

Farmington Valley Quilters

Half Square Triangle Swap - October 2019 – June 2020

What is a Quilt Block Swap?

This is a guild sponsored event allowing members to share a common block design using a combination of a solid background fabric and strips of fabrics from their stash. Participants will make a block for each member in their group, each month – October 2019 to June 2020. When it's over, you'll have a whole bunch of blocks so you can create your one-of-a-kind quilt.

Your participation means that others are depending on you to complete your blocks each month and turning them in at the meeting. If you can't make a meeting, we expect that you will ask someone else to bring them to the meeting for you or mail them to Diane Francini, 298 Garry Drive, New Britain, CT 06052, or to Judy Prohaska, 16 Highwood Road, Canton, CT 06019. You won't receive blocks from the other members in the group until you have provided blocks for them.

How do I join the swap?

We prefer you to sign up by the end of August, but no later than the September meeting will be okay. Email either Diane Francini , popinct@comcast.net, or Judy Prohaska, jpro4@prodigy.net, to let them know you are committed to participating. This swap will start in September.

What are the rules of the swap?

The Half Square Triangle Swap is a 9-month project. Once you've signed up, you're committing to participate for all nine months. But that's the fun of it. In the end, you'll have lots of blocks to create a fabulous quilt.

The block we chose, the Half Square Triangle, is pretty simple; and for this exchange, you'll also be using up lots and lots of scraps!! It can be very structured or wonky. And you can make a variety of styles each month. You decide. Examples and some directions will be provided, or make them your own favorite way, as long as the blocks conform to our rules as follows:

The background fabric **MUST** be a solid grey. No tone-on-tone, no grunges, no batiks or mottled/dyed looks....just a solid grey. Not too light, not too dark. Not black. We will provide a piece of grey fabric to get you started.

Your strips can be any color combination from your stash. There is no specific width for each strip, and they don't have to be the same width in a block. They can also be wonky. Depending on how you make your Half Square Triangles, the strips may run in different directions. One half of the block will be the background grey fabric and the other half will be your strips. This "half" can vary, depending on your approach. We'll have samples of blocks at the guild meetings.

The unfinished block must be no less than 6 ½" x 6 ½." **DO NOT TRIM** your block. Leave trimming to the person receiving your blocks. This way everyone can better control the accuracy of their own finished quilt.

How does the swap actually work?

You will be assigned to a group. Each month you will be making one block for every member of your group (including one for yourself). How many blocks you make will depend on the number of members in your group. We're hoping for 10 or 12. We'll let you know.

This project will start in September.

During the month of September, we'll let you know how many members are in your group and who they are. Then, you will need to make blocks for every member of your group, bring them to the October meeting and turn them over to Diane Francini or Judy Prohaska. Please put all your blocks in a plastic zip lock bag with your name on it.

After the October meeting, you will again make blocks for every member of your group. You'll bring them to the November meeting in a plastic zip lock bag with your name on it, and turn them over to Diane or Judy. At this November meeting, you'll receive a plastic bag filled with Half Square Triangles that were created by each member of your group from the previous month. This activity will continue for each month, December through June.

Now What?

By June, you will have a whole lot of blocks. You can certainly add to the overall quilt design and size, making it even more unique.

Thank you!

Participating in the Half Square Triangle Swap has the obvious advantages of using up your stash and creating a quilt. It also has more subtle, pleasant side effects.....getting to know other guild members, trying something new, and experimenting with all the different creative ways these blocks can be assembled to make your own unique quilt.

Let's get swapping!!!

