



July 2026

snippets

CHAIRLADY'S REPORT

Dear quilting friends

I write this report after attending Africa's biggest quilt festival in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. My heart is so full, and my head is high with pride hearing the most beautiful comments about the special exhibit from our members. Visitors were in awe and spent time asking about the inspiration and the quilters. 90% of the visitors or guild members I met knew about us and follow our social media. They all admired the workmanship, design idea and especially the love for the country evident in all the quilts.

Congratulations to all the wonderful quilters who made the collection, "Magical Kenya" truly magical. I have already started thinking about the next one on 2028!!!!

Thanks to Rohini, Nancy and Gill for holding the fort in my absence. Gill will conduct the meeting this month. Lakhbir will take you through one of the most loved quilting techniques, "Machine Appliqué". Please bring any projects you need help with or need a third eye to decide on a border or fabric choice.

Nancy has some very exciting plans for us. I am so looking forward to a field trip and a quilting retreat soon.

Love and see you all next month.

Amber

"A quilt takes time to make, so does anything that's worth keeping."



*Quilt used for Border and
Background throughout Snippets by
Poley Bhamra*

Challenge Quilts by Rohini Desai

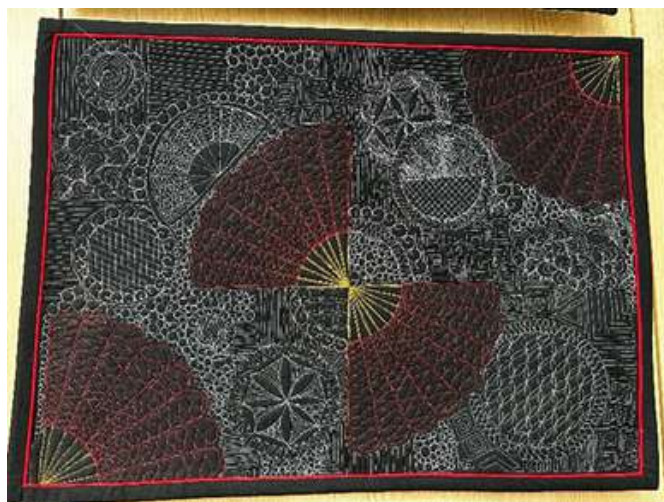


What is a challenge quilt? They're about exploring ideas, learning something new, and enjoying the creative process. You may ask how so? It is a quilt created with a specific set of rules or a theme which makes it challenging as one would need to work out of their comfort zone.

Some examples of quilt challenges which our KQG members have done in the past are:

Fabric challenges: - where everyone received the same piece of fabric and had to incorporate it into their quilt.

Theme challenges: - Giraffe, Gravy's zebra, Rhinos, Elephant (which had a specific fabric to work with + applique technique), birth month (whatever one interpreted regarding their birth month, flowers, gemstones, etc).



Technique challenge:
foundation paper piecing with specific size and size limit of individual design/block element.



Chinese whisper: an interesting challenge, where groups were formed, with first person working on a quilt whatever subject that took their fancy. After completion, the 2nd person picked an element from the first quilt and created a quilt around that. This goes on till the whole group makes the quilts. It was such a fun challenge to see the different quilts from first to the last in the group.



All the above had size challenges added along with specified challenge and deadlines.

Other common challenges are: -

Colour challenge: - quilt using specified colours, monochromatic, ombre, etc

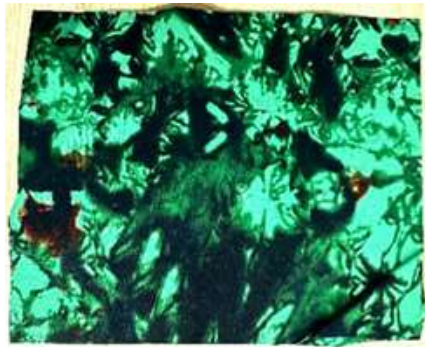
Specific techniques: - must use a particular technique, such as appliqué, paper piecing, English paper piecing, or improvisational piecing.

Why make a challenge quilt?

Challenge quilts are fun and help quilters to

- Spark creativity by solving design “problems”.
- Learn and try new techniques, which otherwise may not be attempted.
- Improve design and colour skills without committing to a large quilt.
- Display quilts together at quilt meetings or an exhibition where you see different interpretations of the same challenge.

Our Recent KQ& Challenge



- Theme: something related to Kenya
- Required fabric: An 8-inch square of kitenge fabric. Had to be incorporated into the quilt.
- finished size: 20”x 20”
- Technique: no specific technique,
- Deadline: 4 months

Although all the participants used the same provided fabric and rules, each finished quilt is completely different. The Quilts were not shown at the guild meeting. There will be a show and tell once they are back. Eagerly waiting to see how each quilter used the fabric

Challenge quilts are especially popular in quilting guilds because they encourage learning, creativity, and inspiration while giving participants a fun goal to work toward.

So, a challenge quilt is basically a creative quilting project where you are “challenged” to make something original within certain guidelines. They encourage learning, creativity, and inspiration while giving participants a fun goal to work toward.

Having said this, many quilters find challenge quilts intimidating because they require stepping outside familiar routines. The very thing that makes a challenge quilt exciting—its constraints (Theme, size, colours, etc)—is also what can make it “feel” difficult.





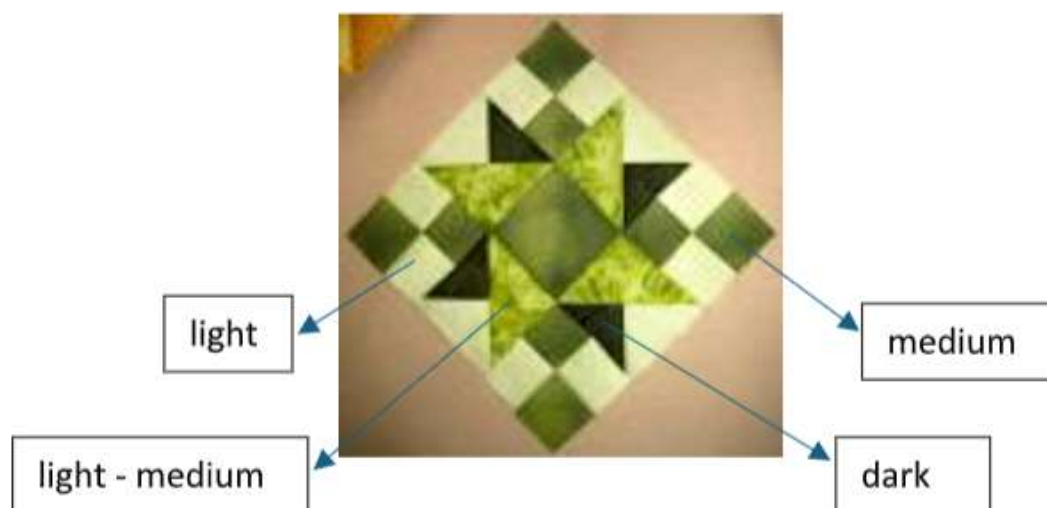
Our Next Group Challenge!

By popular demand from the members, we will be starting a new Mystery Quilt project in October. To give everyone the chance of deciding on the necessary fabrics well in advance, we are sharing the first issue now.

A Mystery Quilt is a quilt project where the final design is kept secret. The instructions are given in a series of issues over time. You will be given step-by-step instructions each month which include cutting, piecing, and assembly directions for specific blocks. At the start, you are provided with fabric guidelines, usually specifying light, medium, and dark fabrics and the quantities needed.

As you can see, from Issue One, there are a variety of fabrics (five different) that the pattern suggests. In case you are new to patchwork/quilting, basically the definitions refer to the relative lightness or darkness of the colour of the fabric.

- **Light Value Fabrics:** White, pastels or cream, often used for background.
- **Medium Value Fabrics:** Neither bright pastels nor deep shades like navy or black. Medium-value fabrics provide depth by allowing shapes to stand out from the background while connecting contrasting pieces together.
- **Dark Value Fabrics:** Deep shades. Placing dark fabrics next to light fabrics highlights the lines and angles of your piecing, allowing the pattern to “pop”.
- **Light Medium Value Fabrics:** Act as a middle-ground tone falling between stark light and deep blacks, greens or navy etc (dark). See the sample below.



Please take Issue One with you when you select your fabrics. Label each fabric A, B, C, D and E. You need not stick to one colour like above. This is only an example to illustrate colour values.



ISSUE ONE

Fabric Requirement:
Five different fabrics - Try to avoid directional or large prints.

Fabric A	Medium Value	½ Yard
Fabric B	Dark Value	¾ Yard
Fabric C	Dark Value	1 Yard
Fabric D	Light to Medium Value	1 Yard
Fabric E	Light Value (Background)	2 ¼ Yards
Binding Fabric		¾ Yard
Backing Fabric Including 4" Overhang		4 Yards
Batting		70" x 70"

The finished size of this lap quilt will be 60 ½" x 60 ½". If you wish to enlarge the quilt, then you may decide to add sashing and borders, but will have to calculate how much more fabric you will need for the binding and backing.





Some reasons why a challenge feels intimidating:

- Having to create your own design instead of following a pattern.
- Fear of making mistakes and hesitant to try unfamiliar techniques.
- As challenges are often set with specific fabrics, themes, colours, sizes and techniques, some quilters can feel restricted especially if they don't match the quilter's usual style.
- Trying something new naturally brings uncertainty.



Photo from the India Quilt Foundation, in which a few of our members participated to make a quilt using the same fabric and interpret the "Bird of Paradise" theme.

Interestingly, the reasons a challenge feels intimidating are also valuable.

I personally feel that challenge projects help me:

- Think more creatively
- Build confidence in design decisions.
- Learn techniques that I might never try otherwise.
- Develop a unique artistic style.
- Connect with other quilters through shared experiences (discussions during show and tell, techniques used, story behind the quilts, etc).

Some of my favourite quilts are the ones made as challenges.

Ultimately, a challenge quilt isn't about creating the "best" quilt. It's about accepting a creative constraint and seeing where it takes you. Every quilter interprets the same challenge differently, and that's what makes these projects both intimidating and rewarding.



Red Flags and How to Spot AI Quilt Patterns

Every Tuesday afternoon a group of my quilting friends, all KQG members, from all over the world gather to attend a Zoom call. We get in touch with each other to review the week's events, share our latest quilting exploits and generally chat. This week we heard about an experience that one of us had with an AI generated quilt pattern.

At a recent quilting event in Europe, she purchased a quick and easy quilt kit. She needed the kit because she had to make a baby quilt – baby due any day. This turned out to be the most frustrating ‘quick’ quilt she ever made.

When she returned home, she read the instructions and didn't get suspicious until she reached the sewing instructions. She couldn't work out one of the steps. Regardless of this hiccup, she cut out all the pieces thinking it would become clear as she went along.



The first problem arose when she got to the cutting schedule. Referring to the cutting directions, she had cut out 4 pieces then 5"x 5", which eventually had to be reduced to 4 ½"x 4 ½". Why? Nonetheless, she plodded on. She started having problems with the numbers on the diagrams. At this stage, she decided to cut the pieces out of paper first and then went through the steps again. She still couldn't work out step 8, so she decided to put the pieces together into the 12 blocks in what for her seemed to be a logical order, not in the order of the diagrams. This worked fine.

These pieced blocks measured 10 ½"x 10 ½" unfinished. She placed them as per the layout instructions and then realised that the original 4 plain fabric pieces (10"x 10") that she had previously cut out according to the directions were too small. So of course, she had to cut down the pieced blocks to 10"x 10". There was also quite a lot of wasted fabric. The pattern did not take into consideration fabric economy.



To understand why the pattern didn't work she went onto... Mr Google! Up came the AI answer to this AI problem. One assumes that the people who designed the quilt wrote the directions. Instead of doing this they obviously handed over the task to AI with disastrous results. This seemed to be irresponsible on the designer's side. Here are some pointers that we found to identify AI built patterns.

Red flags include:

- Seams that don't connect (Happens a lot in FPP)
- Blocks that don't make mathematical sense (odd sizes)
- Shapes that would be impossible or highly impractical to piece
- AI generated quilt patterns are visually appealing but structurally inaccurate.
- If the design looks nice but impossible to construct, that is a warning sign.
- Patterns are often very inexpensive to purchase and there is no contact reference for help.

A good pattern listing should clearly explain what's included with details like:

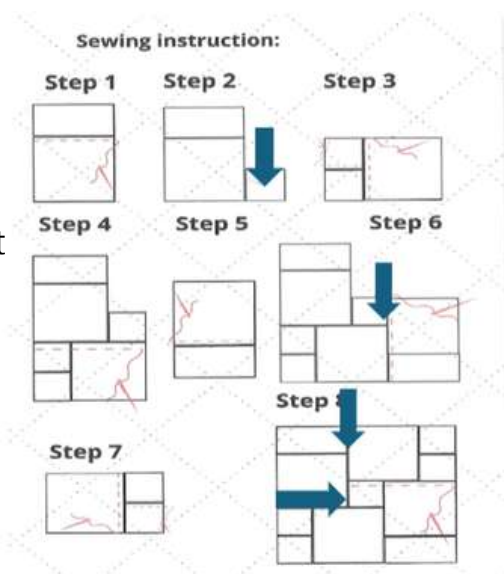
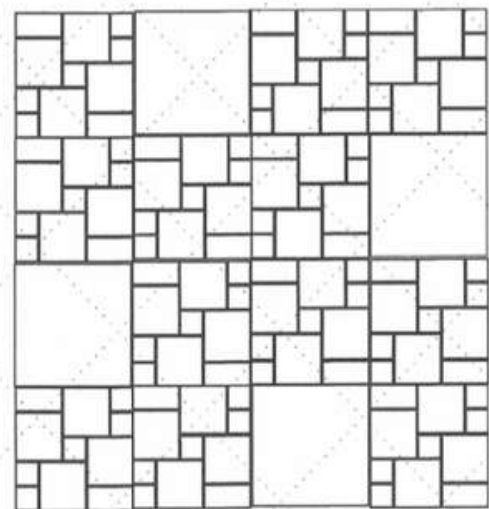
- Finished size
- Skill level
- Block sizes

Low-effort descriptions are common in quilt pattern scams and copied listings. A real designer usually understands what information quilters need before purchasing. A quality pattern often reflects:

- Design time
- Testing
- Editing
- Photography
- Customer support

Have a look at this pattern that caused so much dismay. Besides the finished pieced blocks and the plain blocks being different sizes, the connection points don't work.

If you are interested in more information on AI generated patterns, have a look at this blog: <https://l1nq.com/3te1iyw> It is lengthy but continue reading and you will get to the meat of the AI situation. It's more involved than you may think.



QUILT LABEL INSPIRATION





Some Time Saving Tips

- Make sure you buy all your supplies before you start a new project.
- Read the pattern through before you start.
- Organise all your sewing needs and keep them close by.
- Iron all fabrics beforehand.
- Sew all sections using one thread at one go.
- Wind bobbins in advance.
- Keep a wastepaper basket near your machine.
- You need an iron in close proximity.



Liberty Fabric Dresden Flower Clock Kit from Alicecaroline.com



See How Patchwork Has Come Into It's Own

Hannah Harper won the 2026 American Idol reality television show. She appeared in her initial audition in a patchwork dress which she made herself.

This dress was constructed using materials sourced from her community in Missouri, USA. It reflected her connection to her roots.



Cute Bookbags for Amara

Samita has carefully organized our ongoing Charity project - making these lovely book bags for the kids the Amara Charitable Trust supports in school. Each bag is colorful, unique and functional. A huge thanks to all our members who have already handed in 90 bags, with 80 still pending in production. Your sewing makes a difference!



Each bag is carefully photographed by Samita

QUILTY QUOTES

Submitted by Lakhbir Virdee

6 types of quilters

SCRAPPY SAVER



THE GADGET GURU



PRECISION PERFECTIONIST



SPEED STITCHER



LAYOUT INNOVATOR



FABRIC HOARDER



KQG MERCHANDISE



Badges



Totes



Handmade keychains



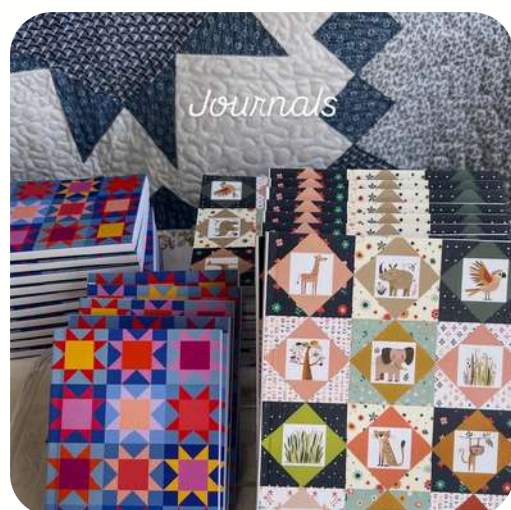
Hexies pouch



Ornaments



Suckers



Journals

Become a
MEMBER in 2026 and...

Receive a
certificate...

and this
BEAUTIFUL
Starter Pack





KENYA QUILT GUILD MEETINGS

JULY

SATURDAY 4TH

Trademark Hotel

THURSDAY 16TH

Sikh Union

AUGUST

SATURDAY 1ST

Trademark Hotel

THURSDAY 20TH

Sikh Union

SEPTEMBER

SATURDAY 5TH

Trademark Hotel

THURSDAY 17TH

Sikh Union

10AM - NOON

FREE BEGINNER QUILTING CLASSES AFTER EACH MEETING

WWW.KENYAQUILTGUILD.ORG
KENYAQUILTGUILD1@GMAIL.COM



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.

BOOK RENTAL: 100 Kes



WEBSITE

www.kenyaquiltguild.org



DOOR PRIZES

You have the opportunity to win a fun prize at each meeting! Don't forget to sign in at the door when you get your name tag.

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SHARE WITH ANYONE WHO'D LIKE TO
SEE WHAT THE GUILD IS UP TO.**



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BEGINNER'S CLASSES		
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RAGHBIR SYAN	NGONG ROAD	0721 372208
RAJI SYAN	NEW MUTHAIGA	0722 362362
AMBER SIDDIQUI	SPRING VALLEY	0717 492210
ROHINI DESAI	BROOKSIDE	0722 840 846
POLEY BHAMRA	BROOKSIDE	0721 289110
APPLIQUE CLASSES		
AMBER SIDDIQUI	SPRING VALLEY	0717 492210
ROHINI DESAI	BROOKSIDE	0722 840846
RAGHBIR SYAN	NGONG ROAD	0721 372208
RAJI SYAN	NEW MUTHAIGA	0722 362362
MACHINE QUILTING/ FREE-MOTION QUILTING		
ROHINI DESAI	BROOKSIDE	0722 840846
RAJI SYAN	NEW MUTHAIGA	0722 362362
HAND QUILTING & HAND EMBROIDERY		
CHRISTINE KIBUKA	SIMBA UNION	0734 440688
AMBER SIDDIQUI	SPRING VALLEY	0717 492210
BARGELLO CLASSES		
RAJI SYAN	NEW MUTHAIGA	0722 362362
LOG CABIN, SAMPLER QUILTS, CATHEDRAL WINDOWS AND OTHERS ON REQUEST		
GILL REBELO	LORESHO	0722 613105
ROHINI DESAI	BROOKSIDE	0722 840846
SMALL PROJECTS-BAGS, FABRIC BOWLS & GIFT ITEMS		
RAGHBIR SYAN	NGONG ROAD	0721 372208
ROHINI DESAI	BROOKSIDE	0722 840846

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Your Name

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

KQG CO-ORDINATES:

Email: kenyaquiltguild1@gmail.com

Website: www.kenyaquiltguild.org

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