

Contents at a Glance

<i>Introduction</i>	1
<i>Part I: Gathering Your Tools and Getting Ready</i>	7
Chapter 1: The Art of Quilting	9
Chapter 2: Threads, Needles, and Gadgets — And All That Jazz	17
Chapter 3: The Pièce de Résistance: Fabric	31
<i>Part II: Planning Your Masterpiece</i>	49
Chapter 4: A Patch in the Fabric of Time: Designing Quilt Blocks	51
Chapter 5: Creating and Using Templates	59
Chapter 6: Playing with Blocks and Borders: Which Way Should They Go?	69
Chapter 7: Using Your Computer as a Crystal Ball	79
<i>Part III: Sharpening Your Sewing Skills</i>	87
Chapter 8: Cuts and Creases: Pressing Matters	89
Chapter 9: Positively Perfect Piecing	99
Chapter 10: Do You Know the Way to Appliqué?	111
<i>Part IV: Ahead to the Finish: Quilting the Pieces in Place</i>	135
Chapter 11: The Plan of Attack: Deciding How to Quilt Your Quilt	137
Chapter 12: Assembling the Quilt Sandwich	147
Chapter 13: Ready, Set . . . Quilt! The Ins and Outs of Quilting Your Masterpiece	153
Chapter 14: Finishing Touches: Bindings and More	165
<i>Part V: Completing the Circle: Projects to Try</i>	179
Chapter 15: Fabulous Skill Builders	181
Chapter 16: Mixed-Technique Projects	219
Chapter 17: Projects for the Machine Queen	255
Chapter 18: Small-Scale Projects	287

<i>Part VI: The Part of Tens</i>	325
Chapter 19: Ten Quilting Timesavers.....	327
Chapter 20: Ten Tips for Displaying Your Art.....	331
Chapter 21: Top Ten Criteria Quilting Judges Use	337
<i>Appendix: Resources for Quilters</i>	343
<i>Index</i>	351

Table of Contents

***Introduction*..... 1**

About This Book.....	1
Conventions Used in This Book	2
What You're Not to Read.....	2
Foolish Assumptions	2
How This Book Is Organized.....	2
Part I: Gathering Your Tools and Getting Ready.....	3
Part II: Planning Your Masterpiece.....	3
Part III: Sharpening Your Sewing Skills	3
Part IV: Ahead to the Finish: Quilting the Pieces in Place.....	3
Part V: Completing the Circle: Projects to Try	4
Part VI: The Part of Tens	4
Icons Used in This Book.....	4
Where to Go from Here.....	5

***Part 1: Gathering Your Tools and Getting Ready*..... 7**

Chapter 1: The Art of Quilting 9

Following the Recipe for a Fabric Sandwich.....	9
The quilt top	10
The batting.....	11
The backing.....	12
“Quilt-thropology:” A Brief History of Quilt Making	12
The power of patchwork	13
Leaving a social legacy	13
A Persistent Pastime: Quilting Today	14

Chapter 2: Threads, Needles, and Gadgets — And All That Jazz . . . 17

A Thread for Every Occasion	17
Assembly threads.....	18
Machine-quilting threads.....	19
Hand-quilting threads	20
Appliqué threads	20
Stocking Up on Sewing Basket Essentials	21
Scissors — One pair won't cut it.....	21
Needles for sewing by hand.....	23
Seam ripper.....	23



- Measuring tape and marking implements24
- Needle threader25
- Thimble.....25
- Pins and pincushions26
- Glue stick27
- More Basics and Nice-to-Haves27
 - Rotary cutting supplies28
 - Quilting hoops and frames28
 - Paper and colored pencils.....29
 - Masking tape30

Chapter 3: The Pièce de Résistance: Fabric 31

- Quilting in Tall Cotton31
 - Recognizing quality cotton32
 - Staying in style and getting a good (color) value.....34
 - Measuring up37
 - Prewashing for project protection38
- Hitting a Homer with Your Batting.....39
 - Prepackaged or by the yard?39
 - Choosing your batting’s fiber content40
 - Batting 1000.....43
- Backing Up Your Quilt with the Proper Fabric45

***Part II: Planning Your Masterpiece*49**

Chapter 4: A Patch in the Fabric of Time: Designing Quilt Blocks . . .51

- Would a Quilt Block By Any Other Name Feel as Cozy?.....52
- Choosing Your Quilt Block System: Four-patch or Nine-patch54
 - Basic four-patch design54
 - Basic nine-patch design.....55
- Mapping Out Your Designs56
 - Starting out small56
 - Turning doodles into full-sized block patterns.....56

Chapter 5: Creating and Using Templates 59

- Paper or Plastic?59
 - Scrounging up some paper.....60
 - Springing for plastic sheeting60
- Going with the Grain61
- Making Templates63
 - Making templates from patterns you’ve created63
 - Making templates from ready-made patterns.....65
 - Making window templates for hand piecing.....66
- Putting Pencil to Fabric67

**Chapter 6: Playing with Blocks and Borders:
Which Way Should They Go? 69**

Set 'Em Up, Sally!.....69
 The straight set and sashing.....70
 The diagonal set71
 The vertical or “strippy” set72
 The medallion set.....74
 Making a Run for the Border.....74
 Selecting a border type.....75
 Calculating border size.....76
 Stitching the borders to your quilt77

Chapter 7: Using Your Computer as a Crystal Ball 79

Software for Soft Quilts: Checking Out What’s Available80
 Beginning Your Quilt Design: Building Blocks81
 Selecting or creating your block.....82
 Perfecting your block design82
 Glimpsing Your Quilt’s Future84
 Playing with layouts and borders.....84
 Trying on fabrics from fabric libraries85
 Calculating yardage and printing patterns85

Part III: Sharpening Your Sewing Skills 87

Chapter 8: Cuts and Creases: Pressing Matters 89

Creating a Cutting Game Plan89
 Slicing through Rotary Cutting Basics.....91
 Prepping your fabric for rotary cutting91
 Cutting strips, squares, and rectangles92
 Cutting triangles93
 Addressing Pressing94
 Pressing seam allowances96
 Blowing off steam97

Chapter 9: Positively Perfect Piecing 99

Perfect Machine Piecing for the Impatient Quilter99
 Setting up your machine100
 Chain piecing to save time and thread102
 Hand Piecing for the Purist.....103
 Piecing Blocks with Set-in Seams106
 Standing on a Firm Foundation108
 What is foundation piecing?.....108
 Putting fabric to paper.....109

Chapter 10: Do You Know the Way to Appliqué?111

Appliqué: Stylistic Versatility	111
Appliqué Basics for Hand and Machine	112
Doing Seams: Appliqués with Seam Allowances	113
Turning under the seam allowance.....	114
Hand stitching the appliqués.....	118
Machine stitching the appliqués	120
Look, Ma, No Seam Allowances! Fusible Machine Appliqué.....	123
Buying fusible transfer webbing.....	124
Preparing for machine appliqué.....	124
Stitching it all in place	127

**Part IV: Ahead to the Finish: Quilting the Pieces
in Place..... 135****Chapter 11: The Plan of Attack: Deciding How to Quilt Your Quilt . . .137**

Machine versus Hand Quilting	137
Considering Spacing	138
Choosing a Stitching Pattern	139
Outline quilting to enhance shapes	139
Filler patterns for quilting large areas	139
Decorative quilting patterns and stencils	144

Chapter 12: Assembling the Quilt Sandwich147

Marking Your Quilting Stitch Designs	147
Pulling Together Top, Batt, and Back Layers	149
Assembling the quilt layers.....	149
Basting the layers together	149
Taming the Bed-size Beast	151

**Chapter 13: Ready, Set . . . Quilt! The Ins and
Outs of Quilting Your Masterpiece153**

Introducing the Quilting Stage and Your Options	154
Hooping It Up with Hand Quilting	154
Setting things up	155
Threading the needle 'n hiding the knot	155
Hand stitching your quilt	156
Making Fast Progress with Machine Quilting	158
Preparing large-size projects	159
Starting out simply with straight-line quilting.....	160
Breaking boundaries with free-motion machine quilting.....	162
Taking the Tie Road	163

Chapter 14: Finishing Touches: Bindings and More	165
Calculating Your Binding Needs	165
In a Bias Bind	166
Creating bias strips	166
Tackling traditional bias binding.....	169
Double-fold binding.....	172
Using What You Already Have: Self-Binding	174
Keeping It All Inside: Pillow-style Finishing	176

Part V: Completing the Circle: Projects to Try **179**

Chapter 15: Fabulous Skill Builders	181
Hand-Quilted Starburst Pillow.....	181
Stashing your materials	181
Preparing the pillow top for quilting	182
Quilting the pillow top.....	184
Assembling the pillow.....	185
Half-Size Starburst Quilting Pattern.....	187
Trapunto Mini-Pillow	187
Stashing your materials	188
Preparing the pillow top.....	188
Quilting the pillow top.....	190
Adding dimension to the pillow top	191
Assembling the pillow.....	193
Full-Size Trapunto Pattern	195
Dancing Blossoms Wall Hanging	195
Stashing your materials	196
Cutting the pieces	196
Creating the appliquéd blocks.....	197
Assembling the quilt center	199
Adding the borders	200
Quilting your quilt.....	201
Blossom Spray Pattern	202
Center Leaf Spray Pattern	203
Traditional Basket Wall Hanging	203
Stashing your materials	204
Creating appliquéd shapes	204
Appliquéd the shapes	206
Assembling the quilt top	208
Quilting and finishing the project	210
Half-Size Quilting Pattern and Full-Size Appliquéd Templates	211
Half-Size Basket Template	212

Chicken Scratch Foundation-Pieced Quilt	212
Stashing your materials	213
Cutting the pieces	213
Creating the foundation-pieced blocks.....	213
Creating the quilt center.....	214
Quilting your quilt	216
Chicken Scratch Foundation Block Pattern.....	217

Chapter 16: Mixed-Technique Projects219

Rosy Wreath Quilt	219
Stashing your materials	219
Cutting out the pieces.....	220
Creating the flower squares	221
Creating the leaf squares.....	224
Assembling the quilt top	226
Quilting and finishing your quilt	228
Stem Diagram and Leaf Template	229
Scrappy Bloomers Wall Hanging or Lap Quilt	230
Stashing your materials	230
Preparing the appliqué pieces.....	231
Appliquing the quilt blocks.....	231
Assembling the quilt top	233
Quilting and finishing the project	234
Scrappy Bloomers Template.....	235
Snow Crystals Lap Quilt	236
Stashing your materials	236
Preparing the appliqué pieces.....	236
Appliquing the snowflakes	237
Assembling the quilt top	239
Quilting and finishing the project	244
Snowflake Template	245
Winter Holly Lap Quilt or Wall Hanging	246
Stashing your materials	246
Cutting out the pieces.....	246
Creating holly blocks	248
Assembling the quilt top	250
Appliquing the bows	252
Quilting and finishing the project	252
Leaf Template and Half-Size Appliqué Pattern	253

Chapter 17: Projects for the Machine Queen255

Pieced Flower Pots Wall Hanging	255
Stashing your materials	256
Cutting the pieces	256
Assembling the pieced blocks	257
Assembling the quilt top	261
Quilting and completing the project.....	262

Pieced Blossoms Lap Quilt	263
Stashing your materials	264
Cutting the pieces	264
Creating the petal blocks.....	267
Joining petals to make flower blocks.....	270
Assembling the quilt top	272
Quilting and finishing your quilt	273
Americana Appliqués Banner	274
Stashing your materials	275
Cutting out the pieces.....	276
Creating the quilt center.....	276
Quilting your quilt	280
Americana Star Template.....	281
Scrappy Pines Lap or Nap Quilt	281
Stashing your materials	281
Cutting out the pieces.....	282
Appliquing the tree blocks	283
Assembling the quilt top	283
Quilting and finishing your quilt	284
Pine Tree Template	286

Chapter 18: Small-Scale Projects 287

Appliquéd Bluebirds Breakfast Set	287
Stashing your materials	287
Making the pillow	288
Appliquing the place mat	292
Appliquing the napkin	294
Appliquing the kitchen towel.....	295
Bluebird Template.....	297
Pink Tulips Breakfast Set.....	298
Stashing your materials	298
Assembling the quilt blocks.....	299
Making the place mats.....	302
Making the hot pad	305
Making the napkins	307
Pink Tulips Patterns.....	308
Blue Star Place Mat and Hot Pad.....	311
Stashing your materials	311
Putting together a place mat.....	312
Assembling a hot pad	316
Making a napkin.....	319
Pastel Nine-Patch Wall Hanging.....	320
Stashing your materials	320
Assembling the quilt top	320
Quilting and completing the project.....	324

<i>Part VI: The Part of Tens</i>	325
Chapter 19: Ten Quilting Timesavers	327
Go For a Wash and Spin.....	327
Keep Your Machine Tiptop	327
Set Up an Efficient Workspace.....	328
Stick to Neutral Thread	328
Divide Your Work into Mini-Projects	328
Forego the Iron in Favor of the Finger.....	328
Work Assembly Line–Style.....	329
Stitch on the Run.....	329
Keep Several Needles Threaded	329
Spring for Prepackaged Binding.....	330
Chapter 20: Ten Tips for Displaying Your Art	331
Pin Your Quilt to the Wall.....	331
Use Wooden Quilt Hangers	332
Hang Around with Dowel Sleeves and Rods	332
Use a Café Curtain Rod.....	333
Cover a Table.....	334
Drape the Quilt over Furniture.....	334
Fold and Stack	334
Artfully Arrange.....	334
Fold and Place	335
Drape It over the Stair Railing	335
Chapter 21: Top Ten Criteria Quilting Judges Use	337
Design	337
Unity.....	338
Balance and Layout.....	338
Neatness	338
Construction	339
Craftsmanship	339
Quilting.....	339
Finishing	340
Special Features	340
Overall Appearance	341
 <i>Appendix: Resources for Quilters</i>	 343
 <i>Index</i>	 351