

# quilty

Quilt  
LOVE

fresh quilts + modern inspiration for quilters

Sneak  
Peek!

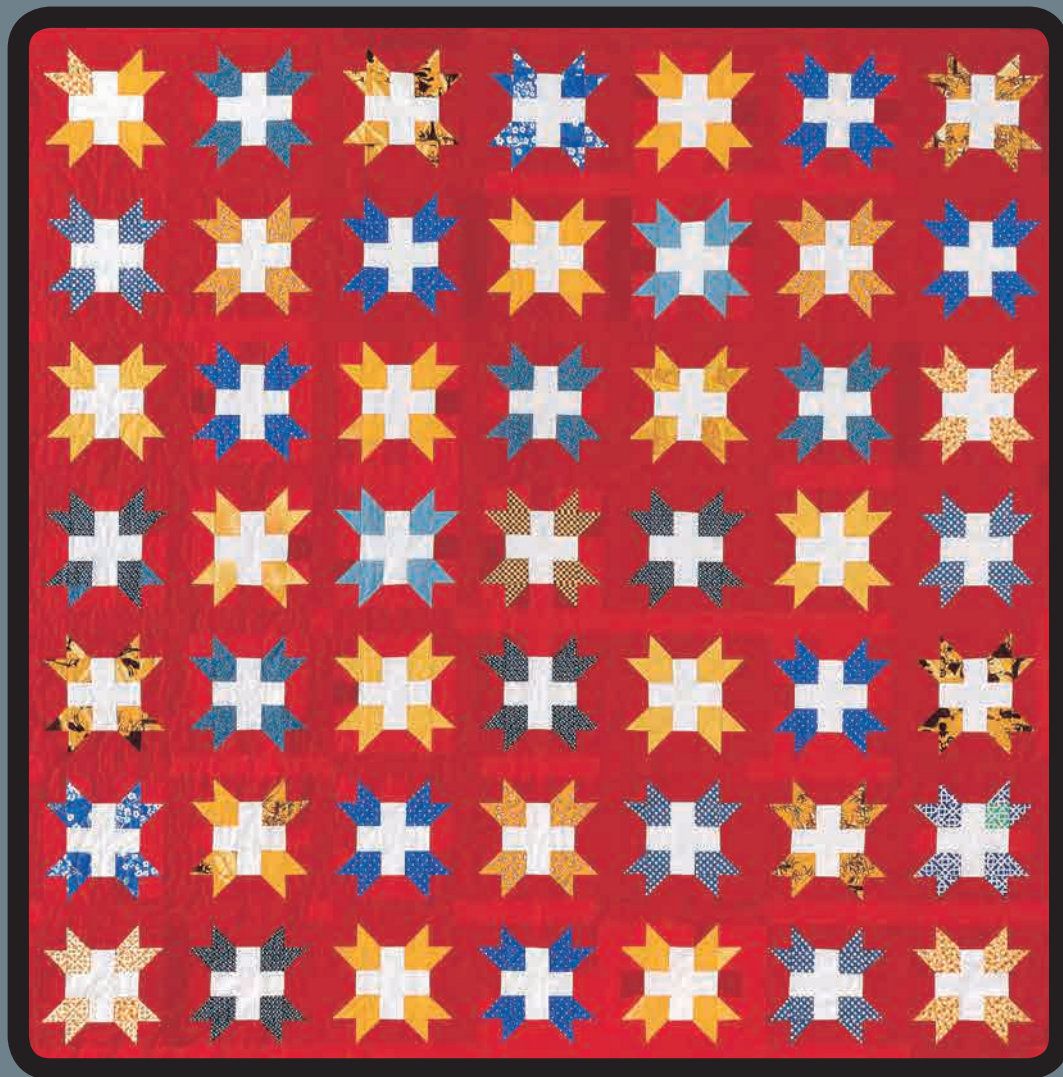
Welcome to  
Quilty

Romance  
in  
Bloom

Fabric gets dark

Quilts  
take  
to the  
Streets

Barn blocks  
across the  
heartland



RED HOT Make our cover quilt!

Piece your story, make a quilt.

# Melody

## I'M SINGING THE PRAISES OF THIS MACHINE



Mary Fons  
Guest Co-Host  
Fons and Porter

I've grown up watching my mother Marianne Fons quilt but, it wasn't until recently that I started quilting for myself. As a writer, I can't help but tell a story with everything I do, and I fell in love with the way each quilting block can tell a story, too. And, when I first experienced all the features and ease of the Melody, I knew this machine was just for me.

The Melody has the features I've been looking for to quilt with confidence and let my creativity grow. With a precise  $\frac{1}{4}$ " stitch, a variety of stitches for every technique, and easy threading, the Melody lets me tell my story while hitting all the right notes.



Find the perfect accompaniment to your quilting. Visit your Baby Lock Retailer for a free demonstration today.

**baby lock**

**FOR THE LOVE OF SEWING**

[www.babylock.com](http://www.babylock.com)

800-422-2952

# letter from the editor...



If you're reading this, you may have had what I call "a quilt epiphany."

At some point in your life - maybe recently - you saw a quilt that spoke to you. It might've been in a book, at a museum, in a magazine, in grandma's attic, on a friend's bed, or at a quilt shop you randomly wandered into. When you saw that quilt, **something inside you clicked:** you had to make one. Period. That's a quilt epiphany - and hey, congratulations!

I had my epiphany three years ago and I've been making quilts ever since. There are many activities that hold my interest (e.g., exercise, reading books, ordering pie, exercising off the pie I ordered, etc.) but making a quilt is satisfying in a "whole-soul" kind of way. **Just piecing a single block can magically erase the blues and create a feeling of pride like nothing else on the planet I've ever tried, I swear.**

This mini-magazine is a preview of what's to come. *Quilty* is an online how-to show that I make with a small-but-mighty crew of family and friends. **Our mission is to teach quilting basics to folks who have never made a quilt before** - or anyone who quilts at all, really. This mini-magazine is a sneak peek of what we want to bring to beginners beyond the show. Quilt epiphanies can happen anywhere; we want to make sure we're covering our bases.

So take a look! We've got a stunning, super easy quilt project for you to try, plus lots of help inside (and online) as you go. We'll look at quilts on barns in rural Iowa, and offer inspiration from unlikely places. Today's American quilt is whatever you make it. And you can make it.

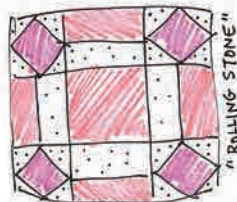
Get your epiphanies ready, people. We've got quilts to make.

Piece,

... that means **YOU!**



Mary



when you see quilt block sketches like these, there's a tip or helpful hint to check out!

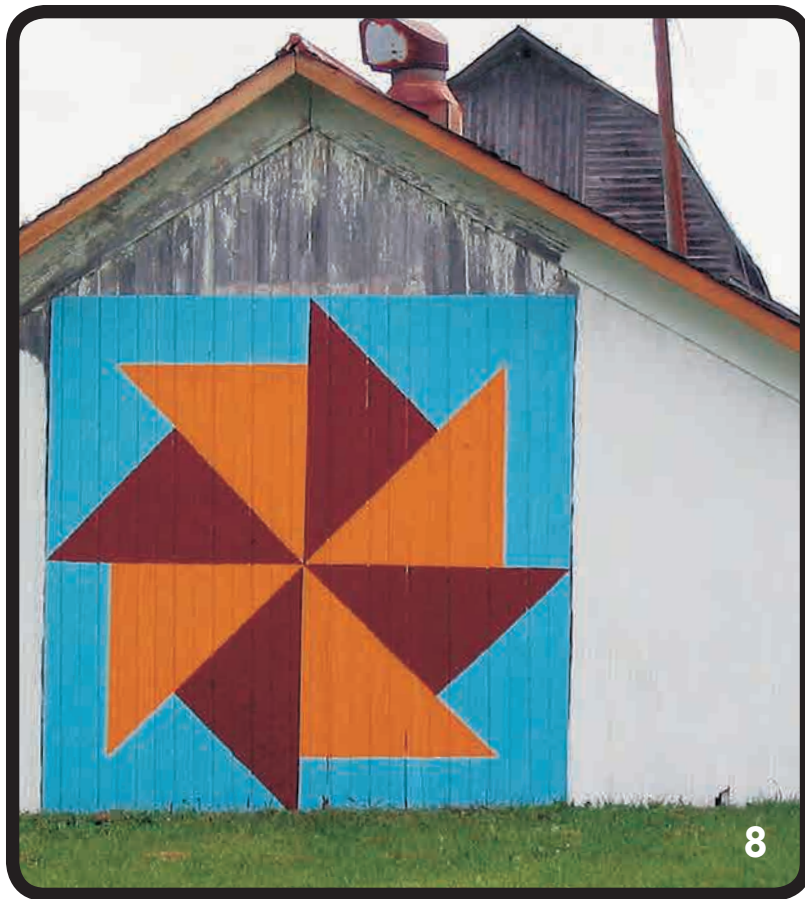
↑ This picture is from the set of *Quilty* the show! If you're a new quilter, you need to check it out. Lessons, guests, tips, projects, all delivered with a smile. [www.heyquilty.com](http://www.heyquilty.com)



# table of contents



Facebook? Of course!  
Join us on the ol' FB...



8



Facebook.com/quilty

This quilt is 100 years old...  
Super modern looking, no?



10

6

## color theory

What's hot in new fabric? Romance.

8

## barn block tour

Take a ride through rural Iowa and see a different kind of quilt getting some air.

10

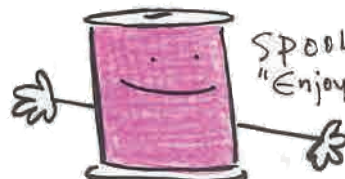
## blonde redhead

Our feature project – this one's got serious personality.

15

## 10 tips for rookie quilters

Tear this out and post it on your fridge. Or your forehead.




SPOOLY SAYS:  
"Enjoy the issue!"

# quilty

spring 2012

## Our Mission Statement

With style, class, and a sense of humor, Quilty aims to ignite new passion for the American quilt.

All very nice people... 

EDITOR Mary Fons  
 ASSISTANT EDITOR Diane Tomlinson  
 MANAGING EDITOR Debra Finan  
 TECHNICAL WRITER Kristine Peterson

ART DIRECTOR Megan Franck

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT Mandy Couture

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS Robert L. Guaraldi  
 Johnny Knight  
 Billie Shelton

PUBLISHER Kristi Loeffelholz  
 ADVERTISING MANAGER Cristy Adamski  
 WEB SITE MANAGER Phillip Zacharias  
 CUSTOMER SERVICE MANAGER Tiffany Bond

### New Track Media LLC

PRESIDENT AND CEO  
 Stephen J. Kent

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER  
 Mark F. Arnett

VICE PRESIDENT/PUBLISHING DIRECTOR  
 Tina Battock

VICE PRESIDENT CIRCULATION  
 Nicole McGuire

VICE PRESIDENT PRODUCTION  
 Barbara Schmitz

PRODUCTION MANAGER Dominic M. Taormina  
 PRODUCTION COORDINATOR Sarah Katz  
 IT MANAGER Denise Donnarumma

ONLINE SUBSCRIPTIONS MANAGER Jodi Lee



**We welcome your comments and suggestions.**

Please contact us at the following addresses or numbers:

**Editorial comments and concerns:**  
Quilty

P.O. Box 171, Winterset, IA 50273  
(515) 462-1020

**Advertising:** (715) 824-4546

**Retail Sales Manager:** (801) 816-8410

**Web site:** www.HeyQuilty.com

**E-mail:** Mary@QNNtv.com



## ADVERTISING

Free shipping through 12/31/11

### Everyday Quilter

**Pre-cut quilt kits that get you sewing faster!**

- Quilt Kits
- Fabric
- Other Cool Kits
- Notions

**(715) 821-4499**

[www.everydayquilter.com](http://www.everydayquilter.com)



**Over 1,000 Quilting Videos available!**

Visit QNNtv.com to learn more about our exclusive programming.

[www.qnntv.com](http://www.qnntv.com)

More Than Bugs!

Amazing Selection



**Something for everyone!**

- ◆ Many Novelty Fabrics and Coordinates
- ◆ Play Panels
- ◆ Embellishments
- ◆ Patterns & Kits

Thousands of Fabrics

Fat Quarters Too!

**Fabric for all your sewing, quilting and decorating needs.**

[www.BugFabric.com](http://www.BugFabric.com)

◆ 425-836-0645 ◆

Mary and her mom, quilting superstar Marianne Fons, made a two-hour, thread-to-binding quilt lesson for beginners. It's called "Learn To Quilt" and it's everything you need to know - everything, we say!

You can get it right here: [ShopFonsandPorter.com/LTQ](http://ShopFonsandPorter.com/LTQ) 

# color theory

Opulent, wild florals set against dark backgrounds – quilting fabric seems to be having a love affair with drama right now. Here are a few prints we think are particularly good starting points for your next (decadent) masterpiece.



## A word about buying fabric...

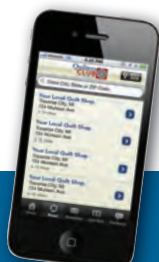
The fabric best for making a quilt is 100% cotton, technically known as "cotton broadcloth." You can find countless, gorgeous varieties of this fabric at quilt shops, of course. There are tons of advantages to visiting a quilt shop in person: You can feel the fabric and see the colors "in real life," which helps you figure out how your quilt is going to look, and you'll also feel good n' crunchy about supporting a local business. Plus, quilt shops are full of people who make quilts; this means you can ask questions, which is great.

Of course, you can also buy fabric online, and many quilters do. There are fabric megastores like KeepsakeQuilting.com or Fabric.com. Plenty of small quilt shops have online stores, too. You've got lots of options, and a good fabric seller online or in person will help make sure you get the fabric you need in the correct quantity. Have your pattern nearby when you're ordering and enjoy – buying fabric is a natural high.

**VIDEO!** To learn more about quilting fabric go to [HeyQuilty.com/Fabric](http://HeyQuilty.com/Fabric)

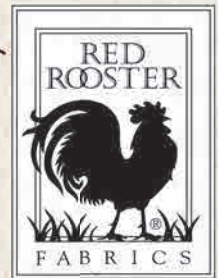


♥ We love these fabrics because they make us think of clothes... like a great dress.



Check out this **FREE** Quilt Shop locator app for your iPhone, Droid, or web enabled device.  
[FonsandPorter.com/App](http://FonsandPorter.com/App)





**Look for these collections in your favorite quilt shop now!**

1. **The Dressmaker's Collection**  
*Amy Barickman*
2. **Rainbow Zoo**  
*Amy Blay*
3. **Super**  
*GE Designs*
4. **Serenity**  
*Red Rooster Fabrics*
5. **Melrose**  
*Red Rooster Fabrics*



[www.redroosterfabrics.com](http://www.redroosterfabrics.com)

**So new, So exciting, Sew Red Rooster!**



# barn block tour



*In Iowa, the quilts are taking it to the streets.*



"I'M AN IOWA  
CORNSTALK  
&  
I APPROVED  
THIS ARTICLE"



Don't forget  
to follow  
us on  
Twitter!

@HEYQUILTY

... or ride your bike!



Photos: Billie Shelton.

... Old barn, modern art in rural Iowa.

## QUILTS = CULTURE



↖ An 8-pointed star block in Conrad, IA.



↖ It's like a full quilt, this one!



♥ This block is a windmill. Nice.

The rolling hills of rural Iowa offer endless peace and quiet across farmland as far as the eye can see. Dotted the landscape are barns of various shapes and sizes; some are working barns, others are retired. But in places like Grundy, Sac, and Madison County and many others, these barns are offering themselves as canvases for a different kind of quilt.

**A barn quilt is a large “block” of patchwork used as decoration on the face of a barn.** The blocks chosen can be anything from baskets to stars, trees to simple geometric designs, but can all be traced back to traditional quilt blocks found in real patchwork quilts.

“I made my first barn quilt for myself two years ago,” says Jo Ann Sadler, founder of Barn Blocks, a company based in rural Iowa that produces and installs blocks on barns in her region and beyond.

“I got so many comments, I started making the blocks for other people,” she says. Sadler’s not the only person producing the blocks; high school students in Madison County, various church or charity groups in the area, even “barn block committees” like the Barn Quilt Committee in Washington County have all jumped on the trend.

Sadler uses high-grade plywood and exterior house paints in her blocks. Barn blocks can come in any size, but the standard size is eight feet by eight feet—barns are pretty big, after all. Sadler uses a special frame and “seams” two 4” × 8” sheets of plywood together then drafts the design and paints the block. The process typically takes two or three weeks, though in wet or humid weather the paint is slower to dry between coats and delays production.

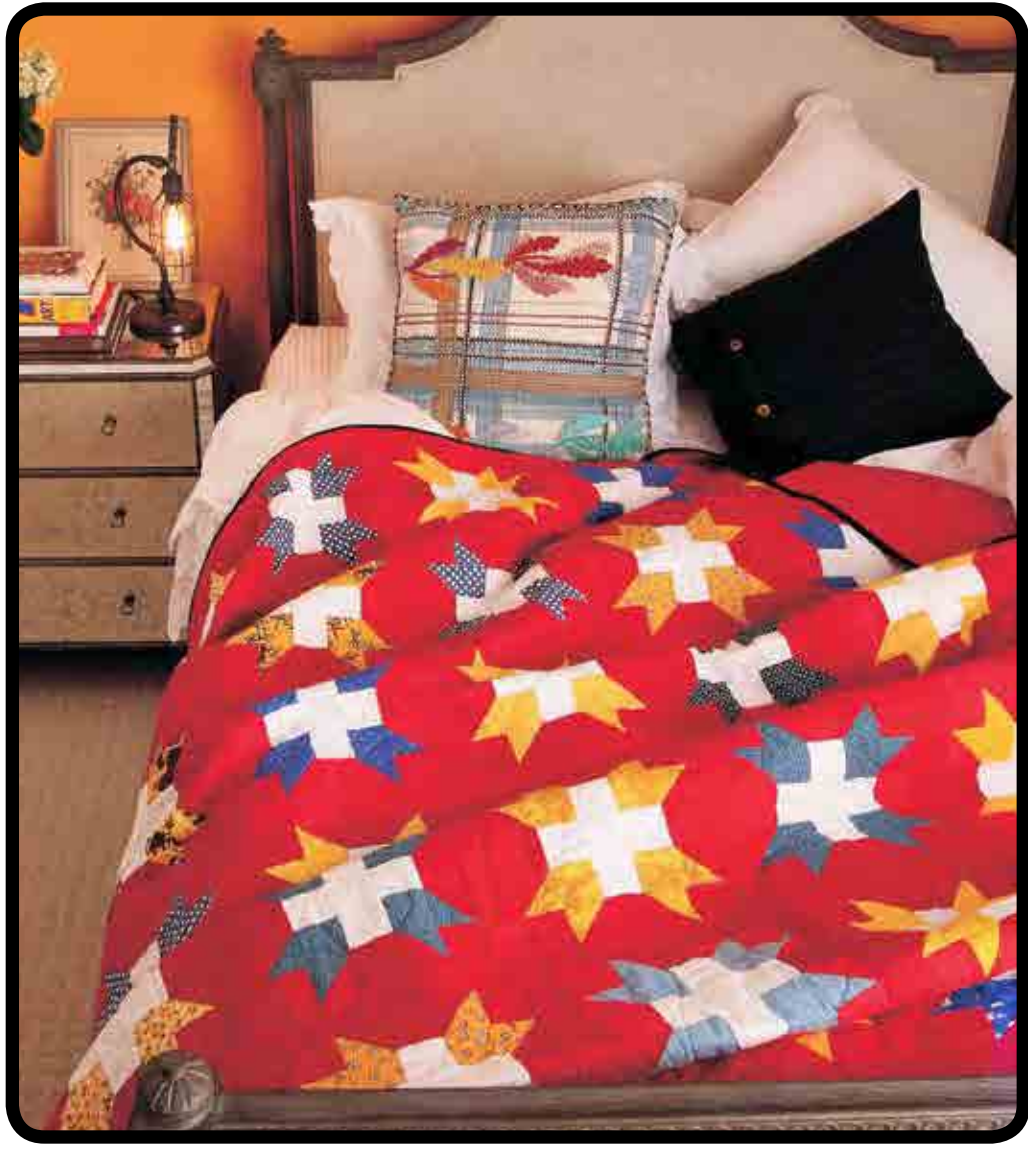
**“People ask me if there is a special significance to barn quilts; my answer is they are just for fun—something to enjoy,”** says Sadler, a quilter since 1981. Indeed, the purpose of barn blocks is different depending on whom you ask. Some want to keep quilt heritage in the minds of Iowans; some consider it a kind of “beautification” project for their county; others just enjoy the art and community aspect.

If all your conversations seem to revolve around the economy, the election, or the economy, **let the world slip by for a minute and take a mental drive through heartland country: there are gorgeous quilts just around the bend.**

# “ blonde redhead ”



QUILTS ARE  
FOR PEOPLE. ♡

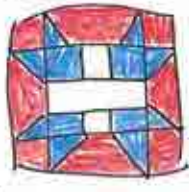


Kind of  
a sexy  
name ...  
DOT: LA  
LA.  
XO XO  
XO

QUILT BY Mary Fons. QUILTED BY Ebony Love @ LoveBug Studios.

Warm, rich reds give a Sister's Choice block room to shine. Juicy yellows, sweet and scrappy blues, plus a dash of white to catch the eye—this quilt might just be your new best friend.

NOTE!



Blocks have different names, sometimes. This block is called "Sister's Choice," or "Farmer's Daughter." Same block, though!



“blonde redhead”

the INSTRUCTIONS!  
(Don't be scared! Easy!)

Size: 86" x 86"  
Blocks: 49 (10") blocks

## MATERIALS

- 17 fat quarters\* assorted prints in gold and blue
- 1 1/4 yards white solid
- 6 yards red solid
- 3/4 yard black solid for binding
- 7 7/8 yards backing fabric
- Queen-size quilt batting
- \*fat quarter = 18" x 20"

## CUTTING

Measurements include 1/4" seam allowances.

### From each print fat quarter, cut:

- 6 (2 1/2"-wide) strips. From strips, cut 36 (2 1/2") squares.

### From white solid, cut:

- 4 (6 1/2"-wide) strips. From strips, cut 49 (6 1/2" x 2 1/2") rectangles.
- 7 (2 1/2"-wide) strips. From strips, cut 98 (2 1/2") squares.

### From red solid, cut:

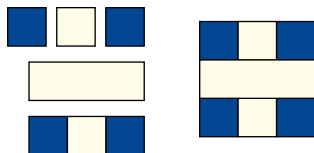
- 7 (10 1/2"-wide) strips. From strips, cut 112 (10 1/2" x 2 1/2") sashing strips.
- 13 (6 1/2"-wide) strips. From strips, cut 196 (6 1/2" x 2 1/2") rectangles.
- 17 (2 1/2"-wide) strips. From strips, cut 260 (2 1/2") squares.

### From black solid, cut:

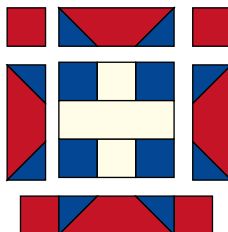
- 10 (2 1/4"-wide) strips for binding.



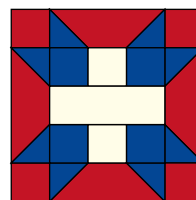
Diagonal Seams Diagrams



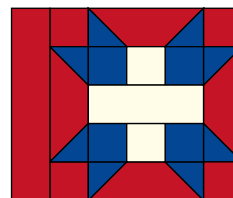
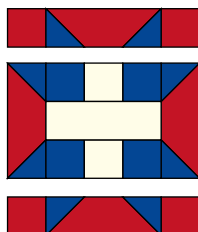
Block Center Diagrams



Block Assembly Diagrams



Block Diagram



Pre-Sashing Diagram

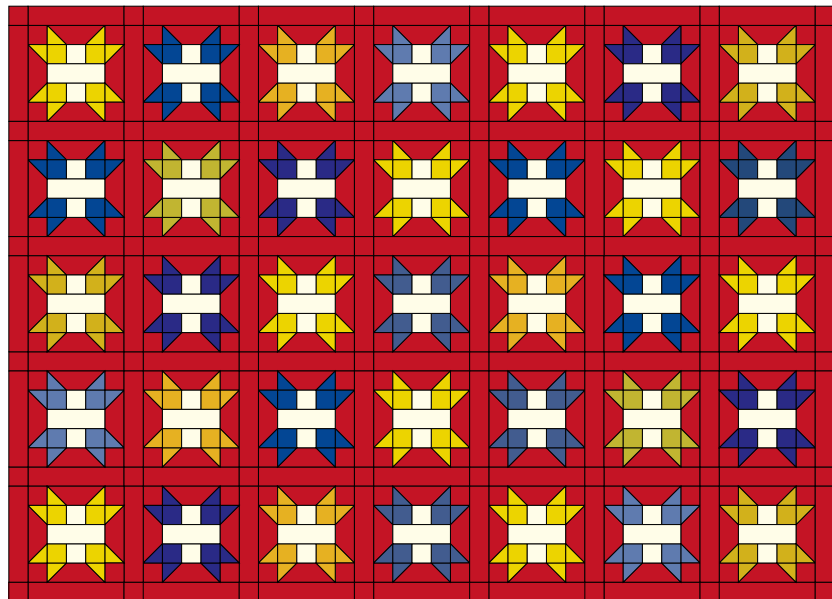
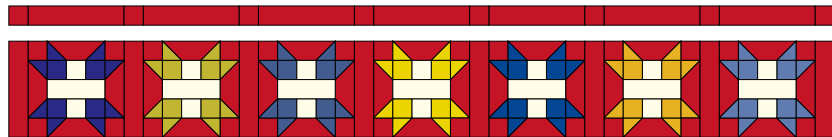
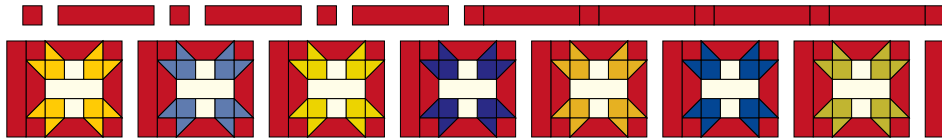
## BLOCK ASSEMBLY

1. See those little *Diagonal Seams Diagrams* down there? That's what we'll do first. Take it slow. You'll get this quickly - we'll start with a blue block. Place 1 blue print square face-down on the red solid rectangle. Using your sewing machine, stitch diagonally from corner to corner, just like it shows you.
2. Measuring a 1/4" from the line you just sewed, trim off the extra. Press the piece open to reveal the new blue corner of your rectangle! Now repeat that on the other side. That's a *Diagonal Seams Unit*. You'll need four of those for one block. Good job.
3. Check out the *Block Center Diagrams* down there. Here's what you do: Lay out 4 matching blue print squares, 2 white solid squares, and 1 white solid rectangle, just like it shows you. Just join the rows together! Go from left to right - one piece to the next till you have three complete rows. Then join the rows to make that center patch.
4. Okay, so lay out your *Block Center*, your 4 *Diagonal Seams Units*, and 4 red solid squares like it shows you in the *Block Assembly Diagrams*. It's time to join rows again! Join one row, then the next, and the next. Then join the rows to complete the block.
5. Make a whole bunch more of those. (48 more, to be exact. Wheel!)
6. Add 1 red solid sashing strip to the left side of each block as shown in the *Pre-Sashing Diagram*.

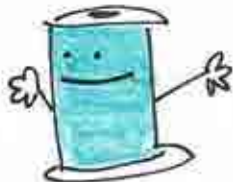


Questions about supplies?? Watch this: [HeyQuilty.com/supplies](http://HeyQuilty.com/supplies)

then you start putting all your blocks together.... yippee!



Quilt Top Assembly Diagram



SPOOLY SAYS:

"The more quilts you make, the better you get at making quilts. Be patient & keep sewing! And take classes in shops or online. You can do it!"



## QUILT ASSEMBLY

1. Join 7 sashing strips and 8 red solid squares to make 1 sashing row, like it shows you in the *Quilt Top Assembly Diagram*, above. Don't be scared; it's a long row, but if you take your time and concentrate, you'll be fine. 😊
2. Lay out your blocks, sashing rows, and remaining sashing strips. Join your rows, then join the completed rows to other completed rows and, voila! You just made a quilt top.



Like this color combo better?



Or this one?

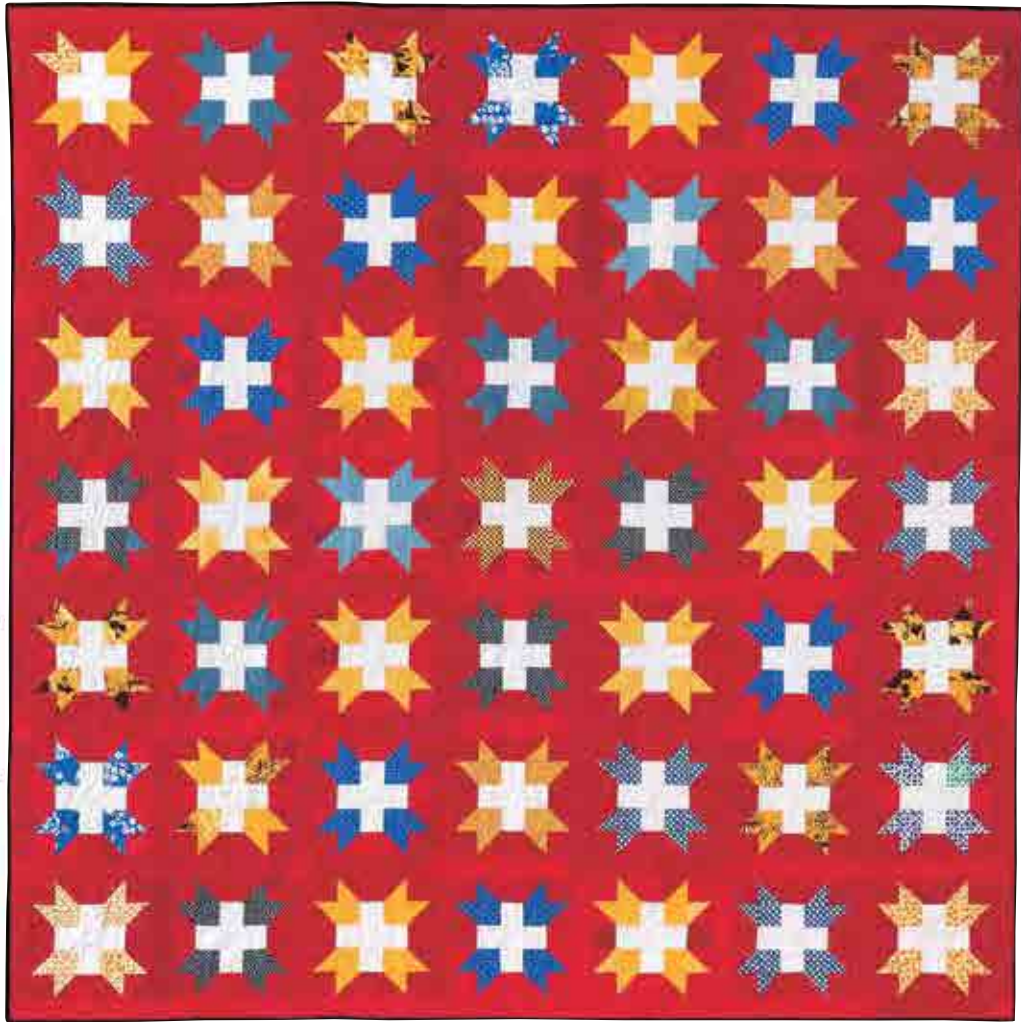
Do it your way!!

## FINISHING

1. You need a back on your quilt, of course. Here's what you do: Divide your backing fabric into 3 ( $2\frac{5}{8}$ -yard =  $94\frac{1}{2}$ " ) lengths. Cut 1 piece in half lengthwise to make 2 narrow panels. Join 1 wider panel to each side of 1 narrow panel. Press seam allowances toward the narrow panel. The remaining panel? Save it for something else later.
2. Layer backing fabric, batting, and quilt top. Either send your quilt to a longarmer (if sending it to the longarm quilter, don't layer), or tackle the quilting yourself. We did circles and spirals on this one and the *Quilting Diagram* may give you ideas.
3. Bind your quilt! We used a black binding for this one, but it's up to you. Binding can be a little intimidating, but never fear: we can help. For more detailed binding instructions go to [FonsandPorter.com/binding](http://FonsandPorter.com/binding) and then just go for it. It doesn't have to be perfect, especially if you're brand new to all this.

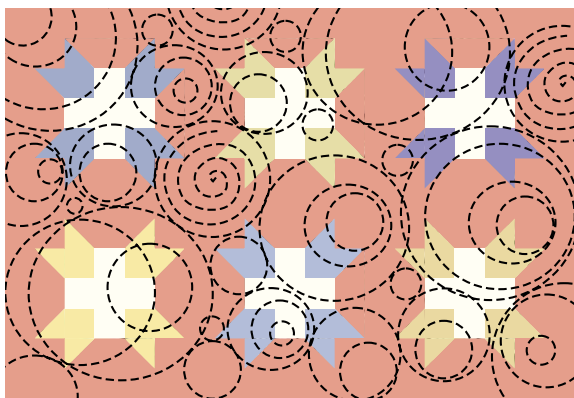
A gender-neutral quilt, actually! Who doesn't like primary colors?

NOTE: Find a longarm quilter to work with. She/he will finish your quilt for you & lots of quilters go this route. We ♥ our longarmers!!!



Need help? There's a Quilty episode on this block!

HeyQuilty.com/Blonde 

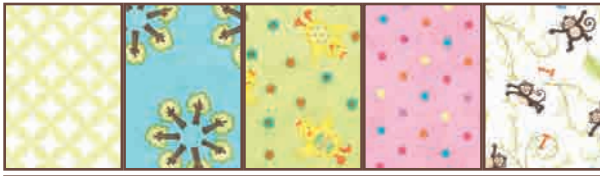


Quilting Diagram

Swirls & curls offset the angles of the block...



Mary's friend Chloe tries out the quilt...



20,000 FABRICS ONLINE



www.fabricshack.com  
toll free: 1-877-666-4245



99 South Marvin Lane • Waynesville, Ohio 45068

The fabrics featured in this ad are from the Grow With Me Collection by Deb, Katie and Arrin for Moda due in January!



## Karavan

a new collection of quilting cottons,  
cotton knits, & flannel fabrics  
by Valori Wells for FreeSpirit

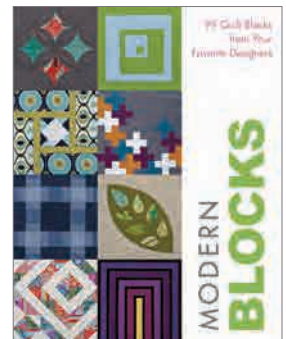
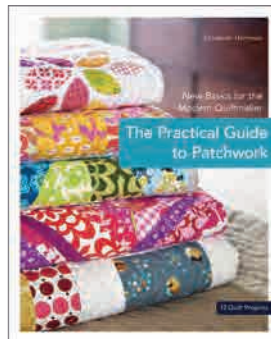


Stitchin' Post  
SEWING • QUILTING • KNITTING



stitchinpost.com • 541-549-6061

## Books to inspire your quilting journey



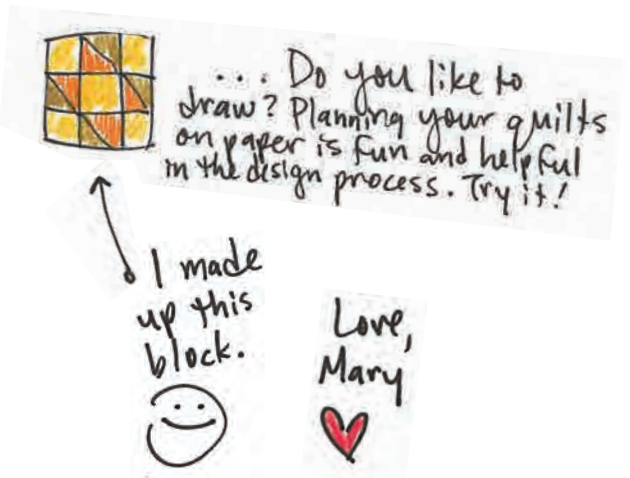
stashBOOKS®  
an imprint of C&T Publishing

Available at craft, fabric, and book stores  
www.stashbooks.com ■ 800.284.1114

103358

# 10 tips for the rookie quilter

Are you new at this? Welcome! You're in good company - quilters are generally awesome human beings. Here are a few friendly tips as you embark on your journey, Rookie.



**1. Learn to sew a consistently accurate 1/4" seam.** Once you master this, you're pretty much set for a lifetime of happy patchwork. Check out this video from Fons and Porter for a lesson: [FonsandPorter.com/SeamAllowance](http://FonsandPorter.com/SeamAllowance).

**2. Take it easy. You will make mistakes.** Big ones, small ones, whatever. You're learning a whole new art form! Shake it off, fix it if you can, keep sewing. [HeyQuilty.com/Rippin](http://HeyQuilty.com/Rippin)

**3. Have the proper supplies at hand.** You wouldn't try to build a house without a hammer, would you? This will help: [HeyQuilty.com/Supplies](http://HeyQuilty.com/Supplies)

**4. Be curious and inspired by everything.** Old quilts are amazing and may influence your new ones, but you might find your inspiration in the city where you live or your favorite dress.

**5. Tell the world you're a quilter and watch the reaction.** Quilters are like celebrities these days! (It's also fun to incorporate vaguely quilt-like items into your wardrobe to let the world know your patchwork ways. *Quilty* recommends this insanely hot bag from Cynthia Rowley.)

**6. Go to quilt shows.** As often as possible. Goldmines.

**7. Make more quilts.** The more you sew, the better you get at sewing.

**8. Remember that making patchwork is ALWAYS 3 things: Cutting, sewing, and pressing.** You must do all three steps when making patchwork units. We'll come to your house and chastise you if you try to skip the pressing part.

**9. Talk to other quilters.** Young, old, in between. We are a proud community.

**10. Be a show off!** The words, "Do you want to see the quilt I made?" should never be far from your lips.

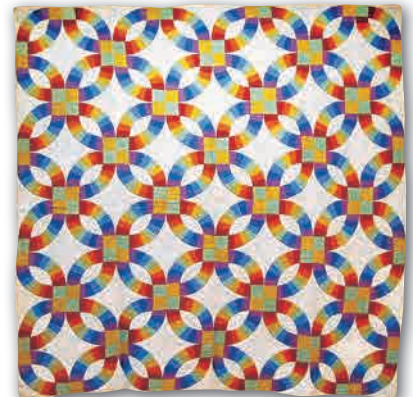


Photo: Robert L. Guaraldi.



We hope you enjoyed this sneak peek of the new *Quilty* magazine. Watch for our inaugural 100 page issue launching in May 2012! *Quilty* will be available on newsstands, in quilt shops, and at [ShopFonsandPorter.com](http://ShopFonsandPorter.com). Follow us at [HeyQuilty.com](http://HeyQuilty.com). Thanks!



# Cocoa Berry Collection



michael miller  
FABRICS LLC.