



July 2025

snippets

CHAIRMANS REPORT

Dear Quilters

I am very happy to announce that we shall be adding another day to our monthly meetings. We will be meeting at the Trademark Hotel on Saturday August 2nd, 2025, from 10:00 am till noon. The meeting will have the same programme and focus specially on beginner quilters. All members are most welcome to join and bring tour work to inspire the new members or visitors.

This year we plan to participate in one of the Christmas markets. We would like to welcome some creative ideas for items made with fabric for sale at the Christmas markets. Please come wearing your thinking caps or let us know the products you make. We are in the planning phase and would love to hear your ideas.

Let's admit, we all have some level of fabric addiction and cannot resist the delicious fabric sold at the meetings. To assist both the sellers and the members, please note that fabric sales will start at 9:30 am before the meeting and will resume after the meeting is concluded.

Bunty will be taking us through two different techniques of "Hand Appliqué" at the July meeting. It will be a quick introduction to a various method of attaching the appliqué piece to the background with different stitches. The demonstration will enable you to explore into a world of creative ideas.

Thank you so much for giving us your valuable suggestions. We have listened and have planned the upcoming workshops based on the feedback.

Samita has donated all the quilts finished so far, to the Faraja Cancer Support Trust. We are truly grateful to you for supporting the guild by donating your valuable time for this noble cause.

The guild is collaborating with 'In Stitches' to facilitate the members practice the basics of patchwork under supervision of our very experienced teachers. A Quilting Package will be available to rent at the meeting for kes 1,000/- till 3:00 pm after the meeting and for workshops. It will include:

- Bernina B 37 Sewing Machine
- 24" x 18" cutting mat
- 45mm rotary cutter
- Two rulers, 24"x 6" and 6"x 6" inch.

The package can be shared among friends, we recommend a maximum of 4 people.

May your never run out of bobbin thread.

Amber

*Quilt used for Border and
Background throughout
Snippets by Kayuri Patel*



10 SEWING HABITS TO BREAK

Here's a list of 10 bad sewing habits to break out of.

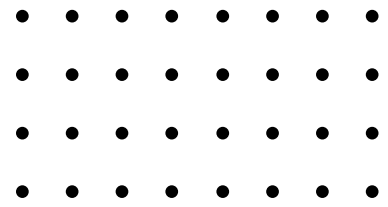
Do you
Pre Wash
your fabrics?



- **Not cleaning your machine.** Basic machine maintenance is beyond important and we suggest starting [here](#), by getting your most important tool in tip-top shape. A simple clean out of the bobbin area can help keep those fabric dust bunnies from multiplying like mad.
- **Not replacing your needle.** This small task will help prevent stitches from skipping, keep your seams tight, and your machine running smoothly.
- **Not cleaning your iron.** To avoid any unwanted markings left on your fabric, it is important to keep your [iron](#) clean. So, if you notice any crude on the bottom of the pressing plate, now is the time to clean it. Here is a quick video to show you just how easy it is to get your iron clean!
- **Not changing your rotary blade.** Project work starts on the cutting table and if you have never changed a rotary blade before, trust me... NOW is the time! It does not have to be scary. Here is a quick guide to swapping out your rotary blade.
- **Not nesting your seams.** This one particularly applies to quilters. Nesting seams are a great way to keep your seam allowance flat in quilt blocks. This is a common term in quilting and refers to the layering of seam allowance in the opposite direction to reduce bulk. See [how to nest your seams here](#). Quilter or not, always press your seams!
- **Not using the right needle.** Never has had the right tool for the job been more important than with [sewing machine](#) needles. Specialty needles can allow your machine to glide through the fabric without tearing or nicking (ballpoint for knits), produce crisp and clean thick stitches (topstitching/denim), and create two stitch lines in one pass (twin needle).
- **Not pre-washing your fabric.** I know, this is a [controversial topic](#), but we want to encourage you not to skip this vital step.
- **Sewing over pins.** From broken needles and bend [pins](#) to messing with the timing of your machine and risking eye injuries, sewing over pins is a danger zone.
- **Not understanding pattern markings.** Most patterns have standardized markings, which makes it easier and faster to sew with them over time once you have practiced with a few of them. Let's take a look at the [magic decoding key](#).
- **Using fabric scissors for paper.** Using fabric scissors to cut paper will gradually remove the sharp edge of the scissors making them dull for cutting and they might even damage your fabric. Make sure to have one pair of very nice and sharp scissors only for fabric and another pair for cutting your patterns.

All the best as you break our bad sewing habits!

Adapted from: <https://sewingwithscraps.com/10-sewing-habits-to-break-in-the-new-year/>



A SURPRISE TRIP TO LIBERTY'S IN LONDON

Last month, we were in London for medical reasons and had very little time to take in any sightseeing, nor did we have the opportunity to visit with friends and family. We had less than two weeks to cram in various appointments and tests. We did, however, have an appointment on Wimpole Street not far from Liberty's Department Store. Since we relied on travelling on foot, by taxi or on the underground, it seemed best to tackle the short journey on foot. With the use of Google Maps, we found our way there in less than half an hour. Mobile phones and Google have made life easier.



When we arrived in the vicinity of Liberty's, we turned the corner and had our first glance at the building. There it was in all its glory. After years of hearing about the fabulous inventory at the store, this opportunity was not to be missed, especially their haberdashery department which is famously special.



The outside of the building was reminiscent of Tudor architecture. I was very excited when we entered the building but I can't say the same for my husband. Shopping is not his scene at all. We became aware of its unusual architectural design; an abundance of wood structure including the flooring, a stunning 'oldy world' feel about it. The floors are built around a well that looks down onto the ground floor. Not great for anyone who suffers with vertigo.

The Haberdashery Department was located on the 5th floor, so we found our way to the lift. Posted on the lift doors was very interesting information. This was when we discovered that a special 150th Patchwork celebration was being held: A double treat. So, we went up to the 5th Floor first. The walls were lined with bolts of Liberty Tana Lawn Fabrics: A feast for one's eyes. I felt like Alice in Wonderland: The colors, the designs, the quality, the prices! This was going to be a 'look', 'don't touch', 'maybe buy later' visit.



Turning to the central well we caught sight of the main exhibit which was suspended as if it was floating.



To celebrate the 150th anniversary Liberty wished to bring history to life. Over the course of three months, their network of artisans, makers, designers and visionaries, collaborated from across the globe to create a new, collective artwork which resulted in the supersized patchwork house. This house comprised of almost 1000 individual pieces.

Not every patchwork block could be incorporated into the house, so underneath the main exhibition were more squares stored in flip books.



Sewing Rooms

Bunty's Studio

What better than the opportunity to design your whole quilting studio from scratch. Bunty was fortunate to have the space to do exactly that.



Started the studio first with the design wall as the focal point. Once in place, Bunty designed the storage space on the widest side of the room from old cupboards and metal shelves given by a friend. The perfect shelving space is filled with custom made boxes allocated to organise fabrics and threads by brand and type plus files for all the patterns and reading material. The height of each shelf can be adjusted to fit fabrics either in bolts or fat quarter bundles.

The Bernina face the window for a beautiful view of Nairobi and light. The room has a perfect space for everything. His experience in high end furniture business helped in designing each purpose-built storage shelf according to the size of the machine or tools owned or planning to acquire.

The entire spacious studio is very well thought out and a brilliant work of art which is ideal to work on quilting projects and conduct workshops to accommodate many students.



Sewing machines near window for good lighting and view



Thread Collection

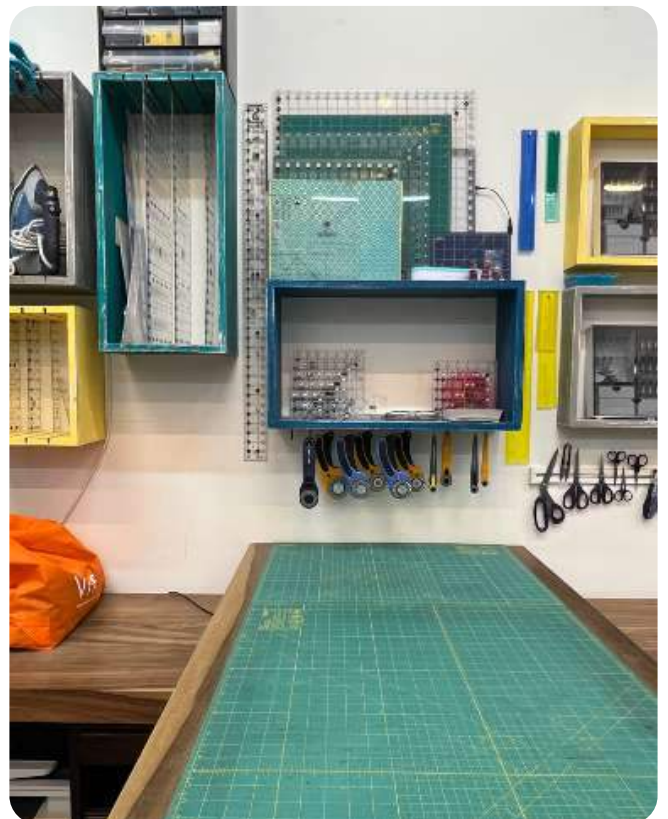


Metal shelves to store fabric and quilting supplies

Sewing Rooms



Customised storage boxes



A place for everything

WORKSHOPS IN JULY

HAND APPLIQUÉ BY BUNTY

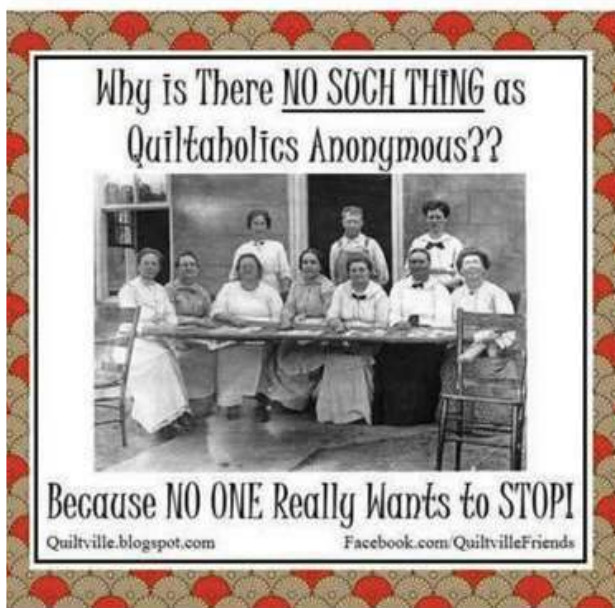


**SAMPLER QUILT
BY ROHINI**



FUN QUOTES

Curated by Lakhbir Virdee



My hobby is collecting fabric
& sometimes I even sew!





SAMPLER BLOCK 2 FOR BEGINNERS

Old Maid's Puzzle

Finished block size 12"x 12"

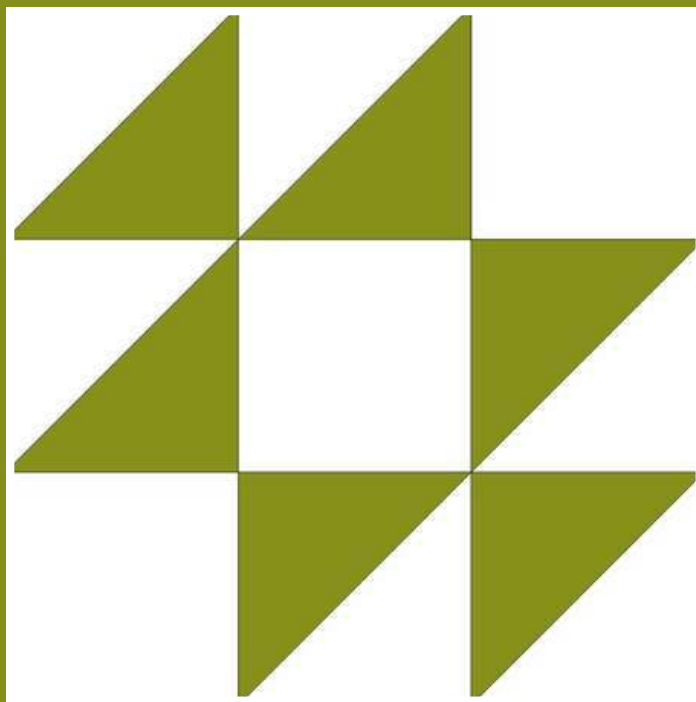
Cutting Instructions:

Background Fabric:

- 3 squares 4 1/2" x 4 1/2"
- 3 squares 5" x 5"

Contrast Fabric:

- 3 squares 5" x 5"



SAMPLER BLOCK FOR INTERMEDIATE TO ADVANCE

Climbing Roses

Finished Block 12"x 12"

Cutting Instructions

Background Fabric:

Orange Fabric:

No. 1- 12pcs 2 3/8" X 2 3/8"

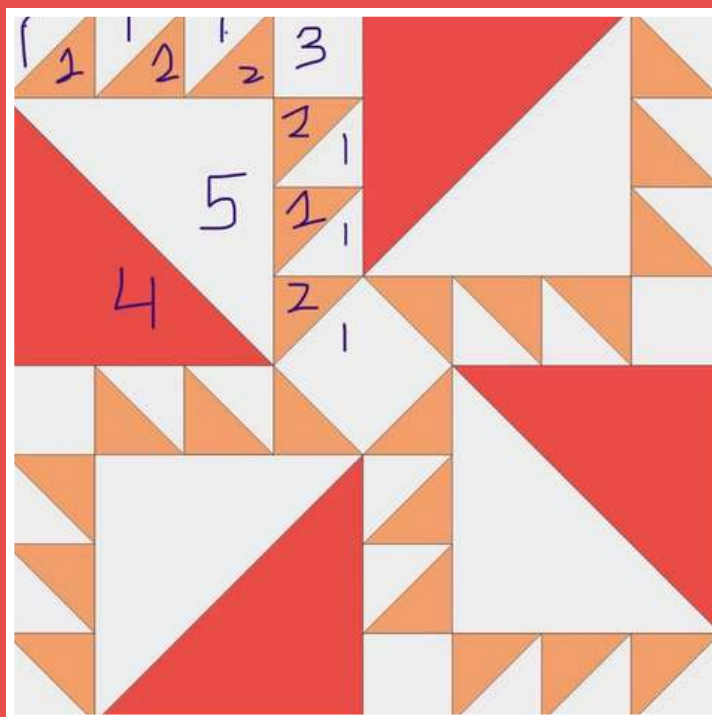
No. 2 - 12pcs 2 3/8" X 2 3/8"

No. 5 - 2pcs 5 3/8" x 5 3/8"

No. 3 - 4pcs 2" x 2"

Red Fabric

No. 4 2pcs 5 3/8" x 5 3/8"



SAMPLER BLOCK 2

Last month we started with a basic 9 patch block with simple square units. This month we will look at **Half-square triangle (HST) units**.

Half-square triangle (HST) units are one of the most versatile and widely used elements in patchwork quilting. Here are the benefits of making and using HST units:

1. Versatility in Design

- HSTs can be arranged in countless layouts—chevrons, pinwheels, diamonds, flying geese, zigzags, and more.
- They allow you to create geometric patterns with movement and contrast, often with just two fabrics.

2. Efficient Use of Fabric

- HSTs make excellent use of scraps and precuts, such as charm squares and layer cakes.
- Minimal fabric waste when using the two-at-a-time or four-at-a-time methods.

3. Skill Building

- Great practicing accurate cutting, sewing, trimming, and pressing.
- Reinforces consistent 1/4" seam allowance and alignment skills—essential for all piecing.

4. Precision with Trimming

- HSTs are usually oversized and then trimmed, which helps quilters produce perfectly square, crisp blocks.

5. Compatibility with Other Blocks

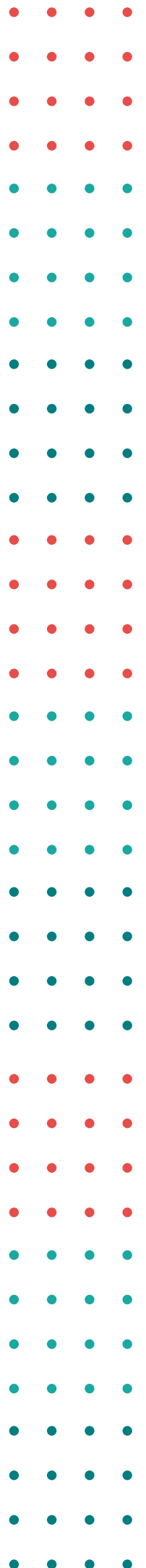
- HSTs easily combine with four-patch, nine-patch, flying geese, and other units for complex blocks (e.g., Ohio Star, Bear Paw, Churn Dash).

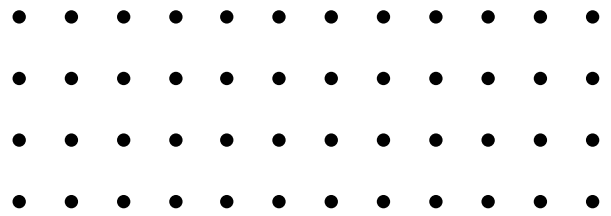
6. Strong Visual Impact

- The diagonal seam creates a natural contrast line, perfect for highlighting light/dark colour play or creating dramatic effects.

7. Encourages Creativity

- A simple HST can be rotated or combined in new ways to design original quilt blocks or entire layouts.
- Ideal for All Levels
- *Beginner-friendly*: Simple to make and repeat.
- *Advanced quilters*: Can explore more intricate HST-based designs like feathered stars or interlocking patterns.





HOW TO MAKE HALF-SQUARE TRIANGLE (HST) UNITS:

Two-at-a-Time HSTs

This is the most common and beginner-friendly method for making half-square triangle units.

Step-by-Step Instructions:

1. Cut Fabric Squares

Cut two squares of equal size.

Formula:

Finished HST size + 7/8" = Square size to cut.

Tip: Add 1" instead to allow trimming for accuracy.

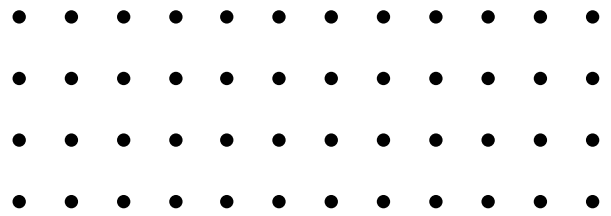
Materials Needed:

- Two fabric squares (one light, one dark)
- Rotary cutter and cutting mat
- Quilting ruler
- Pencil or fabric marking tool
- Sewing machine with a 1/4" foot
- Iron and pressing surface



2 squares of contrasting colours/pattern

Size to cut: Finished size + 7/8"



2. Mark Diagonal Line

- On the wrong side of the lighter square, use a pencil/chalk/frixion pen to draw a diagonal line from corner to corner.



3. Layer Squares

Place the light and dark fabric squares right sides together, with the marked line on top.

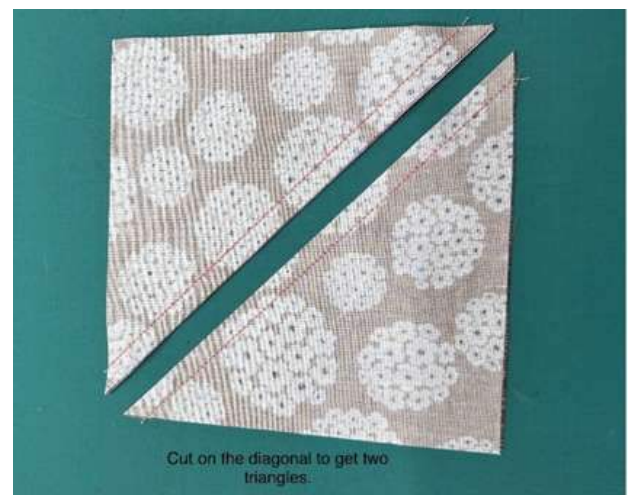
4. Sew 1/4" Seams

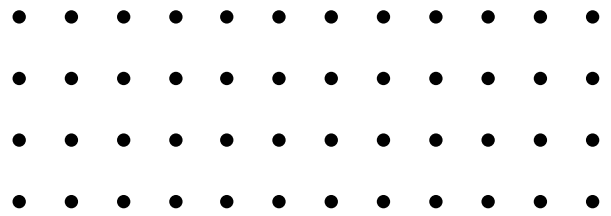
Sew a line 1/4" away from both sides of the marked diagonal line.



5. Cut Apart

Use a rotary cutter and ruler to cut directly along the marked line. This creates two triangle units.





6. Press the Units

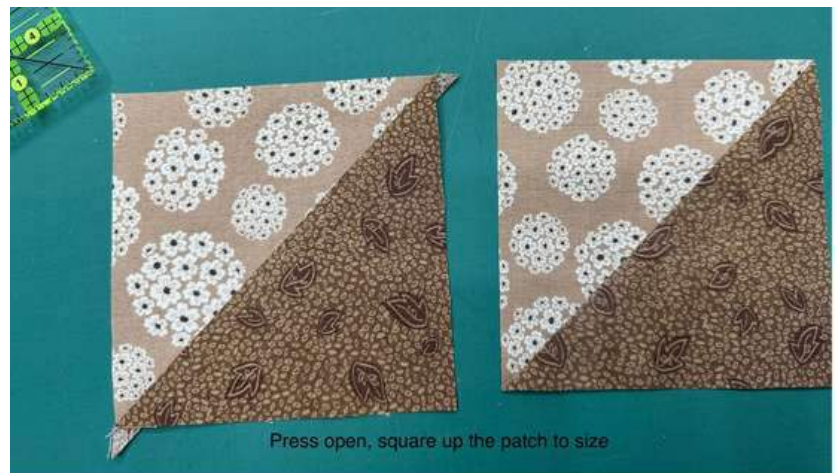
Open each unit and press the seam toward the darker fabric, or press seams open for a flatter finish.



7. Trim to Size

Use a square ruler with a 45° line to trim each unit to the correct size.

Tip: Specialty trimming rulers like Bloc-Loc can make trimming faster and more precise.



Optional:

Other HST Methods

- *Four-at-a-Time:* Great for bulk sewing; no marked lines needed.
- *Magic 8 Method:* Makes 8 HSTs at once; ideal for larger projects.
- *Strip Piecing:* For advanced users looking for speed.

Sewing Rooms

Fanny's Rest Stop

Gretchen's sewing space is a true reflection of her personality. Full of creativity, style, beautiful collection of photos of a lifetime and colourful patches of memories just like her clothes.

There is a decade old, framed pocket that belonged to her father, a teddy bear older than Gretchen, collection of exotic beads, pin cushion made by her great grandma, school lunch box belonging to her dad, a cd player with lots of old CDs, cassettes and a wall covered with cards and posters from previous KQG exhibitions.

A delightful small room where every corner is planned to be used to maximise utility. The machine is placed next to the window for light. An old trunk, chest and plastic drawers are used for storage of colour coded fabric and beads. The design wall is her best way of materializing ideas.

Most inspiring thing to see was how Gretchen journals almost every single inspiration and idea to make art quilts with beautiful swatches of fabric, photos or colour guides. Each one of her quilts has a story and an original idea from conception to the final stage.

Gretchen sure is an asset to our guild



Design Board and a vintage trunk for storage



Chest is perfect for storing cooler coordinated fabric



Beautifully displayed treasure



Collection of beads, threads and trinkets for Art Quilting





GIVING BACK

As Nairobi gets colder, we decided to donate the finished quilts to Faraja Cancer support center.

A huge thanks to all the members who helped support this initiative. We shall continue delivering the quilts as soon as we receive them.

Thanks Jharna for the coordination, Bunty for designing some and the members who donated their fabric and time.

Asanteni Sana





WELCOME TO THREAD MATTERS - THE AURIFILOSOEPHER SERIES!

I'm Karen L. Miller, Master Educator for Aurifil and Aurifilosophy Program Director.

If your shop, group or guild is looking for insightful, inspiring and educational information on thread — think weights, ply, needles, and tension— consider booking a virtual or in-person program with one of our certified Aurifilosophers. Learn more about Aurifilosophy and find your favorite Aurifilosopher [here](#).

Happy Stitching!

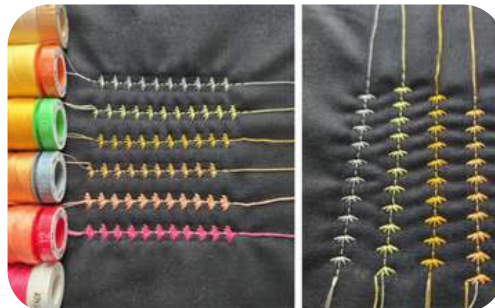
Karen L. Miller ~ [Redbird Quilt Co.](#)

In my travels, I'm often asked *How do you use all of those weights of Aurifil?*

With that, in this post, I'll share a closer look at Aurifil's Cotton 2ply threads— highlighting each weight from ultra-fine Cotton 80wt to bold Cotton 8wt— and how I love to use them in both hand and machine creations.

READ THE WHOLE ARTICLE at:

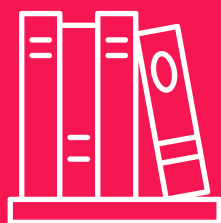
<https://auribuzz.com/2025/07/04/thread-matters-uses-and-tips-for-cotton-2ply/>



Important Announcements

- We shall be adding another day to our monthly meetings. We will be meeting at the Trade Mark Hotel on **Saturday August 2nd, 2025** from **10:00 am till noon**. The meeting will have the same programme and will have a special focus on beginner quilters.
- There shall be **no limit** to the number of books borrowed from the library.
- Please note that Fabric sales will start at **9:30 am before the meeting** and will **resume after the meeting** is concluded.
Early bird catches the worm.

We would like to welcome some creative ideas for items made with fabric for sale at the Christmas markets. Please come wearing your thinking caps.



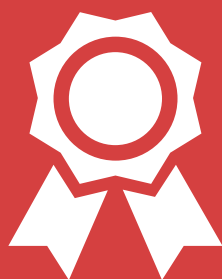
LIBRARY

You can now borrow great quilting books for a small fee from our library at the meetings. Please return any library books you may have borrowed in the previous years.



FACEBOOK PAGE

Please follow the OFFICIAL Page for Kenya Quilt Guild Facebook:
<https://web.facebook.com/thekenyaquiltguild/>



DOOR PRIZES

You can start winning lovely door prizes again. Number of prizes will depend on the number of present members. The process will be the same. You will be able to collect your prizes later. **SO MAKE SURE TO BE THERE !!!!!**

LIST OF TEACHERS OFFERING CLASSES

BEGINNER'S CLASSES:

GILL REBELO	SPRING VALLEY	0722 613105
RAGHBIR SYAN	NGONG ROAD	0721 372208
RAJI SYAN	NEW MUTHAIGA	0722 362362
JASVINDER PHULL	WESTLANDS	0733 785786
AMBER SIDDIQUI	SPRING VALLEY	0717 492210
ROHINI DESAI	BROOKSIDE	0722 840846
POLEY BHAMRA	BROOKSIDE	0721 289110

APPLIQUE CLASSES:

NEELA SHAH	REDHILL ROAD	0723 987160
RAGHBIR SYAN	NGONG ROAD	0721 372208
RAJI SYAN	NEW MUTHAIGA	0722 362362
AMBER SIDDIQUI	SPRING VALLEY	0717 492210

BARGELLO CLASSES:

RAJI SYAN	NEW MUTHAIGA	0722 362362
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SMALL PROJECTS – BAGS, FABRIC BOWLS & GIFT ITEMS:

JASVINDER PHULL	WESTLANDS	0733 785786
RAGHBIR SYAN	NGONG ROAD	0721 372208

HAND QUILTING/ HAND EMBROIDERY:

CHRISTINE KIBUKA	SIMBA UNION	0734 440688
AMBER SIDDIQUI	SPRING VALLEY	0717 492210

MACHINE QUILTING AND FREE MOTION QUILTING:

RAJI SYAN	NEW MUTHAIGA	0722 362362
ROHINI DESAI	BROOKSIDE	0722 840846

LOG CABIN, SAMPLER QUILTS, CATHEDRAL WINDOW AND OTHERS BY REQUEST:

GILL REBELO	SPRING VALLEY	0722 613105
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QUILT COACH:

CHARU PATEL	RAPHTA ROAD	0724 521768
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PAYMENTS:

You may pay for
Kenya Quilt Guild
subscription of your classes
at one of our monthly
meetings or by

Paybill no: **4043847**

Account Number: **Your
Name**

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Email: kenyaquiltguild1@gmail.com

Website: www.kenyaquiltguild.org

SOCIAL MEDIA:

FACEBOOK PAGE:

[https://web.facebook.com/
thekenyaquiltguild/](https://web.facebook.com/thekenyaquiltguild/)

*The group page is eagerly awaiting
the participation from
all the members.*

INSTAGRAM:

[https://www.instagram.com/
thekenyaquiltguild/](https://www.instagram.com/thekenyaquiltguild/)

KQG'S MEETINGS:

TIME: **10:00 AM TILL NOON**

(Kenyan Standard Time)

Monthly Meetings:

**3RD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH
SIKH UNION**

**1ST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH
TRADEMARK HOTEL**

Disclaimer: The content in this newsletter is
solely for the benefit of KQG members and is
not intended for any commercial purpose.