

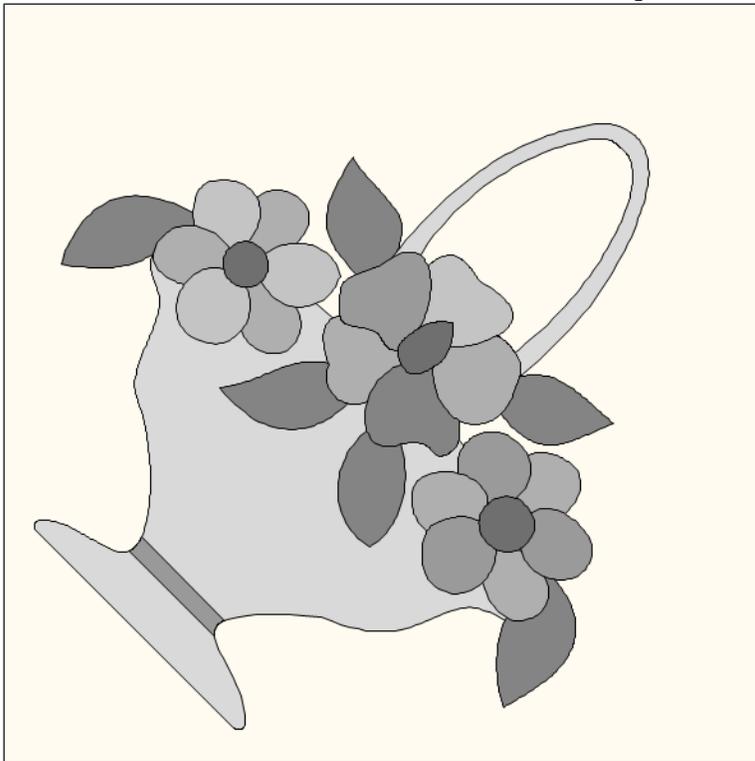
Spring Mystery Quilt by Jo Moury

Come away with me and explore your own creative muse. Come play, and learn to make design choices that will make this little spring wall hanging uniquely yours!! Come on, take the leap and start saying “what if...” when you see a design you like. What if I changed the colors, or the inner border; added appliqué, or took it away. What if, I changed it to make it the way that reflects my personality?

This little mystery quilt is little “different” from most mystery quilts, or really, from most printed patterns. I’m going to offer you 2 or three options for each border that surrounds the simple appliqué of the center block. Each border you select will have an impact on the succeeding border options you choose. But, I’ll be offering little tips to guild you.

While this could be done in any fabric from Civil War or 1930’s reproductions, to jewel tone brights done on a dark background, it could also be done in a spring palette and anything in between. This is the first of your decisions.

Here is the center block that will finish to a 12” square.



So, to get started, here is what you’ll need to gather from your stash.

Fabric Requirements:

1 1/4 yard background
scraps for appliqué and one possible scrappy pieced border surrounding the center block
1/3 yard 1 accent color for border around appliqué square plus one other border
2 coordinating fabrics for outer border
5/8 yard **each**.

You "might" want to have one or 2 extra FQ in coordinating fabrics to your background IF you want to piece the setting triangles around the center block and first border.

Here are some tips to get you started with the appliqué:

The block in the Quilt for this lesson is set straight so it will print as a 12".

The block will finish at 12", I recommend cutting your background fabric to 14", doing the appliqué then, squaring the block to 12 1/2". Almost anytime you appliqué, the background fabric is going to stretch a little one way and shrink a little somewhere else. If you cut the background fabric larger than you want, you have the latitude to square the block and still have an accurate 1/4 inch seam allowance for your piecing.

This block will be set on-point. You will be given options in the third installment to choose the setting triangles we'll use to set it "up right"

To center the appliqué on your block, fold the 14" square in half diagonally and finger press the fold. Repeat and finger press the opposite diagonal fold. The center of your square is where the two diagonal lines intersect.

Print a block placement guide from the EQ7 project by printing the block this way: FILE > Print > Block > As applique pattern. Print as 12". Trim it along the outside block outline. Fold this diagonally in half to find the vertical and horizontal centering lines.

There are many ways to use the appliqué placement guideline to place your various shapes on the background. My favorite way is to use an ultra-fine Sharpie marker to trace the design onto a fine plastic overlay called Quilter Preview Paper. This gives you a very accurate guide without marking on your background fabric. Lots of people use a light weight upholstery plastic, this does work well, I just find it a little heavy and stiff.

Finally, I find pinning all the shapes for a flower on your background fabric allows you to take a step back and make sure all the colors play nicely together. Sometimes I think I've picked the perfect color for a petal then, at this stage say, "what was I thinking?" Trust me; it's a whole lot easier and less frustrating to cut another petal than to "de-sew" the flower!

Okay, enough talking. Let's go sew!!!

Jo

ABOUT JO:

Jo started quilting in 1988 and has been designing since the mid 1990's. She writes: "The first version of Electric Quilt opened my eyes to the wonderful world of creating my own ideas in fabric, and I've been addicted ever since. I was selected as a Beta Tester for the past two version of Electric Quilt."

"My favorite types of quilts of those that incorporate piecing and appliqué and two block quilts where the blocks combine to form a happy secondary surprise. My evenings find me with appliqué or embroidery on my lap while I 'watch' TV. When I'm not engaged in some aspect of quilting, you'll probably find me at the gym, gardening or traveling with my sweet husband, Jerry."