

Quilting

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Memories

Sit down and I'll tell you a story
Wrap yourself up in my quilt.
Here's a cup of my coffee
The wood stove is filled to the hilt.

Quilting is more than a hobby.
To me it is a record of life,
Recording for me all the good times,
Remembering for me all the strife.
This patch was made from a bunting.
The baby had now moved away.
And this one came from my sister
From a dress that was yellow and grey.

Below this one from my brother
Is one from my aunt who just died.
If you look close you can cipher
Her signature on the left side.

And here over next to the corner
Is a piece from my mother's old skirt
And this one right in the middle
Was made from my father's red shirt.

This one came out a bit crooked.
The material was faded and worn.
No wonder it looks so dejected,
It was woven before I was born.

Beneath this one at the bottom
Is the one worth more than gold.
It came from my old winter jacket,
It kept me safe from the cold.

This blue one I found in the cellar
When we moved to this house long ago.
Who knows what story it covets
This old, fade, worn calico.

Above the green one in the center
Is my most favorite one of all
It looks like the leaves by the river
Just after they drop in the fall.

And let's not forget about this pink gingham,
I know it has seen better days,
But I like the way that it mingles
With the yellow, purples and greys.
Before you finish your coffee
And you have to be on your way,
Take a look at the one near the bottom,
It came from my Great Uncle Ray.
He traveled the world in a schooner,
He brought back such wonderful things.
The material is of the richest,
Fit only for princes and kings.
Some store their treasure in bank vaults,
Some keep them hidden away,
But I keep here on my quilt top
Where I can enjoy them each day

By Patricia Everson

<http://thegoldenthimble.com/quiltpoemspage5.html>

Brief History of Quilting

- The word quilt is derived from the Latin culcita, meaning sack, mattress, or cushion filled with feathers. Quilting originated for its utility, as the technique produced a thicker padded fabric either for warmth or for protection.
- The origins of this method of craft are thought to be in the Crusades, when soldiers needed warmth as well as protection from the chafing caused by heavy armor. Additionally there are ancient Egyptian sculptures showing figures which appear to be wearing clothing which is quilted, possibly for warmth in the chilly desert evenings.
- The medieval quilted gambeson, aketon and arming doublet were the garments worn under, or instead of armor of maille or plate armor. These developed into the later quilted doublet worn as part of fashionable European male clothing from the 14th to 17th Century. Quilting clothing began to be generally used in the 14th Century, with quilted doublets and armor worn in France, Germany, and England and quilted tunics in Italy.
- The most basic form of quilting is a simple geometric grid sewn either by hand or nowadays by machine. The gridwork of stitches traps air in the material, making it much warmer than a single layer of fabric would be, or even the layers separately.
- Quilting can also be a form of elaborate decoration, where the stitchery creates complex designs and patterns, with or without the use of color. Designs in the original fabrics can be put together to form new patterns.
- Quilting is often combined with embroidery, patchwork, applique and other forms of needlework to create patchwork quilts.

Types of Quilting

- **Hand quilting** is the process of using a needle and thread to sew a running stitch by hand across the entire area to be quilted. This binds the layers together. A quilting frame or hoop is often used to assist in holding the piece being quilted off the quilter's lap. A quilter can make one running stitch at a time. Another option is called a rocking stitch. This is where the quilter has one hand, usually with a finger wearing a thimble on top of the quilt, while the other hand is located beneath the piece to push the needle back up. The third option is called "loading the needle", and it involves doing four or more stitches before pulling the needle through the cloth.
- **Machine Quilting** is the process of using a home sewing machine or a longarm machine to sew the layers together. With the home sewing machine, the layers are tacked together before quilting. This involves laying the top, batting, and back out on a flat surface and either pinning (using large safety pins) or tacking the layers together. Longarm Quilting involves placing the layers to be quilted on a special frame. The frame has bars on which the layers are rolled, keeping these together without the need for basting or pinning. These frames are used with a professional sewing machine mounted on a platform. The platform rides along tracks so that the machine can be moved across the layers on the frame. A longarm machine is moved across the fabric whereas the fabric is moved through a home sewing machine.

Quilting Basics

Fabric:

100% cotton fabrics are recommended for most quilts. They are durable, crease easily, absorb moisture and generally water well. Blends are not easily pressed, they do not fade as easily as cotton, but are harder to use in patchwork and are especially difficult in applique.

Thread:

For most piecing, good-quality cotton or cotton-covered polyester is the thread of choice. Inexpensive polyester threads are not recommended because they can actually cut the fibers of cotton fabrics.

Use the best quality threads you can find. Inferior cotton threads create a lot of lint, especially when machine-sewing. This lint gathers in the sewing machine's moving parts and creates problems. Avoid bargain threads, they are not usually durable in the finished product.

Thread has a left twist, so hold the spool in the right hand and pull off about 18 inches of thread with the left hand to unroll evenly. Anything longer than 18 inches will just get in your way. Cut the thread at the spool at an angle.

Needles:

Hand-sewing needles can be purchased with all one size or in a variety of sizes. Needles are numbered 1 through 12 and categorized as sharps or betweens. Sharps are all-purpose needles used for applique and piecing. Betweens are used for quilting. The higher the number, the finer and shorter the needle. The recommended size for quiltmaking is 7 - 12.

Scissors/shears:

Good, sharp scissors and shears are mandatory. Scissor handles are not bent and have two handle holes that are the same size. Shears have a smaller hole for thumb placement, a larger hole for several fingers, and bent handles to allow them to slide easily while cutting along a flat surface. Generally, scissors are used from trimming small areas and cutting threads, while shears are used for larger cutting jobs such as patchwork.

Pins:

Pins are used to hold fabric layers together before sewing. There are several types available, but for quilting, long, thin straight pins are best. They don't leave a large hole and are easier to put in and out of fabric.

Safety Pins:

No. 1 or 1" non-corrosive safety pins are used to hold fabric layers together for machine quilting or when pinning many applique motifs on a project.

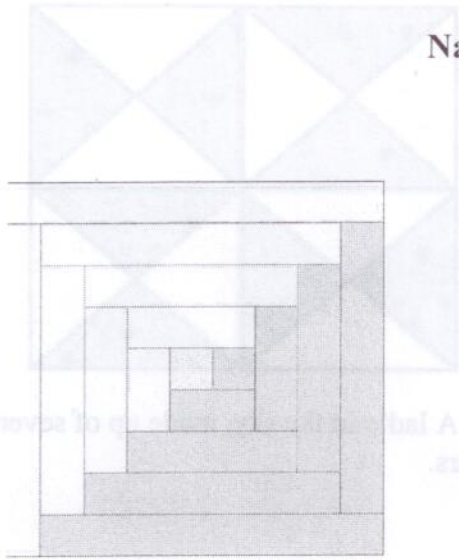
Thimbles:

Thimbles are useful for hand-sewing. New versions are available that will fit any finger on your hand. Thimbles save wear and tear on fingers and help to make quilting stitches go through all layers of fabric and batting.

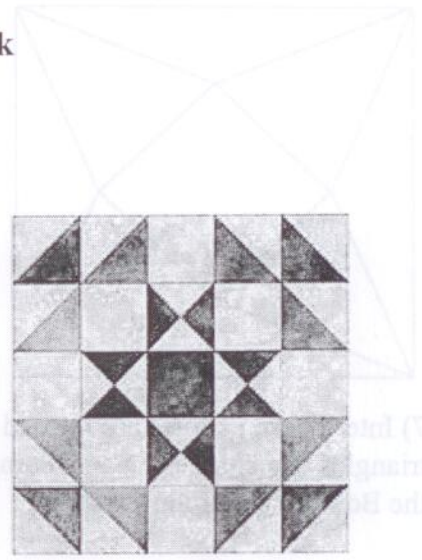
Bias Bars:

Making narrow bias fabric strips can be tricky. Bias bars, also called Celtic bars, may be used to help make narrow bias strips for stems and other areas of applique work. These metal bars come in several widths.

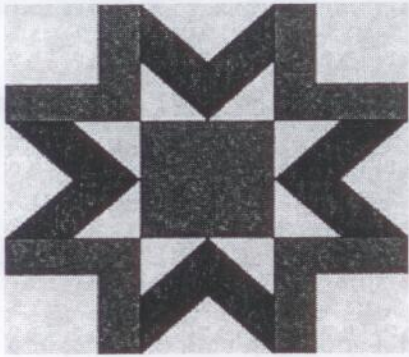
Name that Block Patchwork



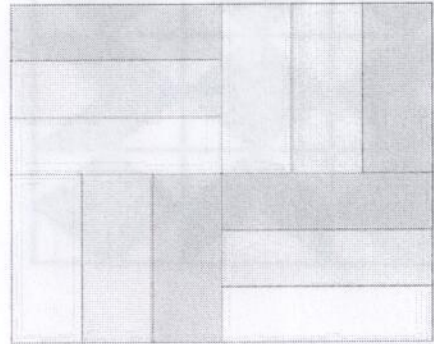
1) This could be a "barn raising"
or a 'straight furrow' but tradition
Requires a square of turkey red.



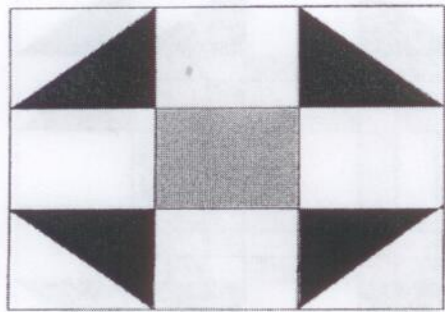
2) Think of another name for an
odd-job man.



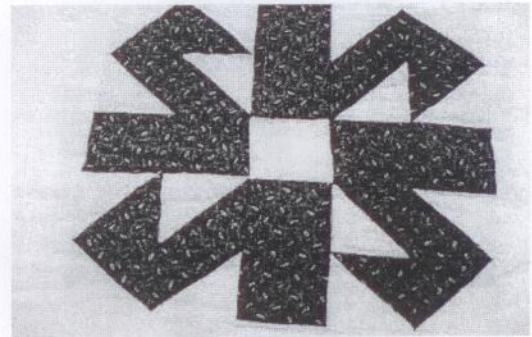
3) A quilter would have to get up
early to glimpse this star.



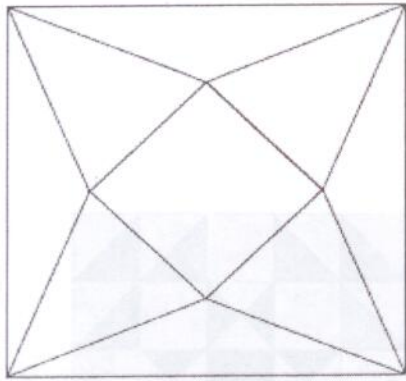
4) They surround the pasture, or
something a biblical character saw in a
dream.



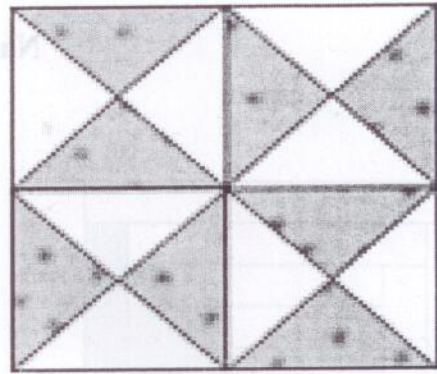
5) Go away insect, you're bothering me.



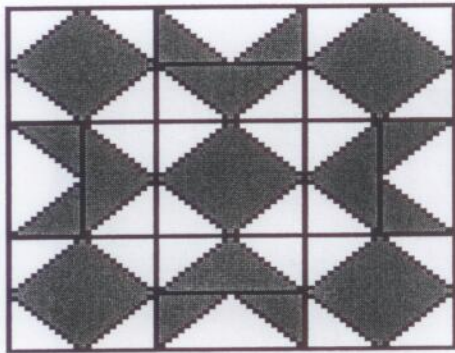
6) Surprise! It's a child's toy.



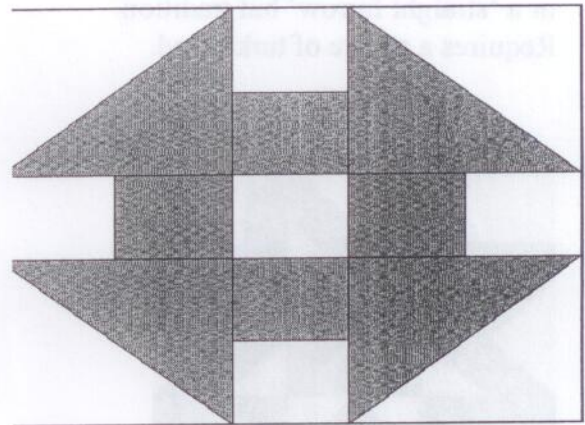
7) Interlocking circles are formed of triangles and squares. Name comes from the Book of Common Prayer.



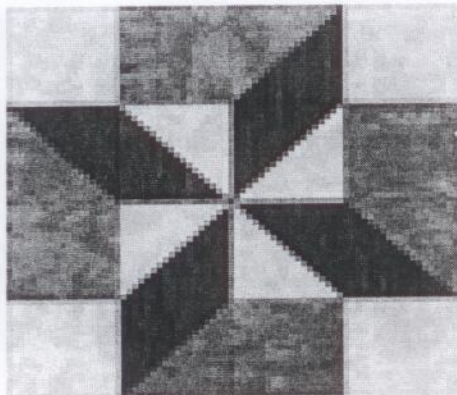
8) A ladle in the sky, made up of seven stars.



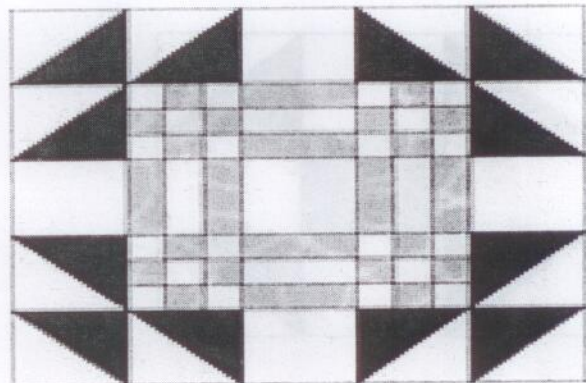
9) Square dancers should have no naming this one.



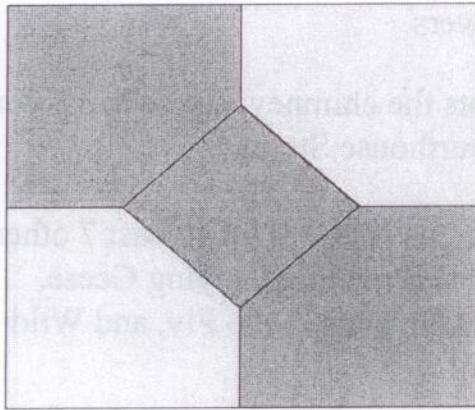
10) You can get a good grip with this one, or a slow creatures path.



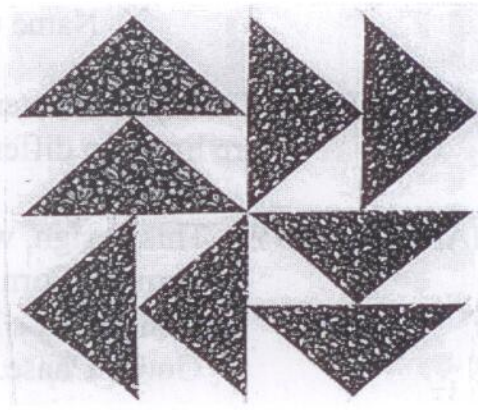
11) Think of a weapon. It's the clue to this star name.



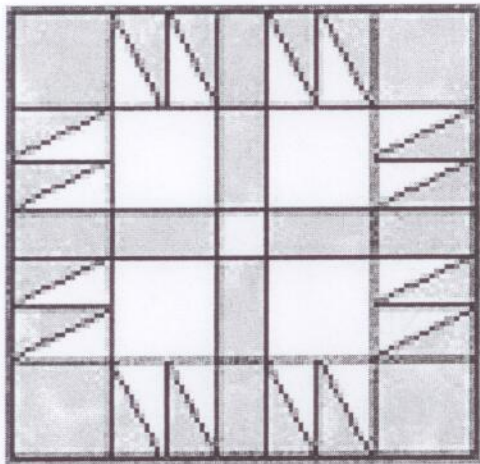
12) A gander in a body of water.



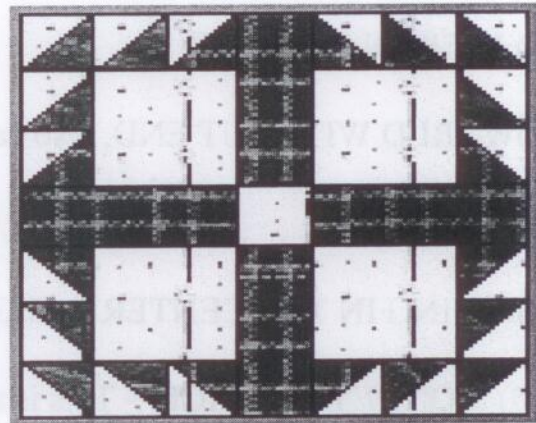
13) No well dressed gentleman in a tux would be seen without one.



14) No one like to go on one of these Futile trips.



15) You may know other patterns with the same name, but these gobblers certainly make an impression.



16) These birds spend most of their time on the ground, the mamas and babies like to stay in the barnyard.

Name that Block Answers

- 1) LOG CABIN ~ Turkey red center block represents the chimney, also when colors are lined up differently called Courthouse Steps.
- 2) HANDY ANDY ~ This design, with slight variations is called by at least 7 other names - Corn & Beans, Duck & Ducklings, Flying Geese, Gentleman's Fancy, Hen and Chickens, Shoo Fly, and Wild Goose Chase.
- 3) MORNING STAR ~ A number of variations of designs use this star name.
- 4) FENCE RAIL ~ This is one of the easiest quilts to be made. It is made more interesting by the different color schemes that people use.
- 5) SHOO FLY
- 6) JACK-IN-THE-BOX
- 7) WORLD WITHOUT END, also called Priscilla
- 8) BIG DIPPER
- 9) SWING IN THE CENTER or EIGHT HANDS ROUND
- 10) MONKEY WRENCH ~ This is also called Snail's Trail
- 11) SHOOTING STAR ~ Like all star patterns, this design is not easy to do because the diamond points must fit exactly or the design can be thrown off balance.
- 12) GOOSE IN THE POND ~ This is also called Young Man's Fancy
- 13) BOW TIE ~ Although this looks easy, this is not an easy quilt for a beginner because of the number of corners to be turned.
- 14) WILD GOOSE CHASE
- 15) TURKEY TRACKS ~ This quilt was originally called WANDERING FOOT. Superstition had it that any young male, especially a little boy, who slept under this quilt would develop a roving disposition. After a while the pattern was renamed, perhaps to rid it of the superstition.
- 16) HENS AND CHICKENS ~ One of a multitude of basic nine-patch variations.
(See block #2)

Quilting Quiz:

1. What is the meaning of the Latin word *culcita* from which the English word quilting is derived?
 - a) Bird feather
 - b) Woven fabric
 - c) Sack mattress or cushion
 - d) Refers to a certain type of stitching, that was used quite often for quilting
2. How long ago do we know quilting was used?
 - a) 18th Century
 - b) 14th Century
 - c) 12th Century
 - d) 16th Century
3. What is the best kind of pin to use when quilting?
 - a) Long, thin sharp
 - b) Short, large diameter
 - c) Short, Sharp point
 - d) Long, large diameter
4. The process of using a needle and thread to sew a running stitch by hand is referred to as?
 - a) Tying
 - b) Machine Quilting
 - c) Batting
 - d) Hand Quilting
5. Thread curves to the..
 - a) Right
 - b) Left
 - c) North
 - d) South



"You threatened to quit if I didn't give you a raise, not quilt."

Quilting Quiz Answers:

1. C

2. B

3. A

4. D

5. B



a) Hand Quilting

c) Binding

b) Machine Quilting

a) Quilt

Answer to 5:

4. The process of making a quilt is called quilting. It is a process of stitching together layers of fabric to create a warm and cozy blanket.

a) Quilt

c) Quilt

b) Quilt

a) Quilt

3. A quilt is made of many layers of fabric. The top layer is called the top fabric, the middle layer is called the batting, and the bottom layer is called the backing fabric.

a) 100 Count

c) 150 Count

b) 140 Count

a) 180 Count

2. How many layers of fabric are used in a quilt?

a) Quilt is a piece of fabric that is made of many layers of fabric.

c) Quilt is a piece of fabric that is made of many layers of fabric.

b) Quilt is a piece of fabric that is made of many layers of fabric.

a) Quilt is a piece of fabric that is made of many layers of fabric.

Answer to 1:

1. What is the purpose of the quilt? The purpose of the quilt is to provide warmth and comfort.