

Block of the Month – NHQ 2015

This block of the month (BOM) has been designed primarily for beginners to patchwork and quilting. We will take you through some basic techniques which will enable you to explore designs and patterns. A sampler quilt is an excellent way to try a variety of different techniques without ending up with a pile of unfinished samples. Skills will be acquired for future projects and some new techniques may become unexpected favourites whilst others may fall into the “never again” category.

Let's take a look at your choice of fabric. Firstly you need to decide on a colour way, which could be based on one colour ie. all blues, a family of colours ie. autumn with browns rusts and greens, limited to two colours ie. red and white or it could be made as a scrap quilt using up odd pieces you have. Generally a lot of fabrics are a medium tone but make sure you have some light and dark colours amongst your fabrics to give a good balance. It works best if you have one fabric that is in every block especially if you are making a scrap quilt, as this then ties them all together. It is suggested that you have 1/2 a yard of 6-8 fabrics but more fabrics in fat quarters will work as well, just make sure you have 1/2 yard at least of the one fabric that will be in each block. Plain and/or patterned fabrics can be used. At this point we feel it is better not to buy the sashing/ border or backing fabric as there are various ways to finish the quilt and adjust the completed size which will be looked at later so it is hard to calculate the yardage now. All fabrics should be 100% cotton and of a similar weight.

Before using new fabrics it is better to prewash or rinse them to avoid uneven shrinkage and also to prevent the colours from running when the finished quilt is first laundered. When washing the new fabric, be sure to unfold the fabric before washing so there is no rubbing along the fold lines. If you have a tumble dryer, dry on a low setting until almost dry then remove and iron dry. If you like you can also use spray starch to freshen the material when ironing.

All the blocks will measure 12 ½ inches, which will become 12 inches once sewn together. All seams are ¼ inch unless stated otherwise. In the latter months we will be showing you different layout designs that you can consider, together with quilting suggestions.

On a Health & Safety note- take care when using your cutting wheel. Cut away from your body, not towards it. Close the blade every time you stop using it; get into the habit of closing the blade before you put it down.

Samples of each block will be available to look at during NHQ meetings and printed instructions will also be available.

We hope that you will enjoy this BOM. If you have any queries at all, please don't hesitate to contact Hilary or Sara, contact details on the membership listing.

All the best – Hilary Drake and Sara Edwards