



Old Uniontown Quilt Guild
Cabin Fever
2021 Quilt Along—Some Basics

53-1/2" X 60"

This quilt is made up of block sizes from 4 inches to 12 inches. Although 4 and 6 inches seem like small blocks, if you take it slow and check your results for correct measurements, you should find these blocks easy and fun. Here is some basic information that may help you with this project.

Fabric: One of the reasons I chose this quilt is the fact that it can be scrappy, so you shouldn't have to go out and buy more fabric (unless you want to, of course!). I chose a variety of colors and prints for my quilt, and just happened to have the blue border fabric in my stash. If you make your quilt scrappy, you can choose just about any color for the border. I think it works well to wait until the center is finished, and then choose a border. Or, you can choose a multi-colored border and choose scraps based on that print. Another option is to choose a color (red, for instance) and use scraps in all shades and prints of that color. I'll refer to the "background" of each block as a "neutral." My neutrals are shades of light tan. This is another opportunity for a scrappy look, or you can choose to use one neutral throughout the quilt. If this is your choice, you will need approximately 1-3/4 yards. (I've added some to this measurement so you'll be certain to have enough.)

Construction: We'll work on this quilt one block pattern at a time. (There are one or more of each block.) I plan to introduce a new block once a week. I'll give you some tips that I find helpful, and also refer you to some websites where you can find instructions for these blocks.

I prefer to use rulers designed by Deb Tucker (Studio 180 Design) to make basic building blocks, like Flying Geese, Half Square Triangles, and others. In hopes that many of you have some of these rulers, my instructions will include cutting measurements that accommodate these rulers. (The basic principle of the Tucker rulers is to cut oversize, sew, and then cut down to accurate size.) However, you may use any method that you prefer to make the building block units; just make sure your product is the correct size. I can't stress this enough: The blocks **must** be the correct size, or they will never fit together properly.

Checking your seam allowance: In the past, we've had programs at the guild that demonstrated this technique, but it doesn't hurt to review. Use three squares, 2 inches square. Sew them together in a row and press the seam allowance in whichever direction you prefer. Measure the finished width of the center square. It should be 1-1/2 inches. If it differs from this result, adjust your seam allowance accordingly, and try again with three more squares. You can adjust your seam allowance in two ways: Move the needle (if your sewing machine has this ability), or move the placement of the fabric under the presser foot. If necessary, mark the bed of the machine with a piece of tape or other material to help you place the fabric in the right place every time. It may take several tries to get the seam allowance in the perfect place, but it's worth the trouble up front to have it right. Remember, the more pieces are in the block, the more important accuracy becomes.

Communication: I'll take a list of those who are interested in making this quilt, but I'd like to send out the instructions to everyone, in case someone changes their mind and wants to participate after all. If you have a question about any of the blocks, click on "Reply All" and send it along to all of us. When I answer, I'll do the same and everyone will see questions and answers. Also, anyone is welcome to answer questions if they would like to add to the discussion. Sonya has offered to help me set up Zoom instruction videos. More on that possibility later.

I'd like to encourage you to take a swing at this quilt. There is plenty to learn here, and plenty of piecing fun. It isn't like having a monthly meeting, but this could be a fun way for us to work on something together and stay in touch. Happy sewing!