

Russian Journey Sampler Quilt

Block of the Month Program Guide



A Russian Journey in Quilts: The Story of Nicholas and Nina Filatoff

by Tricia Lynn Maloney

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Project Overview:

The Russian Journey Sampler Quilt is the culminating project for the book, *A Russian Journey in Quilts: The Story of Nicholas and Nina Filatoff*. It measures 88" x 102" and will fit a queen-sized bed.

Each participant needs his or her own copy of the book.

This project would be a great tie-in with the upcoming 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia.

Promotion:

Begin promoting the Russian Sampler BOM several months before the program will officially begin through flyers, your newsletter, announcements in classes, social media, email, etc. Have a sampler on display in the shop with BOM information. Plan several small events with Russian (or Olympic) themes as part of the promotion, such as a group discussion about Russian fabrics or a speaker about Russian customs (with a selection of Russian foods to try, of course!).

Interested in inviting the author to your shop for a lecture, trunk show, or workshop as part of your Russian Journey Sampler Quilt BOM? Please visit her website: www.orphanquilter.com.

The Plan:

Each month, participants will attend a BOM meeting at the quilt shop to see a demonstration or listen to a topic relevant to that particular month's Sampler block(s) – see **Outline** for suggested techniques/topics.

Participants will complete one or two blocks for the Russian Sampler Quilt each month and will have the option of creating the smaller quilt projects featured for each block.

Incentives:

Drawings, prizes, or other incentives could be offered for completing the monthly Sampler blocks as well as the smaller quilt projects.

A Russian Journey Sampler Quilt show could be displayed at the end of the program for a specified amount of time in which shoppers could vote for their favorite quilts. The smaller projects could also be displayed.

Possible Add-Ons Items:

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This BOM lends itself to demonstrating/promoting many different quilting tools/items, such as: books (including *A Russian Journey in Quilts: The Story of Nicholas and Nina Filatoff*), patterns, fabric, batting, thread, template plastic, assorted rulers, rotary cutters and refill blades, rotary cutting mats, scissors, pins, needles (both machine and hand sewing), spray starch, basting spray, marking tools, quilting notions, and long-arm machine services/rentals (where applicable). Add-on items should be available at the time they are demonstrated/discussed during monthly BOM meetings.

The Outline:

Month 1



Blocks: Boys Nonsense (Nicholas) and Girl's Favorite (Nina)

Suggested technique: half and quarter square triangle blocks

There are many different methods for creating both half and quarter square triangle blocks. Demonstrate several methods for construction, making sure to point out useful tools for each method.

Suggested Add-ons: Half square and quarter square acrylic rulers, rotary cutting tools, notions

Month 2



Block: Single Wedding Ring (Courtship and Marriage)

Suggested topic: fabric recipes for successful quilts

Show many "fabric recipes," both successful and unsuccessful. Discuss what made the successful ones work and what was missing or wrong with the unsuccessful ones. Talk about several ways to build a successful "quilt recipe," such as selecting a focal fabric first and adding a variety of supporting fabrics, discuss how quilt fabric collections make it easy to put together a "fabric recipe" when all of the pieces within a line coordinate (provide several examples), or demonstrate using a color wheel or other color theory components.

Suggested Add-ons: books about color theory and quilt design, color wheel, favorite designer fabric lines, notions

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Month 3



Blocks: Red Cross (Sister Nina) and Captain's Wheel (Captain Filatoff)

Suggested technique: accuracy and matching points

There are many different ways to get accurate results and to ensure matched points. Demonstrate several and feature any tools that are used for each method such as making units slightly larger and then sizing them down to the correct size or using a specialty ruler. Discuss the importance of a 1/4" seam allowance and demonstrate how to check for seam accuracy.

Suggested Add-ons: assorted rulers that aid in accuracy, marking tools, 1/4" machine foot, notions

Month 4



Block: Spiderweb (Panic, Revolution, and the Volunteer Army)

Suggested technique: half and quarter blocks

Demonstrate cutting half and quarter blocks, emphasizing the need to maintain a 1/4" seam allowance. Discuss/demonstrate using the 45 degree lines on rulers and/or specialty rulers to square up blocks. Show a selection of blocks/quilts where half and quarter blocks/units are used (consider the outside and corner setting triangles in quilts with on point settings).

Suggested Add-ons: books and patterns with on point quilt designs (particularly those with pieced half and quarter setting triangles), rulers for squaring up blocks, notions

Month 5



Blocks: Good Luck (Constantinople) and Ship (Onboard the Canada)

Suggested technique/topic: cutting angles (Good Luck) and cutting directional fabric (Ship)

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Building on the previous month's demonstration about the 45 degree lines on rulers, now show/demonstrate the 30 and 60 degree lines on rulers. Also demonstrate various ways to cut odd angles such as templates or cutting squares/rectangles and placing dots at edges, lining up the dots with a ruler, and cutting between the dots.

Demonstrate how to prepare and cut directional fabrics so that pieces are all running in the same direction. Discuss why this would be important and when you might use it, for example the sky fabric in the Ship block.

Suggested Add-ons: rulers with 30 and 60 degree lines, template plastic, acrylic template sets for difficult-to-assemble blocks, marking tools, notions

Month 6



Blocks: Russian Flag and New York (A New Life)

Suggested technique: using a template

Demonstrate/discuss preparing a template and cutting out the pieces before assembling.

Suggested Add-ons: template plastic, marking tools, assorted notions

Month 7



Blocks: Chicken and Corn and Beans (Chicken and Vegetables)

Suggested topic: successful scrap quilt planning

There are so many different ways to create a successful scrap quilt. For this topic, it would be fun to have BOM participants bring in a scrap quilt to show. The leader could lead a discussion on what works and what doesn't work with several selected samples. Fabric pre-cuts could also be discussed as an alternative to scrapbag scraps because they create harmonious multi-fabric quilts.

Suggested Add-ons: scrap and pre-cuts quilting books, specialty rulers for making scrap quilts/working with pre-cuts, fabric pre-cuts, notions

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Month 8



Block: Dream House (A Home of Their Own)

Suggested technique: accuracy and adjusting pieced borders to fit

If it is too large, make seams slightly larger. Reiterate the importance of a 1/4" seam allowance throughout the project to ensure that all pieces fit together. Measuring pieces as you assemble blocks to make sure they are the correct size will also assist in all pieces fitting together. Also discuss the importance of accurate cutting. Demonstrate how to adjust a pieced border to fit. If it is too small, make seams slightly smaller to add the extra needed width.

Suggested Add-ons: assorted rulers, rotary cutting tools, template sets, notions

Month 9



Block: Cakestand (Cakes and Correspondence)

Suggested topic: on-point quilt settings

Display quilts with on point settings. Demonstrate cutting setting and corner triangles and how to assemble an on point quilt.

Suggested Add-ons: books and patterns with on point quilts, rulers for cutting setting triangles, notions

Month 10



Block: Wheel of Chance (Leaving the Farm)

Suggested technique: framing quilt blocks

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Framing quilt blocks is an alternative to sashings between blocks. It is also a technique to make blocks larger or to standardize blocks that are not all exactly the same size. Demonstrate framing blocks. Show examples of successfully framed blocks. For a quilt with different sized blocks regulated by adding a frame, please see the quilt Lavender Green in *Orphan Quilts: Making a Home for Antique, Vintage, Collectible, and Leftover Quilt Blocks*, on the cover and on page 82.

Suggested Add-ons: assorted rulers, marking tools, notions

Month 11



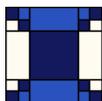
Block: Peace Dove (Peace at Last)

Suggested technique: hand/machine appliqué

Display examples of both hand and machine appliqué blocks and/or quilts. Participants may be invited to bring examples if desired. Demonstrate both hand and machine appliqué.

Suggested Add-ons: template plastic, mini iron, starch, marking tools, hand-sewing needles, appliqué thread, fusible products for machine appliqué, freezer paper, commercial templates, die cutting systems and accessories

Month 12



Alternate Chain Blocks and General Construction

Show completed Russian Journey Sampler quilt. Demonstrate construction of the alternate chain blocks, both whole blocks and half blocks. Discuss fabric placement. Discuss the pros and cons of different types of batting, hand quilting vs. machine quilting. If applicable, demonstrate long arm quilting. Demonstrate binding application.

Reminder of deadline for completing quilt tops or completed quilts if there will be incentives or a Russian Journey Sampler Quilt Show.

Suggested Add-ons: Rulers, backing fabric, batting, long arm machine quilting services/rentals if applicable.