

MPQG BOM: Instructions 2020-2021

Due to the physical distancing required to limit the spread of CoVID 19, exchanging blocks each month will not be practical. Thanks to Donna Appleget's terrific idea, this year's BOM has morphed into "design your own sampler quilt" to which we've added a theme: [Magical Mystery Tour \(Remast](#)

Beatlemania.

Each block will feature one of our favorite Beatles songs as we explore them through design and fabric. We could all use some joy in these times and what better way than connecting with some of the greatest music of all time. Click the link to get in the mood.

[ered 2009\)](#)

Instructions

- Choose a favorite color palette of fabrics in a variety of values to use on all the blocks that you create. Use your scraps!
- Each month we will post a new Beatles song with prompts and inspirations for your block. You will be given the option of following the instructions for a block that we choose or creating your own design inspired by the song.
- All squares will be either 18 ½ inches or 12 ½ inches; your choice. If you feel like you might not complete all the months you might prefer the larger size.
- We will ask that you share your completed block each month on our Zoom Show and Tell and then keep your blocks to put together in a quilt of your own design.

September Block: Lucy in the Sky With Diamonds

John Lennon said that his inspiration for the song came when his three-year-old son Julian showed him a nursery school drawing that he called "Lucy – in the Sky with Diamonds", depicting his classmate Lucy O'Donnell. ... Lennon later said, "I thought that beautiful. Click on the link to hear his psychedelic masterpiece.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=naoknj1ebqI>

As you listen, think about your block creation. If you design your own, the only requirements are that it include at least one diamond and be 18 ½ or 12 in.

Alternatively, you may use this tutorial to make a Diamond Square Block (pictured below). The tutorial is for an 18 ½ in. block. For a 12 ½ in. block, you will start with 4 in squares and trim to 3 ½ . Have Fun!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6qzQLomvUQo>



Please bring your completed Block 1 to the October Zoom meeting to share.

MPQG **BOM** 2020-2021

Block 2: Here Comes the Sun

George Harrison wrote "Here Comes the Sun" in 1969 at the house of his friend [Eric Clapton](#), in response to the dark mood surrounding the Beatles. He was under quite a great deal of personal stress during this time with a surgery to remove his tonsils, an arrest for possession of drugs, and learning that his mother had terminal cancer. That winter was the worst recorded in England and the demands of Apple records were making recording feel "like school". He wrote, "The relief of not having to go see all those dopey accountants was wonderful, and I walked around the garden with one of Eric's acoustic guitars and wrote "Here Comes the Sun".” The times we are going through call for the optimism of his beautiful song. Have a listen and feel the weight on your shoulders lift a little bit.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KQetemT1sWc>

Remember the instructions:

- Choose a favorite color palette of fabrics in a variety of values to use on all the blocks that you create. Use your scraps! This month you'll want to include sunshine in your color choices.
- Each month we will post a new Beatles song with prompts and inspirations for your block. **You have the option of following the instructions for a block that we choose or creating your own design inspired by the song.**
- All squares will be either 18 ½ inches or 12 ½ “ unfinished; your choice. If you feel like you might not complete all the months you might prefer the larger size.
- We will ask that you share your completed block each month on Zoom and then keep your blocks to put together in a quilt of your own design.

Here is the link to the Sunshine Star by Sherri McConell. It's very much like Block 1 with HSTs and I promise to mix it up next month:)

https://bearcreekquiltingcompany.com/media/uploads/2020/01/24/files/BH3_2-Sherri-McConnell-Sunshine-Star1.pdf

The directions are for a 12” finished or 12 ½” unfinished block.

If you make an 18” finished or 18 ½” unfinished block, your square sizes are

A- 5”

B- 5 ½”

Trim your HSTs to 5 “

If you'd like a paper pieced alternative, try this 12 ½ in Sunshine Block.



<https://www.gathered.how/sewing-and-quilting/quilting/sweet-sunshine-quilt-block-pattern/>

“Come Together”

Come Together was recorded in 1969 by John Lennon for his friend, Timothy Leary, to promote Leary's campaign for Governor of California. Ronald Reagan ended up winning the 1970 Governor's race as Leary sat it out in jail for possession of marijuana. It's a great song for contentious political times. “*Come together right now / Don't come tomorrow / Don't come alone / Come together right now*”.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=45cYwDMibGo>

I chose “COMING TOGETHER” by LISSA ALEXANDER for this month's block for the name and for her wonderful introduction. “During this time of isolation I look at this block and can't help but think about how much I miss coming together with my friends and family. I just want to hug everyone's neck including my mailman, but I can't. I look at the big shapes as people and that someday we will all be joined socially together again.”

Use this link for your 12 inch finished or 12 ½ inch block.

[Block Heads 3](#)

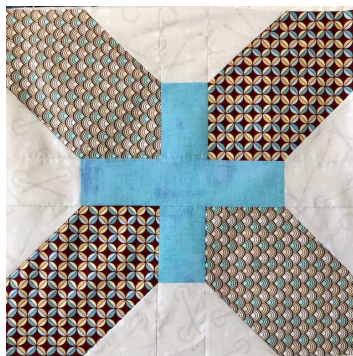
For an 18 inch finished or 18 ½ inch unfinished block, add 3 inches of your background fabric or use these measurements:

- A (4) 8 ¼”
- B (8) 4 ¼”
- C (4) 4 ¼”
- D (2) 4 ½”
- E (1) 11 ¼”

As always, you are encouraged to make up your own design

Questions?

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MPQG BOM December: 'Happy Xmas (War is Over)'

This song came about after more than two years of peace activism by John Lennon and his wife Yoko Ono. In 1969 John and Yoko rented billboard spaces in 12 major cities around the world, for the display of black-and-white posters that declared "WAR IS OVER! If You Want It – Happy Christmas from John & Yoko". Later, Lennon came up with the song as a way of continuing the themes of social unity and peaceful change, while attempting to convey optimism and avoiding the sentimentality he felt often characterised Christmas music. Have a listen to set the tone for your December block.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p8hdZVoLHrk>

In a normal year, the holidays are celebrated in many different ways in our community but this year many of us will be unable to experience these celebrations as we normally do. We'll miss the family gatherings and the normalcy of a joyful season. So let's make a joyful block! Since we celebrate in different ways, I'm including a few options this month. *Remember that you can always design your own block*, either 18 ½ or 12 ½ inches unfinished; 18 or 12 inches finished.



Option 1: Pineapple Block wreath

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l43hkvTvjUI>

Or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7ju6t9Fp9Uo>

Use either of these tutorials to make a wreath, with plenty of green fabric in the middle.

The first has a free downloadable pattern and the second uses a fun “cheater” style. Just stop adding on when you reach the desired size.



Option 2: Wonky Christmas Trees

Many of you have made wonky Christmas trees but I haven't! And I feel that wonky is so appropriate for 2020. If you agree, this tutorial by Leah Day is lots of fun. Make a bunch of trees and use the extras for a table runner, perhaps.

[How to Make Wonky Christmas Tree Quilt Blocks - Easy Quilting Tutorial with Leah Day](#)

Option 3: Poinsettia

You might feel flowery and like this Poinsettia pattern with lots of negative space is simple and elegant.

<https://modafabrics.com/2019/12/december-24-poinsettia.html>

MPQG BOM: January
Blackbird, by Paul McCartney

The Beatles released “Blackbird” on November 22, 1968. McCartney was first inspired to write the lyrics after hearing the call of a blackbird while he was in Rishikesh, India. Ultimately, the song developed into a powerful message about the unfortunate state of race relations in the United States in the 1960s.

Have a listen to Sir Paul:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RDxfjUEBT9I>

This month’s block is shamelessly borrowed from the South Florida Modern Quilt Guild, where we also found the theme for this project. Thanks, Florida Moderns!

Your block will feature a bird motif. Using flying geese, you will create a block featuring “birds”. Your geese can be of any size. You may mix sizes of geese in your block. You may use a large “goose” with tiny piecing inside. Your geese may be lined up straight or travel in a sideways or in a diagonal on your 12 in or 18.5 inch block.

Here are a couple of tutorials on flying geese that might be helpful:

[How to Sew No Waste Flying Geese - no specialty ruler](#)

[Make a One Seam Flying Geese quilt with Jenny Doan of Missouri Star! \(Video Tutorial\)](#)



This site has a nice chart for different sizes of Flying Geese

<https://www.thesprucecrafts.com/flying-geese-cutting-chart-assembly-options-2821434>

Strawberry Fields Forever

BOM February 2021

The Beatles' 1967 hit "Strawberry Fields Forever" has long been considered one of the greatest pop songs ever recorded. Released in February of that year as a double A side single along with Penny Lane, the song peaked at number eight on the US Billboard charts (The Turtles' "Happy Together" was number one that week).

On July 7, 1936, Strawberry Field, a mansion in Liverpool, was opened as an orphanage for up to forty girls. Two decades later, boys would be allowed in, but throughout most of John's childhood, Strawberry Field was an all-girls' orphanage.

Lennon often alluded to how Strawberry Field was representative of his childhood, on the outside foreboding but once he climbed over that wall, full of wildflowers and secretive gardens. It's also thought that he greatly identified with the orphans who lived there, considering that he felt abandoned by his parents. In 1980, he explained his childhood thinking, "There was something wrong with me, I thought, because I seemed to see things other people didn't see."

Have a listen while you imagine your strawberry block: https://youtu.be/HtUH9z_Oey8

Remember that you can always design your own block.

As always, your blocks are either 18 ½ or 12 ½ inches unfinished; 18 or 12 inches finished.

Below is a lovely tutorial that I used.

Strawberry Block - A Tutorial

<https://skyberrieshandmade.blogspot.com/2014/08/strawberry-block-tutorial.html>

For a 12 ½ in Block

| PINK | GREEN | WHITE |
|---|---|--|
| 17 x 2 in squares 3 x 2 ½ in squares | 2 x 2 ½ in squares from print A 2 x 2.5in squares from print B 2 x 2in squares from print C | 4 x 2in squares 5 x 2.5in squares Srtips to finish block to 12 ½ in |

For an 18 ½ in Block

| PINK | GREEN | WHITE Background |
|------|-------|---------------------|
|------|-------|---------------------|



| | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>17 x 3 in squares 3 x 3 ½ in squares</p> | <p>2 x 3 ½ in squares from print A 2 x 3 ½ in squares from print B 2 x 3in squares from print C</p> | <p>4 x 3in squares 5 x 3 ½ in squares Strips to finish the block at 18 ½ in</p> |
|---|---|---|

MPQG BOM March:

Penny Lane, Written in 1966-67 by Paul McCartney

The lyrics refer to **Penny Lane**, a street in Liverpool, and make mention of the sights and characters that McCartney recalled from his upbringing in the city. “A lot of our formative years were spent walking around those places. Penny Lane was the depot I had to change buses at to get from my house to John's and to a lot of my friends. It was a big bus terminal which we all knew very well.” Recently, a movement to change the name of Penny Lane was started, as it is thought to have been named after James Penny, who was a slave trader in the 18th century.

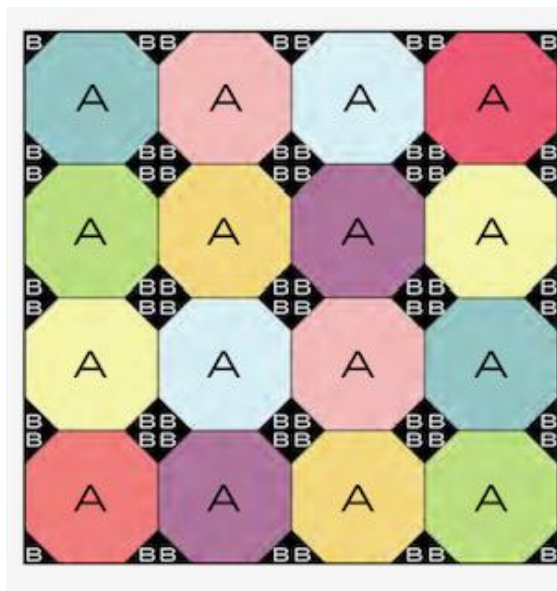
Listen and watch the Penny Lane video for inspiration!! Remember that you can choose to do your own design or the Lucky Penny block (Block Heads 3) below.

<https://youtu.be/S-rB0pHI9fU>

This hexagon quilt block is called Lucky Penny.

[Block Heads 3](#)

For fabric choices refer to the diagram below or on the Blockhead link. The block on the link is shown using (1) background fabric and (8) colored fabrics. I chose to make a penny-colored lane and so used seven copper squares and 9 grey ones, with white as my background. Plan cutting according to the quantity of colors you wish to include.



12" Block, (12 ½ " unfinished)

18" Block (18 ½" unfinished)

| | |
|--|--|
| A (16) 3 ½” squares | A (16) 5” squares |
| B (64) 1 ¼” squares; draw a diagonal line from corner to corner on the wrong side of each square. | B (64) 1 ¾” squares; draw a diagonal line from corner to corner on the wrong side of each square. |

Assembly Instructions

1. Place (1) B square with a drawn diagonal line onto each corner of (1) A square, right sides together and edges aligned.
2. Stitch along the drawn diagonal line of each B square as shown.
3. Use a rotary cutter to trim ¼” away from the drawn diagonal line as shown, removing excess fabric at each corner.
4. Press all seams outward toward the corner to complete (1) stitch and flip unit.
5. Use the following guide for stitch and flip unit sizing:
 - a. 12” Block: 3 ½” unfinished (3” finished) B. 18” Block 5” unfinished (4 ½” finished)
6. Repeat stitch and flip techniques described above to create (16) stitch and flip units using various fabrics.
7. Begin block assembly by placing all stitch and flip units in a 4 x 4 grid as shown.
8. Sew block together in horizontal rows. Press seams open to reduce bulk.
9. Sew horizontal rows together to complete block assembly.
10. Trim block to 12 ½” x 12 ½” unfinished (12” x 12” finished) or 18 ½” x 18 ½” unfinished (18” x 18” finished)

MPQG BOM April: While my Guitar Gently Weeps, by George Harrison

The song began as an experiment with a theory from the I Ching while George was visiting his parents. “While My Guitar Gently Weeps” was just a simple study based on the theory that everything has some purpose for being there at that given moment,” George explained. “I was thinking that anything I see when I open a book, I’m going to write a song about. So I opened this book and I saw ‘gently weeps.’ I shut the book and then I started the tune.” George enlisted Eric Clapton to play lead guitar on the version that made it on to the White Album, though it was very unusual for other musicians to appear on a Beatles album. The version linked below was described as, “When the teacher puts all the smart kids together..” Some of the finest musicians joined George here.

[George Harrison and Eric Clapton - While my guitar gently weeps](#)

Kathrin showed me this fun block and thought “Strings” would have something to do with the Beatles. I think it works well with this beautifully simple, yet haunting song.

[Moda Blockheads 3](#)



Strings, by Janet Clare

“I love string piecing as you can easily create really dynamic blocks full of energy. Use up all your little scraps for a fun block or take a more measured approach and have elegant stripes. What will your block look like?”

CUTTING INSTRUCTIONS:

Please note: String Blocks are created in quadrants. String Quadrants are assembled using stitch and flip methods on a plain background square. String Blocks are made to be wonky and mismatched. You may create this block as wonky, or as controlled as you like. The rectangles can be cut from colorful prints for maximum scrappiness, or using a combination of low volume background prints and colored prints to alternate between light and dark fabrics as shown to the right.

Finished block size

12"

18"

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p>Base Square:</p> <p>Use either plain solid squares of fabric or muslin for the Base Squares.</p> | <p>Cut (4) 6 1/2" x 6 1/2" squares.</p> | <p>Cut (4) 9 1/2" x 9 1/2" squares.</p> |
|--|---|---|

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| <p>Cut an assortment of rectangles within the approximate ranges listed.</p> <p>Length and width may vary depending on your desired block appearance.</p> | <p>Ranging from: 1" – 2" wide and 4 1/2" – 10" long.</p> | <p>Ranging from: 1" – 2" wide and 4 1/2" – 14" long.</p> |
|---|--|--|

ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Blocks are assembled using a method in which you stitch assorted rectangles onto base squares by stitching, flipping and pressing until the entire base square is covered. Place (1) long A rectangle with (1) base square diagonally as shown. The right side of the A rectangle should be facing upward. Ensure that the corners of the base square are covered by the A rectangle completely before proceeding. Pin the diagonal A rectangle in place.
2. Select another A rectangle. Place the new A rectangle right sides together and edges aligned with the pinned A rectangle. Ensure that it is placed so that once it's sewn, it will cover the edges of the base square.
3. Sew the A rectangles and the base square together using a 1/4" seam, following the edges of the A rectangles.
4. Once sewn, press the last sewn A rectangle away from the center of the base square and to the corner.
5. Continue attaching A rectangles to the base square using a 1/4" seam. Always attach the new A rectangle to the raw edge of the last sewn A rectangle. Repeat until the right side of the base square is completely covered.
6. Repeat to create (4) covered base squares.
7. Turn each base square over wrong side up on the cutting mat.

8. Use a ruler to trim excess A rectangle fabric from each of the base squares. Reference the cutting chart for base square sizes for each block size.
9. Arrange (4) completed base squares in a 2 x 2 grid. Arrange for even color and print distribution.
10. Sew together as shown.
11. Trim block using the guide listed below:

12 1/2" x 12 1/2" unfinished (12" x 12" finished)

18 1/2" x 18 1/2" unfinished (18" x 18")

MPQG BOM May: “Something” by George Harrison

'**Something**' was written by George Harrison, the Beatles' lead guitarist, in 1968, and is thought to be the moment he proved that he was as good at writing songs as John Lennon and Paul McCartney. Harrison's songs at this time received little interest from John Lennon and Paul McCartney but by the time *Abbey Road*'s recording began, Harrison was more assertive with his work, and his songs 'Something' and 'Here Comes the Sun' were included.

'Something' - paired as a double-A side with 'Come Together', peaked at number one in the US.

It is the second most covered Beatles song after 'Yesterday'. In 1999, Broadcast Music Incorporated (BMI) named it the 17th-most performed song of the 20th century, with 5 million performances.

Have a listen: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MZ3Vh8jZFdE>

I chose “HampshireStar” ' because this song rose George Harrison to songwriting stardom. **And** because this is such a starry eyed love song! **And** because one of my personal goals this year is to work on accuracy and this block looks like great practice.

Click here for the full instructions for your 12” (finished) 12 ½ “ (unfinished)

Block Heads 3

For my 18” (finished) 18 ½” (unfinished) block I used the eight at a time method with a 6 ½ inch block to start and then trimmed all my squares to 2 ¾ inches.

This tutorial shows you how to use this method.

<https://youtu.be/U859quQeXW0>



MPQG BOM JUNE: Twist and Shout

Towards the end of a long recording session of "Please Please Me", the Beatles needed one more song to complete the album. But John Lennon's throat was raw and he had little voice left. No one can remember who suggested "Twist And Shout", a cover of the Isley Brothers' hit, but despite John's voice being especially gone by that time, he reluctantly agreed to sing it. He "sucked on a couple more Zubes" throat sweets, gargled with some milk, took his shirt off (for some reason) and went back with the band to record the final song of the day. Everyone knew they had to get it right the first time so with that first take, The Beatles performed live exactly what you hear on the record to this day. No overdubs were needed.

Have a listen to get in your sewing mood! Do any of you remember watching this performance on the Ed Sullivan Show?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b-VAXGJdJ>

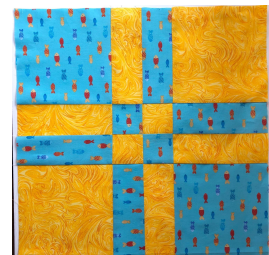
I was surprised to find more than one block named "Twist and Shout". So I chose two! Feel free to do one, both, or **a block of your own design**. These wonderful tutorials are easy to follow and fun and I've included size adjustments for our project.

Donna's FREE "Twist and Shout" Disappearing Four Patch Quilt pattern!

For a 12" finished (12 ½ "unfinished) block you'll need 7" squares to start.

For an 18" finished (18 ½ "unfinished) block you'll need 9 1/2" squares to start.

I only made this in a 12", not sure that the larger block would look great.



Make a "Twist And Shout" Quilt with Jenny Doan of Missouri Star (Video Tutorial)

The measurements in this tutorial are for a 12' finished block. For an 18' finished block, use

(3) 3 ½ in strips, cut after sewn together into (4) 6 ½ X 9 1/2 in pieces. Your background squares will be **6 ½ in**.

The added strips will be **3 x 9 ½ in** (I pieced a corner on mine just to use up scraps).

This block leaves you with an extra four pieces that you can make into another twist!



I'll be posting two more blocks and in August it will be time to put your quilts together. Hopefully we'll have a number of finished Beatles quilts to show off at our holiday party!

MPQG BOM July: All You Need is Love

The concept of “All You Need is Love” was born out of a request for a song that could be understood by people of all nations. The writing began in late May of 1967, with both John and Paul working on separate songs. It was decided that John’s version was the better choice because of its easy to understand message of love and peace.

The song was released in the middle of the Summer of Love (1967) and was a big part of the vibe of that summer.

Have a listen!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_7xMflp-irg

I know that some of you have already done this foundation pieced LOVE block, but I hadn’t. And I love it! And, all you need is love!

The instructions below have the templates for several sizes. For an 18” block either print the 12” template at 150% or add a 3” border to the 12” block. I printed at 150 % and it worked well.

[Block Heads 3](#)



MPQG BOM August: A Long and Winding Road

We've come to the last block! I hope you've enjoyed the project and will have a quilt to show for it. We'll set aside some show and tell time for these at the November or December meeting. (Or whenever you finish putting yours together.)

You have a choice this month.

I thought that the image of a long and winding road well represented this pandemic journey that we've been on...

Have a listen:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fR4HjTH_fTM

For "A Long and Winding Road", I chose a long and winding zig zag:) with lots of half square triangles. This link has instructions for a 12" (12 1/2" unfinished) block. For an 18" (18 1/2" unfinished) block, I cut 5" squares to make four at a time HSTs. Alternatively, you can make the 12" block and add a 3" border.

[Block Heads 3](#)

I also went crazy with all my little scraps and made this:
And I'll never make 1 1/2" squares again!

