



SNIPPETS

The Kenya Quilt Guild Newsletter

November 2014

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A Word from our Chairperson

I have been a member of the KQG for 10 years. In those years I have seen a number of exhibitions come and go. What I noticed about this one is the improvement of our quilting. Those who once were our beginner quilters are no longer – they are the ones who are out in the front and leading the pack. And secondly, we have a whole new group of beginner quilters. I especially want to thank these members who took the chance and displayed their new found talents. Acknowledging and showing your new skills is encouraging and challenging as we set out to improve and learn better skills. This is the goal of the Kenya Quilt Guild.

This is what we desire to do in 2015 – increase and improve our quilting skills. We are looking at bringing new teachers for different classes. Is there a skill that you would like to learn? Please let the executive know as soon as possible because we are looking into bringing a teacher early in the new year.

On a personal note. You may have noticed that I was not present at the last monthly meeting. I was away with my husband celebrating 25 years of marriage. We lived in

6. U.S.A. Paper-
Piecing
Packets for
Sale!

7. Up-cycle Quilts

8. Christmas
Party!!!

Tanzania for 15 of them, but never made it to Zanzibar. Last month, we were able to make this long anticipated safari and had 4 days on the island. I had heard about a women's group called Sasik that appliques traditional wooden door patterns onto cushion covers. I had been encouraged by a fellow quilter to try and find their workshop. I had no idea where to look, so imagine my surprise when we found it on the first street we walked down. Here is a picture of me in the shop. I will bring the cover I purchased to our November meeting. Quilters are everywhere!

November Fat Quarter - Bring and Win!

This month, our fabric is Christmas Themes / Colours. Bring a Fat Quarter meter of any Christmas theme or colour material and you will be entered into a draw to win all the Christmas fabrics which other people also bring! This is a great way to increase your stash quickly!

General Information



I also want to take this opportunity to invite each one of you to our home for our annual Christmas party. It will be held 4 December at 12 noon. It is a potluck so bring a dish to share and a 500/= gift to exchange.

Sign up will be at this month's meeting and directions to our home are in this letter.

KQG's Coordinates:

Address:

P.O. Box 39482, Parklands
- 00623, Nairobi

Email:

kenyaquiltguild@gmail.com

Website:

www.kenyaquiltguild.org

KQG's Meetings:

Venue: Simba Union
Club, off Forest Road

Time: 9:30a.m. to
1:00p.m.

Monthly meetings (every
3rd Thursday of the
Month):

- November 20, 2014
- No meeting in
December - KQG
Christmas Party to
be held on
December 4, 2014.
- January 15, 2015

Calendars:

The KQG-KEG 2015
Calendars are available
for purchase at a cost of

*I will be there,
In Stitches -*

Patty Arensen

How to choose the Correct Needle for Handwork

Needle names are not always easily understood and the sizing is also confusing.

Here are some terms for hand sewing needles: Name, Size and Shape of the Eye.

The **Name** of the needle usually describes its use, i.e. Sharps are SHARP. These have short, round eyes and are strong for continuous use: Good all round needles which all quilters should have in their stock.

The **Size** indicates the length of the shaft of the needle. The larger the number of the needle size, the shorter and finer the needle. Choose the correct size for the weight of the fabric which you wish to use and the type of thread to be used. The finer the fabric the finer the needle.

Shape of the Eye varies to accommodate an assortment of different threads. Quilting Betweens have small eyes and use smooth cotton thread. They make a small hole in the fabric. Traditionally these are short and used for hand quilting.

Self-Threading Needles, as the name implies, are very easy to thread. There is a slit in the top end of the eye so the thread can pass easily through. These are basic sewing needles for a variety of projects, especially useful when sewing in ends.

Sheryl Fowler

Importance of pressing your work

We have all had it drilled into us about the importance of accurate cutting and consistent ¼" seams, but little has been taught about the significance of pressing techniques. Without efficient pressing of seams, your blocks will not be precise in measurement.

Kshs. 300/- each.
The calendars are beautifully done and will make some lovely Christmas gifts.

First of all, pressing is not ironing. Pressing entails gently lowering and lifting the iron. Ironing is more aggressive back and forth motion that can distort and pull your fabric. You may relate this to 'scrubbing' motion! Pressing, on the other hand, lets you turn seam allowance to one side without causing undo harm to your work.

Take a bit of time to press as you sew. Pressing often may feel like it creates extra steps, but the result when your quilt blocks are the correct size and fit together exactly as they should, pays off with interest.

Pressing seam allowances as you work helps eliminate little widths of fabric that become 'lost' in seams, creating distortions and making blocks small than they should be. If there is a small fold in your seam that is only $\frac{1}{16}$ " in size, you will be losing $\frac{1}{8}$ " in each fold. Add all of these $\frac{1}{8}$ " together and you can lose as much as $\frac{1}{2}$ " in your block.

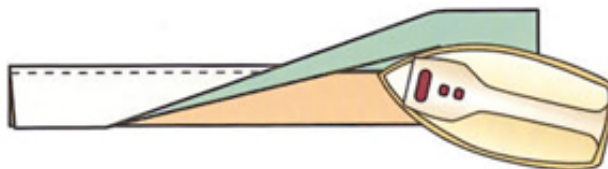
Press each seam before you sew that unit to another piece. Always set the seam by pressing the joined pieces with right sides together, just as you sewed them. Your finished patchwork will be smoother.



After setting the seam, open the piece on top and press gently along the seam line, use the tip of your iron for best result.

Contributors to this
month's edition of
Snippets:

- Patty Arensen
- Sheryl Fowler



If you press a seam and then decide that you want it to go in the opposite direction, 'unpress' it by pressing in the closed position to reset the seam. Then press it in the desired direction.

Light spray starch also helps keep your fabric crisp and easy to handle. It also makes it much easier to quilt.

Straight Grain Binding

Use this handy chart for yardage needed for straight grain binding:					
Cut width of binding	Fabric needed to make binding lengths of:				
	0 to 150"	150 to 200"	200 - 350"	350 - 450"	450- 500"
1"	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{3}{8}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
1 ½"	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{5}{8}$	$\frac{5}{8}$
2"	$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{5}{8}$	$\frac{3}{4}$	$\frac{7}{8}$
2 ½"	$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{3}{4}$	1	1
3"	$\frac{3}{8}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{7}{8}$	1 ⅛	1 ¼
3 ½"	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{5}{8}$	1	1 ¼	1 ⅓
4"	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{5}{8}$	1 ⅛	1 ½	1 ½
4 ½"	$\frac{5}{8}$	$\frac{2}{3}$	1 ¼	1 ⅝	1 ¾
5"	$\frac{5}{8}$	$\frac{3}{4}$	1 ⅓	1 ¾	1 ⅞

Read more: <http://quiltbug.com/articles/binding-calculator.htm#ixzz3HRjX9n6O>

Sheryl Fowler

Block of the Month

We hope that you have enjoyed making the October BOM, Chevron. The last draw of the year will be this month so make sure that you bring yours along to the meeting.

No BOM will be presented to our members in November as we will be holding our Christmas luncheon in December and there will be no formal meeting at that time.

The response to our BOM this year has been tremendous with no less than twenty blocks completed by our members each month.

We will have more interesting blocks for our members next year.

Sheryl Fowler

USA paper-Piecing Packets for Sale!

At the November meeting, members will have the opportunity of purchasing Paper Piecing Packets from the U.S.A. Factory assembled packets contain: Instructions, seven firm $\frac{3}{4}$ " paper hexagon templates and seven 100% cotton squares. Each packet is enough to make one hexagon flower and will sell for Shs. 100.00. These will be available on a first come, first serve basis.

Sheryl Fowler

Up-cycle Quilts

At our recent exhibition one of the most unique quilts was by Dorothy Stockell. Dorothy used gently used blue and white shirts to make a beautiful quilt. What made me smile was that she didn't try to hide her source of fabric, but included the pockets and the button plackets.

This month at the Guild meeting, Dorothy will show us how she goes about using "previously owned" fabrics and the wonderful results. After the meeting she is offering a FREE class on How To Make a Purse From An Old Pair of Jeans. So bring your own lunch and the following and we will enjoy sewing together.

Materials Needed

A pair of blue jeans
A pair of boxer shorts (optional)
Sewing machine, thread
Scissors
Pins.

See you there!

Patty Arensen



Christmas Party!!!

This year's Christmas party will be held at:

Patty Arensen's home

Plot 178 Lenana Road.

Directions to get to Patty's house: From Yaya Centre –on Argwings Kodhek Road, go towards Hurlingham and turn left on Chaka Road. On Lenana Road (first major intersection) take a right. Patty's house is opposite Laiboni Centre. Green gate on the left with a sign that says, "Plot 178" on it.

Date and Time:

Thursday, 4th December 2014

12:00 noon

What to bring:

a dish to share,

a gift worth 500 Kshs. with which to play a game,

a celebrating heart.

There are a limited number of parking places in our guarded parking lot. Please carpool as much as possible so that we will all fit! Thank you.

Patty Arensen

Snippets Editor: Jharna Kamdar (jharna.rk@gmail.com)

The Editor welcomes contributions to Snippets from all members. Please send articles for inclusion in the monthly edition of Snippets by the 10th of each month.

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