

BOURNE QUILTERS BLOCK OF THE MONTH 2025

Introduction

Welcome to the first Bourne quilters Block of the Month (BOM)

Each month, for 9 months, we will be introducing a new block for you to make. Then we will look at quilting, sashing (putting together) and binding to finish your quilt. So, by this time next year you will have a completed quilt, in plenty of time for our 2026 show!

We wanted to do something that everyone could join in with, beginners and experienced quilters alike. This project starts off with the absolute simplest of blocks so that our beginners can start to learn what goes into making a quilt and to develop the skills (and vocabulary!) needed. Don't let this put off the more experienced among us - we will be progressing to more complicated blocks during the year so, hopefully, there will be something for everyone.

Sue Rhodes is kindly running a mini beginners' workshop on February 11th and she will be able to help with all you need to know to get started. If you have any questions about any of the blocks please don't be afraid to ask at one of our meetings. Anyone on the committee will be glad to help as, I am sure, would most of our more experienced members. The Tuesday morning Stitchers group is also a great place to get help and support.

I'm really looking forward to seeing everyone's BOM developing.

Step 1 - Choose your fabrics.

To complete the project you will need 4 colour fabrics and a background. The fabrics will be interchangeable so you don't need to buy lots of fabric, if you run out of one, another can be easily substituted. It will be fine to start off with a few fat quarters.

Sue has put the following notes together to help you choose your fabrics:

Bourne Quilters Fabric Notes

The colour palette should include four colours, and a background, and within those colours there should be a variety of dark, medium and light tones. The fabrics are interchangeable, so if you run out of one, another can be easily substituted. Or you could decide to use only one colour eg blue. The same applies to this – you would need a good variety of different tones or values.

Value.

Value is the darkness or lightness of a fabric, contrast is the degree of difference between the values. These are the ways in which definition is given to traditional quilt blocks. So, add value to your armoury of tools to create interesting blocks.

Value is relative – a very light fabric placed next to a very dark fabric makes the dark darker and the light lighter e.g. black and white. A medium value placed next to a medium value is a weak contrast. Areas of high contrast are much more dramatic, they create areas of visual tension. When you're next at a quilt show have a look with these ideas in mind. Muted or soft contrasts seem to recede. In lots of quilts the relationship between dark and light values to give almost an optical illusion. As a general rule, the eye perceives the dark values as heavier than light values.

To determine the value of your colour choices there is a really easy way to check now by using your phone. Take a photo of your fabric, then apply the monochrome filter on your phone or I pad, this will immediately tell you the relative dark, medium and light values of what you have chosen. Try to have a good spread of dark, light and medium fabrics in the blocks so that the quilt looks balanced.

There are also fabrics which are multi coloured and that makes it difficult to define them as a single colour – they are great as accents though and may fit in with your overall colour scheme.

So read on for instructions for the first block, Puss in the middle.

Block of the month

February

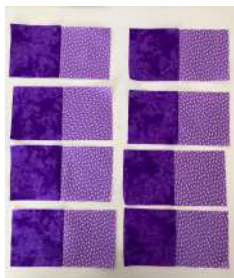
Puss in the Middle



For this block you will only need 2 fabrics, 1 light and 1 dark

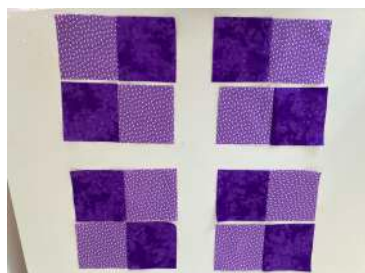


Cut 8 x 3 1/2 inch squares from each fabric



Join each dark square to a light square

Press seams towards the dark square



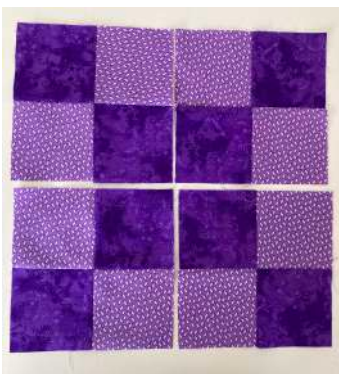
Pair up the strips of 2 squares, placing dark and light fabrics diagonally opposite



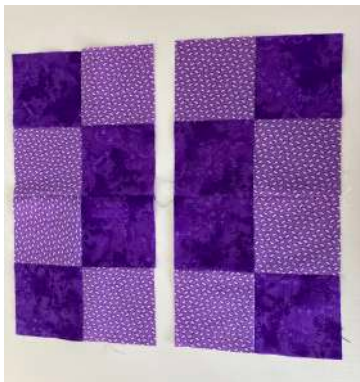
Stitch together to make 4 x 4 patch mini blocks

If all the seams have been pressed to the dark side they will nest together to give good clean points

Press seams towards one side



Arrange your 4 x 4 patches so that the dark squares (or light, depending on your preference) are in the four corners and in the middle



Join each pair of squares together

Press seams



Join the 2 pairs together

Press

Your first block is finished!

Well done!