

Block of the Month

January 2012



Valentine's Day is right around the corner. The winner of these gorgeous blocks can make a special wall hanging, placemats, or baby blanket with this arrangement in pinks and greens. I hope this ensemble will fit into your quilting imagination.

The hearts come with the fusible attached. All you have to do is score the wrong side of the heart using your stiletto or a pin. Use the point of the pin to lift the paper from the fusible backing. Fold the 4 ½ in square in half to find the center. Place the heart in the center and press with a hot iron.

1. Use white thread and set your machine to a 2.0 width and 2.70 length buttonhole stitch and stitch the heart in place. I like to set my needle in the down position and start at the top center of the heart. I use a magnifier so I can make my stitches at the edge of the fabric. Don't forget to change your sewing foot if you use a quilting foot.
2. SWITCH FEET and STITCH SETTING to a straight stitch. Sew the 4 ½ X 2 inch strips to the top and bottom of the appliqued heart square and press.
3. Sew the 7 ½ inch strips to the left and right sides and press.
4. That's it – How easy was that!

Valentine Trivia: How did the custom signing XXX become symbolic of kisses? It came from two sources. The "X" was referred to the religious symbol of the cross and the "X" is also the first letter in the Greek word for Christ, *Xristos*. Secondly, in earlier days few people could write and an "X" was a legally valid mark for their signature. To emphasize their complete sincerity in an accord they would kiss the mark, as a Bible was frequently kissed when an oath was sworn upon it. I don't know when XOXO became hugs and kisses.

Please feel free to send any questions or comments to:

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