



## **PIECING A QUILT TOP FROM BLOCKS SENT TO YOU FROM JEANNE**

Thank you for raising your hand and offering to piece a quilt top for The 70273 Project. Here are a few things to keep in mind . . .

### **BLOCKS**

- Please use as many of the blocks as you can.
- If you receive more than one bundle, please do not move blocks from one bundle to another.
- Should you find that you can't use all of the blocks, return the unused blocks to me, leaving the id tag attached so I can keep good, accurate records.
- If blocks are too small, feel free to add white fabric to them to size them as needed.
- If blocks are too large, trim as needed.
- If there are gaps, you can fill them in with blank white fabric from your stash. Should you decide that another block is better, make the block in the size you need, then email me to let me know how many blocks you made and the size of each block so I can assign a number and get it entered in the block database.
- If the numbers fall off the blocks, reattach them as best you can.
- Please make a list of the block numbers you use in the top and send those to me. It's a way for me to double check to make sure every block is accounted for. Once that's sent, give me a couple of days to match your numbers with mine, and once I'm sure I haven't made a mistake, you can remove id tags if desired.

### **THE ID/NUMBER TAGS ON THE BLOCKS**

Each block bears a tag showing the number of the block. You can see the evolution of my numbering system in any one quilt. Some tags are numbers written on little snippets of fabric; some are numbers on tiny pieces of paper; some are numbers on blue painters' tape attached to the back of the block; and some are numbers written in red on the back of the block. These are a very important piece of the project. Why? Because each block number can be traced back to its Maker, and ultimately, anybody will be able to visit the web site to see which quilt their blocks are in and where in the world those quilts are. The block numbers are the key to tracking this very important information.

I've included a photo of a worksheet for Quilt 10 from Margaret Williams. I'd like you to do the same - sketch out the block placement and jot the number in each block then email a copy of the quilt map to me. This is so incredibly helpful to me because it gives me the block numbers she used in the quilt and a way for me to double check everything before creating the labels and logging everything into the permanent file. It has also come in handy for many Piecers for various reasons.

If you'd rather not sketch out the block placement like Margaret did, at least do this: when you've finished piecing the top, snip off the tags and use clear tape them to attach them to a sheet of paper. If the numbers are written on the back of blocks, just pen those to the same sheet of paper. Once you have recorded all the block numbers you used, scan or snap a photo of the sheet of paper, and email that to me. If you would also note the other particular bits of information - finished dimension, the month and year of completion, how many blocks are in the top, and your name - I'd be most grateful. Again, that gives me yet another way to check and find information when and as needed.

## **PHOTOS**

Feel free to post as many "in progress" photos as you desire in social media, and please be sure to tag me when you do so that I can add each photo to the quilt's file.

## **QUILT LABEL**

I will create a quilt label for each quilt and email it to the person doing the quilting and finishing. They will print it on fabric and hand stitch it to the back of the finished quilt in the lower righthand corner as you're looking at the back of the quilt, without attaching it to the binding.

## **QUILT MAP**

Though a quilt map (a photo or line drawing of the quilt top with the block numbers in each block to show block placement) is no longer required, some Piecers create such a map as part of their design process. If you are one of Those and would be so kind as to send me a copy of your quilt map, I'd be oh so grateful.

## **FINISHED SIZE**

I want quilts of all sizes so that we'll have something to fit in any venue, and you are free to make the quilt any size you want. Should you choose to make a Long Skinny, keep in mind that those are 15" side and as long as you want to make it.

## **ORIENTATION**

If you are passing the top off to someone else to quilt and you have a preference for how it will be hung, please pin a note to the top to let the quilters know where to attach the hanging sleeve.

### **THOUGHTS FROM KITTY SORGEN (WHO PIECED #1)**

*Thank you for volunteering to do the piecing of one of the quilts for the 70273 Project! Your help is vital to the success of this endeavor. Below are a few guidelines that may be helpful to you. When you first receive your packet of blocks, it may feel overwhelming. You may feel, like I did, that you're in over your head. Take a deep breath, and let's break down what you're going to need to do.*

- 1 Start with your largest blocks . . . 12.5" x 9.5" size. You will want to measure each of these to be sure they are the correct measurement. If not, you may need to trim or add an extra strip of white fabric. A "slight" shortage of the block you can "fudge" in the seam allowance, but anything more than 1/8" you will need to add to the block. When adding strips to the block, cut them larger than you need, add to the block, then trim the block to the correct size.*
- 2 Once you get the large blocks to the correct size, place them on your design wall, randomly. You will be filling in around and between these blocks with your other smaller blocks. Remember that all the blocks do not need to be placed horizontally. There will be some blocks that will "read" equally well placed vertically. Use your sense of design to determine placement of the blocks.*
- 3 Take your next group of blocks . . . 6.5" x 9.5", and after checking their measurements and fixing any that need trimming or adding, begin to add these to your design wall. Remember, nothing you're doing at this stage is cast in stone. Once you get all your blocks on the design wall, you will be able to move things around. The 9.5" side of these blocks will fit nicely against the 9.5" side of the larger blocks. Be sure you have these medium sized blocks spaced throughout the quilt.*
- 4 Now, after measuring, and fixing if necessary, add your 3.5" x 6.5" blocks. Three of these vertically, or two of these horizontally, will fit along the 12.5" side of the large block, and they will fit horizontally against the 6.5" side of the medium size block. Shift and change things around until everything fits and you have a pleasing arrangement. I found that I needed lots of the small and medium size blocks and not so many of the largest size. But all of our quilts will be different, and you need to do what works best for your quilt and the blocks you've been sent.*
- 5 Study your layout. If you have any blocks made out of stretchy material, you might want to be sure they are in the middle of the*

*quilt and not along the outside edges. The same goes for any blocks made of material that frays easily. By placing them in the interior of the quilt, they will be stabilized by the blocks surrounding them.*

- 6 *Now you have the challenge of sewing your top together. Your blocks may not make straight rows across the quilt. I found that sometimes my blocks needed to be sewn together horizontally, and sometimes vertically. I found that it worked best to piece my quilt in sections. You may find this to be true for you, too. Take your time to study your layout. How does it make sense for you to do the piecing?*



Margaret Williams' worksheet for Quilt #10

~~~~~

More information can be found on the Information for Ps and Qs page at [www.The70273Project.org](http://www.The70273Project.org). More questions or suggestions? I'm all ears. [The70273Project@gmail.com](mailto:The70273Project@gmail.com).