



August 2025

# snippets

## CHAIRMANS REPORT

*Dear Members*

Last month we introduced an extra day to our monthly meetings. We met with new and old members at the beautiful Clubhouse at Trademark Hotel overlooking the Karura forest and the Nairobi skyline where Rohini demonstrated the basics of patchwork. Special thanks to Daniella who drove 3 hours all the way from Nyeri to attend the meeting. She has been a member for the last few years but could only attend the meetings on the weekends. We look forward to welcoming everyone next month on Saturday, 6th of September at the Trademark Hotel and Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> of September at the Sikh Union.

We will be participating at the Pop-up Market organized by the Nairobi National Museum on the 13<sup>th</sup> of September to promote the craft of quilting and our guild. Please come forward and volunteer your time. It is a great fun opportunity to interact with people and get them involved in a creative activity.

Fabric Swap – a good entertaining exchange of fabrics to increase your stash. If you wish to participate, please bring ½ meter of good quality, clean fabric and go home with one that you never thought you would ever use. It's a fun activity the committee would like to try. I would request that members participating to be kind, open minded and enjoy the fun.

If you have already finished your Challenge quilt, please bring it to handover to Rohini at the meeting. Make sure it has a sleeve and label with your name, name of the quilt and any other detail you would like to add. If you wish like to sell it at the exhibition, please evaluate and include the price.

Fabric sales will start at 9:30 am.

The guild's website is up and running. Many thanks to Nancy Kinyanjui for giving it a facelift and making it active again. Please visit the link below:

<https://www.kenyaquiltguild.org>

That's it from me. See you all this week on Thursday at the Sikh Union at 10:00 am.

**For all those who added their wishes to the suggestion box, make sure you attend this month. Christmas may come early for some of them.**

*In this crazy quilt of life, I am glad you're in my block of friends!*

*Amber*

*Quilt used for Border and Background  
throughout Snippets by Helen Van de Burg*

## LOOK WHAT I FOUND!

I was in the process of sorting out the pile of papers on my desk and my filing trays when I came upon a sheet of USA postal stamps from the early 2000's. Oops this tells you how long it had been since I sorted my filing trays.

One of the sheets was entitled 'American Treasures' Quilts of Gee's Bend. I had purchased these stamps ages ago when it cost only 39 cents to post a letter. It now cost 78 cents.

The "American Treasures: Gee's Bend Quilts" is a set of commemorative stamps that were released by the U.S. Postal Service in 2006 and featured ten quilt designs created by African American women from Gee's Bend, Alabama.

These quilts are specifically known for their bold patterns, unexpected colour combinations, and use of recycled materials. The stamps also highlight the ingenuity of the Gee's Bend quilters, who often incorporated old clothing, work clothes and other repurposed materials into their quilts.

They are celebrated as important works of American folk art.

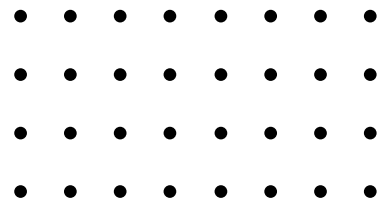
The specific quilt patterns featured on the stamps include:

- Housetop
- Log Cabin
- Nine Patch
- Roman Stripes
- Blocks and Strips
- Medallion
- Chinese Coins
- Bars and Columns
- Pig in a Pen
- Medallion and Checkered Centre

U.S. Postal Service Art director, Derry Noyes, turned famous artwork into stamps. She chose photographs of ten quilts created between circa 1940 and 2001, by women in Gee's Bend.

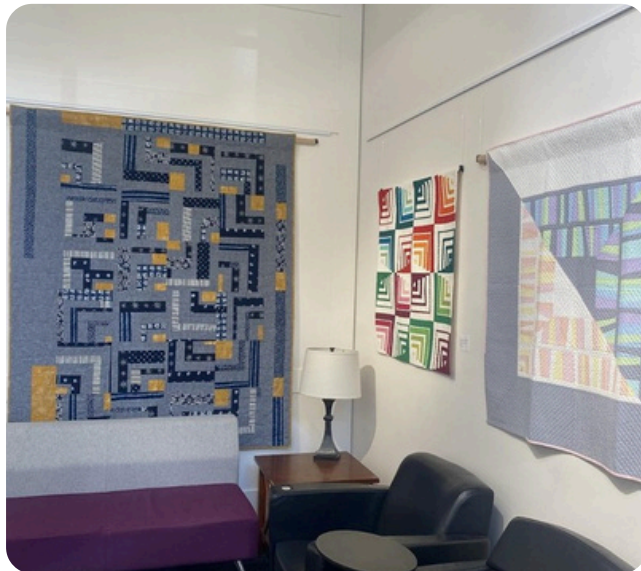






## BOWEN ISLAND, VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA

Imagine my surprise when I visited an art gallery while on holiday and noticed the shop assistant carefully working on a EPP project! I chatted with her about her newfound love for quilting, and she said “oh, have you seen the quilt display our guild has in the library next door? We just put it up yesterday!” I dashed over and discovered a peaceful reading room filled with sun and quilts that members living on this tiny island had created.







# LIBERTY OF LONDON

## *What is the history of Tana Lawn Cotton?*

Since the late 1890s Liberty has been experimenting with cotton lawn, a smooth plain weave prized for its ultra-soft and durable qualities. In the early 1930s, Liberty's then-Cotton Buyer William Hayes Dorell helped to establish a new Liberty signature, Tana Lawn cotton – and a brand legend was born. The ground-breaking product was named after Lake Tana in Ethiopia, where its unique long-staple cotton fibres originated. Back in the UK the silk-like threads were spun into lustrous form, printed with colourful ink, and turned into a material that would change the textile industry forever.



Today, every bolt of Tana is the product of a bespoke production process: designed by the in-house studio artists, then printed at Liberty's own Italian mill, close to Lake Como. Skilled technicians oversee the production of many hundreds of different designs, using a combination of traditional screen printing and cutting-edge digital printing techniques. The cotton fibre used in Tana is grown in India, Egypt and US.

Tana is made from specially selected ultra-fine long staple cotton, woven from 70 and 100 ply yarns and subjected to a lengthy series of preparations to ensure its distinctive qualities of handle, lustre and stability. It has a thread count of 240.

Liberty has more than 40,000 designs in its library of prints - some of them dating back to the 1700s, You can read more about them below.

<https://polinacouture.com/en/understand-why-the-fabrics-from-liberty-of-london-are-so-great>

For more images of these wonderful fabrics go to:

<https://thelittleworldoffabric.co.uk/collections/liberty-tana-lawn-cottons>

## **Patchwork everywhere you see.**

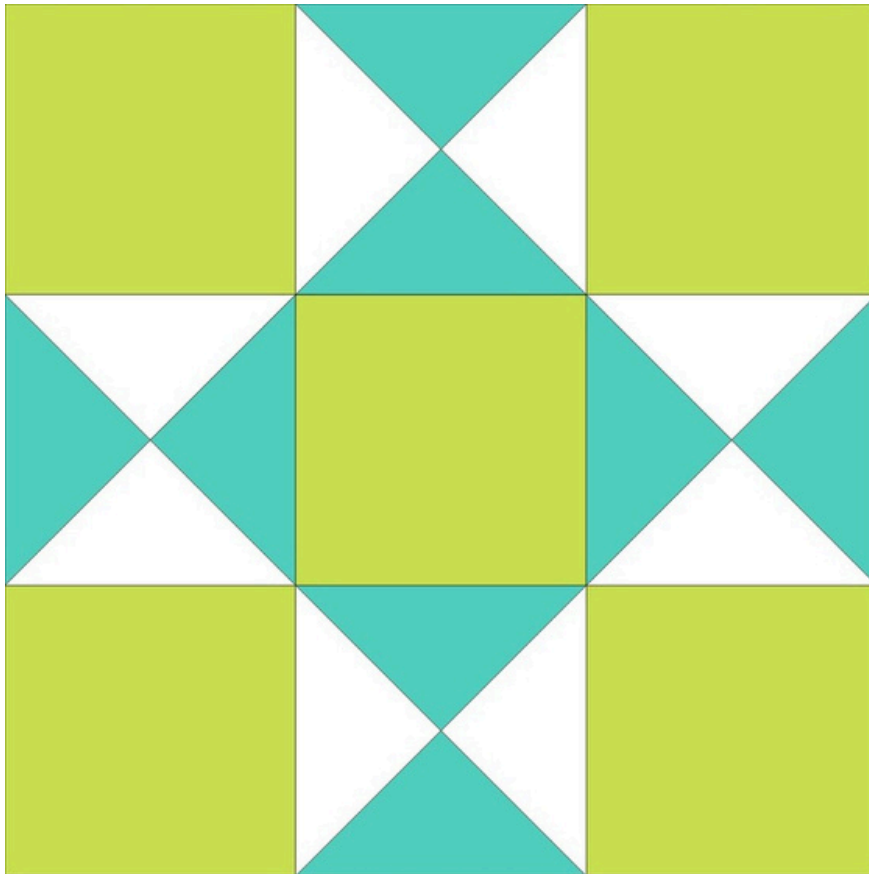
Delia spotted this patchwork on her way to Turkana





## SAMPLER BLOCK 3 FOR BEGINNERS

This month's sampler block introduces  $\frac{1}{4}$  square triangles. (QST)



### Mosaic PW Block

This block is made up of 5 squares and 4 QST set in a 3X3 grid

Cutting Instructions:

Fabric A  $4\frac{1}{2}$ "x  $4\frac{1}{2}$ " 5 Pieces

Fabric B  $5\frac{1}{2}$ "x  $5\frac{1}{2}$ " 4 Pieces

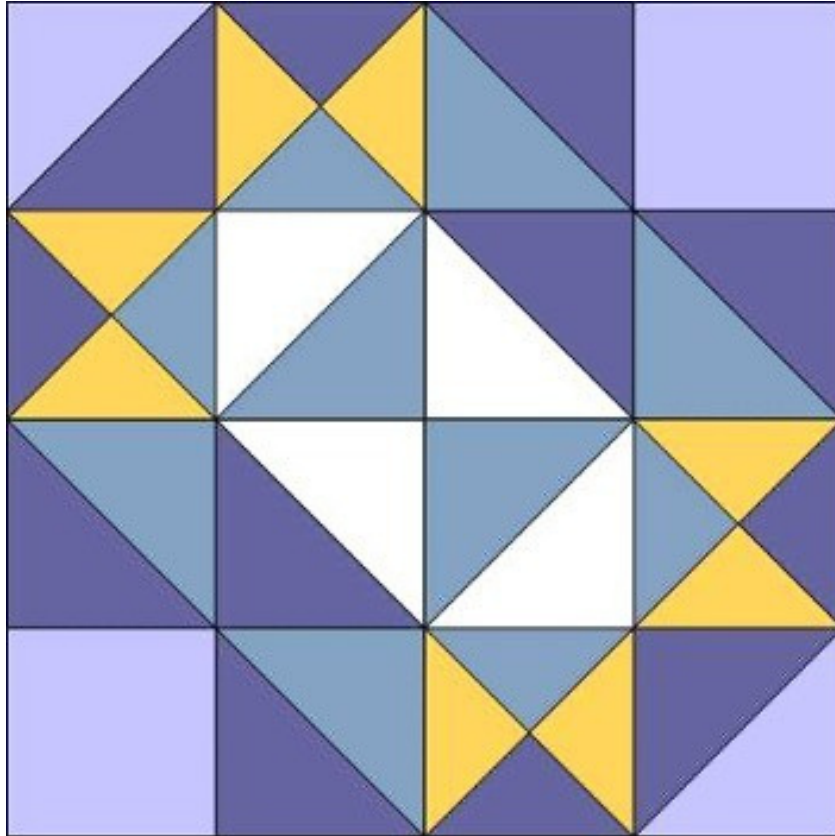
Fabric C  $5\frac{1}{2}$ "x  $5\frac{1}{2}$ " 4 Pieces

The measurements for Fabric B and C are with little wiggle room added.





## BLOCK FOR INTERMEDIATE TO ADVANCE QUILTERS



### Belt Buckle block 12"x 12"

This block isn't a nine patch, it follows 2x2 grid.

The block consists of 2 squares, 10 HST's of different fabric combinations, 4 QST's

Cutting Instructions: -

Fabric 1: 3 1/2"x 3 1/2" 2 Pcs

4"x 4" 1 pc

Fabric 2: 4"x 4" 4pcs

4 1/2"x 4 1/2" 2pcs

Fabric 3: 4 1/2"x 4 1/2" 2pcs

Fabric 4: 4"x 4" 3 pcs

4 1/2"x 4 1/2" 2pcs

Fabric 5: 4"x 4" 2pcs

The pieces for HST's and QST's are oversized, giving room wiggle.

# FUN QUOTE

Curated by Lakhbir Virdee





## QUARTER SQUARE TRIANGLE (QST) 2

We have covered two of the simplest units in patchwork which are found in almost all quilt blocks i.e. a square and  $\frac{1}{2}$  square triangles (HST)

This month the attention is on  $\frac{1}{4}$  square triangles (QST)

### What is a Quarter Square Triangle (QST)?

A Quarter-Square Triangle is a square made from four equal right-angled triangles, with the diagonal seam lines forming an "X" across the block. They are great for adding movement and complexity to quilts.

The QST like the HST, the starting units are squares of fabric. The formula for cutting the starting squares for QST is  
Finished block size +  $1\frac{1}{4}$ " = cut size starting squares

Example: For a **4" finished QST**, cut squares  $5\frac{1}{4}$ " (if your quarter inch seam is perfect). I like to add a little extra giving some wiggle room, cutting  $5\frac{1}{2}$ " squares and trimming down to size after stitching.

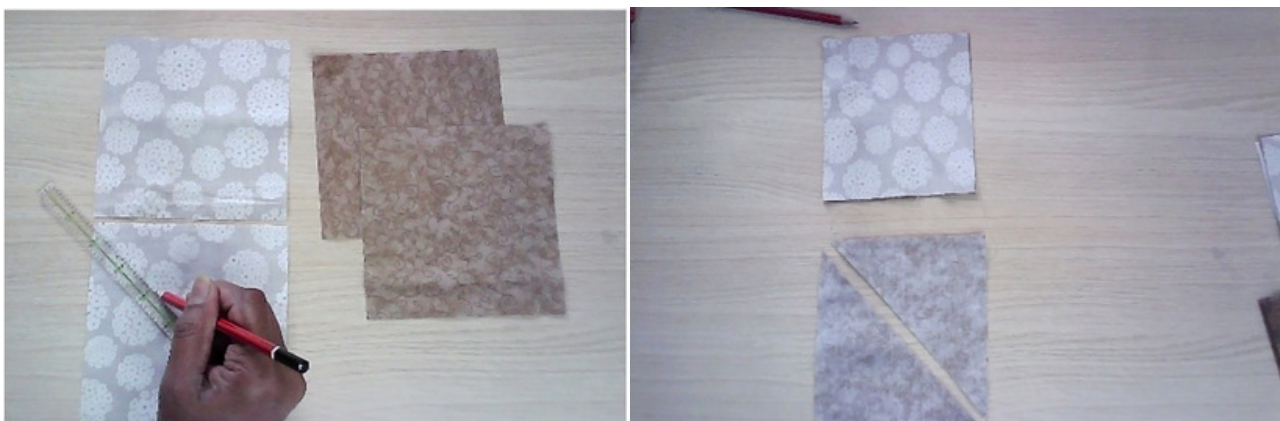
## Step-by-Step Instructions

### 1. Cut the fabric

1. Cut two squares (for two colours) to the calculated size.
  - Example: For a 4" finished block, cut two  $5\frac{1}{4}$ " squares, one of each colour.

### 2. Make Half-Square Triangles (HSTs) first

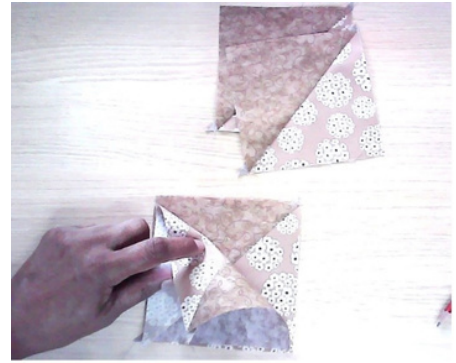
1. Place your two squares right sides together.
2. Draw a diagonal line from corner to corner on the lighter fabric.
3. Sew  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam on each side of the drawn line.
4. Cut apart on the drawn line, giving two HSTs.



## *Sampler Block* by Rohini Desai

### 3. Make the QST units

1. Press the seams toward the darker fabric.
2. Place the two HST units **right sides together**, nesting seams so the colours are opposite each other.



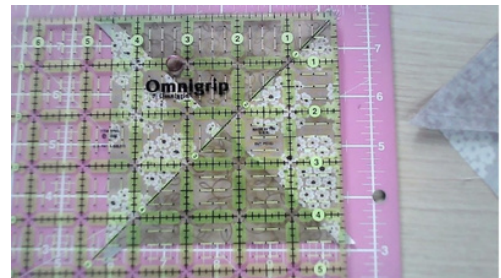
3. Draw another diagonal line **perpendicular** to the seam you've already sewn.



4. Sew  $\frac{1}{4}$ " on each side of this new line.
5. Cut apart on the drawn line.  
This gives **two identical QST blocks**

### 4. Press & trim

1. Press seams either to one side or open (open reduces bulk at the centre).



2. Trim each QST to the unfinished size:  
**Finished block size +  $\frac{1}{2}$ "**  
(example: 4" finished  $\rightarrow$  trim to 4  $\frac{1}{2}$ ").



### Tips for Accuracy

1. Starch your fabric before cutting for less stretching.
2. Always cut your starting squares a bit larger if you want to trim for precision.
3. When trimming, align the  $45^\circ$  diagonal line on your ruler with one seam for accuracy.



## Feature

### *A Visit to In Stitches, Sarit Centre*

In Stitches, previously The Woman Shop, stocks a wide variety of general haberdashery items, fabrics, knitting yarn, embroidery threads and much more.

The owner, Mr. Sagar Shah has undertaken to provide a terrific selection of good quality cotton fabrics, both printed and plain. The assortment of yarn is great as are the embroidery threads and sewing threads.



The accessory boards house diverse selection of scissors, sewing notions, embroidery tools, quilting tools/mats, knitting needles and crochet hooks.





## Feature



There is a varied selection of Bernina sewing machines on display, ranging from simple editions to more advanced models. In Stitches is a certified Bernina representative and they undertake machine maintenance.



The staff are professional and keen to assist their customers.

Opening hours are very favourable as their doors are open from 10.00 a.m. until 7.00 p.m. from Monday to Saturday. On Sunday they are open from 11.00 a.m. until 5.00 p.m.

Scheduled classes are also held. More information is available from the shop.

In Stitches also provides the quilting package for the Guild's monthly meeting.



## *Important Announcements*

**AUGUST:** Binding by Raji Syan

**SEPTEMBER:** Crazy Quilts by Gretchen Mwaura

**OCTOBER:** Challenge Feed Back

**NOVEMBER:** To be planned

**DECEMBER:** Holiday Party on December 4th



Photo Courtesy: <https://homemadeemilyjane.com/quilt-binding-by-hand/>

<https://www.allpeoplequilt.com>

## Upcoming Event



**SATURDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2025**

**10:00 am – 6:00 pm**

**The Courtyard**

**Nairobi National Museum**

**Free entry to market**

**Free parking**

Books from KES 100

30+ arty and eco vendors

All goods under KES 5,000

Activities for all ages

Food and drink stalls

**ARTISANAL MARKET AND  
SECONDHAND BOOK SALE**







## 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	BROOKESIDE	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**

## KQG CO-ORDINATES:

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Parklands – 00623

Nairobi

Email: [kenyaquiltguild1@gmail.com](mailto:kenyaquiltguild1@gmail.com)

Website: [www.kenyaquiltguild.org](http://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:

**3<sup>RD</sup> THURSDAY OF THE MONTH**  
**SIKH UNION**

**1<sup>ST</sup> 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.

