

# *Welcome to the 2024 Basket Quilt Sew Along with Kathleen Tracy*

Welcome to our little quilting adventure to kick off 2024. Here's how the Basket Sew Along will work -

I've posted a .pdf pattern for a pieced 4" Basket (or "Cake stand") block in the Kathleen Tracy Quilts Facebook group files (and also on my website [www.countrylanequilts.com](http://www.countrylanequilts.com)).



Make your quilt using as many blocks as you like in any color you like. There are a few suggestions in that file. The other option you have is to make a quilt using a basket pattern from one of my books or patterns. Some of you already have my books and patterns but you can see my Etsy Oh Kathleen shop for a few of the latest ones. Schoolgirl Sampler has directions for 3 different 4" basket blocks. Or try Amazon for one of my older books. There's a file called Some Quilts from Kathy's Books that tells you where to find the basket patterns. Please do not use any old basket pattern for a quilt by another designer. This sew along is strictly for

making baskets from my patterns. Sometimes there are copyright restrictions on using other patterns. I do not want to be responsible for those directions nor do I wish to take the time to explain how to make them if they are not my patterns. Thanks for understanding. Just please limit your quilt to one of my designs. Also, please do not upload or copy directions for any published patterns. It's illegal and it's not fair to me or those who have purchased them.

Many of you have opted to make a basket block with appliqued handles. My suggestion is to use the 1/4" Clover Bias Tape Maker for this. I will show you how to use it to make bias strips and form them into curved handles. There are numerous videos on YouTube as well. You can get this tool at your local quilt shop, craft store or online store. Or Amazon.

The blocks we'll be using are fairly simple to sew if you're used to making some of my quilts. But I'll admit - 4' x 4" is sort of small so if you're new to quilting it might help to read the file "Sewing Small Blocks" in the group files. Small blocks like these sometimes require a little bit of practice and patience. There are some good tips in the files for making half-square triangles so your points are not cut off.

We'll all work together at our own pace - there is no time table for finishing. Keep in mind this is not a race or competition. Take your time to choose a block for your quilt and show us your progress as you go along. Do the best you can to make at least a block or two per week and see how it goes. Sewing blocks together in a group is simply fun and I think it encourages us to stay on track and keep going. We're always inspired by

everyone's fabric choices and settings so I look forward to that. We're here to help and encourage you so feel free to ask questions but it helps if you scroll through the posts and read the messages first. The answer is often somewhere in the posts. Note that I'm not online 24/7 so your patience is appreciated. Have fun and enjoy the journey! Baskets are not as difficult to make as they seem and I am looking forward to seeing your creations.

*-Kathy*