

♥ *Welcome to the Schoolgirl Sampler Sew Along* ♥



Finished Size of Sampler Quilt: 61 1/2" x 61 1/2"

Finished Block Size: 4" x 4"

Number of Blocks: 72



Hello, quilting friends - I'm excited that so many of you have decided to join us in making the Schoolgirl Sampler quilt. My sampler quilt contains 72 simple four-inch blocks with an inner sawtooth border and an applique center.

Here's how the Sew Along will work - Each week for 12 weeks I'll post suggestions for making six blocks. You will follow the directions in the book and make those blocks. I'll post the first six blocks on January 1, 2021 and will continue doing this on Monday of each week until we have all 72 blocks completed (end of March 2021). Then, we'll go on to make the other parts of the quilt. You can substitute 9 blocks instead of the applique design in the center if you prefer to do it that way. Of course, you may work at your own pace throughout. Some will make more than six blocks every week. If you wish to stay on track, however, try to make the suggested blocks each week so you don't get too far behind. I'll give you tips for making the blocks and putting the quilt together

as we sew along. At the end, you'll have learned quite a bit about working with and piecing small blocks and will have made your own lovely sampler quilt.

Basic Quilting Supplies

Cutting mat

Rotary cutter

Rulers (Recommended: a 6" x 12" ruler for cutting, a 6" x 24" for cutting border strips, and a 4 ½" square ruler for squaring up your blocks. If you can only buy one, then get a 6" x 12" non-slip ruler.)

Pins

Needles (Recommended: Size 75/11 Universal or 70/10 Microtex Sharp for your machine)

Thread (Recommended: 100 % cotton thread for machine. I prefer Aurifil 50 wt.)

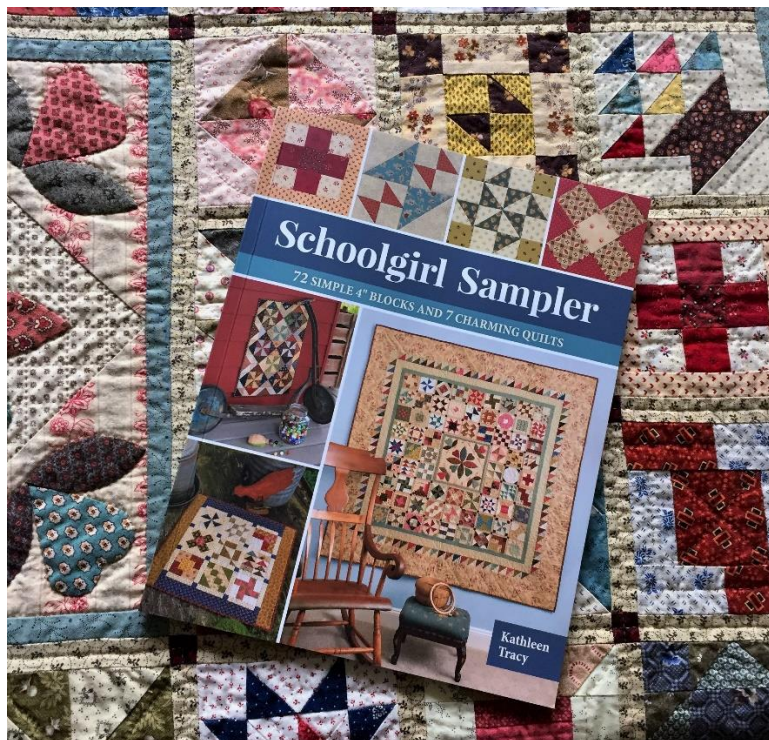
Seam ripper

Iron and pressing mat or surface

Sewing machine if you're piecing your blocks by machine

Supplies needed to begin the sew along

The first item you will need is the BOOK!



Inside, you'll find all of the cutting directions and instructions for making each block with simple diagrams. There are great illustrations for putting the whole quilt together as well. FYI - I will not be giving out the directions to you each week - you need to have the book to follow along and make your quilt.

The second thing you'll need is some pretty fabric. Some have asked if they have to use Civil War or reproduction fabrics for the sampler quilt. This is YOUR quilt so make it the way you like with the fabrics you prefer. Anything goes. My quilt was made with 1800s reproduction fabric in a variety of my favorite prints. I used light and tan background fabrics to go along with some medium and dark prints for a scrappy look. Scraps are great for making this quilt. You don't need a lot of fabric for the blocks but you do need a nice variety if you're going for a scrappy look. I used scraps for about half of my quilt. Of course, I bought some new fabric just for this quilt too because that's part of the fun - being inspired by new fabrics and motivated to use it to sew something pretty. You will need more fabric for the borders and sashing. Look at the Materials list on page 11 for yardage requirements.

In addition to the basic quilting and sewing tools, here are some other helpful tools -

Block Loc rulers are helpful for squaring up the half-square triangle units (HSTs). The larger HSTs for the sawtooth border and some of the blocks measure 2 ½" square. Some HSTs used to make the small blocks measure 1 ½". So, these Bloc Loc ruler sizes would be most helpful. But, keep in mind they are not necessary. If you cut accurately and sew with a scant ¼" seam (a few threads less than ¼") your blocks will turn out fine. Slow down when piecing your blocks. Read the tips for sewing small blocks on page 8 of the book. I used the Quilt in a Day mini rulers to make my smaller flying geese units for the blocks. But for the HSTs I just cut accurately, sewed with a scant ¼" seam and trimmed to 2 ½". (This size is for trimming. They will finish at 2" x 2" when sewn together in the quilt.)

Some quilters like to use spray starch or Best Press for making their blocks. This can be useful when working with small pieces as it stabilizes the fabric and adds a little crispness to help you control your cutting and piecing.

Sampler quilt organization tip: One thing I like to do when I begin working on a project that I know is going to take time is to buy a project case (or find a nice box) and store pieces, blocks, fabric, the book and any other notes or instructions in it. Michaels stores in the U.S. sell clear or opaque scrapbooking project boxes. I have a few of them stacked in my closet containing blocks for several larger quilts I'm working on. Keeps everything in one place and you can see at a glance which project is inside.

That's really all you need to know about the Sampler Sew Along. The first week's blocks will be listed on January 1 in a document in the Files. For some of you who are not on Facebook, they will be listed in the Groups.io files and also in files on a special Schoolgirl Sampler Sew Along page on my website (www.countrylanequilts.com). I'll post some info on my blog each week <https://sentimentalquilter.blogspot.com/> so you'll have plenty of options to follow along.

 *Kathy*