>



April Showers by Bonnie & Camille for Moda Fabrics

Stay in and get sewing with April Showers by Bonnie & Camille. Cute rainy day motifs make this collection perfect for a day stuck indoors sewing. And remember, April Showers bring May flowers!

See more at: <http://www.fatquartershop.com/moda-fabric/april-showers-bonnie-and-camille-moda-fabrics>



Color Me Happy by V & Co. for Moda Fabrics

Contemporary sewers, we have the perfect collection for you! Color Me Happy is a graphic, colorful, and ready for your touch of creativity. And we cannot get enough of the navy!

View this range at:

<http://www.fatquartershop.com/moda-fabric/color-me-happy-v-and-co-moda-fabrics/>



**Chance of Flowers by Sandy Gervais for Moda
Fabrics**

Freshen up your fabric stash as Spring approaches. Let your quilt and sewing projects blossom with the help of Chance of Flowers by Sandy Gervais. We can almost smell the flowers!

See this collection at:

<http://www.fatquartershop.com/moda-fabric/chance-of-flowers-sandy-gervais-moda-fabrics>





PROJECT – Summer Dreams Quilt Pattern

By Rose Smith from www.ludlowquiltandsew.co.uk



This quilt measures 40" by 56" and I have used 1½ yards of cream fabric with 1 yard each of blue and black.

I have used six of the Summer Dream quilt blocks sewn together two across and three down.

Cutting requirements

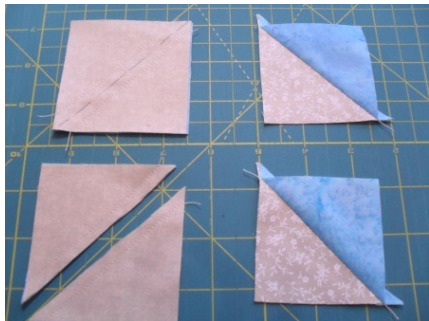
4½ inch squares: twenty four black

3¾ inch squares: thirty black, twenty four blue

2.7/8 inch squares: seventy two each of blue and cream

2½ inch squares: forty eight cream, forty four black, forty four blue

1½ inch strips: cut nine strips across the width of fabric in cream for borders one and three



Making the summer dream quilt block

Make half square triangles with all the 2.7/8 inch squares. Place a blue and a cream square together and mark a line along one of the diagonals. Sew a ¼ inch seam either side of the marked line and cut along the line. This produces two half square triangle units for each pair of squares used. They are now 2½ inch squares. Press the seam allowance towards the blue fabric and trim the corners where the triangle tips stick out.



Lay the squares out as shown. The 4½ inch black squares are at each corner and the 3¾ inch squares form a nine patch unit in the middle of the summer dream quilt block. On each edge of the central nine patch unit there are two cream 2½ inch squares with a half square triangle on either side of them.

Finally the outer edge of the quilt block has four half square triangles between the corners. Check the photo to be sure that you have the triangles facing the correct way so that you get the overall diamond shape in cream.



As there are so many different sizes of squares, you can't just sew the squares together across the rows. You need to sew groups of squares together first.

Sew the blue and black squares of the central square together across each row of three. Sew the four blue and cream squares and half square triangles together in rows or columns.



Sew the rows in the middle to each other to create the central nine patch unit.

Sew the two strips of blue and white together on each side of the quilt block.

You now have three rows where the groups of blocks are the same size as each other so they can now be sewn together across the rows.



Sew the rows to each other to complete the summer dream quilt block.

You will need to make six of these.

Sew these together in pairs and then sew the three pairs to each other.



Quilt borders

For the first border use 1½ inch strips of cream fabric.

You will need two lengths of 32½ inches for the top and bottom of the quilt and two lengths of 50½ inches for the sides.



For the second border, sew the blue and black 2½ inch squares together in strips. You'll need two lengths of seventeen squares for the top and bottom of the quilt and two lengths of twenty seven squares for the sides.

Make sure that the shorter strips begin and end with blue squares and the longer strips begin and end with black squares. That way the squares will continue to alternate in colour around all the edges of the quilt.

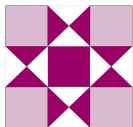


The third border is made with the 1½ inch strips of cream fabric again. You will need two lengths of 38½ inches for the top and bottom and two lengths of 56 ½ inches for the sides.

That completes the summer dream quilt top. It is now ready for layering, quilting and binding.

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



The Quilting Craze

From DeDe Hallett at www.embroideryquilter.com

What is so addictive about making quilts? I really wish I could say. Some would say that we quilters are crazy, taking perfectly good fabric and then cutting it all up before stitching it back together again. Others look at quilting as a quaint, old-fashioned hobby and don't have much use for it. Anyone who doesn't make quilts can't understand everything that goes into it.

Then, there are those of us who do quilt. We dream of patterns and colors, collect fabrics and quilting-related knickknacks, and dream of adding a quilt to every room in our home.

We happily shop for quilting supplies and patterns, look for sales or coupons for batting, and can't understand why anyone would want a store-bought comforter. We find endless discussions about needles and thread absolutely fascinating.

I began quilting for a very particular reason; I had lots of scraps from sewing my own clothing. At one point, I couldn't afford any fabric for a new project and I was bored, so I looked into making quilts as a way to use up the fabric that I had. Of course, fashion fabrics aren't the best possible fabric for quilting, but it was an honest mistake!

My first quilt stitched up well and was a big hit. However, it was also a big eyesore! Blue, red, green and yellow solids; all bright. While it was perfect for the new big-boy-bed in my son's room, it truly was ugly.

Doing my research, I realized that I should choose a variety of tones of fabrics (darks, mediums, and lights) and that patterned fabric can hide a multitude of mistakes. Not to be outwitted by mere fabric, my second quilt was created with a myriad of shades of blue, purple, gold, green, and more; all patterned. This quilt almost doomed my goal of making quilts!

The colors, along with natural muslin, were beautiful and rich together. However, I chose a quilt block that was much too difficult for me. Because I didn't understand the technique for stitching triangles and squares to one another, I lost a lot of my triangle points. It has been 20 years since I started this quilt. It still isn't finished.

With my third quilt, I felt like a very accomplished quilter! I created an appliqué baby quilt for a friend, complete with a bunny that had 3D floppy ears. This quilt turned out so well that I knew I would be making quilts for years to come. Unfortunately, we moved and all of my quilting supplies got buried and lost for several years.

Then, we got internet at our house. An online search for quilting patterns one morning got me hooked for life! Not only could I find hundreds of patterns and ideas, but I also met many women, and some men, that shared the same passion for this unusual hobby of quilting! It was a glorious time!

Since then, I've progressed in my quilting to the point of teaching and winning a few awards. I've never gotten a first-place ribbon, but those

second-place awards are just as exciting! I have such a huge stash of fabric and so many quilting supplies that I doubt I'll ever need to buy anything else.

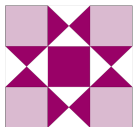
Still, I find the idea of a new quilt so exciting! Picking out the perfect fabrics to compliment a pattern is always a challenge, no matter how proficient I become with color theory. Choosing the perfect batting and thread colors feels like painting in the style of one of the great masters. Every finished quilt feels like a blessing.

Making quilts is obviously not a quaint, old-fashioned hobby to me! I am quite addicted to the excitement of creating beauty and the passion of mastering tools and techniques! I'm inspired by the opportunity to teach and awed by my students' talents.

For me, quilting is love.

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

Article Source: http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=DeDe_Hallett



Displaying Your Quilt

From Karen Dennison at www.onlinequiltingclasses.com

You finally finished that beautiful quilt you have been working so diligently on. Now where to best show it off?

The obvious spot is on the bed. The disadvantage to this strategy is that the quilt will be hidden away in the bedroom and not everyone will get a chance to appreciate your genius! There are issues with use and dirt that will affect the quilt as well, but, the "on the bed" option has worked well for millennia.

The benefit of this display mode is that we traditionally imagine quilts on beds. It all makes emotional sense. You also have the additional advantage of being able to stack multiple quilts on the bed at once, making the bed a great place to display your work, but also a wonderful storage solution.

When a quilt lives on a bed, it doesn't develop the wear damage that a folded quilt starts to show. The quilts become loved and are being used as they were intended.

The back of the couch is another terrific display area. Yes there are still the worries about light, dirt and use, but the advantages far outweigh the risks.



Everyone walking in the front door gets to see your work. It is a good storage place. And the quilt can cover any unsightly issues that the couch has developed. It is a simple and effective decoration for the living room.

My favorite reason for hanging a quilt over the back of the couch is that it is so convenient when I want to up on the couch with a good book, my iPad, or the TV.



Another great display area is the wall. Any wall in any room will do if there is enough room. It can be difficult in some cases, but if you can find the wall space, quilts can become decoration that can easily change with the season, the occasion or the mood. No need to paint, just pull out a quilt that meets the need and hang it up.

Quilt racks have been another traditionally used display tool. Sometimes they don't show enough of the quilt to really appreciate it and sometimes there are not enough quilt racks available for the number of quilts, but they can hold quilts in a protective fashion, showing off your efforts.

It is even acceptable to have quilt racks in many different rooms with quilts for those rooms available for use or display

By giving your quilts away you are broadening the viewership of your quilting. Each recipient becomes another venue for your display. If the quilt is given at a gathering, all of the attendees are allowed to see your handiwork.



Finally, a wonderful way to display quilts is in pictures. True, the quilt experience is not sensually multi-dimensional. You can't feel the quilt. You can't smell the fabric. And pictures don't look exactly like the real thing. On the other hand, you can show off every quilt and even close-ups of particularly interesting sections. OK, they are mostly really interesting to you, but you

do get to show them off to anybody that you can get to stand still long enough to look.

Storage isn't an issue in pictures. And, they can also be displayed anywhere you go. You can't very well show off your handiwork by dragging around 15 quilts wherever you go, but you certainly can show those pictures. You can show them off even more easily if the pictures are digital.

If you participate in social media sites, you can share your pictures with a much larger audience of those who actually understand the effort, expense and time that went into your production.

All in all, part of the enjoyment we find in quilting is in displaying our creations. There are lots of ways to do that. We should take advantage of every one of them.

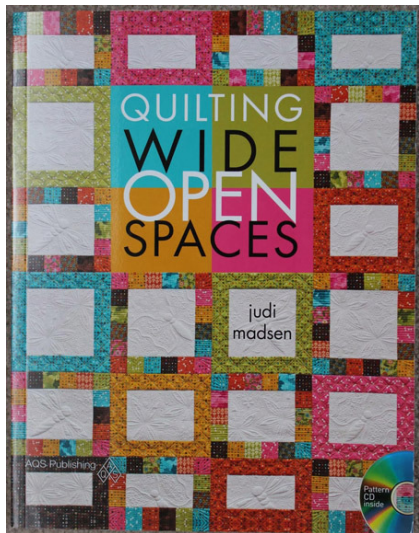
About the Author: For more tips, techniques and free online quilting classes come visit us at www.onlinequiltingclasses.com

Article Source: http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Karen_Dennison



Book Reviews

By Annette Mira-Bateman from www.QuiltBlockoftheMonthClub.com



“Quilting Wide Open Spaces” by Judi Madsen

Judi Madsen is a young woman with an obvious talent for quilting. She learnt first on her mother’s longarm machine, then realised she could quilt well enough to turn quilting into a full-time business. She and her husband now work together in this business.

Judi only does one-off custom quilting for others, but her talent is such that, where she had a 2-week turn-around in the beginning, she now has a 12-month waiting list!

This book contains patterns for 6 quilts with detailed drawings and photos of the quilting used. There is also an accompanying CD with full sized patterns.

You can follow these tips and instructions to improve your own quilts, or Judi gives advice on

how to turn your hobby into a money-making business as she has done. She specialises in custom quilting only, whereas you may prefer to quilt only all-over (pantograph) quilting for your customers.

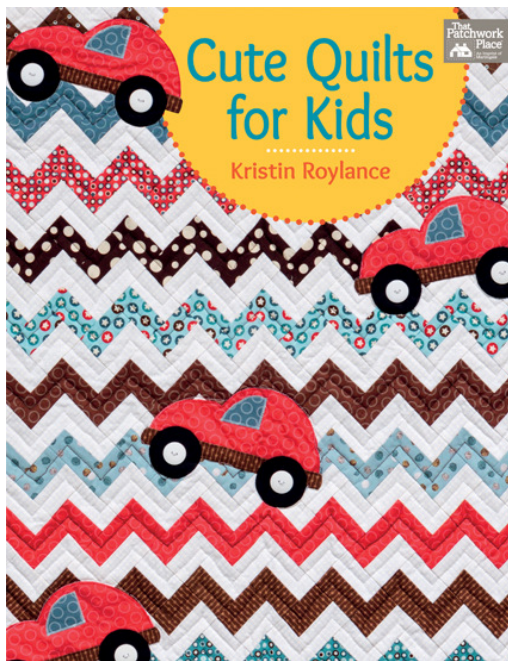
The very clear and detailed photographs of Judi's quilting, combined with her advice and practice exercises will have you keen to be more adventurous with your own quilts. You too, could decide to make money from your hobby.



"Quilting Wide Open Spaces" by Judi Madsen is available from:

American Quilter's Society, PO Box 3290, Paducah KY 42002-3290 or www.americanquilter.com, or ask your quilt book retailer.





“Cute Quilts for Kids” by Kristin Roylance

The name says it all. What lovely quilts for little people!

These 9 projects will be a delight to make and children will love the bright, pretty colours. They won't be able to resist touching the butterflies and ruffles.

These patterns will stand the test of time - you'll be putting them away in the chest for the next generation to enjoy.

Kristin spends some time explaining the use of quilting tools, pressing and applique and these very clear instructions will enable any level of quilter to make these quilts.

I especially love her suggestion for a piece of Minky microfibre plush fabric for the backing material.

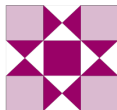
From ruffles to rodeos, dinosaurs to daisies, these patterns will delight everyone and toddlers and babies will love them even more than you'll love making them.



www.ShopMartingale.com, or available from your quilt book retailer.



"Cute Quilts for Kids" by Kristin Roylance is published by Martingale, 19021 120th Ave. NE Ste.102, Bothell, WA, 98011-9511, USA or



Recipe Corner – Chocolate Hedgehog Slice



125g (4oz) butter
1/2 cup (125g / 4 oz) caster (fine white) sugar
125g (4oz) Plain sweet biscuits (cookies) -
Crushed
1 cup (100g / 3 1/2 oz) chopped walnuts
1/2 cup (60g / 2oz) cocoa powder
125g (4oz) cooking chocolate, chopped
30g (1oz) butter
1 egg, lightly beaten

1) Line the base and sides of a square cake tin with foil. Combine the butter and sugar in a large pan and melt over medium heat. Reduce the heat to low and add the crushed biscuits, walnuts and cocoa and stir until combined.

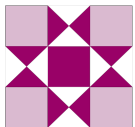
2) Remove from the heat and cool slightly. Add the egg and stir thoroughly. Press in the tin using the back of a spoon.

3) Place chocolate and butter in small heat proof bowl and melt over boiling water.

4) Spread chocolate topping over the slice (make a swirling pattern if you like)

Refrigerate for at least 1 hour, before cutting into squares and serving.

Yum!!



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’ve just completed your pattern for the sewing machine cover (Online Quilt Magazine issue Vol 4 No 11 November 2013) and am delighted with the result!

I did have some help from my 4yo with the random strip selections, and also with the quilting (thanks Mum) as I’m very much a beginner.

Thanks for a great easy-to-follow pattern and it’s a huge improvement over an up-ended plastic bag to keep the dust off my machine.”

- B.M., Sydney Australia



"I am Salinah from Malaysia. I have been following your magazines though I never quilt but I gain a lot of knowledge from it. Thanks a lot. Just to share this is my first project and on trial. Practice will make it perfect."

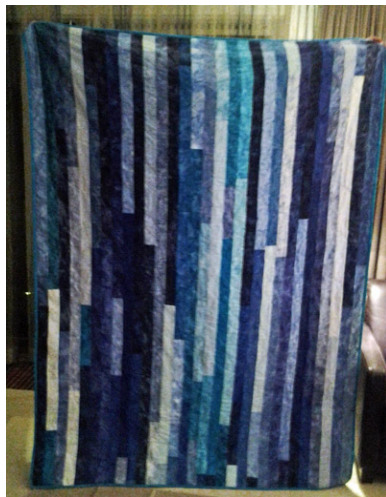
- Salinah W.B., Malaysia



"The pattern for my quilt is called Shadowed Daisy by Evelyn McCarty. It was in the construction state for almost 20 years! Sometimes I don't move too swiftly. I used 1930s reproduction fabrics. I had a certain way I wanted to quilt it - cross hatching behind the flowers, veins in the petals and some form of feathers in the sashings! I thought my long arm skills would be up to the task but after 4 years there is no way I could accomplish what I wanted!

*So I turned to the professional, Brenda Stump.
She did it exactly like I wanted and I love it!"*

- Pat S., USA



*"...a picture of the quilt I just finished for
my daughter and her husband. It is made from
material we bought at the Old Country Store in
Intercourse in the States (PA)."*

- Nettie K., Netherlands

"I am attaching a photo of the Zipper Clutch Purse (www.BagMakingPatterns.com pattern) that I made for my daughter, now the other daughter wants one as well as my mom. I had such fun sewing it up and think it is so cute!" - Karen B., South Africa



~~~~~  
*"I have just finished making a baby quilt for my very first grandchild a beautiful little girl, after raising four lovely boys this has been so exciting, I am having a lot of fun.*

*I thought I would share with you what I have just done. The toy bag is by Bronwyn Hayes the cot*

*quilt is by Christine Sharp & Rachael Wright of Kids Quilts New Zealand."*

*- Carol S., Australia*





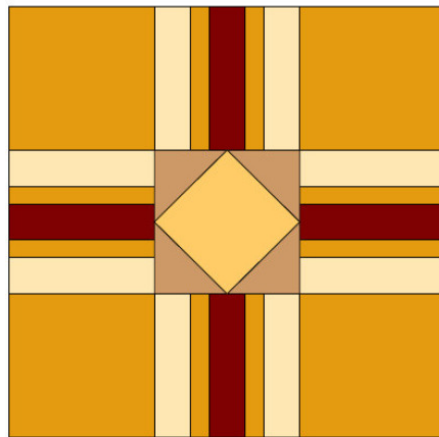
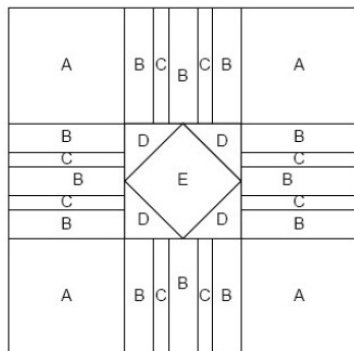
## Block of the Month

This month's block is a really striking pieced block, that works equally well as a detailed border block, or as a standalone feature block.





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

### Cross 13

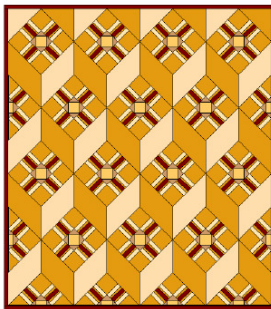
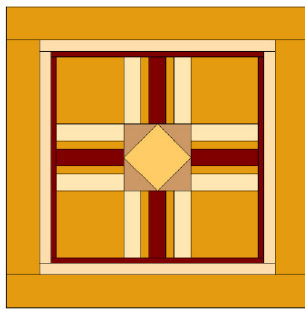
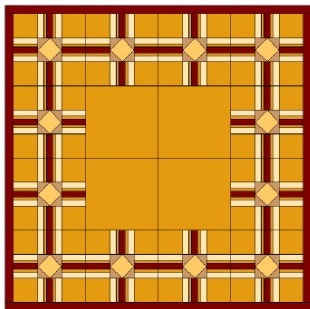
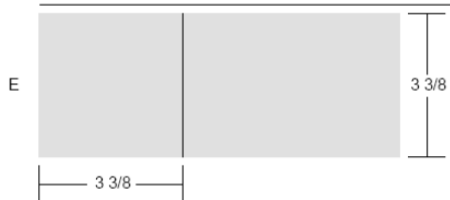
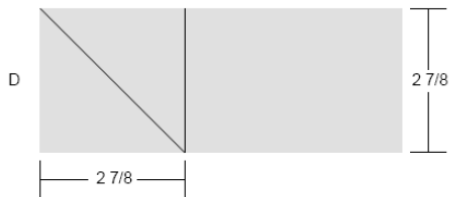
Key Block (1/5 actual size)





|   | Cutting Diagrams | Patch Count                                                                                                                                                                             |
|---|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A |                  |  4 patches                                                                                             |
| B |                  |  8 patches  4 patches |
| C |                  |  8 patches                                                                                             |

For more great quilts and blocks, visit [www.QuiltBlockOfTheMonthClub.com](http://www.QuiltBlockOfTheMonthClub.com)



## Today's Tips:

Following on from last month's article on Tying Quilts, Tommie O'S. from California, USA has these good tips to share:

*"One thing no one mentioned in tying quilts is to use a decorative stitch on your sewing machine. There's nothing for babies to catch fingers in or pets to catch with claws, The thread doesn't run, and it looks beautiful.*

*For baby quilts or for gifts to someone special, a satin heart is generally a good choice, but today's sewing machines have so many beautiful stitches that the sky is the limit for design. There are stitch designs that will match the quilt design, too. Diamonds, squares, triangles, circles,*

*For me, I find the easiest way to do this is to program a fix, then the stitch, then a fix and cut thread. That way I have the whole thing on one button. Just stitch and move to the next place I*

*want to "tie" on my quilt sandwich. Usually I pin baste my quilt for this tying method.*

*I do hope this will encourage people to use some of those stitches that they've paid for when they bought their machines. I love for people to use what they have to its fullest potential. "*

*"If you have problems threading your needle turn the needle around the thread goes in easier if you go the same direction that the punch went in to make the hole."*

*- Yvonne P., Canada*

### **Patterned Border Print Fabrics**

Patterned borders can give new life to any quilt and you can change the look of the whole thing by choosing different parts of the pattern to place in the corners.

There are usually major and minor patterns across the width of the fabric.

Choose the border stripe you wish to use then gradually move a small mirror held at a 45 degree angle up and down the fabric.

The mirror will show you what the corner will look like if the corner is mitred at that point.

All the corners of your quilt must be the same and the way to do this cut the strip of border fabric so that it reaches from your chosen corner pattern to past half-way along the side.

You then join these border strips at the very centre and thereby create a new "mirror image" pattern at the centre join.

Try one next time you're looking for a border that is a bit different.

Keep the tips coming! Send them all to [jody@onlinequiltmagazine.com](mailto:jody@onlinequiltmagazine.com)

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

## YES, We Want to Hear From You!

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

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

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

Send all emails to:

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

### "Quilt-y" Quotes...

- \* A bed without a quilt is like a sky without stars.
- \* Those who sleep under a quilt, sleep under a blanket of love.
- \* If I stitch fast enough, does it count as aerobic exercise?

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