

X's and O's

Kathryn Greenwold Quilts

QUILT-Schenectady Mystery Quilt 2013-14

The Mystery Quilt is a year-long challenge beginning in September and ending in June with Show and Share (and awards!) You will receive one installment of the instructions each month from September through February. This way you will have all the instructions needed to complete this top following our February meeting which should give you enough time to have it finished for our June meeting. There will be a few copies of instructions available at each meeting, but they will also be posted month to month on the guild website for easy access and downloading. Any questions, call Kathie Greenwold.

X's and O's is a great stash buster – or it can be a more planned creation – whichever approach you want to take. Begin with a fabric you really love and go from there. All piecing techniques used are simple and would be appropriate even for a beginning quilter. This quilt would make a great throw for use at home, a Northern Rivers Family Services (formerly Northeast Parent & Child) or a Soldier/VA donation quilt. Feel free to make the design your own enlarging it by adding pieced borders, creative color/fabric placement, or add some appliqué (additional yardage would probably be needed.) As planned here, the quilt will finish to approximately 60" x 72". Have fun as the design evolves!

Part 1 - September

Fabrics needed:

2 yards of your feature fabric

32 - 2 1/2" X WOF strips from a strip pack or jelly roll, or make a set of strips from your stash. If you want a really scappy look and are working from your stash, cut 64 2 1/2" x 22" strips – the more the merrier!

You will also need:

1/3 yard solid or tone-on-tone to coordinate with your featured fabric for the 1st border

1/2 yard binding – perhaps the same as your border #1 or featured fabric.

4 yards of backing (or 2 yards of a double-wide fabric).

A twin size batting.

Some fabric considerations:

For a more controlled look, you could cut your strips from only one or two colorways or use 2 strips each of 16 fabrics or 4 each of 8 fabrics. You might also consider 6-7 strips from 10 fat quarters.

Your featured fabric should be what sets the tone for your quilt – it can be bold and dramatic or soft and floral – but let it inform what you choose for the strip set.

If your featured fabric is very busy and/or multicolored, you might calm the quilt down with fewer colors/fabrics in the strip set and vice versa.

If you have a strip set you really, really want to use, then choose a featured fabric that will be visually dynamic with the strip set.

Cutting:

Cut 60 squares that measure 4 1/2" x 4 1/2" from your feature fabric. Set aside in a ziptop bag to keep them ready for use in a couple of months.

Construction:

Pair your strips by light/dark or strong color contrast.

Sew them together lengthwise. See Fig. 1. You will

have 16 strip sets when completed. Press to the dark fabric.



Figure 1

if using one of the alternative numbers of strips, you will have a different number of strip sets, but it should equal half the number of the strips you started with.