In My Own Voice

techniques to put words into quilts

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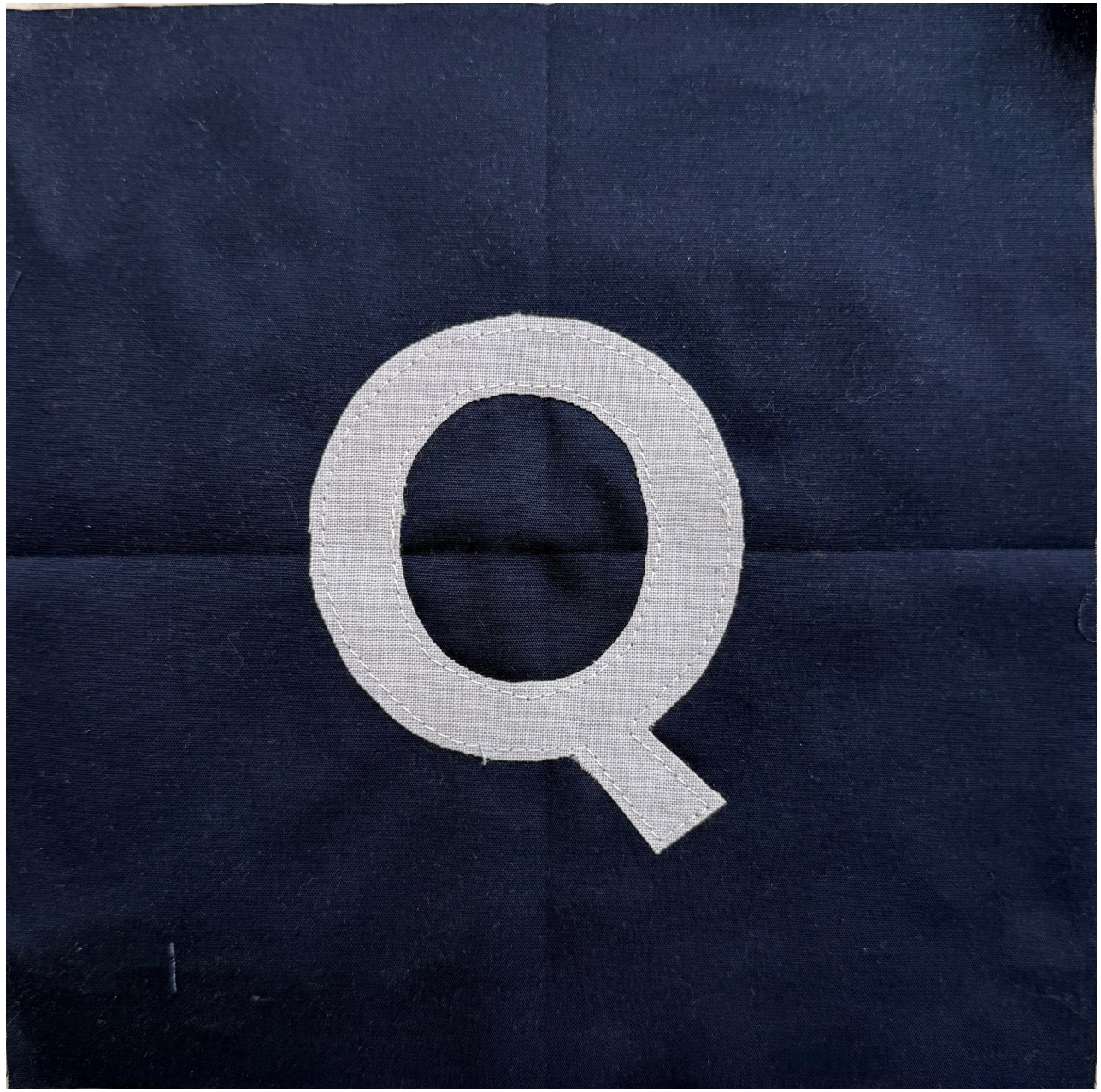
QUILTS
TRUE


Q

Raw Edge Appliqué - Q

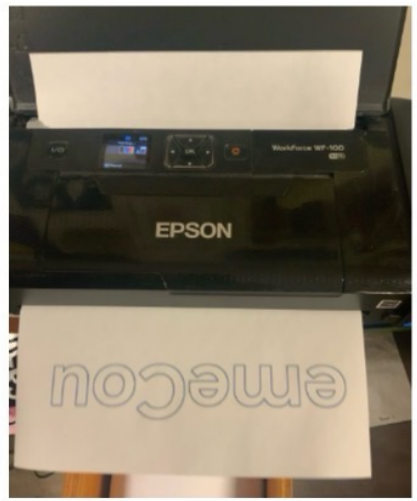
1. Print letters on freezer paper. I use ‘Mangal Pro’ type with the letter outline option selected. The ‘Q’ is at font size 325.
2. Apply Steam A-Seam to the back of your letter fabric.
3. Iron the freezer paper to the front.
4. Cut out the letter (freezer paper and steam-a-seam and fabric) carefully remove all of the paper.
5. Carefully position the letter onto the background fabric and stabilize it in position with a hot iron.
6. Stitch around the edge of the letters to ensure it stays. I use a short stitch (1.8). A blanket stitch works well.



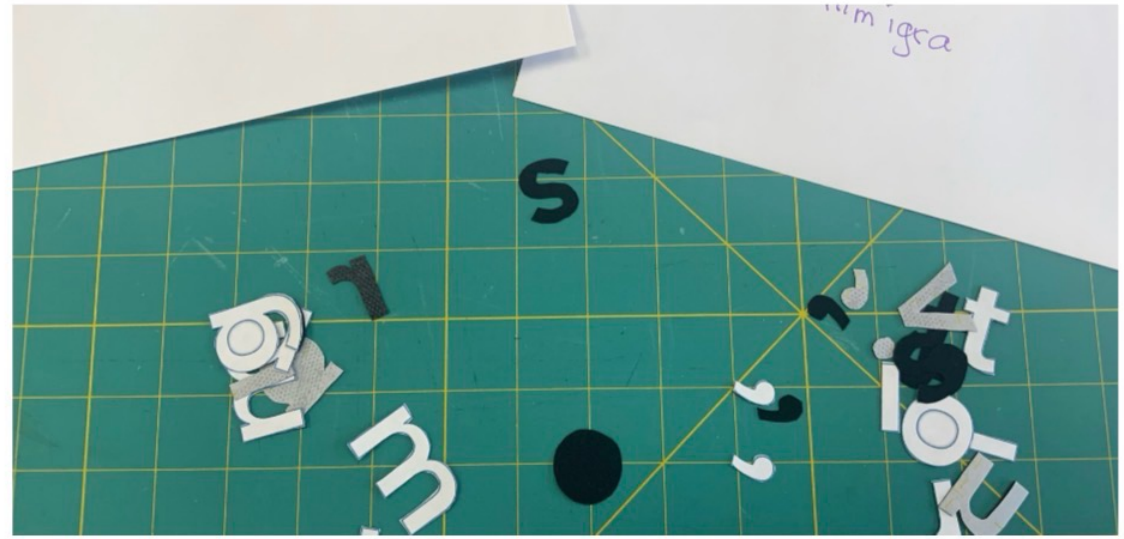


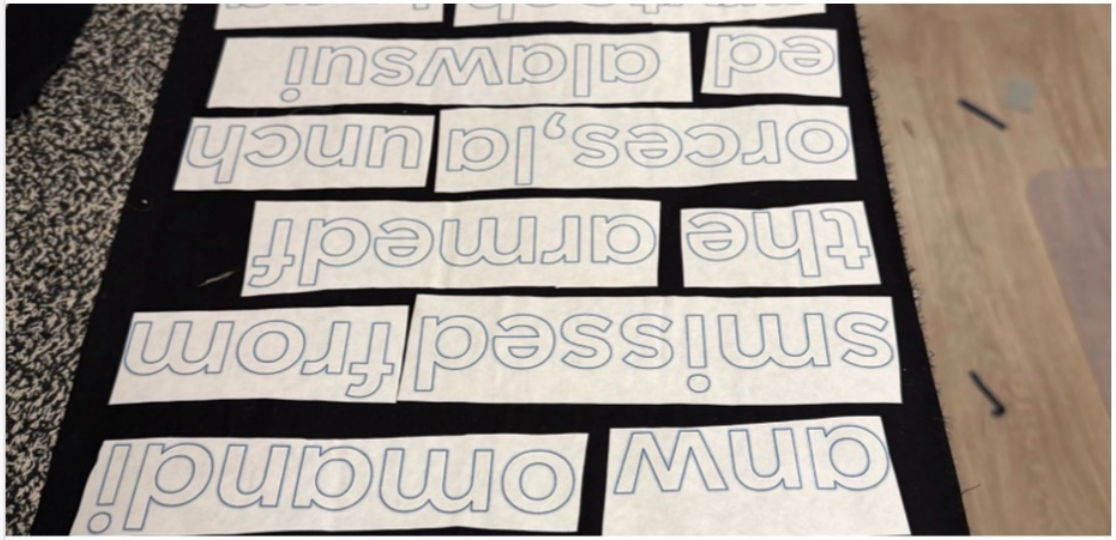
Manga Pro 130







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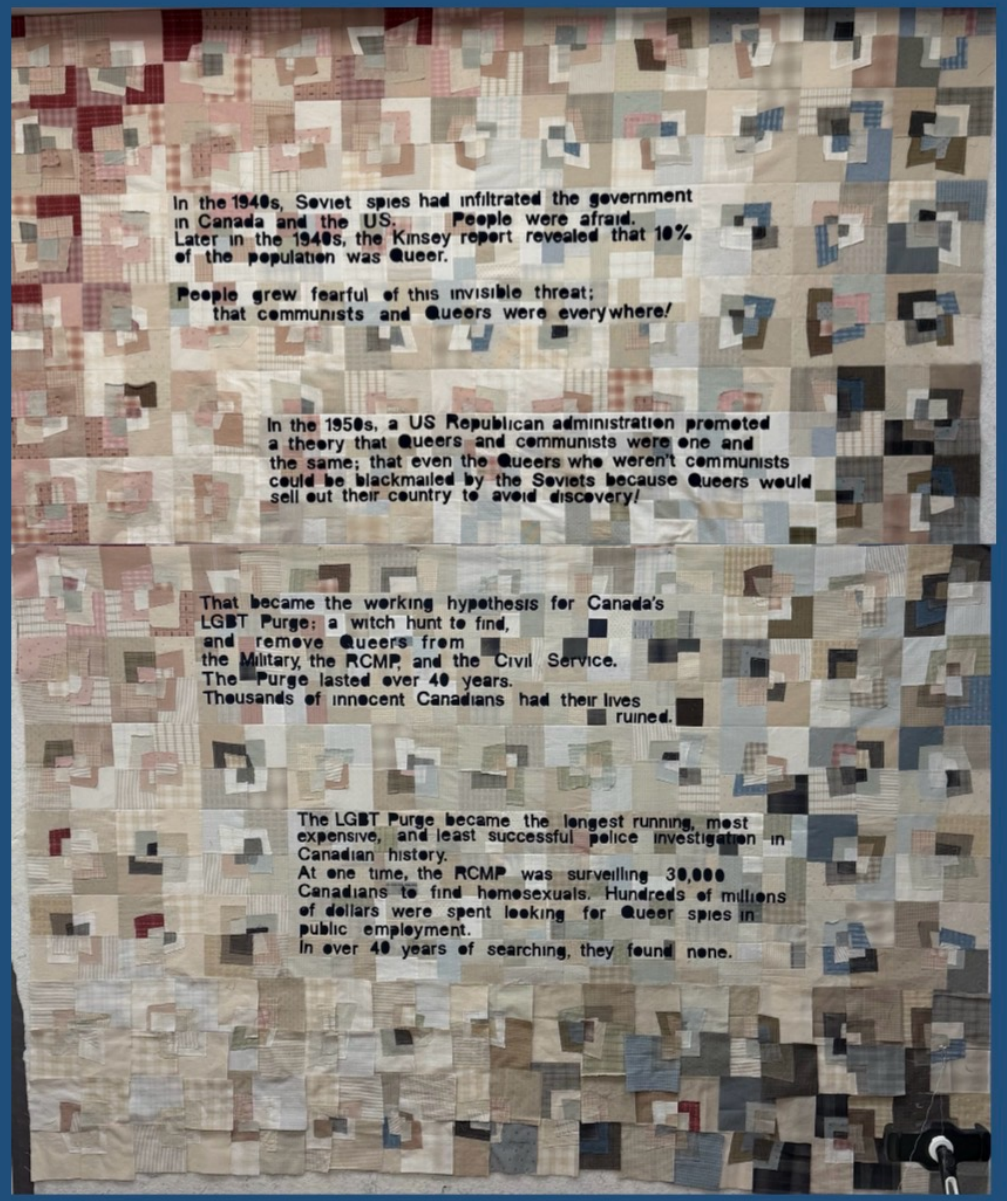
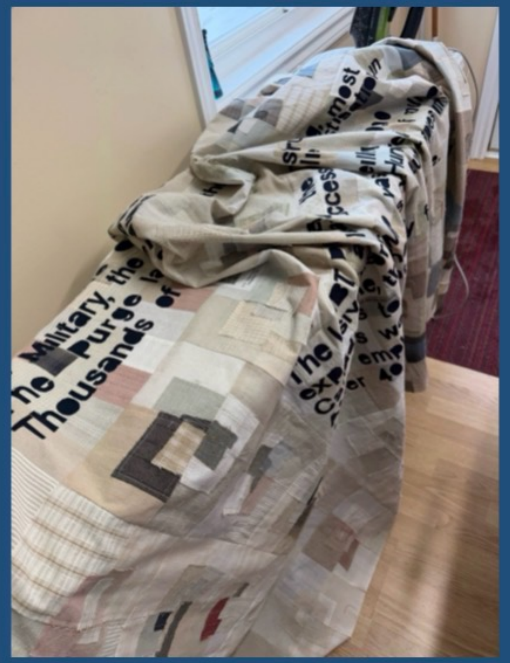
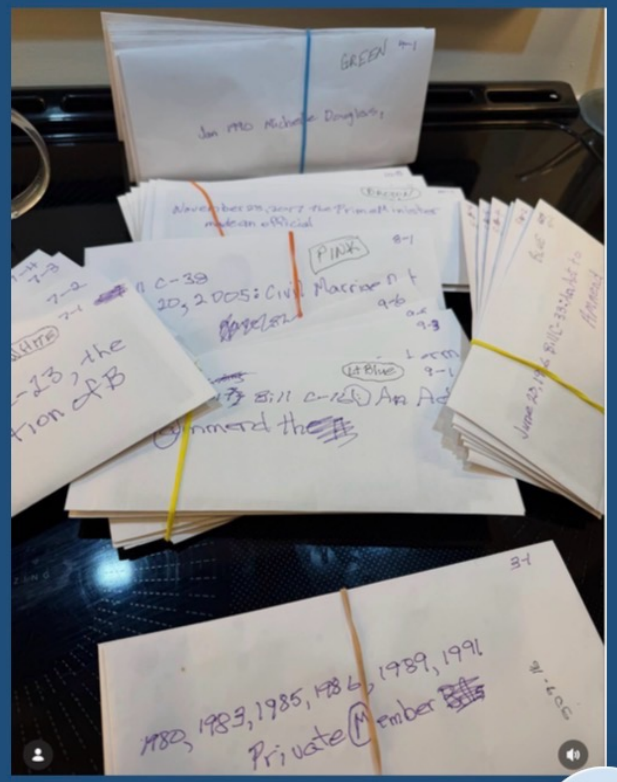

In the 1940s, Soviet spies had infiltrated the government in Canada and the US. People were afraid.
Later in the 1940s, the Kinsey report revealed that 10% of the population was Queer.
People grew fearful of this invisible threat; that communists and Queers were everywhere!
In the 1950s, a US Republican administration promoted a theory that Queers and communists were one and the same; that even the Queers who weren't communists could be blackmailed by the Soviets because Queers would sell out their country to avoid discovery!
That became the working hypothesis for Canada's LGBT Purge: a witch hunt to find, and remove Queers from the Military, the RCMP, and the Civil Service.
The Purge lasted over 40 years.
Thousands of innocent Canadians had their lives ruined.
The LGBT Purge became the longest running, most expensive, and least successful police investigation in Canadian history.
At one time, the RCMP was surveilling 30,000 Canadians to find homosexuals. Hundreds of millions of dollars were spent looking for Queer spies in public employment.
In over 40 years of searching, they found none.


Military, the
Purge
Thousands


GREEN
PINK
1980, 1983, 1985, 1986, 1989, 1991
Private Member


U

Reverse Appliqué - U

1. Print letters on freezer paper. I use ‘Mangal Pro’ type with the letter outline option selected. The ‘U’ is at font size 325.
2. Cut out the letter from just the freezer paper.
3. Pin the letter fabric to the under side of your block with the good side up.
4. Carefully position the freezer paper letter onto the background fabric and temporarily stabilize it in position with a hot iron.
5. Stitch around the outside edge of the letter. I use a short stitch (1.8).
6. CAREFULLY cut away the background (top layer) fabric inside your stitching.
7. Cut away excess fabric from the back of your block.



Improv - I

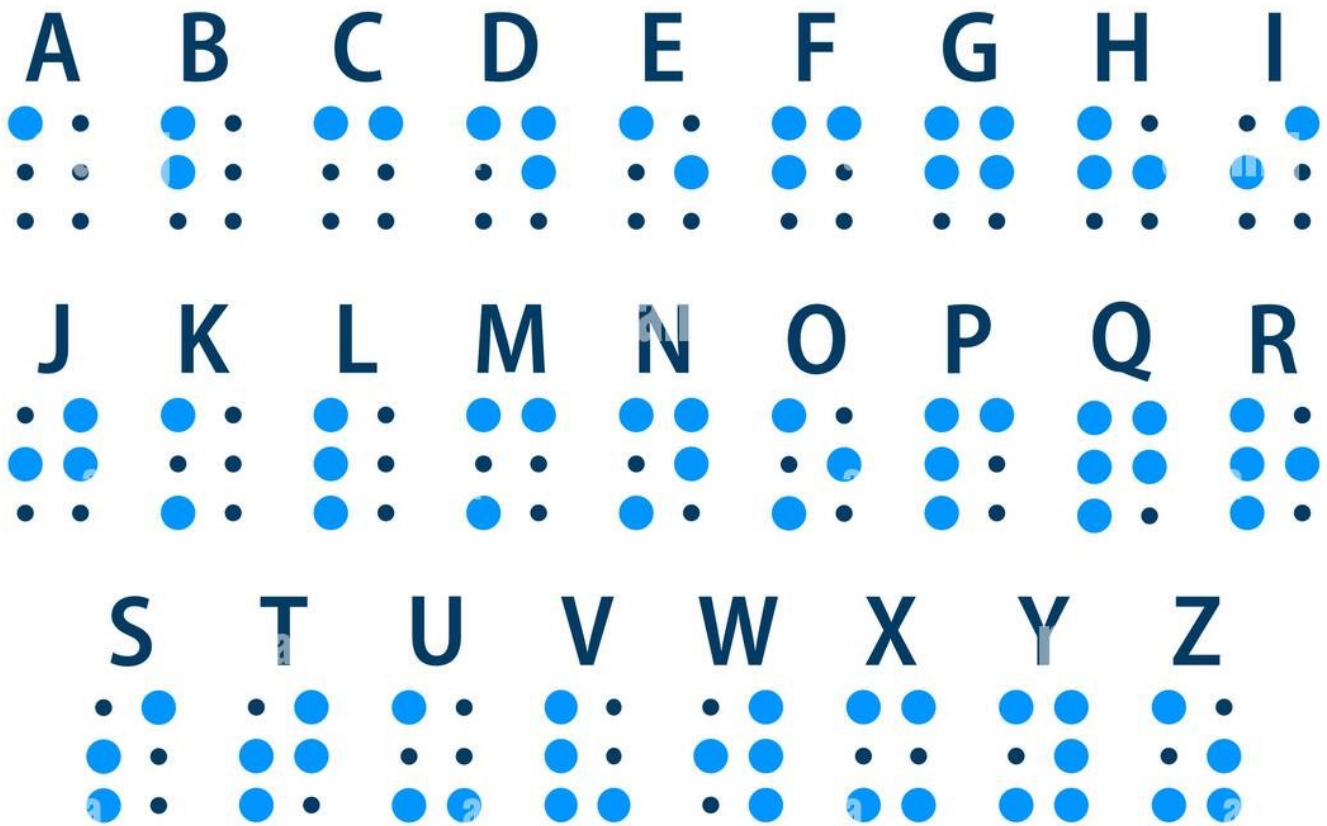
1. Build the letter ‘I’ using an improv style. Keep it within the centre third of the block.
2. Trim the sides and add fabric to make the width 7”, or more. It’s easier to trim down, so consider adding more.
3. Trim the top and bottom. Add fabric , perhaps to both, make the block 7”, or more. It is easier to trim down, so I always add too much.
4. Trim the block to 7” square, keeping the letter where you want it in the block (usually in the centre).



Braille - L

1. Braille is based on an array of six squares with each square being ‘one or ‘off’ for various letters.
2. ‘**L**’ is three ‘on’ squares on the left side and three ‘off’ squares on the right.
3. Cut fabric into 1.5” squares using a contrasting fabric for ‘on’ and background fabric for ‘off’.
4. Construct the Braille letter.
5. Fill in the rest of the block to make it 7”, in the same manner you used for ‘**I**’.

BRAILLE ALPHABET



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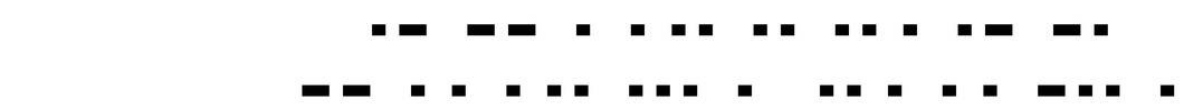
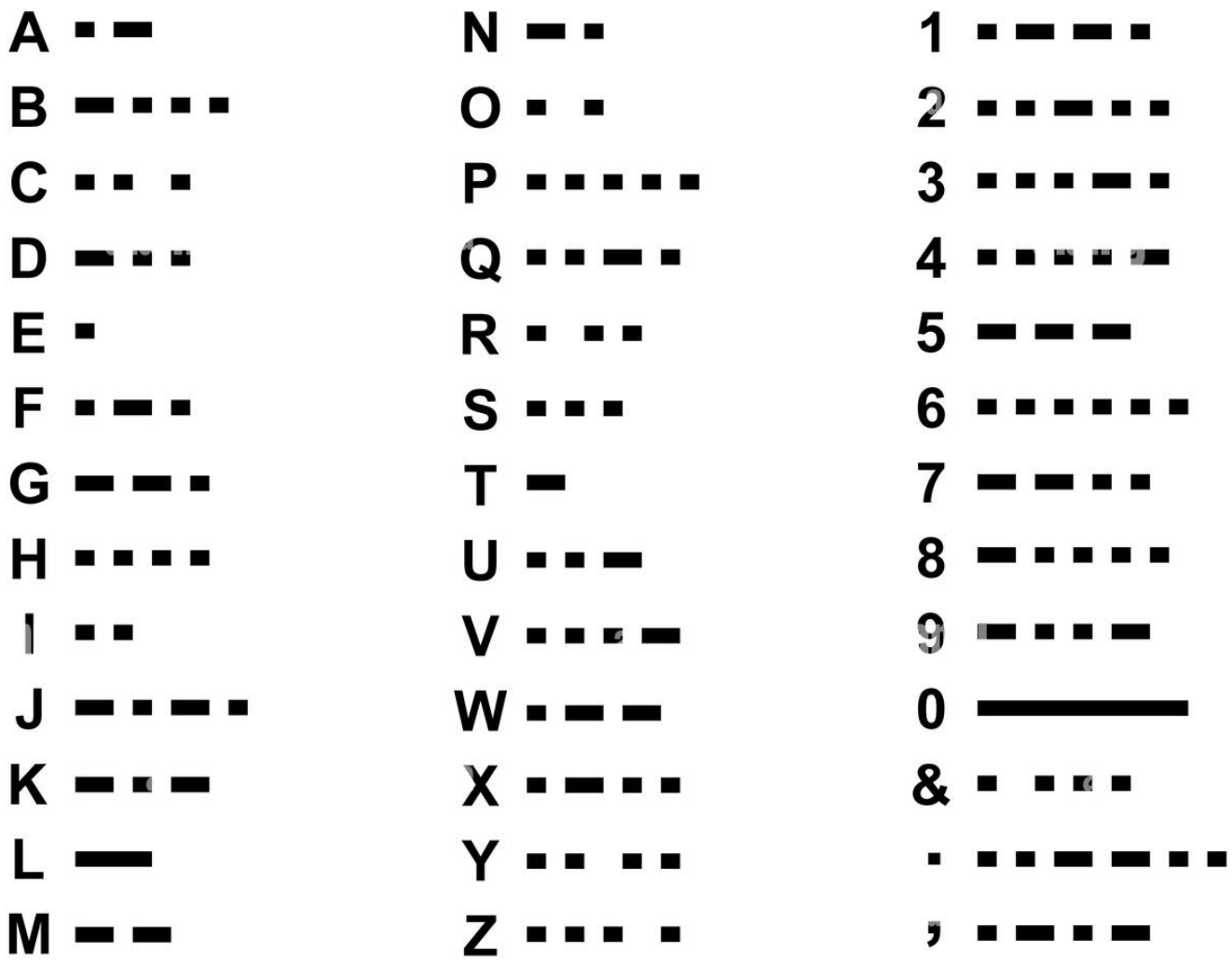
American Morse Code





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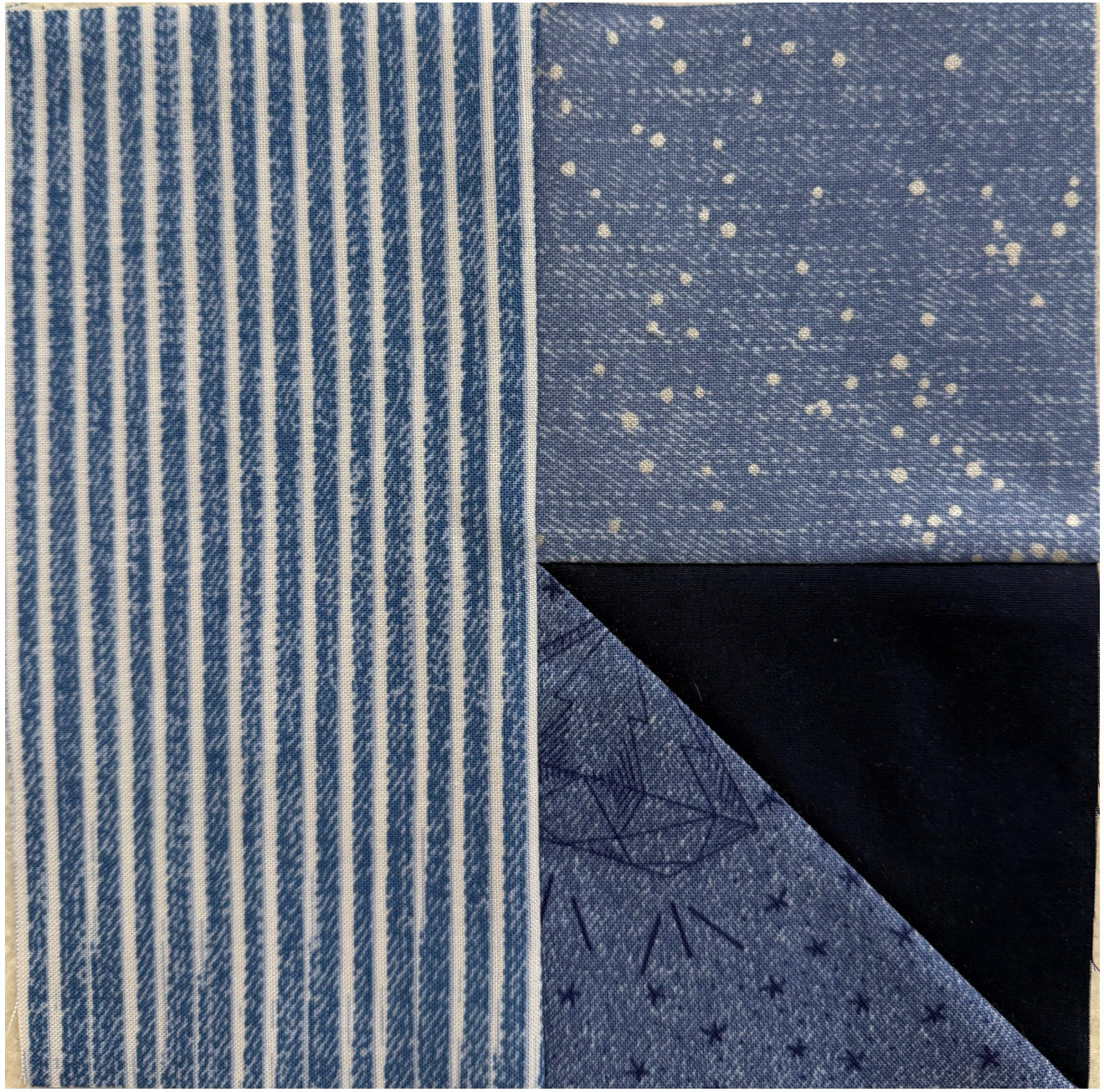
Morse Code - T

1. Morse Code blocks are similar in construction to the Braille block. ‘Dots’ will use 1.5” squares and ‘dashes’ will use 2.5” x 1.5” pieces.
2. Be creative as you construct the ‘letters’. I used two of the Morse Code ‘T’s to make it look right.
3. Fill in the rest of the block to make it 7”, in the same manner you used for ‘**I**’ and **‘L’.**


S

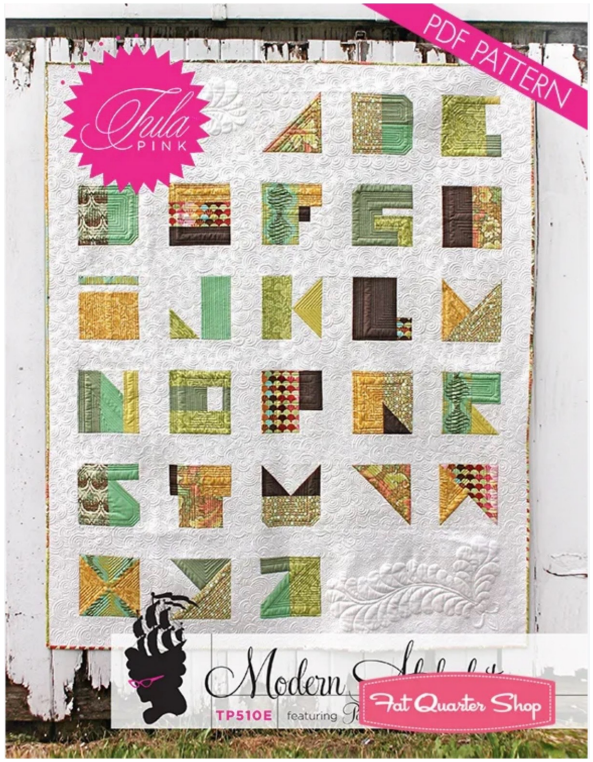
Trapunto - ‘S’

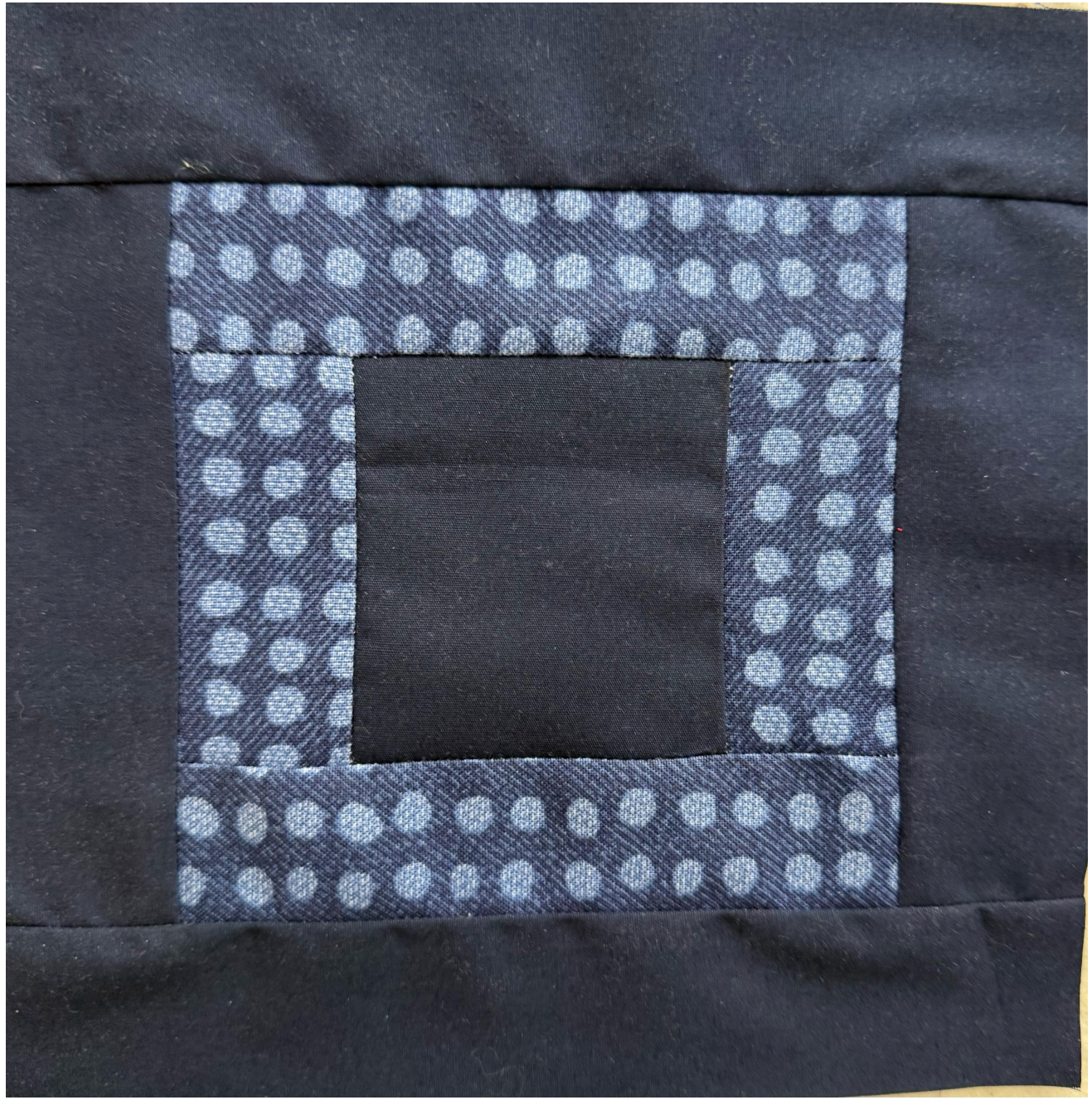
1. The technique for ‘S’ is similar to how you made the ‘Q’. Print the letter on freezer paper, as described.
2. Cut out the letter from just the freezer paper.
3. Pin a small piece of batting to the under side of your block. Make sure it will be covered by the entire letter
4. Carefully position the freezer paper letter onto the background fabric and temporarily stabilize it in position with a hot iron.
5. Stitch around the outside edge of the letter. I use a short stitch (1.8).
6. CAREFULLY cut away the excess batting with tiny, sharp scissors. Remove the freezer paper.
7. Cut away excess fabric from the back of your block.



Commercial Pattern – ‘R’ (Tula Pink)

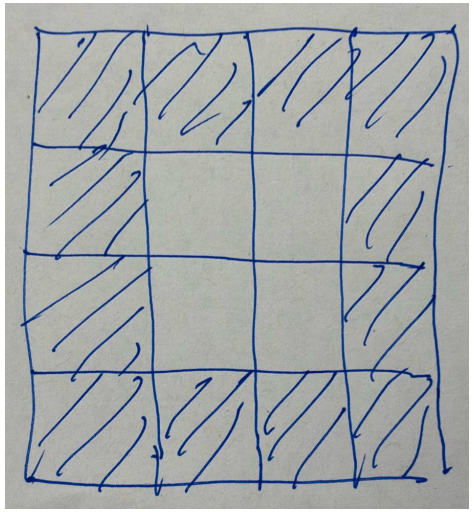
- This letter is made using a pattern that I have purchased.
- You will construct it using a rectangle (4” x 7”), a 4” square, and a half square triangle. (See the illustration)
- Trim the block to 7” square.





Traditional Grid Technique – ‘O’

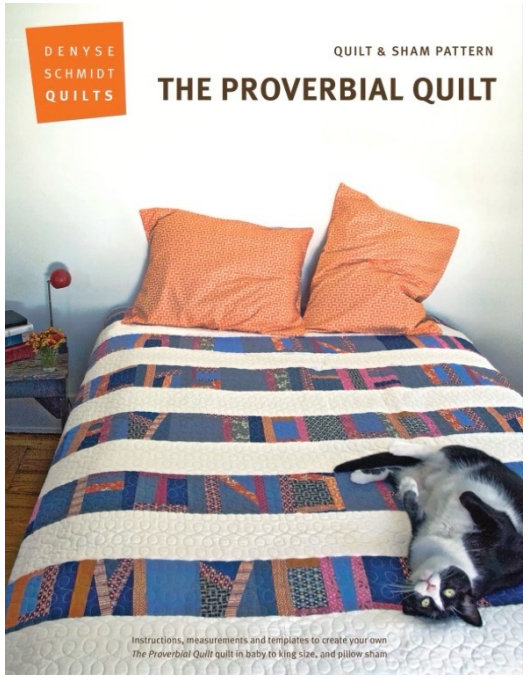
- Draw a 4 by 4 grid.
- Colour in squares to create the letter.
- Build the letter with 1.5” square in background or letter fabric as required.
- Build the border around the letter as you did for the (I),(L) and T)
- Trim the block to 7”.





Commercial Pattern – ‘C’ (Denise Schmidt)

- Print the purchased pattern on freezer paper.
- Cut out each section of the letter and iron on to appropriate fabric. There at least a quarter inch of extra space around EACH letter.
- Cut out out each section, using a clear ruler to add a quarter inch on all sides of the pieces.
- Assemble the pieces as they were on the original piece.
- Fill in the block with background fabric.
- Trim the block to 7” square.



TRUE

Free Pattern – ‘K’ (Alice Blythe – Blossom Heart Quilts)

- This block is just two triangles, with one of them being made of two half triangles. I started with eight inch squares and trimmed the block down to 7”.
- There is less waist if you work with a friend and make two at a time.



“Easy As ABC” Free Quilt Along Pattern designed by Alyce Blyth from Blossom Heart Quilts! Fiber & Textile Arts

Now...

go and have fun!

Thank you!