



Online Quilt Magazine.com

**How To
Start &
Stop
Quilting**

**PROJECT –
Modern Jelly
Roll Throw
Pillows**

**New
Block
Pattern
To Make**

**Find Your
Niche In A
Quilting
Business**

Free Standard Issue Vol.5 No.6 – June 2014

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Letter from the Editor

Jody Anderson

Hi!

Well we're now halfway through the year, and I have to say it's just flown by so far! Some of us are heading into Winter, and others are enjoying Spring, and I feel it's definitely a time for change and shaking off the cobwebs and getting stuck into the second half of this year properly. Of course, by properly, I really mean sticking to those sewing "To Do" lists, as it'll be Christmas again before we know it, and all those gifts and decorations just won't make themselves...

This issue we have more interesting articles for you, including some practical advice from Leah on how to start and stop quilting, and Penny's discussion on all sorts of different options for you to turn your quilting hobby into a money-maker.

There's new projects too, with a couple of fun and quick Modern Jelly Roll Throw Pillow patterns, and your regular favourites including some great Readers' T-shirt quilts!

Have a great month!

Jody



How To Start and Stop Quilting

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

We're off to a great start now quilting Wiggly U shapes in our four patch blocks. Super thank you to everyone who commented with support for Josh's first free motion quilting video. You guys are such an awesome group to make videos for!

So now that we've started free motion quilting I've been getting a lot of questions here, on YouTube, and on the Facebook group about starting and stopping quilting.

Specifically - how do we secure our threads as we start quilting and as we end the line so our quilting stitches don't come out?

Here's the way I do this:

1. Start quilting by pulling the bobbin thread up

to the top of the quilt. Using the handwheel on the right of your machine, rotate towards yourself to drop the needle down, then keep rotating until it comes ALL the way up and is even starting to dip back down again. This ensures the top thread has made a full rotation through the bobbin case and has caught the bobbin thread.

(Alternative - if you have a needle up / down button, just hit that button 2 times to drop the needle and bring it up)

Now give the top thread a tug and a loop should pop up - that is the bobbin thread. Give that loop a tug and tuck both threads under your darning foot so they are out of your way.

[I showed this in our first video on Wiggly U](#)

[shapes](#), so watch that video again and closely pay attention to everything I do BEFORE I started quilting.

Note: This set of steps sounds very simple and I can certainly fly through these steps because I have done them thousands of times. Josh has fits with it every time, so if you struggle with it too, don't worry, it takes some practice to get the hang of bringing the bobbin thread up!

Why do you need to do this?

If you leave your bobbin thread on the bottom, where you can't see it, there's a very good chance you will stitch through it as you quilt the block and it will become embedded in the stitching. Short answer - it looks terrible!

So bringing the bobbin thread up ensures there's no nasty surprises left for us on the back of the quilt, and tucking both threads under the foot makes it far less likely they will be sucked into the

LEARN HOW to FREE MOTION QUILT ALL OF THESE DESIGNS at:



www.FreeMotionProject.com



machine or become unthreaded as we get started.

2. Start quilting - Don't build up thread. Don't stitch in place. Don't backstitch. Don't overlock. Don't pass go. Don't collect \$200.

Just start quilting!

Why? Because if you do any of those things, you will end up with a very noticeable glob of thread on the top and back of your quilt. You can not only see it, you can feel it too - it will be a hard lump sitting on the surface.

Many quilters have been taught to build up thread this way to "secure" the thread and clip off the thread tails immediately after. Personally, I don't think this is secure because with wear and washing those knots come out and the thread will start unraveling.

So don't build up thread, just start quilting and

we will return to those thread tails after the block is complete.

3. Stop quilting - Just STOP. Don't build up thread. Don't stitch in place. Don't backstitch. Don't overlock...you get the idea!

We don't build up thread at the end for the same reason we don't build up thread at the beginning.

When you finish a line of quilting just stop, rotate your handwheel to bring your needle all the way up, lift your foot, and pull the block off your machine.

NOW cut your threads leaving thread tails at least 4 - 6 inches long. You will have a single thread on the top of your quilt and a single thread on the back. Give one of these threads a tug (doesn't matter which side) to bring up a loop, which will be the other thread. Pull both to one side.

4. Tie, bury, and clip - You should now have your

starting 2 threads and your ending 2 threads together on one side of the quilt.

Watch this video to see how this works step by step:

[Click here to check out the Hide Your Threads Kit](#) which comes with a pack of cheater needles and a pin place to keep them handy next to your machine!



To recap: Tie 2 threads together in a knot about 1/8" from the surface of the quilt, then [grab a cheater needle](#) (or regular big hole needle if you

don't have a cheater), pop the threads into the eye, run the needle through the middle layer of the quilt about 1-2 inches.

Pull the needle through, give the threads a tug and the knot should pop down into the middle layer of the quilt. Clip off the tails where the needle came out of the quilt.

Repeat these steps with the 2 ending threads. When you have a situation where 4 threads come together in one spot, tie off 2 at a time rather than all 4 together. (4 threads tends to make a huge knot that doesn't bury easily).

Is this the ONLY way to do this?!

No! As with all things in quilting, there are hundreds of ways to start and stop quilting and deal with the loose threads that result. I hear a lot of whining (sorry, no better word for it!) about this method because it's a bit time consuming and tedious.

However, this is the only method use, so it's the only method I teach! I personally find it to be far faster, easier, and less frustrating than the build-a-glob-and-clip method. I figure if I take the time to put these quilting lines in the quilt, I want to make sure they are secure and will stay put and not come unraveled eventually with wear.

The method you use to deal with your thread tails is entirely up to you, so I'd suggest trying a lot of different methods from different teachers and find what works best for you!

Let's go quilt,

Leah Day

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

Pre-order your copy today!

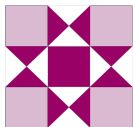
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Project – Modern Jelly Roll Throw Pillows

By Jody Anderson from www.QuiltBlockoftheMonthClub.com



Looking for a quick, easy and super-fast project?

Use up some 2½ inch jelly roll strips on these great modern cushions and jazz up your sofa this weekend.

We liked plain modern colours for our pillows, but you can change them to suit your mood and décor as you like.

The square pillow is 16 inches x 16 inches, and the smaller rectangle pillow measures 20 inches long x 12 inches high.

You Will Need:**Square Pillow -**

A selection of 2½ inch (Jelly Roll) strips. We used 1 strip of each of 5 different colours, plus 2 strips of charcoal grey.

½ metre (½ yard) matching fabric for cushion back

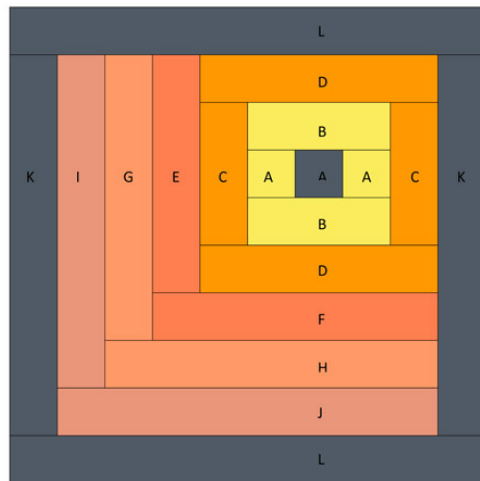
Cushion insert to fit

Rectangle Pillow –

A selection of 2½ inch (Jelly Roll) strips. We used 1 strip of each of 7 different colours.

Piece of matching fabric measuring 20½ x 12½ inches for the pillow back.

Cushion stuffing

Square Pillow Piecing:**Cut:**

A – 2 ½ x 2 ½ inches – Cut 1 grey

Cut 2 yellow

B – 2 ½ x 6 ½ inches - Cut 2 yellow

C – 2 ½ x 6 ½ inches - Cut 2 mustard

D – 2 ½ x 10 ½ inches - Cut 2 mustard

E – 2 ½ x 10 ½ inches - Cut 1 salmon

F – 2 ½ x 12 ½ inches - Cut 1 salmon

G – 2 ½ x 12 ½ inches - Cut 1 peach

H – 2 ½ x 14 ½ inches - Cut 1 peach

I – 2 ½ x 14 ½ inches – Cut 1 light brown

J – 2 ½ x 16 ½ inches - Cut 1 light brown

K – 2 ½ x 16 ½ inches - Cut 2 grey

L – 2 ½ x 20 ½ inches – Cut 2 grey

Refer to the diagram and photo and start by sewing the three “A” pieces together with ¼ inch seams. Add the “B” strips, then the “C” strips and so on, until you have pieced the cushion top in order.

Press all seams well.

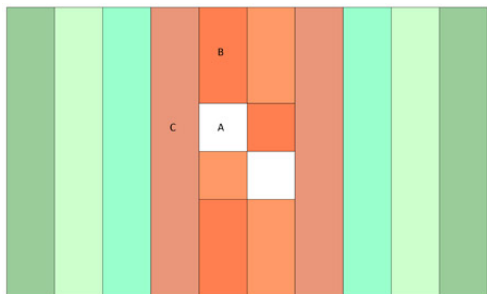
Assembly:

From the fabric for the back, cut two rectangles measuring 20 ½ inches x 15 inches.

Hem one full width (20 1/2inch) 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.

Lay the pieced 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.

Rectangle Pillow Piecing:**Cut:**

A – 2 ½ x 2 ½ inches - Cut 2 cream

Cut 1 peach

Cut 1 salmon

B – 2 ½ x 4 ½ inches - Cut 2 peach

Cut 2 salmon

C – 2 ½ x 12 ½ inches - Cut 2 light brown

Cut 2 bright green

Cut 2 sage green

Cut 2 light olive green

Refer to the diagram and photo to piece this pillow top. Start with the centre and piece 2 “A” squares with a “B” strip either side. Sew them together, then add the “C” strips to either side in matching colour order.

Press all seams well.

Assembly:

With right sides together, sew the pillow back panel to the pieced top, making sure to leave at least a 6-8 inch gap along one of the long sides.

Clip corners and turn right sides out and press, before stuffing with your cushion stuffing. (Toy fill is great, or use the stuffing from another pillow.)

Tuck in the seam allowances along the gap and pin together. Use a matching thread to hand stitch the gap closed and finish your cushion.



Find Your Niche in the Quilting Business; Make and Sell Quilted Accessories

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

In the home decor category, your business could make and sell quilted potholders and matching aprons with pockets that coordinate with the potholder pattern. You could make and sell quilted oven mitts.

Table runners and mantel drapes are also popular quilted items for the home. Quilted placemats and coasters are also ideas.

For a living room, den, bedroom, dining room or kitchen quilted wall hangings are popular. These can be custom made to coordinate with your client's own interior colors and style.

For a guest room or bathroom, why not quilt covers for a tissue box or photo or mirror frame?



Photo from www.sewwequilt.com

Quilted pillowcases are also good sellers.

Take the idea of home decor to a smaller scale and perhaps your quilting business could be making quilted items for doll houses.

Many collectors will pay top dollar to have their dollhouse beds accented with tiny little quilts. Such quilts would also be a niche business for baby dolls.

Little girls love their dolls and many parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles would pay good money to have a special quilt made for a special doll!

Holidays open up a wide range of options for home decor as well. Keep that in mind if your quilting business will focus on home decor. In fact, your quilting business could actually focus on holiday items.

Christmas ornaments, stockings, wall hangings, table decorations...the possibilities for that one holiday alone are endless! Imagine if your quilting business focused on all holidays.

For January, quilted decorations featuring snowmen and snowflakes would be popular for the winter theme.

February is Valentine's Day. Focus for that holiday would be on quilted items with hearts, cupids, etc.

March brings St. Patrick's Day and Spring.

April is Easter, and brings another slew of quilted holiday items to mind. Baskets made from quilted strips of fabric would be gorgeous. Patchwork eggs stuffed to perfection would also be fun items.

May and June bring graduations along with Mother's and Father's days. These months are great for quilted photo frames or scrapbooks with a quilted cover.

July's patriotic theme would be great inspiration for quilted home decor as well.

August and September sends children (and teachers) back to school. Quilted notebooks, tote bags, pencil cases would be great accessories for those months.

Halloween and Thanksgiving in October and November also offer endless possibilities for home décor, too. Use your imagination!

Quilted apparel is another area, and could include a number of items as well. Belts and headbands are popular accessories.



Quilted jackets are a higher ticket item you could make and sell. You could add small quilt blocks to simple cardigans as pockets. Combine your jackets with a matching quilted cap or tote bag and increase your price accordingly!

Other quilted accessories you could make include cell phone holders, lip gloss pouches, and eye glass cases.

Coin purses and wallets are other ideas for quilted accessories. Purses and tote bags are also very popular items that translate nicely into quilted products.

The pet niche can be so much fun too. People of all ages love to buy things for their pets. For cats and dogs, quilted carrying cases are good sellers. Pet beds are another top item.

Pet clothing is also very popular. Small dogs generally need the added warmth of a coat in the winter.



Quilted coats, jackets and shawls are good sellers for pet clothing. Create a package by including the quilted coat or jacket along with a matching quilted hat.

No matter which niche you choose, any of these areas would offer great sales opportunities for your own quilting business.

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>

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

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



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".



25TH AND PINE BY BASICGREY FOR MODA FABRICS

All roads lead to holiday magic at 25th & Pine, where timeless traditions meet modern design.

This collection is decked out with a mix of candy cane red, peppermint green, snowy white, dusty blue and soft creams.

25th & Pine is the perfect way to start your holiday season.

Available in all the cut goods, yardage and our delightful Down the Lane Quilt Kit.

Check it out at:

<http://www.fatquartershop.com/moda-fabric/25th-pine-basicgrey-moda-fabrics/>



**LULA MAGNOLIA BY QUILTED FISH FOR RILEY BLAKE
DESIGNS**

Some of the hottest colors this year are navy and orange, and the new Lula Magnolia collection is right on trend.

This collection is adorned with bright colors, such as corals, greens and blues mixed with retro patterns.

From flamingos, to magnolias, lattices, and polka dots, it represent to fun atmosphere for summer.

Available in all the cut goods and yardage.

See more at:

<http://www.fatquartershop.com/riley-blake-fabric/lula-magnolia-the-quilted-fish-riley-blake-designs/>

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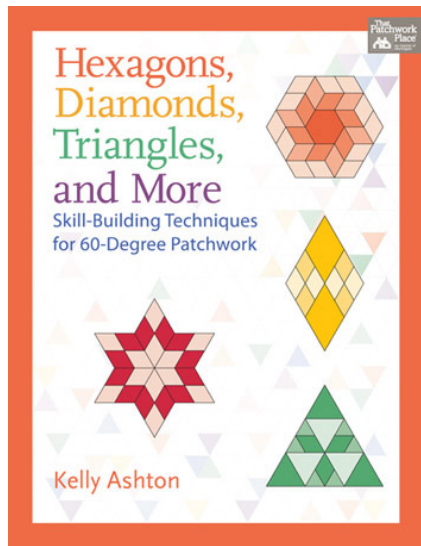
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Book Reviews

By Annette Mira-Bateman from www.QuiltBlockoftheMonthClub.com



**“Hexagons, Diamonds, Triangles and More” by
Kelly Ashton**

As a quiltmaker who loved geometry at school, Kelly Ashton was delighted to discover the creative design possibilities of using compass and ruler and 60 degree angles.

This book contains many different blocks and several projects for you to try out. There is also a gallery of quilts to inspire you.

Kelly shows you how to master Y-seams with 'very little more time'. You may need to purchase templates to create some of these blocks, but there are simple instructions for making your own, where ready-made templates are not available.

The basic hexagon shape can be subdivided into halves, triangles or 60 degree diamonds, wedges, kites and petals.

Template-making supplies and all other equipment you'll need are listed and explained.

The more than 80 blocks in this book can be categorized as equilateral triangle, hexagon, 60 degree diamond or 6-pointed star. The tables included will enable you to design blocks in a size you want. Instructions and diagrams are clearly set out.

You'll be designing complex quilts by yourself in no time and will be inspired by the gallery of photos showing 12 completed quilts.

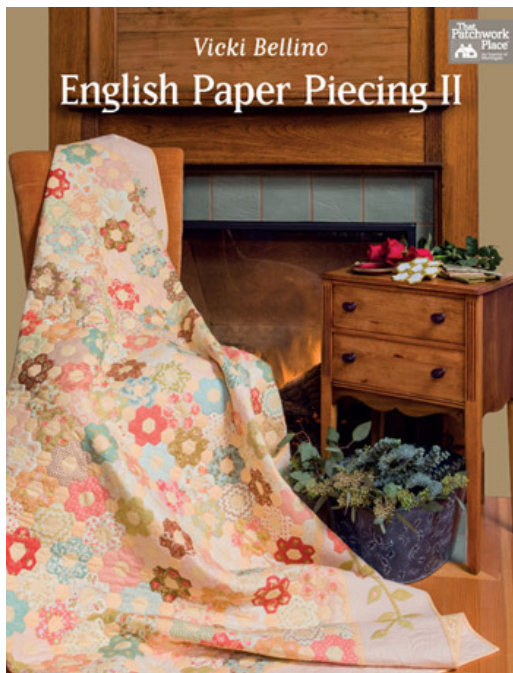
Patterns for a table topper and Liberty table runner are included. Full sized template patterns are provided.

" Hexagons, Diamonds, Triangles and More " is published by Martingale and is available through your local craft book shop or online from:

www.ShopMartingale.com

(Photos courtesy of Martingale, and Photographer Brent Kane)





“English Paper Piecing II” by Vicki Bellino

This book is a follow-up to the first book "English Paper Piecing - Fresh New Quilts from Bloom Creek".

Vicki has aimed to include projects for the beginner paper piecer as well as some more ambitious ones for those looking for a challenge.

The history of paper piecing goes back to the early 1700s at least and is a method which eliminates stretching and distortion along bias edges of small cut pieces of fabric.

Vicki prefers purchasing ready-cut paper templates, but you can make your own. Templates are provided. (You can buy shapes from www.paperpieces.com or most quilt shops.)

She advises on fussy-cutting (if you wish), basting and preparing different shapes and whipstitching them together or appliqueing.

Vicki explains several different techniques for this work and tells us which ways she prefers.

The diagrams and directions are clear.

There are 10 very attractive and varied projects in this book ranging from small to large wallhangings, a bed runner, tote bag and two sizes and styles of sewing machine covers.

If you wish to learn about paper piecing, then this is the book for you.

"English Paper Piecing II" by Vicki Bellino is published by Martingale and is available through your local craft book shop or online from:

www.ShopMartingale.com

(Photos courtesy of Martingale, and Photographer Brent Kane)





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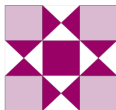
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Recipe Corner – Chocolate-fudge brownies (wheat and gluten free)



Ingredients

1/2 cup rice flour
1/2 cup plain gluten-free flour (we used Orgran brand)
1/4 teaspoon baking powder
1/3 cup cocoa powder
1 1/4 cups caster sugar
2 eggs, lightly beaten
150g butter, melted

Method

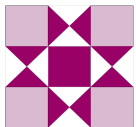
Preheat oven to 180°C. Grease a 4cm-deep, 20cm x 30cm (base) slab pan. Line with baking paper, allowing a 2cm overhang at both long ends.

Sift flours, baking powder and cocoa into a large bowl. Add sugar. Stir to combine. Make a well in the centre. Add eggs and melted butter to flour mixture. Using a metal spoon, mix until just smooth.

Spread mixture into prepared pan. Bake for 20 to 25 minutes or until a skewer inserted in the centre comes out with crumbs clinging.

Remove from oven. Allow to cool in pan. Lift from pan. Cut into squares.

(Note- Brownies can be made up to 3 days ahead. Store in an airtight container in a cool, dry place.)



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.

~~~~~  
Following on from last month’s article on T-Shirt quilts...

*“Here are photos of the quilts I made for a friend. She wanted to surprise her son and daughter for Christmas with quilts made from all of their sports jerseys, favorite pillow case and*

*other mementos that were important to them. I had fun making these.”*

- Linda M., USA





~~~~~  
“These are pictures of a reversible t-shirt quilt that I made for my granddaughter's high school graduation. These are her t-shirts.”

- Melva M., MN, USA



“At last I finished this “Hearts and Flowers” quilt (from www.QuiltBlockoftheMonthClub.com) ... I think the centre turned out well. Thank you for a wonderful pattern.

- Janet S., Australia



“I want to send you a photo of my Beautiful Garden (from www.QuiltBlockoftheMonthClub.com). I haven't quite finished the quilting yet, but I am

very proud of it. I changed the cross stitch butterfly to 4 smaller butterflies and in the dovecote square I made spider roses instead of the leaves. It was such fun, thank you!"

- Diane R., Australia



**Conquer Strip Piecing
Techniques. . .
No More Wasted Time and
Frustration
Sewing Your Blocks Together**

When you begin a new quilt project, do you sometimes feel like you are fighting a war? First you face the “Battle of the Quilt Blocks.” For me, at least, sometimes it’s a challenge just to choose a block or two for a quilt. The first one may look too hard. The second one may use too many different fabrics.

Then after you have spent hours – maybe even days – eliminating blocks, you find one that is just right. Or at least, you’ll be happy using it in your brand new quilt.

Ahhhh – a sigh of relief!

Next, it’s time to look at the color scheme and fabrics to use. Finally, you have everything set and you’re ready to cut your fabric. Faced with cutting a bazillion little squares, you stop and think “there must be a better way!”

And, truly, there is – Strip Piecing!

With the advent of the rotary cutter, quilters figured out that they could sew strips together and then cut the “strip units” into segments to sew into blocks – rows of squares, alternating rectangles and squares, and more.

Using this technique, your cutting and sewing time for each quilt is slashed – leaving you time to make more quilts! In our brand new DVD Mentor – Conquering Strip Piecing – you’ll see just how this works, and learn how to make a beautiful quilt with complicated-looking borders, too.

To get all of the details, visit:

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



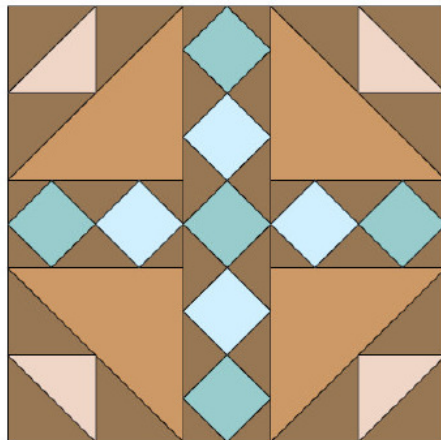
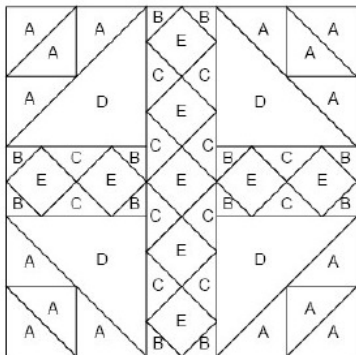
Block of the Month

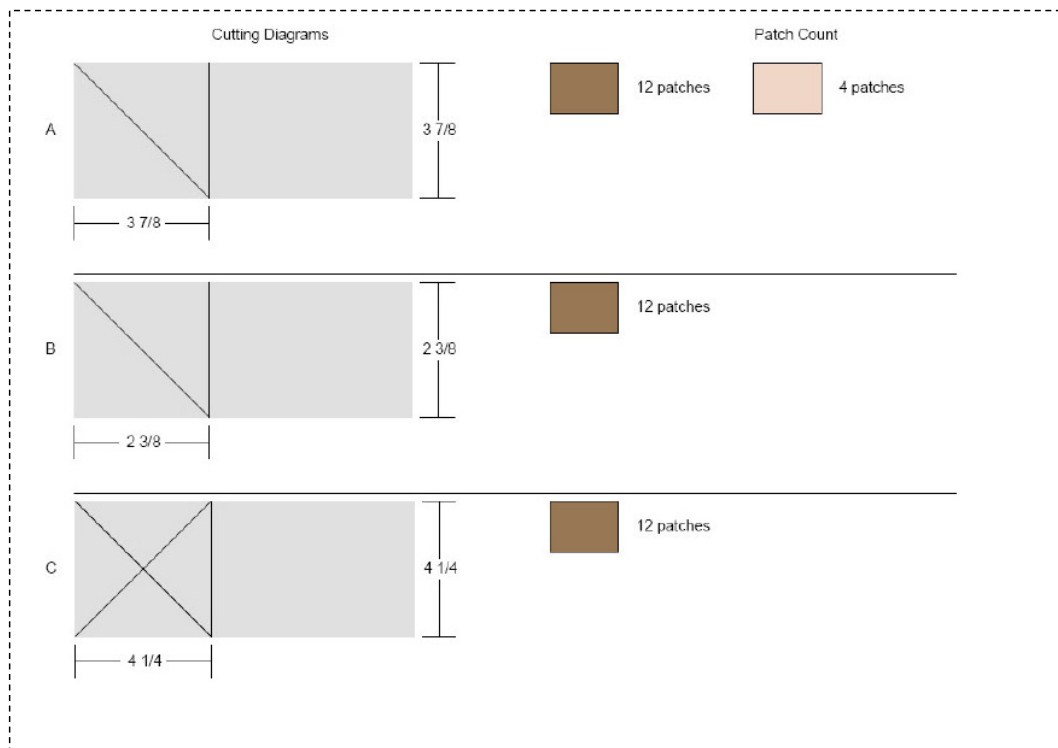
This block is a striking but moderately complex block to piece together. You may even like to enlarge the block and use one as the basis for a lap sized quilt.

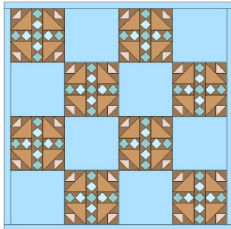
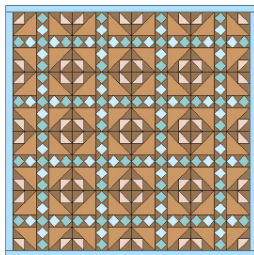
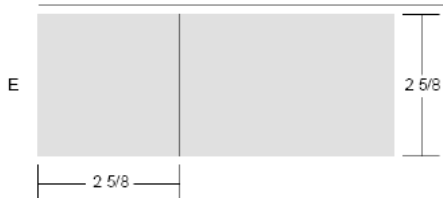
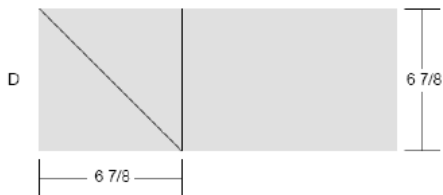
To make this 15 inch block as shown, you will need 5 different fabrics, and once you have rotary cut the pieces according to the Cutting Diagram, you can piece them together as shown.

Bird's Nest

Key Block (8/50 actual size)







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

Today's Tips:

These tips work equally well for quilting, or embroidering -

- Hold your thumb over the exit point to prevent knots as you pull the thread taut.
- If your thread tends to kink, you may be rolling the needle. Try rotating the needle once between each set of stitches, first in one direction, then the other, to see which works for you.
- Hold the free end of the thread and unwind until the spool reaches your elbow. Cut at this length. The thread will be used up before it begins to wear out.

~~~~~

Dawn sent in a tip this week, that we wanted to share with you:

"A baby change table is great to turn into a cutting table, in a small space, once you don't need it any more for baby, it is a great height and takes quite a large mat."

(I didn't think of that when I still had my change table here, but it makes great sense!! It ties in too with our other tip - it's kind of obvious, but sometimes hearing it again helps too...)

- Purchase the largest rotary cutting mat you can afford and have room for.

Keep the tips coming! We all love reading hints that work for you.

Please send them all to  
[jody@onlinequiltmagazine.com](mailto:jody@onlinequiltmagazine.com)



## 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...

"The sewing machine joins what the scissors have cut asunder, plus whatever else comes in its path." ~Mason Cooley

"I keep my end tables full of needlework and quilting so I don't have to dust them." ~Author Unknown

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