

SNIPPETS

Kenya Quilt Guild Newsletter



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A Word From Our Chairwoman

How are you doing on your quilting goal for this year? We are three months into 2014 and you should be on your way to seeing your goal met. If not, could the problem be procrastination? Procrastination is a burden that we all at one time or another must bear. It is a common problem to all, quilter or not. A teacher in a Craftsy class I am taking, Joen Wolfrom, states that procrastination is a signal that the task we are avoiding is either too easy or too difficult. If what you are avoiding is too easy, take it up a notch. Maybe you need to add an appliqué in that empty space or quilt it more or add beaded embellishment. If you are stuck, it is more likely that your task is too difficult. You need to

eliminate something and make it simpler. Combine some smaller pieces into something larger in order to have fewer steps to a completed block. Or you may need to break down the task into parts that you CAN handle so you are not trying to do so much at one time. Maybe you don't have the knowledge of how to do something or don't know which color looks best. Bring your problem to the guild meeting and afterwards at our UFO time you will find the help you need. Procrastination can be conquered and your quilting friends are here to help. See you at our next meeting. I will be—

*In Stitches,
Patty Arensen*

Meeti
ngs

Thursday 17th April – AGM. We will be voting on the officers and committee members for the 2014-2015 term. After the AGM, Kundan will be demonstrating Revolutionary Rulers. The Block-of-the-Month starts this month. The instructions are on page 3. Don't forget to pick up your background fabric and make a second one for yourself. Bring your completed block to the May meeting to put them into a drawing. One lucky quilter will win the whole basket of blocks.

Thursday 15th May - Calendar voting. Bring a picture of the quilt you want to enter for voting. Bring two, because we may allow you to submit two quilts, if there aren't enough. Also, we will

ave two categories: Traditional and Art Quilts. Once the voting is done, we will have a demo on the 1-Yard Challenge and then everyone will have an opportunity to sign up to participate. Each group of seven will pick a theme for their challenge and at the June meeting will have the Challenge play.

Thursday 19th June— 1-Yard Challenge Play. If you've signed up to participate in the 1-yard challenge, please remember to bring your fabric so that your team can play. After we complete general business, each group will play the 1-Yard Challenge game. Participants will be encouraged to use the fabric to make something for the Exhibition in October.

Challenge
Quilts

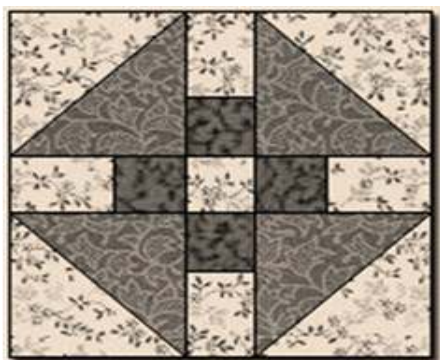
There are three Challenge Quilts that do not have labels. Sheryl would appreciate it greatly if the ladies who made these quilts would contact her via email at fowler.oliver@gmail.com with the following information:

- Name of Quilter:
- Mobile Number of Quilter:
- Name of Quilt:

The pictures of the unidentified quilts are on page 4. Thank you for you assistance in this matter. We want to be able to properly attribute the quilts for the Exhibition in October.

Block of The Month

April 2014 BOM: Lover's Knot



CUTTING INSTRUCTIONS:

Colour 1:

(Tone on Tone)

- ◆ One strip 2 1/2" x 14" (*Then cut again into four rectangles, 2 1/2" x 3 1/2")
- ◆ One strip 5 7/8" x 11 3/4"
- ◆ One square 2 1/2" x 2 1/2"

Colour 2:

(Medium Fabric)

- ◆ One strip 5 7/8" x 11 3/4"

Colour 3:

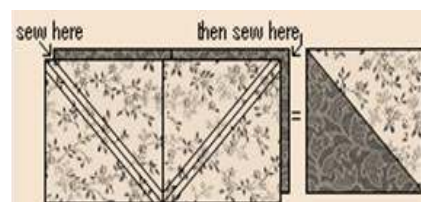
(Dark Fabric)

- ◆ One strip 2 1/2" x 10" (*Then cut again into four squares 2 1/2" x 2 1/2")

PIECING INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Speed piece Colour 1 and Colour 2, 5 7/8" x 11 3/4" strips right sides together and all edges aligned. On

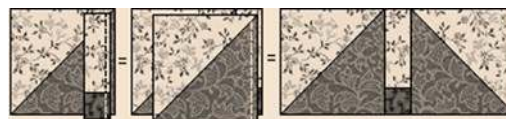
the back of the top strip, lightly draw in the 5 7/8" square line, then draw in the diagonals as shown below. Now sew a **SCANT 1/4"** above and below the marked diagonals, pivoting at the square line. Cut this apart on the square line and on the marked diagonals between the rows of stitching. This will give you four half squares. Press seams to the darker side. Trim to measure 5 1/2" square if needed.



2. Sew Colour 3, 2 1/2" square to one end of each Colour 1, 2 1/2" x 3 1/2" rectangle.



3. Sew one rectangle strip to the right side of large half square, referring to the illustration below. Add another half square to the other side of the rectangle strip. Press towards centre strip. Make two units.



4. Now sew the extra Colour 1, 2 1/2" square between the last two rectangle units. Press towards outer rectangles.



5. Using to illustration at the top of the page, set the rows together.

Chanelle Quilts

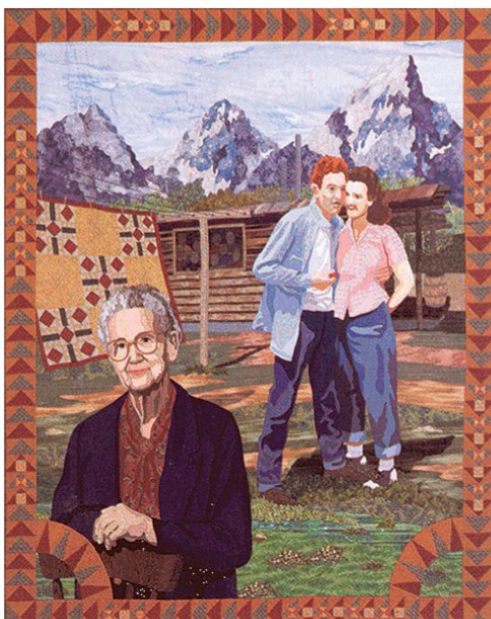


Thank you

The Board would like to express its thanks to Margaret Atandi for her service as the Newsletter Editor. She has done a wonderful job and we appreciate her service to the Guild.

Grace Elizabeth Bagley

The quilting world has lost a wonderful quilter and the mother of the founder of The Grace Company. She passed away on Wednesday, April 2, 2014, at the age of 90-years-old. She is remembered fondly by family, friends and so many people she has met along her journey.



F A B R I C 1 0 1

By Suzanne Waithaka

From the newest quilter to the quilter whose been perfecting her craft for a lifetime, all quilter's are artists and artists need to understand the medium in which they create. Fabric and thread are our mediums (with embellishments in other mediums like wood, wools, laces, etc thrown in to add spice). The modern fabric of choice in quilting is 100% cotton. But not all cotton fabric is equal.

Many quilters start out using the cheapest fabric they can find, only to realize that cheap fabric frays more, fades more, and shrinks more when washed. It's also lighter weight and is more likely to beard (have wadding show through) when quilted. Sometimes, the cheaper fabric isn't even 100% cotton, it's a cotton-poly blend. For an artist, these eventualities are frustrating. So, as time goes on, many quilters start looking for higher quality fabrics. But, how do you tell if a fabric is "quilting quality cotton?"

There are several factors:

- ◆ Is the fabric on the grain?
- ◆ What is the thread count?
- ◆ Does the print align with the grain?
- ◆ How is the fabric printed?
- ◆ Does the fabric have a strong odor?
- ◆ Does the color rub off?
- ◆ Does the design skip or overlap?
- ◆ Does the fabric feel stiff?

What are we looking for with quilting cotton?

If the grain of the fabric isn't straight, you will have problems with the fabric stretching out of shape. Lower thread count means thinner fabric, more prone to bearding.

When a fabric manufacturer prints a fabric design, there are typically three runs printed. The first run is generally on low quality fabric with a low thread count. Thread count is the number of threads in each inch of fabric. So a 100 count fabric is much lighter and not as soft or strong as a 250 count fabric.

The first run on the lower quality fabric and cheaper lines of fabric can have printing errors, the printing can be off square, the colors may not be true. This first run is either considered a second and sold as such or is sold to big box stores in the US like WalMart and Target.

The second run, which is usually color true and more likely to be on square is printed on a mid-grade cotton and is sold to chain fabric stores like JoAnns and Hancock Fabrics in the US.

The third run of fabric is on the highest quality cotton and usually feels heavier when you pick it up. The fabric grain is straight with a high thread count. The printing is aligned with the grain, and doesn't skip or overlap (unless it's designed to). Cheaper fabrics are generally printed on white fabric, so that the back is white or nearly white, while higher grade fabrics are generally dyed and more similar front to back, although that is not always the case even with high quality fabrics. Quilting cotton usually smells like cotton, not chemicals and if you rub the fabric the feel

FAT QUARTER MONTH

Beginning in April, the KQG will have a monthly Fat Quarter drawing. Anyone wishing to participate needs to bring one (or more) fat quarters (18 inches by 22 inches) of a fabric fitting the monthly theme. Turn your fat quarter in when you sign-in and we will draw a winner after the tea break.

April—Marble fabrics

May—Pastel fabrics

June—Black & White fabrics

and color of the fabric doesn't change.

While all three runs of fabric are 100% cotton and can be used in quilting, be aware of the quality of your fabric before you start a quilt. An heirloom quilt will last better if higher qualities of cotton are used, whereas the baby quilt that you expect will get used up can probably be made from low to mid grade fabrics if you have them on hand. The lower the grade, the thinner the fabric (when dealing with cotton) and the more starch you will need to keep a low thread count thread stable while you piece and quilt.

Always ask before you buy if the fabric is 100% cotton, or look at the selvage for fiber content and if the seller doesn't know ask for a thread and burn it. Polyester thread will melt, whereas cotton will burn. When purchasing local fabrics, look at the fabric for weight and thread count, test it for content and before sewing with it test for colorfastness.

There are many places in Nairobi to purchase fabric, but not everyone knows all of them. You can find a good list of places on Dena Crain's website

(www.denacrain.com). She has a post on places to buy fabric in Nairobi. Although the blog post was originally created in 2009, she has continued to update the list and you can also check the comments for additional locations noted in the comments. Check out some of the locations below, too. Don't be afraid to ask a friend if they know of any other places.

- ◆ Biashara Street: There are a number of fabric shops and curtain makers on Biashara street
- ◆ The Woman Shop, Sarit Centre: Carries a large selection of American quilting fabric and East African fabrics.
- ◆ Memsab's, Yaya Centre: Carries a large selection of fabrics
- ◆ Nairobi Textile Market (Gabrone Rd off Tom Mboya Street, CBD) has over 100 stalls selling all kinds of fabrics. Not a lot of American cottons, but lots of African fabrics and other materials. Be ready to bargain.
- ◆ River Road: There are many tailors and curtain makers along with fabric shops, bead shops, etc. Just be ready to bargain.

When going to some of the fabric shops in the CBD, I would recommend taking a taxi, because street parking in the CBD is expensive (300/-), hard to find, and in certain areas prone to theft of things like your headlights and side mirrors. That said, there are great deals to be found and gorgeous fabrics on display. Be aware that many of the dealers in the CBD don't get asked if a fabric is cotton often, so they may not always know. Spend time looking at and touching fabrics you know are cotton, and it will help you identify by feel and look if a fabric is cotton.

Classifieds

PO Box 39482
Parklands 00623

Email:
kenyaquiltguild@gmail.com

Website:
www.kenyaquiltguild.org

Meetings

Venue:
Simba Union Off
Forest Road

Time
9.30am– 1.00pm

Monthly meetings
April 18, 2014
May 15, 2014
June 19, 2014

This month's contributors

- ◆ Gill Rebelo
- ◆ Patty Arensen
- ◆ Suzanne Waithaka
- ◆ Sheryl Fowler

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Brother Model PS-55 purchased from General Machines, barely used, in original packing box, instructions and accessories. Shs. 32,000.00 which is 30% less than the purchase price. The machine will be available for viewing at the April 2014 meeting.

Ladies we are still missing two books from our library shelves. The last known member to check-out each book has reported that she returned the book. Therefore, we believe that someone took the books without checking them out properly. Please check to your shelves to ensure you didn't accidentally take a book from the library without checking it out.

The missing books are:
327—Folded 3D Blocks by George Baron and Esther Vermeer
150—Blocks for Baby Quilts by Susan Briscoe

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The Woman Shop has an Accu-Quilt Studio die cutting machine. We have recently cut “jelly rolls” in two different color ways. We have dies to cut squares, half-square triangles, several Hawaiian appliques, ribbon applique pieces, and feather pieces. Please come into the shop for pricing and to see the designs we have.

We have updated our Membership Registration form. Please complete your updated form at the April meeting. The forms have been updated to add a place to include what committees you are interested in. Please check at least one committee or position.

Gretchen has located a fundi who makes lovely sewing tables and has made her a folding table for sewing as well. If you are interested in having a sewing table made, please contact Wahome at 0720-566-176 to schedule a meeting with him in your home.

Editor in Chief : Suzanne Waithaka (suziwaithaka@gmail.com) the Editor-in-Chief welcomes contributions from all members. Please send articles for inclusion in the next edition of SNIPPETS to her email by 10th monthly.