

Block of the Month Program

Using "Once Upon a Time: Fairy Tale Puzzle Quilts"

Written by Beth Helfter, published by Quiltwoman.com

Recommended for: Shops looking for a machine appliqué-based BOM program

Suggested quilter level: Confident Beginner and up

Timeline for completion: 10 months

Thank you for your interest in this BOM program. The following directions are intended to be used as a guideline to make the program run smoothly for your shop, but are not set in stone. Please feel free to adapt anything you wish to make the program work best for your shop. To make the most of the program, I do recommend combining the monthly block assignment with a short demo of one of the various embellishment or appliqué techniques contained in the book; this will allow for increased sales of any embellishment materials your shop specializes in. A suggested demo for each month is included in the monthly assignment chart.

You are of course welcome to use any of the various layouts contained in the book as your shop's BOM program. However, the program I outline for you here will use the 24" x 36" wall hanging found on pages 23-24. It's a good size for a 10 month program and will allow quilters to choose from either horizontal or vertical orientation when sewing the blocks together, further adding to the individuality of each quilt.

Supplies needed

Background fabrics	2 yards total (8 fat quarters)
Appliqué fabrics	1 ¼ yards total (scraps okay)
Border fabrics	1 yard (See borders chapter **)
Backing	1 ¼ yard
Binding	2/3 yard

*** The quilter may wish to wait until month 9, when the top is complete, to choose a border style and purchase the main border fabric with which to create it. In that case, the quilter will purchase fabric based on the calculation chart for their chosen border in the borders chapter. However, many quilters may want to purchase all the fabric at once, and if so, purchasing **1 yard total** will be enough for any border style they may choose.*

The 24" x 36" wall hanging size uses four 6 ½" x 12 ½"* blocks, two 12 ½"* blocks, and eight 6 ½"* blocks. It is suggested that your shop break down the monthly block completion requirements as shown in the following chart:

Monthly assignments for BOM program

Month	Project requirement	Suggested Shop Demo
1	Two 6 ½” blocks	Couching with cording
2	One 6 ½” x 12 ½” block	Do it yourself name appliqué (page 52)
3	One 6 ½” x 12 ½” <i>and</i> One 6 ½”	Decorative stitching for appliqué or for embellishment
4	One 12 ½” block	Tulle curtain or bustle (page 40)
5	One 6 ½” x 12 ½” <i>and</i> One 6 ½”	Fabric or ribbon Rosette (page 10)
6	One 6 ½” x 12 ½” <i>and</i> One 6 ½”	Gathered ribbon (page 10)
7	Two 6 ½” blocks	Silk ribbon flowers
8	One 12 ½” block <i>and</i> One 6 ½” block	Beading or iron-on jewels
9	Sew blocks together in your desired layout	Outlining blocks with a trim (page 11)
10	Border of your choice	Continuous binding (page 79)

*Please note block sizes are given as *unfinished* block sizes.

Further suggestions:

- Provide embellishment kits as an add-on option for participants. Kits could include any specialty embellishment materials your shop carries and can be pre-made or created to coordinate with participant fabric selections.
- Add to the challenge by requiring a simple but specific element be incorporated into participant blocks each month, for example “heart”, “swirl”, or a particular color.
- At the end of the program, hold a tea party in your shop as part of the reveal. Participants can show and tell their creations while wearing boas and tiaras.