

How to use this book

How to Use this Book

The twenty quilt blocks that form the heart of *Quilts from The Quiltmaker's Gift* are organized in four sections.

Easy Squares and Rectangles (pages 10-49)

Easy Squares and Triangles (pages 50-73)

Challenging Squares and Triangles (pages 74-101)

Flying Geese & Beyond (pages 102-123)

Blocks are arranged in order of difficulty within the section and through the book. Patterns are presented

in two or three page-spreads, each organized in the same manner, with the same easy-to-use features, including two or three example quilts.

The remainder of the book provides reference materials that will be of interest to quilters of all levels: ergonomics and wellness strategies, basic quilting tools and techniques, suggested reading, resources, and glossary/index. Reference charts and diagrams are located inside the front and back covers for easy access.

Bird Ratings

Quilts are rated for difficulty from one to three birds, based primarily on complexity of the block.

One bird: Simple construction, minimum number of pieces. Easy enough for beginners with little or no sewing experience if they study the *Quilting Basics* on pages 130-139.

Two birds: Blocks with more pieces and fabric placement options or more complicated construction techniques. Easy enough for beginners who are experienced sewers.

Three birds: Blocks with numerous pieces, tricky construction, and/or complex design choices. Beginners will probably need a quilting mentor for consultation. Ask for volunteers!

Brackman/BlockBase Number

All blocks in this book were chosen from Barbara Brackman's *Encyclopedia of Pieced Quilt Patterns*, which catalogs blocks based on the construction type, date and source of first publication, alternate names, and similar blocks. This same number is used by Electric Quilt's BlockBase computer program which will print out templates for the block pieces at various sizes.

Block Illustration

Gail de Marcken's illustrations of the quilt patterns in *The Quiltmaker's Gift* provide a springboard for your inspiration.

Artist's Secrets

Illustrator Gail de Marcken reveals some of the intriguing stories behind her choice of nineteenth and early twentieth century quilt patterns included in *The Quiltmaker's Gift*.

Quiltmaker's Design Challenges

For beginners and experts alike, this column offers stimulating ideas for fabric choices, plus suggestions for borders, quilt design, and settings.

Story Excerpt

Text from *The Quiltmaker's Gift* by Jeff Brumbeau graces every opening page-spread.

Meet the Quiltmaker

Whenever a butterfly appears in the text, expect some interesting description of the quiltmaker whose creative efforts are pictured nearby.

Block Construction and History Narrative

This column focuses on interesting aspects of the pattern, including historical settings and colorings, significant elements of the block construction, adaptations and interpretations of the pattern by contemporary quiltmakers. Look for the special challenges presented by this block's construction.

Quilt Information Chart

Look here to find important details for three quilts in three different sizes: dimensions with and before adding borders, block size, number of blocks needed and their layout, and a diagram for cutting the backing fabric for that size.

The Quiltmaker Says . . . Box

Each pattern begins with a gentle reminder of essentials for success from the Quiltmaker.

Fabric Requirement Chart

Lists fabric by fabric, piece by piece, how much fabric is needed for the different size quilts. Measurements assume 42"-45" fabric that has been prewashed. Calculations allow for shrinkage and the trimming of selvages before measuring and cutting. For each fabric, 6"-9" extra fabric is included as allowance for uneven yardage and/or cutting errors.

Cutting Instructions Chart

Fabric-by-fabric, piece-by-piece instructions for cutting and crosscutting strips into shapes needed to construct the block. Number of strips and number of final pieces needed are noted for worry-free cutting.

Quilt Assembly

This section gives instructions for setting the finished blocks in a pleasing arrangement and sewing them together. For some patterns, diagrams show challenging assembly techniques and give advice for special settings that go well with specific blocks.

Finishing the Quilt

Outlines the final steps of quilting with references to more in-depth instructions.

Watch for the helpful bird who offers reminders of good techniques or potential hazards.

More Quilts

Many patterns feature an additional quilt on this spread, along with a caption about its makers.

Quilt Diagram

Shows block layout and borders for three quilt sizes.

Step-by-Step Piecing Instructions

Written instructions explain and color-coded diagrams show every step of the block construction process. Watch pressing arrows carefully. If seams are pressed in the direction indicated, intersecting seams will nest together nicely and the final block should be nice and flat.

This friendly bird signals caution with special warnings and construction tips throughout the pattern. Watch for helpful hints on cutting, piecing, pressing, and design elements.

Tip Diagrams

Especially for beginners, tip diagrams expand the step-by-step instructions to show positioning of units during construction and highlight tricky spots.

More Features

This spread may also include step-by-step photo sequences, tidbits of interest, or additional sample quilts with stories of their makers.

Block Diagrams

Show the quilt block components with pieces color-coded and alpha-labeled to coordinate with the fabric requirements and cutting charts, and to match the step-by-step block construction instructions that follow. The Brackman/BlockBase number is below the diagram. Some patterns show alternate historical colorings for the block.

Photo Essays

Show hints or critical steps of the block construction process so you can see how the diagrams translate into cloth.



Take time for a break. Check out the *Wellness for Quilters* section (126-129).

Meet the Quiltmakers

Look for photo collages showing the stories of novice and experienced quilters like you joining forces to make beautiful quilts.

Setting Options

For creative inspiration, photographs or diagrams of alternate settings for the block are included in patterns with light/dark diagonal blocks.

