

# Mystery Quilt Sew Along - 2018

*Designed by Kathleen Tracy (of Country Lane Quilts)*

Welcome to a repeat of a little quilting adventure my online groups did in 2018. I hope you'll join me in making a Mystery quilt this year. Here's how it will work –

1. This is a **free** sew along for a scrappy medallion quilt that will measure about 30" x 30". There are no patterns to buy. Just download the .pdf patterns every month from my website and print them out. (You may need to download Adobe .pdf reader in order to open these .pdf files. Also, make sure you have the latest, updated version of Adobe.) You'll be working on this project every month and if you follow along, you'll finish the last pattern in June 2021.
2. The first step will be posted on **January 15**. I will post the rest of the steps for the 2018 mystery quilt patterns on the fifteenth day of every month through June.
3. I like to make scrappy quilts and so this one is planned as a scrap quit. While I use a lot of different colored scraps, I like my scrap quilts to have a "rhyme and a reason" so it's not entirely haphazard - there is some planning involved. I repeat some of the same colors throughout the quilt in different prints to have a "theme." You may notice that my favorite color is blue and so many of my favorite scrappy quilts use lots of blue to pull them together. My suggestion: Take your time choosing your fabrics. Look at some of your favorite quilts made by your favorite designers and try to figure out what it is about their quilts that you love. When you choose your fabrics for the first block, repeat some of the same colors but in different prints or select colors that will coordinate with those for the rest of the quilt. Use your favorite colors but don't be afraid to try coordinating them with other colors. This will set the tone for your quilt and bring it all together at the end. The blocks will be simple to make and even if you're a beginner you shouldn't have any trouble.
4. The first step involves appliqué to start. I realize that some of you may not like doing appliqué at all and so I am offering you the option of making a pieced block instead. The alternate block will be the same size as the appliqué block and the rest of the quilt will be the same. The appliqué can be done in cotton fabric or wool. You may choose your own method of appliqué. There are lots of different ways of doing it and you have many to choose from so keep in mind that I cannot give instructions for every method of doing appliqué. You're on your own for that. Take a look at the **Quilting Basics** section at the end of some of my later books. You'll see some tips with diagrams as to how I like to do my own appliqué using the template and starch method. Or, look at YouTube for some applique tutorials on this method.
5. Except for the first block, the blocks are small and I think many of you can easily sew this from your stash and scrap basket and perhaps use a few additional fat quarters. Sometimes, buying a couple of new pieces of fabric will inspire you and "liven" up your project. If you do not have a shop that sells reproduction fabrics near you, try finding a shop online.

Thanks to all of you for joining in! I'm hoping you'll have fun with this one. *-Kathy*

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