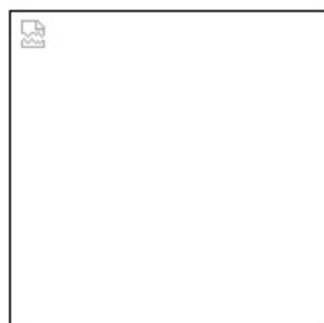
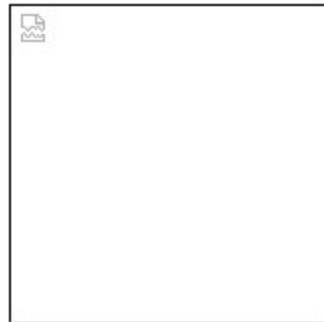
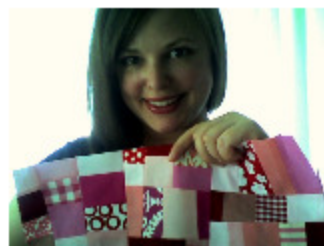




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Tips

September 29, 2010

Magazine Winners and an Organizational Tip



Thank you all for entering the magazine giveaway, and for your supportive words about the magazines themselves! The two winners are Pam and Heather W. Pam and Heather, I've sent you both an e-mail and will get the magazines out as soon as I have your addresses.



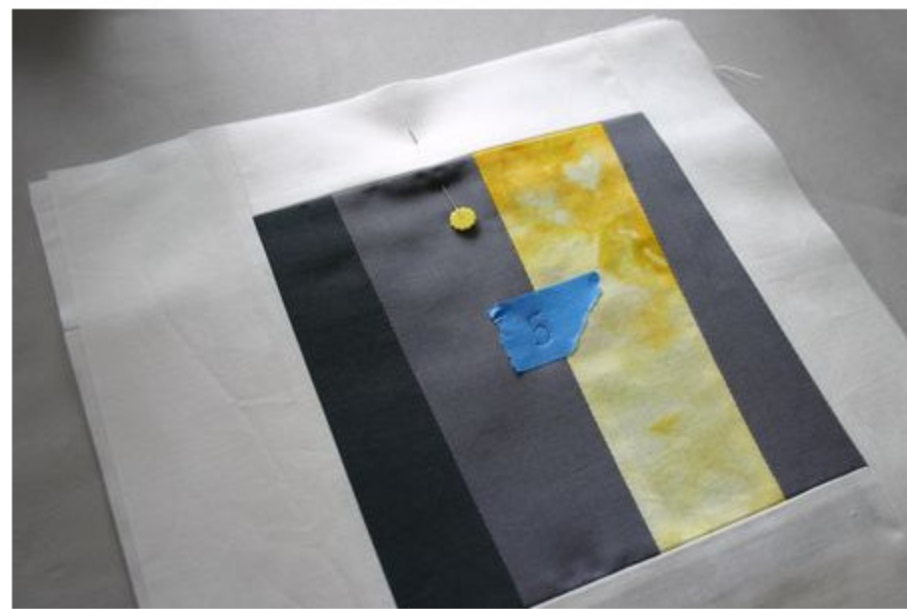
The block pictured above was made using the [Wellington Park pattern](#), so I thought I would show you what that pattern might look like with different fabric. I love that Etsuko Furuya lion print!



So, when my husband and I first saw the trailer for Inception, we both had the same reaction: That movie is going to be really awesome . . . or really awful. (In the end, we both thought it was firmly on the awesome side.)

I mention this because that's kind of how I feel about quilting the Sunshine Quilt in yellow. I feel like it will either make or ruin the composition, with not much room for in-between. I had already been thinking about it, and then several of you suggested it in comments. So, in the spirit of trying new things, I plan to quilt this in a very bright, bitter, yellow. I'm just trying to decide on a FMQ pattern that will best highlight it. I'm thinking something jaggedy (which is most likely not a real word).

Anyway, when I was taking these blocks off the wall, I realized that I don't think I've ever written on my blog about the technique that I teach my students for keeping rows of blocks organized. If you look closely at the photo above, you can see that I've placed a piece of blue painter's tape on the left-most block in each row. I then use a permanent marker to label the row numbers, in this case 1 through 5.



Starting with the top or bottom row (whichever is easiest) I start stacking the blocks, from left to right, one on top of the other, keeping their orientation (i.e. which side is up) the same. Once all of the blocks in the row are stacked, I pin them together (one pin going all the way through the stack) making sure that the point of the pin is pointing toward the top of the blocks.

After repeating this process with each row, not only do I know which stack is which row (because of the tape tag) but I know which direction the blocks go (because of the pin). As I piece the blocks into rows, I obviously remove the pin, but I leave the tape tabs on until the very end. That way, I don't lose track of which row is which (or which way is up, because the tape tab will always be on the left side of a row) as I work.

You definitely want to avoid running your iron over the top of the blue tape, but I've found that ironing on the back of fabric, when tape is on the front, causes no ill effects. This is something you may want to test at home though. I can't tell you with certainty how your own fabric/iron/tape will respond!

Anyway, I hope that tip is helpful to someone! This is how I keep "in progress" quilts organized and find that it works really well for me.

Posted at 11:29 AM in [Tips](#) | [Permalink](#) | [Comments \(23\)](#)

SHOP



DIRECTORY

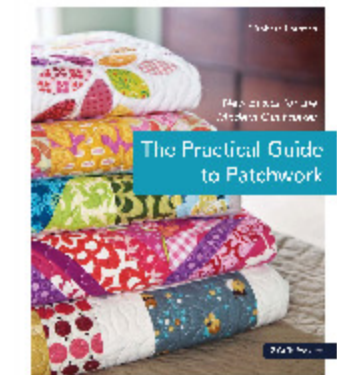


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[Free Pattern Guidelines](#)

COMING THIS FALL



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