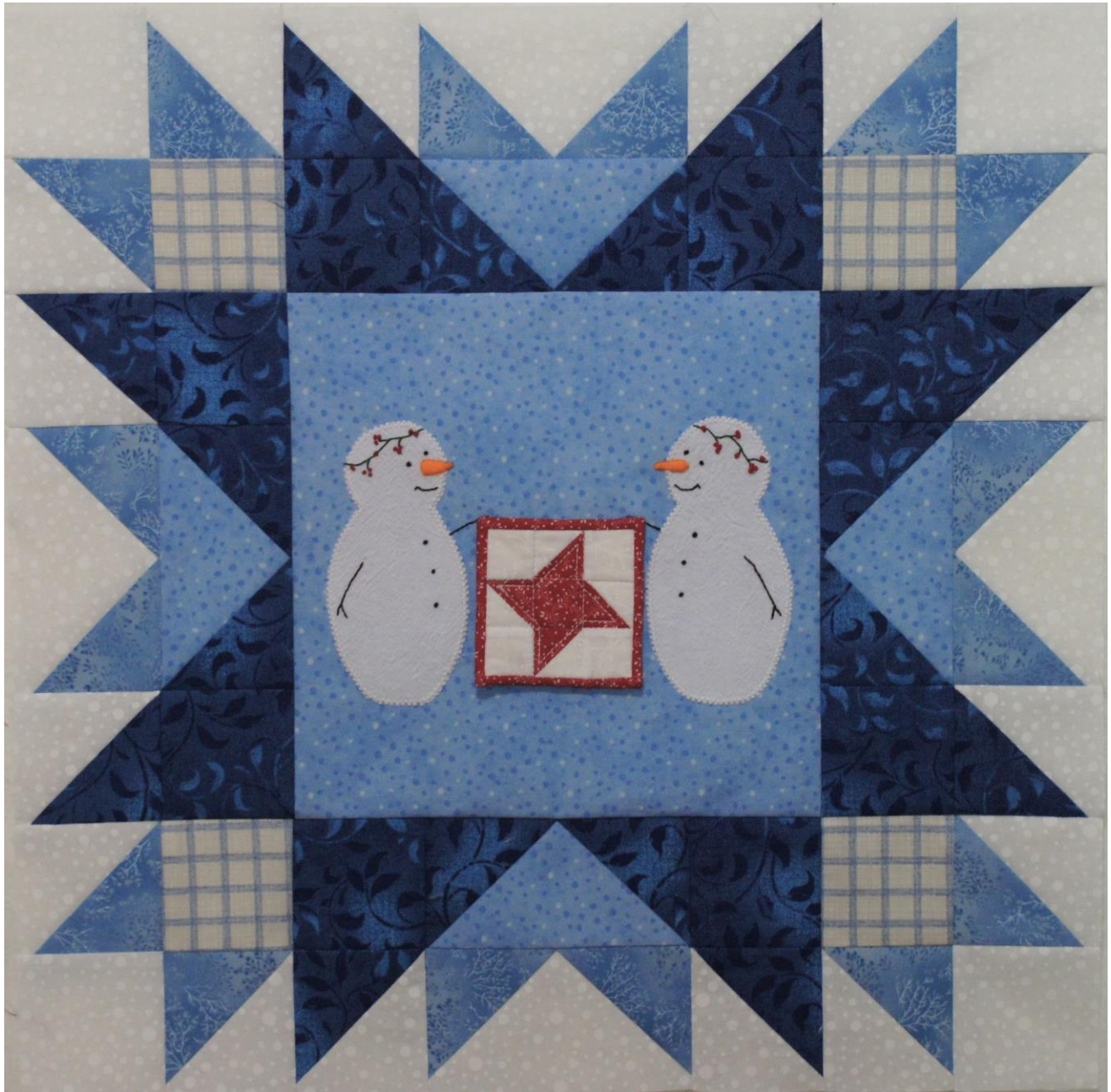




Tuning My Heart Quilts

by

Debra Davis





* We Can Build A Snowman *

A Block of the Month Program
by Debra Davis
Tuning My Heart Quilts, LLC



* Introduction and Fabric Requirements *

One of the great joys of online quilting communities is the opportunity to meet quilters from all over the world. I have gained much inspiration by taking part in various quilt alongs. One such inspiration came from quilters who took the pieced blocks we were making and made them extra special with the addition of applique and embroidery. Some added cute little animals, some tiny buildings, some embroidered flowery details, and one in particular added snowmen. Well, I started to see possibilities in all sorts of blocks. Here is my offering of pieced blocks with a snowman theme added in.

There are twelve blocks measuring 12" x 12" and one that measures 16" x 16" in this quilt. (There is an option to just use the 12" blocks as well.) We will be constructing the blocks using a variety of piecing techniques that can be done by quilters of all skill levels. I will be showing you how to machine applique the snowmen onto the blocks; which is an easy shape to learn on. We will also be using some very basic embroidery stitches to add some details.

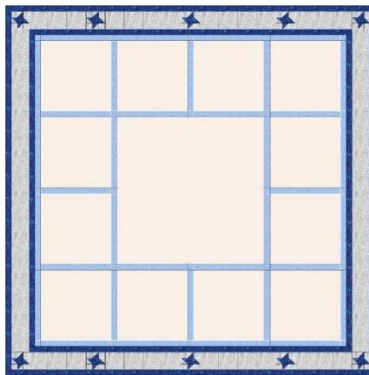
I will be releasing one block a month beginning June 4th. While I am letting you know the layout I have decided to keep the blocks a secret until they are released-a mystery quilt of sorts.

Each block will be free for the month in which it is released. After that it will be available for purchase on my website.

I can hardly wait! So, gather your supplies and get ready for some fun.

Debra

❄️ We Can Build A Snowman ❄️



Finished Size: 63" x 63"

I used a selection of fabrics from Wilmington Essentials, Bayberry by Kate and Birdie Paper Co for Moda, Robert Kaufman Fusians, and Stonehenge for my blues, some snowflake white on white prints for the background fabric from a variety of designers, and some silvery grey snowflake and tree prints used in the borders. The blocks will work best if you have a selection of light, medium and dark prints to go along with your background fabric. I began by finding a blue that would make a good background for my snowmen applique: I used Wilmington Essentials Petite Dots Baby Blue Yardage for this and then found my other blues to go with it. For the snowmen applique I chose a heavy cotton gauze as it had some texture to it rather just being flat like a cotton-though that would work nicely too. I prewashed my fabrics and pressed using Mary Ellen's Best Press to get them ready for cutting. It is also helpful to label your fabrics A-K. I just pinned a sticky note onto each for this.

Fabric Requirements:

Fabric 1: Blue for snowmen applique background and sashing strips: 1 ½ yard

Fabric 2: Dark Blue for blocks and border: 2 yards

Fabric 3: Dark Blue #2: ½ yard

Fabric 4: Medium Blue #1: ¾ yard

Fabric 5: Medium Blue #2: ¾ yard

Fabric 6: Medium Blue #3: ¼ yard

Fabric 7: Light Blue #1: ¼ yard

Fabric 8: Light Blue #2: ¾ yard

Fabric 9: Cream: ½ yard

Fabric 10: Grey for borders: 1 ½ yards

Fabric 11: White on White: 1 ½ yards (I used five different prints totaling 1 ½ yards)

White Heavy Cotton Gauze for Snowmen or plain white cotton fabric: ¼ yard

Binding: ½ yard

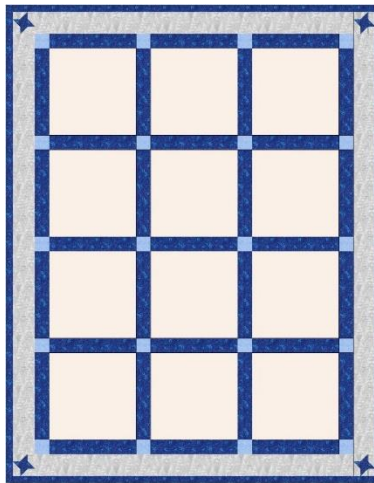
Batting: 2 ¼ yards (90" width Warm and Natural)

Backing: 4 ½ yards (2 ¼ yards if using 108" wide backing fabric)

optional: Snowflake Buttons 1.8-2cm

❄️ Optional Setting ❄️

Finished Size 52" x 66"



Fabric Requirements:

Fabric 1: Blue for snowmen applique background and sashing squares: 1 yard

Fabric 2: Dark Blue for blocks and border: 2 yards

Fabric 3: Dark Blue #2: ½ yard

Fabric 4: Medium Blue #1: ¾ yard

Fabric 5: Medium Blue #2: ¾ yard

Fabric 6: Medium Blue #3: ¼ yard

Fabric 7: Light Blue #1: ¼ yard

Fabric 8: Light Blue #2: ½ yard

Fabric 9: Cream: ¼ yard

Fabric 10: Grey for borders: 1 yards

Fabric 11: White on White: 1 ½ yards (I used five different prints totaling 1 ½ yards)

White Heavy Cotton Gauze for Snowmen or plain white cotton fabric: ¼ yard

Binding: ½ yard

Batting: 2 ¼ yards (90" width Warm and Natural)

Backing: 4 ½ yards (2 ¼ yards if using 108" wide backing fabric)

optional: Snowflake Buttons 1.8-2cm

These are some additional items that I recommend for making this project.

For the Applique:

Heat N Bond Lite (or any iron-on Fusible)

Ricky Tims' Stable Stuff (or any fabric stabilizer for machine applique)

King Tut Thread # 993 (by Superior Threads) I use a 90/40 topstitch needle with this thread)

Masterpiece Thread #186 (by Superior Threads used in the bobbin)

Sewline fabric pencil (this is a pencil that uses refillable ceramic leads which come in a variety of colors. I have never had an issue with these washing out after finishing a project.)

Open Toe Embroidery foot for doing the applique on your sewing machine.

For the hand Embroidery:

I used DMC Floss #'s: 304-red, 310-black, 740-orange, 895-green, and 3371-dk. Brown for snowmen additional colors of DMC Floss for flowers, birds, snowflakes, etc (you will want to choose colors that go well with your fabrics)

John James Embroidery Needles Size 5/10

Rulers (Not necessary but I love them)

Bloc-Loc Flying Geese Ruler 2" x 4" or Creative Grids Ultimate Flying Geese Tool

Bloc-Loc Half-Square Triangle Ruler 6.5" x 6.5"

Creative Grids 6.5" square ruler; 12.5 " Square-it-up ruler; 6.5" x 24.5" rectangular ruler

Other optional items:

Sticky Notes for labeling fabric and pieces for the blocks

-Light Box (These are great for tracing designs and being able to see placement of applique pieces onto fabric. I personally have the Huion A4 Led Light Pad. The A4 size is perfect for most projects and there are a lot of affordable options out there these days.)

-Walking Foot for quilting and machine binding

- $\frac{1}{4}$ " Patchwork foot for piecing

-50 wt. thread for piecing. I use either Masterpiece #156 or color to match fabric or Aurifil #2600. (You can sometimes get a very good price on Aurifil cones which will last for many, many quilting projects.)

80/5 topstitch needle for piecing (If using 50 wt thread) I always start a new large quilt with a new needle.

New blade for your rotary cutter. Sharp tools make a big difference. Usually I will start to notice my blade is not cutting through all of the layers of fabric in the midst of a project the way it did when new, so with a new large project a new blade is usually in order.

A note about fabric selection:

While I stuck with a mainly blue and white color scheme for this quilt there are many other options you might want to try. The main thing is to be sure and start by picking a background fabric for the snowmen that allows them to stand out. As you can see I fell in love with adding snowmen to my quilt projects.



Cold Spell fabric line used when designing the 16 inch block.



Some of my Splendid Sampler blocks using the Winterberry line



From A Snowy Day NQC 2017 Challenge-the blue background is a fabric still available from Hobby Lobby stores.