

THE FLOPPY GAZETTE

Volume 6, No. 1, Spring/Summer 1999

Dear Friends,

Finally, Windows! (Insert cork-popping sound here)

Thanks for all your congratulatory notes about our new Windows 95/98 quilt design software Electric Quilt 4. We're delighted by the response to the program, and welcome all of you who are new users. We hope you enjoy this issue of our newsletter, published about twice a year.



EQ4 Simplified - Ready Now

We plan on publishing a series of books to help you get the most out of EQ4. Our first book, **EQ4 Simplified**, is ready now. Author Fran Iverson Gonzalez has written this "beginner's guide" from a quilter's viewpoint. You learn visually, designing specific quilt styles on the computer, as she gently introduces you to more advanced EQ4 features. See some of her clever quilt designs in this newsletter. See them all, along with actual sample book pages, on her Web site.

EQ4 Block Book - Ready Now

The EQ4 Block Book, a picture book showing each of the 2200 blocks in the EQ4 Block Library, will be ready May 15. This look-up guide makes it easy for you to locate the block you want to use without having to scroll through the library files.

Barb Vlack - Will Be Back!

Get ready. EQ4 expert Barb Vlack, popular author of **Too Much Fun!** for EQ3, will have a new EQ4 book set for winter release. Barb's book will contain design recipes, so she's laughingly suggested "**Barb-EQ Recipes**" as a working title. She's cooking up detailed EQ4 instructions for designing pieced sashes, wreaths, applique blocks and over 50 other tidbits. She'll also have special instructions for all you quilting teachers who need class print-outs.

EQ4 Designer Fabric "Stash" on CD

Your appetite for fabric is endless! You're already asking for more designer fabrics. So watch our Web site for an announcement of fabric CDs - all new designer fabrics to use in EQ4. These new scanned swatches of real fabric will be additions to the 700+ real fabrics already in EQ4.

BlockBase for Windows 95/98

We plan to republish our BlockBase software in a Windows 95/98 version around year-end. The DOS version of BlockBase, which has 3500 traditional pieced blocks, based on Barbara Brackman's wonderful block identification book, Encyclopedia of Pieced Quilt Patterns, is sold out. Registered users will receive information about the new program.

What Else is New?

We have new programs in the planning stages, and a new Web site in the works, to allow on-line shopping. All this is possible because of the help we're getting from some great new staff members: Bill Clifford (scan man and Web wizard) and Sharon Chase (helpful customer service and order taker).

ClubEQ

Thanks to Barb Vlack & Pat Tribbey, all EQ users now have a club and gallery exhibition space. See the article on clubeq (page 3) and visit to see some amazing quilts by fellow EQ users.

Keep in touch. And thanks for your help and wonderful support!

Sincerely,

Dean, Penny, Ann, Lu, Margaret, Amy, Jan,
Diane, Bill, Sharon and EQ the Mouse

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Fran Gonzalez Writes New Book **EQ4 Simplified: A beginner's companion to** **Electric Quilt 4 software**



Fran

Learn EQ4 while creating six original quilt designs made just for you by designer Fran Iverson Gonzalez. No dull tech stuff here! Fran's easy lessons start with the basics in Part I. She gradually introduces more advanced work with layers, borders, quilting stitches, the

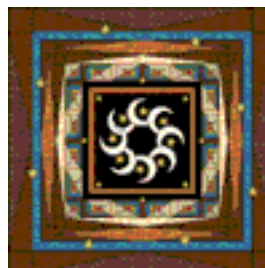
Wreathmaker, applique drawing, Country Set, and using the graph pad, in Part II. All lesson steps, tools and screens, are illustrated in large pictures that won't require you to put on your glasses. There's a detailed Table of Contents as well as a full Index for quick look-up. Fran Iverson Gonzalez is an EQ whiz. She's written two earlier tutorials, EQ2 Simplified and EQ3 Simplified, and taught beginners' hands-on EQ classes at Oklahoma Quiltworks (Oklahoma City) for years. She uses EQ to create her own pattern line, including the wonderful "Sky Lights" EQ Mystery Quilt featured on EQ's



Web site. Fran's love of quilts and fabrics, clear in her book, is rooted in her childhood. "At an early age I was exposed to vibrant colors, exotic fabrics, and unusual designs," she says. "For relaxation, my grandmother made very sophisticated and elaborate Mardi Gras costumes and entire wedding ensembles on her 1930's Singer sewing machine. One of my earliest memories is of collecting glittering rainbows of elegant, se- quined fabric scraps from her sewing room floor to make doll clothes. Every gathering of the women in the family ultimately involved discussions of fabric and needlework." To order EQ4 Simplified, call 1-800-356-4219 or ask for it in your local store carrying EQ products.

"Since I am, first and foremost, a quilter, not a computer expert, I helped my students learn EQ software the way I learned it myself. Now, with this Beginner's Companion to EQ4 you, like my students, can feel confident enough to 'try this at home... alone!'"

More Quilts Featured in EQ4 Simplified:



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From our Mailbox

Where the Wild Things Live

Dear EQ,
There's been a very large snake hanging out on our front porch lately (sure, it's just a garter snake, but I do NOT like snakes of any kind whatsoever) so I have not been opening the front door at all if I can avoid it! Well, one day last week I happened to look out the window and noticed a package on the porch which looked suspiciously like it might be from you (EQ). Summoning all my courage, I s-l-o-w-l-y opened the door a narrow crack, a crack precisely calculated to be exactly the width of the box, and gulping hard, stuck my hand out the door and snatched the box in so fast that even Mr. Snake would have been impressed with my speed and agility, I daresay. Well, it was worth the risk: Sew Precise Collection 3. I've been a major fan of Shirley Liby since her earliest books, and this CD is fabulous!! You can piece together your very own Titanic!!
Thanks so much for another terrific product. Keep 'em coming! I'd brave an encounter with an ANACONDA to snatch the next one off my porch!
- Jane Nehring, Boiling Springs, PA

12-Step Program

Dear EQ,
I was stopped in a restaurant last night by a friend who had a very serious look on his face. He told me that, since discovering quilting a few months ago, his wife no

longer wants to go to parties or out to eat (I noticed he was alone), doesn't watch TV, and turned down a weekend trip on their sailboat. According to him, all she wants to do is quilt, quilt, quilt. He asked if he should be worried. I asked if they had a computer and he said yes. I asked if she had Electric Quilt and he said no. I told him with great enthusiasm that there is a terrific Internet support group for people with exactly her problem, and suggested she call me for information. Did I say the right thing?

- Carol A. Giannini, Anchorage, AK

Barb Vlack, a quilter and an Electric Quilt teacher responded to Carol:

Definitely the wife of this friend should be enrolled in a 12-Step Program for Quilters, aka The Block of the Month Program. She'll learn to live the motto, "Quilting Forever, Housework Whenever". She may even graduate into Fabriholics Anonymous, where the 12-Step Program includes collecting a different color each month. Support groups for those in need are popping up all over the place, though they may be difficult to find in the Yellow Pages. She should keep an eye to the newspaper for announcements of community events, which often include listings of quilt shows or quilt guild meetings. She could even start one of her own with others of a similar bent. And yes, your advice about Internet support is right on. Any moment she doesn't spend with a needle in her hand can be spent with a mouse instead!

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Easy Steps to Fabric Scanning Success Tips From Our Scan Man - Bill Clifford

Bill, our new graphics and computer pro, scanned hundreds of fabrics from 13 different fabric manufacturers for our Designer Fabric library. We invited him to share some of his expert tips with you.

Step 1

Scan a piece of fabric that you want to use in EQ4. There are too many scanning programs out there for us to be able to give you more specific steps. Please refer to your scanner/image editing program documentation.

Your image must be scanned at 72 dots per inch (72 dpi or 72 pixels per inch), or they will appear too large (or too small) on your monitor.

Your image must contain a MAXIMUM of 256 colors. Selecting fewer than 256 colors is OK.

Step 2

Save the fabric image you just scanned as a windows bitmap file (.bmp). Please refer to your scanner/image editing program documentation.

Step 3

Open the file you just created using MS Paint (it comes with Windows 95/98 and is located in the Accessories program group).

Optional Step

If you think the fabric pattern looks too large on the screen, select

Image > Stretch/Skew

Type 50% for both the horizontal and vertical stretch. This will make the fabric scan appear smaller. All of the fabrics in the Designer Fabrics library were resized 50%, so the fabrics would look better proportioned on your monitor.

Step 4

Select Image > Attributes...

Your image height and width must be a MAXIMUM of 200 each. It can be smaller than 200 by 200.

"Units" must be pixels (may be written "Pels").

Select "Colors".

Step 5

Select File > Save As and go to your EQ4 folder (the default location is c:\EQ4, but yours may be different) and click the "create new folder" icon.

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Easy Steps to Fabric Scanning Success Tips From Our Scan Man - Bill Clifford Continued

Step 6

Name the folder you just created "fabrics" (without the quotes)

Step 7

Open the folder you just created.

Step 8

Give your fabric a name. Make sure that the name ends with ".bmp" (without the quotes).

Step 9

Make sure that your file type reads "256 Color Bitmap (*.bmp; *.dib)"

Step 10

Click the Save button. You can now exit MS Paint, if you wish.

Step 11

Start EQ4 and create a new project. We're only going to use this project for importing fabrics, so name it "Fabrics" or something else that you'll remember.

Step 12

Open the EQ4 Sketchbook to the Fabrics tab and click the clear button to remove all of the fabrics currently in the sketchbook.

Step 13

Select Libraries > Fabric Library

Step 14

See steps 1-5 on page 100 of the EQ4 Design Cookbook to put your new fabric scan in the Sketchbook.

Step 15

See steps 1-8 on page 54 of the EQ4 Design Cookbook to save your new fabric scan in a fabric library.

Now, whenever you want to use the fabrics you scanned, you'll be able to get them from the library and they'll be available to all of your projects.

You can now use this project ("Fabrics") to import other scanned fabrics.

More Successful Scanning Tips:

You DO NOT have to change your monitor settings to import scanned fabrics into EQ4.

EQ4 will not successfully import bitmaps that are saved with Run Length Encoding (RLE). If your image editing program allows for RLE, make sure that you have chosen NOT to use it. If you use Photoshop or Paint Shop Pro to save your images, see [this page](#) on our Web site for more information.

Delete fabrics from the sketchbook that you do not want to use in your current project.

The largest image size you can use is 200 by 200 pixels. This refers to your image size only and NOT your monitor resolution.

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ClubEQ meets in Cyberspace by Barb Vlack

ClubEQ is a club any EQ user on the Web can join. clubEQ is a free online EQ user group with monthly challenges and displays. **Barb Vlack** issues a monthly challenge theme, offering examples to stimulate creative juices.

The challenge is announced each month on the Info-EQ maillist and on the [clubEQ](#) web page. Everyone has until the 25th of the month to respond. Users of EQ4 are welcome to send file attachments via e-mail to Penny@electricquilt.com. No sewing is involved. All quilts and fabrics are virtual. No white gloves necessary!

The clubEQ idea came about because Barb hosts an EQ users club in

Woodstock, Illinois. She had described challenges her club was using, and how they met monthly to share designs. Many Info-EQ maillist members worldwide read about Barb's club, wanted to participate in similar challenges, but could not find local groups.

The monthly challenge quilts since January are now on the site.

All instructions for participating in the monthly challenge of **clubEQ** are on this page. In addition, anyone may take the monthly challenges of **clubEQ** and use them in their own EQ club. The challenges are a fun way to learn more about EQ4! Visit [clubEQ](#) and join the fun!



"The Elephant's Child" by Suzanne Sanger

(An example of the quilts you can find in clubEQ's gallery)

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Ask EQ (Page 1):

Since we introduced the Electric Quilt 4, EQ has been one busy mouse. We hope he answers some of your questions on the following two pages. For more frequently asked questions, see "[Tech Support](#)" on our Web site.



Rotating on Layers 2 & 3

Q: How can I rotate a block on layers 2 or 3? I made the Amish quilt following the recipe in the cookbook (p. 156). I decided to add on by placing a stencil block on Layer 3, but it is a square. How can I make my stencil an on-point square so it matches the quilt center?

A: When working on layers 2 or 3 on any quilt layout (or layer 1 on a Country Set Quilt) it is extremely helpful to use two different tools. The first is the Graph Pad located at the bottom of the screen under the quilt tabs. If you do not see the Graph Pad, click on View in the main menu and click on Graph Pad. Second, you must use the Adjust tool. With the Adjust tool selected and the Graph Pad showing, click on the stencil block (a frame will surround it). On the Graph Pad there is a circle made with an arrow that is not closed, it represents the rotation of the block. To the right of the circle is the degree to which the block is rotated and to the right of that number are arrow buttons to change the degree. Click on the right-arrow button until you get to 45. Notice your block has rotated to a perfect on-point square!

Using Sew Precise and BlockBase Blocks in EQ4

Q: How can I use Sew Precise and BlockBase blocks in EQ4?

A: If you own other Electric Quilt products: BlockBase, Sew Precise Collections 1&2, Sew Precise Collection 3 Shirley Liby Designs, you can choose to have all the blocks from these programs appear in the Block Library of EQ4. This requires that you run the installation a second time to link these files to EQ4.

IMPORTANT: Be certain to choose the same destination folder the second time you run the setup as you do the first time. (In other words, be sure you know where you put the other program on your computer. You need the correct "address" or EQ4 can't find the block files.)

1. Put the EQ4 CD in the drive and follow the installation instructions, as if you were reinstalling EQ4 just as you installed it the first time. But this time, when you get the Setup Options dialog, choose "Link EQ4 to other EQ programs."
2. Choose the products you have installed on your computer and the location of the files. (Remember: you need to tell EQ4 the correct location or this link will not work.)
3. When you have completed the installation a second time, start EQ4. If you receive the message, "EQ4\RES\DEFAULT1.PJ4 contains an invalid path." this means that the second time you ran the installation, you did not choose the same destination folder as you did the first time. Run the installation program again choosing the same path as the original installation.
4. After you have successfully completed the setup to link the programs, open the EQ4 Block Library. You will see the other EQ products listed.
5. Double-click on the book to open the files and then open the pages to see the blocks. These blocks do not appear in their original fabric colorings. They appear in random solid colors ready for you to use in EQ4.

NOTE: If the book appears with the product name but does not open when you double-click on it, then you need run the setup again making sure that you choose the correct location (path) to the files.

Corrupt Library Files

Q: I get the message "Library Files are corrupted." What should I do?

A: If you receive the message, "Library file data is corrupt." after linking EQ4 to BlockBase, it means that EQ4 is having difficulty reading the BlockBase files. To correct this, do the following, following either the Quick Steps, or Detailed Steps.

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Ask EQ (Page 1): Continued

Quick Steps:

1. Find the LIB folder inside the BB1 folder.
2. Rename the folder LIBB.
3. Then create a new folder giving it the original name of LIB.
4. Copy all of the files from the LIBB folder into the LIB folder. That's it. You're done.

Detailed Steps:

Use these steps (which show you each step needed in order to do the Quick Steps) if you do not understand how to do the Quick Steps above.

1. Close EQ4 if you have it open.
2. At the Windows desktop, double-click on My Computer.
3. Double-click on the C: drive. A new window will open showing all the folders on the C drive.
4. Find the BB1 folder and double-click on it. A window will open showing all the files and folders inside the BB1 folder. You should see a folder called LIB.
5. Click once on the LIB folder to select it. A highlight will appear behind the letters LIB.
6. Click on File on the main menu bar of this window.
7. Choose Rename. This will put a rectangular box surrounding the letters LIB indicating you are in "edit mode."
8. Type the name LIBB. Now the folder is renamed. You need to copy the files that are inside this folder.
9. Double-click on the LIBB folder. A window will open showing all the files inside the folder.
10. Click on Edit on this window's main menu bar.
11. Click Select All. You will see all the names of the files become highlighted.
12. Click on Edit on the main menu bar.
13. Click Copy. You won't see anything happening, but all the files have been copied to the Window's clipboard (a place for temporary storage).
14. Close this window by clicking on the X in the upper right corner of the window. (Don't close My Computer - so on some computers you may need

to click the Up Folder icon or the Back Arrow button rather than clicking the X.) Now you will be looking at the BB1 window again. You should see BB1 on the title bar of the window.

15. Click on File on the main menu bar of this window.
16. Point to New and choose Folder. A new folder will appear. If you don't see it right away, you may need to make the window bigger or use the scroll bar to scroll the view so you can see it.
17. When you find the new folder, it will be highlighted and in edit mode ready to be renamed. The current name will be NEW FOLDER. (If it is not highlighted with the rectangular box around it indicating edit mode, click on the folder to select it and choose Rename from the File menu.)
18. Name this new folder LIB.
19. Double-click on the new LIB folder to open it. A new window will appear. There are no files in the folder yet so the window is empty.
20. Click on Edit on the main menu bar of this window.
21. Click on Paste. The files you copied in step # 13 will be pasted into the folder.
22. Click on the X in the upper right corner of this window and all other windows open in the background until you are back to the Windows desktop.
23. Start EQ4.
24. Click on Libraries on the main menu - click on Block Library. You should no longer see any error message. When you click on the BlockBase book, 20 books should appear.

Color Search

Q: I've used a certain blue in my quilt. How can I find that blue again in the palette?

A: Do a color search. Here's how:

1. With a colored block or quilt on the worktable, click on the Spraycan tool.
2. Click on a colored patch in the block or quilt.
3. EQ4 will find that color or fabric in the Fabrics & Colors palette.

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Ask EQ (Page 2):

Deleting Blocks

Q: How do I delete a block from my quilt?

A: Choose Undo from the EDIT menu immediately after setting the block. Or, just set a new block over the block you want replaced. Specifically, you can use the Plain Block tool and set a white block to replace the unwanted block.

Q: How do I delete a block from layer 2 or 3, or a Country Set quilt?

A: Choose Undo from the EDIT menu immediately after setting the block. Or use the Adjust tool.

1. Click on the Adjust tool.
2. Click on the Block you want to delete. It will become selected.
3. Press the Delete key on your keyboard.

Reusing Country Sets

Q: Can I use one of my Country Set quilts as a "model" to set new blocks into?

A: Yes. Get your Country Set quilt showing up on the worktable. With the Set tool selected, set a new block to replace the old block by selecting a new block in the palette, then clicking on the center of the block you want to replace. The new block will pop into the old block's space, replacing it. Continue replacing blocks until you have your new quilt as you like.

Thread Color

Q: How do I change thread color on my quilt?

A: You can change thread color on an applique motif (changing the color around the applique motif, as if the applique was sewn on with colored thread) in layer 2 or a quilting stencil in layer 3.

Here's how to change the thread color:

1. Have your applique motif on layer 2, or your quilting stencil on layer 3.
2. Have the layer 2 tab or the layer 3 tab selected, depending on which layer you are working on.
3. Click on the Thread Color tool. The Fabrics & Colors palette appears.
4. Click on the palette to select a color.

5. Click on the applique motif or the quilting stencil (on the quilt). The thread color changes to your selected color.

To change color on all motifs or stencils at once, hold down the CTRL key as you click in step #5.

Country Set

Q: How do I set and rotate blocks or change quilt block size in a Country Set quilt?

A: Use the Graph Pad.

1. Have a Country Set layout on the worktable.
2. On the VIEW menu, click to put a check in front of Graph pad. You'll see a gray toolbar pop onto the bottom of your screen. Drag the mouse on your quilt to set a block.
3. Click on the Adjust tool.
4. Click on the block you want to adjust. The Graph Pad will "come alive," showing you numbers. These numbers show you the size, rotation, and position (on the quilt) of the selected block.

The Graph Pad is used to make fine adjustments to blocks on layers 2 and 3 and to blocks on layer 1 of a Country Set quilt. The Graph Pad updates automatically when you adjust the selected block with the mouse. When you change one of the controls on the Graph Pad, the corresponding position, dimension, or property of the selected block is adjusted to the new value.

For full, illustrated, information on using the Graph Pad, see the EQ4 Help files:

In EQ4, on the HELP menu, choose EQ4 Help. Double-click on Designing a Quilt.

Double-click on Designing a Country Set Layout. Open and read these two topics:

1. Using the Graph Pad on a single block.
2. Using the Graph Pad on multiple blocks at once.

Deleting Projects

Q: How do I delete a project?

A: You can delete projects from the Win 95/98 Desktop, or from inside EQ4. From your Win 95/98 Desktop you can delete one, or many, projects:

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Ask EQ (Page 2): Continued

1. Double-click on My Computer.
2. Double-click on C: drive (or the drive on which you installed EQ4).
3. Double-click on the EQ4 folder.
4. Double-click on the PRJ folder.
5. Click on the project you want to delete. (Or, hold down your keyboard CTRL key as you click on project after project.)
6. On the FILE menu, choose Delete. You will be asked if you are sure you want to send the project(s) to the Recycle bin.
7. Click on Yes.

From EQ4 you can delete one project at a time.

1. On the FILE menu, choose Open.
2. Click the folder in the bottom-left marked "Click here to open a project not listed above." This takes you to where you can navigate through Windows files.
3. Click on the project you want to delete, to highlight it.
4. Press your keyboard Delete key. You will be asked if you are sure you want to send the project to the Recycle bin.
5. Click on Yes.

New Fabrics

Q: Is there going to be any way to add new fabric lines to the program?

A: Yes. We will be producing EQ4 Fabric CDs as accessories for EQ4. These CDs will contain thousands of new fabrics to update the fabrics currently on the EQ4 CD. Watch our Web site and the next issue of the Floppy Gazette for more information.

Pieced Sashes

Q: How can I make pieced sashes?

A: You can set any block from the Block Library into a sash space in your quilt layout. The square block will stretch to become a rectangle and fill your sash.

Tip: Try blocks from the Classic Pieced - Simple

Blocks style. You can also draw your own pieced sash. To do this, change the drawing square into a rectangle, and draw the block the same proportion as your sash.

1. First, set up your quilt layout, noting your sash dimensions. You will know the width = the width you set for the sash on the Layout tab. You can figure out the length by noting the horizontal size of the block on the Layout tab.
2. Next, see the EQ4 Design Cookbook recipe "Drawing a Rectangular Block" on page 66. Draw your block and save it in the Sketchbook.
3. Set your sash block into your quilt layout. The block will be square (and look odd) in the Sketchbook, but will look fine when you set it into your rectangular sash space.
4. To print the block, or templates for the block, click on the Select tool, click the sash, choose FILE - Print - Print Block (or Templates).

Making an Apple Core

Q: How do I change an apple block into an "apple core" as shown on page 77 of the Design Cookbook?

A: Get the block from the library (Contemporary Applique - Garden Blocks). Open the Sketchbook, click on the Apple block, click on the Edit button. Your apple will now be on the PatchDraw worktable. To change the apple to an apple core, you cave in the apple sides:

1. Click on the Bezier Edit tool.
2. Click one side of the apple. The line will become selected and you'll see handles. You can now change the curvature of this selected line between the two nodes.
3. Drag the handles to make the apple side concave, so it looks like the picture on page 77.
4. Repeat steps #2 and #3 to cave in the other side of the apple. You'll now have an apple core block. Click the Save in Sketchbook button.

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Our Talented Users Show and Tell

Quilt Festival in Houston

Lynne Harrill's Suburban Nights quilt won Second Place in the small traditional pieced quilts category at the IQA show at Quilt Festival in Houston, October 1998. And Lynne even credited EQ3 on her artist's statement, which was displayed with her quilt. Thanks and congratulations, Lynne! Lynne is from Cantonment, Florida.

Peggy's Texas 2 Step

Peggy Raley, the major mover behind the Boerne [Texas] Quiltfest each year, had three EQ quilts featured in Texas Hwy magazine. Peggy's Texas 2 Step, and Phone Home, were shown hanging in the Boerne library, and her Amish Shadow with an Attitude made the magazine's back cover. Peggy writes: "I would probably be 60 quilts behind if I had to rely on ordinary patterns and pencil and paper."

Computer Chic in New Zealand

Mary Metcalf, from Auckland, New Zealand, featured EQ3 in an article she wrote for New Zealand Quilter magazine (issue #24). Mary's article, "Computer Chic," was illustrated with her quilt Pohutukawa III, which used different sizes of blocks to create leaves and blossoms.



Quilting Today

Margaret Gray, from Salem Utah, turned a BlockBase block into a bonanza of a prize-winner! Margaret writes, "Issue 72 of Quilting Today will have my version of Katherine Wheels. I took the pattern from BlockBase into EQ. This was real easy to make, but looks difficult. I still do not know why this quilt is a big hit. I did enter it in 3 county fairs and received 5 blue and grand champion ribbons. [!] It was made as a gift for my husband, and soon it will go on the bed."

Gloria Driscoll, from Richford, New York, writes, "My great-grandmother and I are featured in Quilting Today (January 1999 issue) about connecting past quilters with today's quilters. The quilt shown is from our extensive collection of quilts made by our foremothers from the 1850s through 1956. Even though I didn't use EQ to make my quilt featured in this article, I now use it to reproduce these quilts both full size and miniature. We also used BlockBase to help us date the blocks and quilts, which helped us to identify the makers. I don't believe that we would have been able to do this project without EQ."

Contemporary Quilt '99 Exhibition

Vikki Chenette, from Buffalo, Wyoming, has EQ designed quilts included in the Contemporary Quilt '99 exhibition, sponsored by the Wyoming Arts Council in the Council Gallery, Cheyenne, Wyoming. The show's up from July 12 - Sept. 20, 1999. New England Quilt Museum

Martha Supnik, the New England Quilt Museum's Library Volunteer and Webmaster, writes, "Just thought you'd be pleased to know that the Massachusetts Quilt Documentation Project has been revived and we are using a copy of BlockBase on my laptop to find the right page in Barbara Brackman's book to verify quilt pattern names. It's the fastest way to find them!" The New England Quilt Museum is in Lowell, Massachusetts.

1999 American Quilter's Society

Nancy Welsch used EQ to design the applique central medallion of the Ole Miss Sesquicentennial Quilt, displayed at the 1999 American Quilter's Society show. Says Nancy, "All those S'es. The University of Mississippi Sesquicentennial. I said I wished it was Ohio. DH [Dear Husband] said be glad it's not the Massachusetts Institute of Technology."

Quilt Guild Challenge

Carol Miller, from Clifton, Virginia, told us about her guild challenge, designed using BlockBase and EQ blocks. "They are provided with the blocks that existed at the turn of the last century and told to interpret one or more as we go into the next century." Carol is also her guild's Webmaster, so if you want to see the blocks and challenge rules, go to http://www.vcq.org/century_challenge.htm Carol says you are welcome to copy it and use it in your guilds.

Vote for a Quilt Design Using EQ

Kay Bruce, from Milano, Texas, told us how her guild used EQ to "vote" for a raffle quilt design. "When your guild is trying to decide what raffle quilt to make, print out about four possible design choices from EQ designs. Take these four printouts to the guild for them to vote on. Each member writes her initials on her favorite. The one with the most initials is the popular choice for the raffle quilt design."

Basic Realities Contest Winner

Anita Solomon, New York, NY, won an honorable mention in the Jinny Beyer Basic Realities Contest for her EQ-designed quilt, Reality Check. Below is a detail from Anita's prize-winning quilt.



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Recognizing EQ Designers:

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Introducing EQ4 Block Designers Rita Denenberg and Debbie Sichel

The answer: Rita Denenberg and Debbie Sichel

The question: What two designers have blocks in the EQ4 Block Library?

Rita Denenberg and Debbie Sichel both contributed their original block designs to enhance EQ4. We thought you might like to know a bit more about these designers, and how they came to design the blocks you can now see and use in the block library.

Rita Denenberg:



We first “met” Rita on-line, when she won an EQ Web site quilt contest with her applique floral quilt, To Martin with Love, designed on EQ3.

[The blocks from this quilt are in the block library’s Contemporary Applique, “Rita Denenberg Garden” file in EQ4. See her quilt, and an interview with Rita, on the old EQ Web site: <http://www.wcnet.org/ElectricQuiltCo/cont6.htm> (web page no longer exists)]

We soon learned that Rita, from Wellington, Florida, had won many quilt contests, had quilts featured in the books Making Childhood Memories, Great American Quilts, Award Winning Quilts and Their Makers, and Florida Quilts. Her winning EQ quilt had even been featured in McCall’s Quilting’s February 1996 issue.

Rita generously offered to share more block designs in EQ4, sending us new flower blocks, Christmas, Hanukkah, Easter and Halloween blocks. You’ll even find her own self-portrait as a quilter! This block was possible because Rita was the first person to test out EQ4’s new importing feature which lets you trace around a photo (or

drawing) to draw a new block.

To see EQ4 patterns Rita has for sale, including State Flowers, State Birds, Boy Scouts, and Girl Scouts, go to <http://myquilts.hypermart.net/patterns.htm>

Debbie Sichel:



Debbie Sichel from Coarsegold, California, sent us an amazing file of Hebrew alphabet foundation designs last year.

[Find Debbie’s foundation blocks in the Paper Piecing, Hebrew Alphabet file; plus a Dreidel and two Groggers in the Holiday Foundations. The Contemporary Pieced style has 4 Star of Davids in the Home Delights file.]

We’d had requests for Jewish-themed blocks, so asked permission to include them in EQ4. She told us a bit about why she’d designed them.

“The alephbet is what is used to write the Hebrew language. Hebrew is the language used in Israel, and in synagogues everywhere used in worship on the Sabbath. Lots of Jewish art work includes writing in Hebrew,” Debbie says. “I wanted to be able to use the letters without always having to resort to applique, especially if I wanted rather small letters. I designed the alephbet mainly to give myself paper foundations for a quilt for Hanukkah. That quilt is still an electric one! Then I expanded from those four letters and made enough to make Yom Kippur in Hebrew for another quilt, expressing my feelings about the Day of Atonement. From there I thought it would be fun to make a baby quilt with the whole alephbet on it.”

Thanks to Rita and Debbie for sharing their EQ designs with all of us!

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Recognizing EQ Designers:

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American Patchwork & Quilting Honors Margaret

EQ staff member, Margaret Okuley, could hardly keep the secret! But her news is out: her shop, The Quilt Foundry in Maumee Ohio, is one of ten stores featured in the next Quilt Sampler issue of American Patchwork & Quilting magazine. The special annual issue samples the top quilt stores in North America.

Margaret is EQ's "resident quilt expert" on Tuesdays and Fridays. But the rest of the week she and her three partners run a busy and popular quilt shop in an historic town along the Maumee River.

Meet Margaret and her partners when the magazine comes out May 25, 1999. Margaret used EQ to turn the Pine Tree block, her shop logo, into a beautiful "September Song" Pine Tree medallion quilt. Margaret's shop will offer kits for her quilt. Ordering details will be given in the article.

"We think the article will make more people aware of our store," says Margaret. "We already have people stopping on their way to or from vacation, and we expect more people to find us this summer."

So if you're driving through Northwest Ohio sometime soon, plan a stop at the charming brick building housing The Quilt Foundry, and say hello to Margaret.

The Quilt Foundry is located at:
234 West Wayne Street
Maumee, OH 43537
Open Monday - Saturday 10am - 4pm &
Tuesday evenings from 7pm - 9pm
Phone: 419-893-5703
Web site: www.quiltfoundry.com



September Song
by Margaret Okuley

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Other Uses For EQ4:

Make Quilt Block Boxes

Sara Harder, from Bloomington, Minnesota impressed us when she sent some beautiful origami boxes she made using fabrics and block patterns from EQ4. These boxes are a festive way to give presents (although we think the boxes are presents in themselves).



Here are Sara's box instructions (Sara credits the book **Calligraphy Crafts** by Mei-Lan Hom and Mary Worthington for these directions):

1. Start with a square piece of text-weight paper, gift-wrap, or fabric bonded to paper. Boxes can be made any size. But the bigger the box, the heavier the materials need to be. To figure the size square needed, double the diagonal of the finished box you desire. (Sarah used square quilt layouts and printed them out about 7 inches square.)
2. As with all origami, be as precise as possible. Cut and fold carefully creasing all folds well!
3. Draw two diagonal lines on the wrong side of the square to be folded. This locates the center.
4. Fold one corner to the center and then fold over again to the diagonal line. Unfold. Do all four corners, one at a time.
5. To make the corners, pleat the middle square on each side. Place the thumb and forefinger along the sides of the pleat line. Place the other forefinger on the other side of the paper and push it up at the pleat line into the thumb and forefinger. Crease the pleat line.
6. To assemble, fold two opposite corners into the center, folding the two sides up. Fold the two remaining corners into the box.
7. Use a dab of glue to hold the points down in the lid of the box. A sticker can be used too.
8. To make the bottom, start with a square $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ inch smaller than the lid square. This will vary according to the thickness of the paper, especially if you have bonded paper or fabric to another paper.

9. Have four sheets of paper ready. When #2 box doesn't fit with #1, make #3 to fit it. Then with your last sheet, make a match for #2. This way there is no waste, instead, two boxes!



Step 3



Step 4 - part one



Step 4 - part two



Step 5



Step 6 - part one

Making Fabric Computer Wallpaper

Pat Tribbey, from North Lauderdale, Florida and the Webmaster for clubEQ had to let us know about a recent discovery with the new Electric Quilt 4. We thought we'd share it with you - hope you like this innovative idea!.

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Other Uses For EQ4: Continued

All those gorgeous fabrics in EQ4!

I just experimented with the Electric Quilt 4 and made wallpaper for my computer desktop with one of the Designer Fabrics.

Here's how you can do it:

1. In EQ4, on the WORKTABLE menu, click Work on Block.
2. On the BLOCK menu point to New Block, click on PatchDraw.
3. Click the Save in Sketchbook button. EQ4 will ask if you are sure you want to save a plain block.
4. Click Yes.
5. Click on the Color tab.
6. Color the plain block with any fabric that you desire.
7. Click the Export Snapshot button. Nothing will happen. Your cursor will look like a magnifying glass with a crosshair in the center.
8. Click, hold, and drag the cursor from the top-left of the block to the bottom-right. (You do not have to enclose the whole block - in fact, it will make the wallpaper smaller in memory size if you just enclose part of it.)
9. Release the mouse. You will see an Export Snapshot pop-up menu appear.
10. Click the Save as bitmap file button. You can export it to the Windows directory, but it doesn't really matter which directory you put it in. I created a sub-directory I call Wallpaper in which I put all my wallpaper files. Name the block, and remember what you called it and where you exported it.
11. Click Save.
12. Minimize EQ4 so you're back on the Windows desktop.
13. Right-click anywhere on the Windows desktop.
14. Click Properties. You'll see tabs.
15. Click the Background tab showing.
16. Click the Browse button. Navigate to find the .bmp file you just exported and saved.
17. Double-click on the .bmp file.

18. Click Stretch and then click Apply. There ya go... a designer fabric desktop!

Quilt tip from EQ's Shipping Manager

Our shipping manager, **Jan Nelson**, is also a quilter. Recently, Jan told us a neat trick that she uses when she is piecing blocks together, so we thought we'd share it with all of you. Thanks Jan!

Here's how to turn a pizza box into a portable flannel board for patchwork designing.

1. Get an extra large pizza box (usually 14 to 16 inches square).
2. Open the box, and measure the inside bottom.
3. Cut a piece of flannel to fit inside the box (where the pizza usually sits). Flannel makes a great surface for holding block pieces in place while you're designing because most fabrics "stick" to this fuzzy foundation.
4. "Piece" your block design together on the flannel in the pizza box.
5. When you're done working, close the box lid and your block is safe from kids and cats, or can be easily transported to a guild meeting.

[We here at EQ must admit that the reason we printed this tip for our users was not purely selfless. Instead, we hope to alleviate some complaints from your non-quilting family members. Let us explain. Since the release of EQ4 we've received many messages that you, our users, have been so engrossed in our products that you've forgotten to cook dinner (we won't even mention cleaning, washing, etc.) for those more needy family members. Therefore, we thought this tip would be a great trick for you AND would help you keep your families fed!]

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Web Sightings:

A preview of EQ4 Simplified:

<http://www.flash.net/~qltcnfig/>

The club EQ website:

<http://members.aol.com/anotherpat/clubeq.html>

Rita Denenberg's Patterns for sale:

<http://myquilts.hypermart.net/patterns.htm>

Shows or Demos in The Netherlands:

<http://www.quilt.nl/demo.htm>

Virtual EQ3 or 4 Round Robbin:

<http://members.aol.com/SangerSL/robinsnest.html>

Downloadable Projects and Links to EQ Users:

<http://home.sol.no/~sskjonbe/quiltny.htm> (web page no longer exists)