

THE FLOPPY GAZETTE

Volume 8, No. 1, Summer/Fall 2001

Dear Friends,

Things change, including our *Floppy Gazette* newsletter. Mailing our twice-yearly *Gazette* to everyone on our growing international mailing list became impractical. What to do? It was "No Way!" or the Internet Highway. So with this issue, the *Gazette* goes totally online. We know many will miss our paper version, but hope to stay in touch more often this way.

To read this *Floppy Gazette*, click on the blue links above. You'll find a Redwork lesson, an interview with author **Brenda Brayfield**, Show & Tell from EQ users, information about EQ classes and free EQ stuff on the Internet, plus news about our new **Barbara Brackman Magic Book™**. Read on below for news about upcoming projects with **Brenda Papadakis**, and **Karen K. Stone**.

Barbara Brackman's *Create Your Family Quilt* Coming in October 2001

New this fall! A Barbara Brackman book with CD-ROM – a design "kit" for making your own beautiful Family Quilt with pieced blocks bordered by a bird and flower-filled vine.



First you read Barbara's book to discover which quilt blocks tell the story of the U.S. states or Canadian territories representing your family roots.

Next, follow the *Create Your Family Quilt* Design CD's step-by-step path, answering screen questions to select size, border style, blocks and appliqué state birds, flowers and leaves. Finally, print rotary cutting charts, foundations and appliqué patterns. Personalize your own original Family Quilt to commemorate weddings, anniversaries, graduations, family reunions or other "special family moments."



Here's designer Shauna O. Christensen's Family Quilt —



Shauna's design on the computer screen. To represent her family ties to four different states, Shauna used birds, flowers and leaves to represent California, Utah, Kansas and Washington. The Log Cabin blocks in her quilt's center represent home.

Shauna's real Family Quilt, "Home is where..." Shauna is from Lawrence, Kansas.

Also Coming in Fall: STASH Fall 2001

We'll have a new STASH in October, with all the new fall/winter fabrics.

EQ Classes

Isn't it time you went back to school? Sign up for hands-on classes at EQ's [Computer Lab](#) at Quilt Festival in Houston. Or take online EQ classes at home, from [Quilt University](#).

Dear Jane

No finish date yet for our upcoming *Dear Jane* pattern CD-ROM with **Brenda Papadakis**, author of the extremely popular *Dear Jane* book. But we promise a stand-alone (or use with EQ) program well worth the wait.

Karen K. Stone Quilts

Also coming up: a Magic Book™ featuring quilts from the wonderful teacher and designer, **Karen K. Stone**. It will include a retrospective of many of Karen's award-winning quilts, plus new designs. Her "Summer Star" is shown at right.



More news about these in the next Floppy Gazette...thanks for reading,

Dean, Penny, Ann, Lu, Margaret, Jan, Diane, Sharon, Jill, Andrea, Kevin, Rachel, Emily and EQ the Mouse

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Ask EQ (1 of 4)

Our mascot, EQ the Mouse, answers frequently asked questions, with some help from [EQ4 Magic](#) author, Barb Vlack.



Installing

Q: How can I link EQ4 and BlockBase? They're both installed, but they didn't link.

A: Here's how:

1. Install BlockBase once again (don't uninstall it).
2. At the end of the installation, when asked if you want to reboot, click on NO.
3. After the installation, when you're back at the Windows desktop, reboot on your own.

OR

Download and install [EQ4 Doctor](#) and let the Doctor link for you.

Q: I've got a new computer and I'm reinstalling all my programs. Is there a certain order I should install in?

A: Yes. To link the programs, so you can use blocks and fabrics in EQ4, you'll want to install the programs in the order in which they were released – earliest to latest. Here's the order:

1. Sew Precise 1&2
2. EQ4
3. Sew Precise 3
4. Sew Precise 4
5. STASH - install in chronological order, earliest to latest
6. BlockBase (say NO when asked if you want to reboot, during installation)

OR

Download and install [EQ4 Doctor](#) and let the Doctor link for you.

Importing

Q: I'm trying to import scanned fabrics, but get only a message about 256 colors, or a gray square. What's up?

A: The size of your fabric scan may be too big, you may have too many colors, or the resolution of your scan (this has nothing to do with your monitor resolution) may be too high. Make sure your bitmaps are:

- No larger than 200 x 200 pixels in size.
- No more than 256 colors.
- No more than 72 dpi (dots per inch) in resolution.

Look [here](#) on our Web site for our 15 easy steps to scanning fabric into EQ4.

Q: Can I import a picture, to make it a block?

A: You can import a block as a picture to trace – in other words, look at the block beneath the drawing table, so you can then redraw it. You can't bring in a block picture and use it as a block directly. But, EQ teacher, [Patti Anderson](#), developed her own method for doing something like you might like to do. See her clever lesson on doing this [here](#).

Drawing

Q: Why, when I'm drawing an 18 point Mariner's compass block and am partitioning each 1/4 arc into 9ths, does EQ4 lock up when I save the block?

A: Barb Vlack answers:

It's the ol' trying-to-draw-the-arcs-too-close-to-the-block-outline dilemma. If the arc flattens out where it meets the straight line of the block, EQ can't make a patch out of it, and may crash. The fix is to draw the circle slightly smaller within the block, so no edge of the circle touches the block outline. You can do this easily by changing the grid to a higher number and then drawing with Snap to Grid enabled. You can come close to the edge of the block. Just don't touch it with the arc.

Be sure to draw a little "bridge" between the arc and the block outline in one or more places so EQ thinks you intend to put a construction seam there. Then you can save without crashing.

Or you could draw a quarter of the block and use 4 to complete your circular Mariner's Compass.

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Ask EQ (2 of 4)

Q: I've scanned in a picture and am having trouble tracing it. Help?

A: Barb Vlack answers:

Here are some tips for tracing that might be helpful.

1. Study the drawing you want to trace. Be sure that you can draw closed shapes to make it work in PatchDraw. Just drawing disconnected lines won't work.
2. See if you can use the shapes on the tools in PatchDraw to approximate the shapes in the drawing. You can always edit/tweak the accuracy of where the lines should go.
3. Don't try to trace exactly the first time around. It's easier to rough trace and go back and adjust your lines with the Bezier Edit tool.
4. Use the appropriate Snap-to tools in the Advanced Drawing Features. You may have to change around and enable one, more than one, or disable them all. Use HELP to find information on these tools if you've never used them.
5. Get very well acquainted with what the Edit pop-up menu box can do for you. You get it by clicking on the dark square in the lower left corner of the Bezier Edit tool. With the Edit menu you can add nodes to the outline of a shape, change curved lines to straight and straight lines to curves, choose the type of corner you might need, break the connection in a shape, and more.
6. It makes a difference whether you click on a node or a line to edit. The Edit menu will change from Edit Node to Edit Arc. The Edit tools that are appropriate for your selection will be dark.
7. Learn how to use the handles you get when you select a curve with the Bezier Edit tool. They do wonderful things!
8. Use the Zoom tool.
9. Be patient. It's fun and easy to trace once you get the hang of it.

Coloring

Q: How can I delete color in a block?

A: If you use EDIT - undo immediately after you color, before clicking anywhere else, you will undo the coloring. Undo has 10 levels, so you can keep clicking EDIT - undo until the thing you did is undone.

But you can also just recolor. It's quicker to just recolor over the mistake, or reset a new block over the block you didn't want.

Q: Can I select the fabrics to appear in the Colors & Fabrics palette each time I open EQ?

A: Gordon Cooper answers this one:

The fabrics that appear with every NEW project are contained in a standard Electric Quilt project file - DEFAULT1.PJ4 found in the RES folder. This file is loaded by EQ4 every time "Create a New Project" is selected. It is quite easy to change the fabrics and/or colors to your own preferences. However we strongly recommend that you save a copy of the default1 file so that things can be restored to normal if required.

1. With EQ4 running, Click "Open an Existing Project."
2. Click the Box at lower left to "Open a project not listed above."
3. With the "Open an Existing Project" window open, Click the Bent Arrow button, to go Up One Level. (This button is to the right of the "Look in" box.) This will give you the list of EQ's folders.
4. Double-click on "res" to see the contents of the folder. There should be only one file - default1.
5. Click on default1. Then click Open. The default1 Sketchbook will appear on screen. Close the Sketchbook.
6. Make a backup copy of this file. Choose FILE - Save As, and name the project defaulteq. There will now be two files in the "res" folder, default1 and defaulteq. Defaulteq is your copy of the original and should not be modified.

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Ask EQ (3 of 4)

7. Now you can change default1 with your own preferences. Get fabrics from the Library as described on Page 52 of the EQ4 Design Cookbook.
8. Now save the project. Choose FILE - Save As, and keep the name of the project default1. Your own default fabric selection is now saved in the res\default1.pj4 file and will be loaded each time you start a new project.

To restore the original default fabrics.

1. Repeat Steps 1 to 4 above. When the “res” folder’s contents are shown on screen, there will be two files “default1” and “defaulteq”.
2. Select “defaulteq” and bring it into EQ4 as usual. Click File, Save As, and save this project with the name “default1”.

Country Set

Q: Can I put a border around blocks in my quilt, but not have it be the outside border?

A: If you want a border going around some blocks, but not around the outside of the quilt, you need to use the Country Set layout.

This layout lets you set any block, any size, anywhere on the quilt. But with all of this freedom, you have the added work of needing to set, resize and locate these blocks yourself, rather than being able to pop them into a pre-sized block space. It’s a good idea to read the Help files for more information on Country Set.

1. Click HELP - EQ4 Help
2. Click Designing a Quilt - Designing a Country Set Layout.

If you read HELP for nothing else, read it for Country Set and Layer 2 and 3. It’s really helpful.

Generally what you’ll do is set the blocks you want, resize them to make them the size you want, then move them.

- To set a block, select the block on the Sketchbook block palette, point to the quilt, then drag the mouse on the quilt. A box forms. The selected block pops into the box.
- To resize a block, click the Adjust tool, click the block on the quilt, look at the numbers in the center of your Graph Pad (they are the size numbers). Resize the block by clicking the arrows or typing in the size you want.
- To resize several blocks at once, once you’ve sized one block and while it’s still selected, hold down your keyboard SHIFT key, and click on all other blocks you want to make the same size. They will all be selected. Click the Same Size tool on the Graph Pad (double crossing arrows). All selected blocks will instantly resize.
- To make a border around your blocks, line up blocks to make a border, or click the Plain Block tool, point to the quilt and drag out a rectangular border-size strip. Click the Adjust tool, resize it to make it the size you want, then drag it up to your blocks, to border them. Repeat for each side of your blocks, to make borders. If necessary you can rotate the strip, using the Rotate tool on the Graph pad.

For more Graph pad practice, try our [EQuinox Mystery Quilt lessons](#).

Printing

Q: How can I print patterns for a block in my border?

A: The general information about printing a block from the quilt also applies to printing blocks from the border. To print the block in your border, click on the Select tool, then click on the block in your border. The block will be selected. Then choose FILE - Print - Templates. In the Print Templates box, click the “Size from quilt” option. Then click Print. You will get templates for the block sized as it needs to be to fit your border.

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Ask EQ (4 of 4)

Saving

Q: How do I transfer my projects from my old computer to my new computer?

A: Here's what to do:

1. Open My Computer.
2. Open C drive
3. Open EQ4
4. Open the PRJ Folder
5. Hold down the SHIFT key on your keyboard as you click on each project you want. (If you have lots of projects, perhaps do 5 at a time – the number of projects you can fit onto a floppy disk will vary, depending in large part on the number of scanned fabrics in the project. The scanned fabrics really expand project size.)
6. When the projects are highlighted, hold down the CTRL key on your keyboard and press the C key for copy.
7. Click the Back button, or the Up button, to get back to the main My Computer opening screen.
8. Put a formatted floppy disk into your floppy drive.
9. Click the letter name of your floppy drive (usually A:).
10. Once your computer is looking at your floppy drive, hold down the CTRL key and press the V key for paste.

OR

In EQ4, save projects one at a time by opening each project you want to save, then choosing Save As, and navigating to your floppy drive in the Save in box by clicking the down arrow, finding your floppy drive and clicking on it, then clicking the Save button.

Copyright

Q: As a teacher, can I use Sew Precise blocks for my class?

A: Our general rule is always that if the blocks are in the public domain, or new designs that we (at EQ) drew, it's okay to use them for anything at all. If they are drawn by someone else, you need to ask permission of the person who drew the blocks.

Here's what this means:

- EQ4 – you're free to use all of the blocks except those by Rita Denenberg and Debbie Sichel. They are clearly marked as by those designers.
- BlockBase – please contact the source, to see if the blocks are copyrighted by that source.
- SP 1 & 2 – you're free to use all of the blocks except those in the file "From Our Friends" — these are designs by EQ users.
- SP3 designs are copyrighted by Shirley Liby.
- SP4 designs are copyrighted by Donna McDade.

You'll find Shirley and Donna's copyright and contact information in the HELP files in Sew Precise.

If *you* have a question that needs answering, e-mail: techsupport@electricquilt.com

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Free Stuff

These are just a few of the EQ goodies available for EQ users on the Web.

[Free EQ4.1](#)

Upgrade your EQ4.0 program to add new tools.

[Free EQ4 Doctor](#)

Fix your EQ4.1 program if you're "locked out," or need to link to other EQ programs.

[Free BlockBase Screensaver](#)

Send your BlockBase blocks spinning.

[Free EQ4 Show](#)

Show off your own self-running quilt display.

[Free YesUcan Software](#)

Get a free Electric Quilt help database.

[Free KeepMany Software](#)

Store your own information on these six separate blank databases.

[Free EQ4 Projects](#) (web page no longer exists)

Download free EQ4 projects courtesy of the Minnesota Quilter's Guild.

[Free Web Backgrounds](#)

Use EQ fabrics as backgrounds on your Web site.

[Free Info-EQ Maillist](#)

Exchange e-mail messages and fun with other EQ users.

[Free Challenges](#)

Show your stuff in monthly clubEQ challenges posed by Barb Vlack.

[Free Round Robins](#)

Learn with other EQ users who work on designs together via e-mail exchanges.

[Free Calendar](#)

Get a new EQ desktop calendar each month created by Carolyn Laukkonen.

[More Free Projects](#)

Visit this page and scroll down to find projects listed from other EQ users.

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Barbara Brackman's *Create Your Family Quilt*

Book and Design CD Coming October 2001

The Electric Quilt Company and Barbara Brackman have teamed up again, this time to help you tell your family story in a quilt.

Barbara's full-color book, *Create Your Family Quilt: Using State Blocks and Symbols*, comes with a complete design CD-ROM letting readers actually design original Family Quilts on the computer.



Publication date:
October 15, 2001.
Retail price: \$29.95.

Read the book

Discover which state quilt blocks and appliqué birds, leaves and flowers represent your family heritage as Barbara tells each state's (and Canadian territory's) story in quilt blocks. The 168 page, full-color book contains:



- 700 traditional pieced blocks
- 76 new bird, leaf and flower appliqué designs.
- 10 new quilts to inspire your own Family Quilt project.
- 18 antique quilts offering reproduction quilt ideas.
- 100 vintage state photographs and post-cards.

Design with the CD

The accompanying *Create Your Family Quilt* Windows CD-ROM is fun! It leads



you step-by-step down a path, letting you choose quilt size, border style, and blocks. Then you actually design, color, save and print your own Family Quilt on the computer. An easy point-and-click state map menu leads you to blocks and symbols.

- Pick a layout from crib to king-size.
- Lay out your quilt with pieced blocks
- Surround them with a winding appliqué vine border.
- Choose fabrics and color your quilt.
- Print full-sized patterns, colored quilt pictures.
- Includes rotary cutting charts and numbered foundations. All patterns must be printed from the CD.



This is a terrifically fun software program for new computer users because it's so easy. The *Create Your Family Quilt* book teaches you to use the software. Need more help? View the software's "Show Me" help videos.

BONUS: Quilt Gallery full of design ideas PLUS printing instructions for making gift tags (shown below), t-shirt transfers and coloring book pages.

Barbara Brackman was selected as The Quilters Hall of Fame Honoree in 2001. They honored her, saying "Brackman's expertise in pattern and fabric identification, as well as her insights and overview of quilt history, have had a profound impact."

Create Your Family Quilt is the second, and most advanced, edition in our Magic Book™ series of books with design CD-ROMS. Requires Windows 98/ME/2000, 80MB hard drive space. All patterns must be printed from the CD-ROM. BlockBase users should be aware that the pieced state blocks are also included in BlockBase.



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Show & Tell (1 of 2)

News from our talented users



Patti Anderson's, "Star Ribbons" quilt design (block detail at right) was published in *Quiltmaker* magazine's "All Time Favorites" issue in October 2000.



Patti says, "I designed Star Ribbons

for the very first clubEQ challenge, back in January, 1999. *Quiltmaker's* contest is an ongoing block/quilt design contest. You send in a block and/or quilt design on paper and they judge it. I designed the blocks for paper piecing...and I of course used a color printout and foundation patterns from EQ. Chalk another one up for clubEQ challenges!" See Patti's published quilt by going to [Quiltmaker's site](#) and clicking the "Star Ribbons" side picture link. Patti's a designer from Rainelle, West Virginia, who teaches online EQ classes through [Quilt University](#).

Faith Bluma, from Custer, Wisconsin, writes: "Just want to thank Penny and Barb for the wonderful lesson on paper-piecing with *Sew Precise* on television. I saw the program quite a long time ago but Barb did such a great job of demoting the Hamburger block, and showing that arcs are easy this way; that I went ahead and designed a quilt in EQ4 with a slightly altered block from *Sew Precise*. It turned out quite pretty. And I found out that it won a blue ribbon in it's category, Best Workmanship, and Viewer's Choice! My first show, no less. So my hat is off to EQ and staff. Thanks for the help via the wonderful software."



Lynn Dash, of Grafton, Virginia, designs quilts for companies as well as magazines. She recently had a quilt in [McCall's Quilting](#) in spring 2001, and one in *American Patchwork & Quilting*. All were designed in EQ4. Lynn recently completed two projects for [RJR Fabrics](#). RJR is using Lynn's "Enchanting Stars" (at right) as a pattern being shipped with their August fabric. Instructions for this quilt can be found at your local quilt shop. Lynn's Churn Dash called "Treasured Memories" (at far right) will appear in the next issue of *McCall's Quilting*.



Barb Vlack's "Diamonds and Sapphires" quilt was shown at the 2001 American Quilter's Society show in Paducah, Kentucky this spring. Barb designed the quilt in EQ4, "the same time I signed the contract to write EQ4 Magic. Both the wedding and the book were due on the same day." Barb will teach in EQ Company's Quilt Festival [Computer Lab](#) in Houston this fall. She is also an [EQ Forum](#) moderator. She lives in St. Charles, Illinois.

Jeanne Prue, of Newport, Vermont, had a Snowman table runner and placemat featured in the *Country Woman Christmas Book 2000*. "Of course, I designed them with EQ!



Actually, I originally designed the snowman applique for Christmas outfits for my 4 grandkids last year. They were awfully cute!"

Helen Jacobson and **Lynn Greer** both won honors from *Miniature Quilt* magazine's "Miniatures from the Heart" contest. Helen, of Maxwell, Iowa, received an Honorable Mention for her quilt, "Diane's Stars." Helen writes, "I used the EQ program to make the quilt the size that I wanted and the design that I wanted. It is based on the Hunters Star block." Lynn Greer's quilt, "Nebraska Quasars" won second place in the foundation pieced category. "It is made of 3-inch Mariners Compass blocks I drew on EQ4." Lynn is from Edgar, Nebraska.

Nancy Miller's quilt, "Pennsylvania Dutch in Blue", won the Judge's Choice award at the Cobblestone Quilters Guild show in Charleston, South Carolina. The quilt was made for a Keepsake Quilting challenge, and was pictured on the cover of Keepsake's Summer 2000 catalogue. Nancy says, "This quilt was mainly designed in EQ4 — although I made some changes "in process." Nancy's from Summerville, South Carolina.



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Show & Tell (2 of 2)

News from our talented users

Linda Erickson's "Millennium" quilt won the "Best Machine Quilted" Millennium charm quilt award in a competition held by Quilt Works in Albuquerque, New Mexico. As Linda describes it, "A Millennium charm quilt has at least 2000 different fabrics, none used twice. I used a block with 20 pieces of fabric in it, then made the quilt 10 rows by 10 rows. The best thing is that I get a gift certificate so I can buy MORE fabric at the shop!"

Kathy Downie's Dear Jane quilt (shown at right), "As the Millennium Turns," won 3rd place in Mixed Technique Category of the National Quilting Association show held in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The quilt took 2 1/2 years to piece and 6 months to quilt. She designed the signature block in EQ4. Kathy is from Richmond, Illinois.



Debbie Reed's "Sunshine Garden" quilt was featured on the cover of the Summer 2001 issue of Quilt magazine. Debbie writes, "'Sunshine Garden' is one of the first quilts I designed using EQ after receiving the program for Christmas in '99. It is, for the most part, foundation paper-pieced, and the patterns are included in the issue. EQ has helped to make one of my dreams come true." Debbie's from Junction City, Kansas.

Dorothy Milligan, of Hemet, California, continues to stack up ribbons. Her "Gem of a Quilt" was pictured and patterned in issue #79 of Quiltmaker Magazine. This same quilt won Quiltmaker's design contest and the "best use of a traditional pattern" category, as well as winning "President's Choice" at her local quilt show, where it sold. Her "Dancing Bears" quilt (shown at right) won "Best of Show" at the local fair.



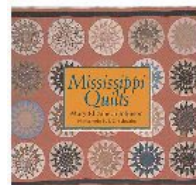
Then there was the "surprise prize." Describing her "Log Cabin in the Pines" quilt (shown at left), Dorothy says, "The center 'picture' was made for a quilt that had joined the ranks of my UFO's. It has a "rubber stamped" forest and appliqued pine

tree and log cabin. I dragged it out and recycled it for the center of a log cabin contest quilt for JoAnn fabrics. Then I added a Courthouse steps border, the maple

leaves border, and a log cabin border (all designed in EQ of course). It only won honorable mention. It was too pretty to just use as a wall hanging so I added another row of leaves and another log cabin border (all hand quilted!). This time it won first place and best of show at the fair. Then I entered it in the local guild show. It hadn't won anything when I was there, so I brought it home and just dumped it in the sewing room. A month later I decided it was time to refold it and put it away. That was when this big purple ribbon that said Viewers Choice fell out! What a pleasant surprise that was. Now it is too pretty to use on the bed!"

Dorothy modestly says, "EQ gets the credit as I could not have done them without the program." And we couldn't do without you, Dorothy! See more of Dorothy's prize-winning [blocks](#) and [quilts](#).

Nancy Welsch, of Jackson, Mississippi, proudly announces the publication of *Mississippi Quilts*, the book from the Mississippi Heritage Quilt Search project she was so heavily involved in. "I used BlockBase version 1 to identify and assign Brackman numbers to the blocks in the 1700 quilts made or brought to Mississippi before 1946 that we documented.... More than 95% of the blocks were in BB!" The book, showing 140 quilts, was published by University Press of Mississippi and Mary's group: the Mississippi Quilt Association. Of the group, Mary says, "We're very proud, and we're all still friends."



Judy Fletcher had forty EQ-designed quilts on display in a one-woman exhibition at Roseville, Minnesota's Colorful Quilts & Textiles gallery. Judy says, "The designs are all originals drawn by me in EQ colored using STASH designer prints, then computer printed onto Bubblejet treated fabric.... My goal was to produce designs that would be virtually impossible to make using the usual quilting techniques." Judy's printed quilts fool viewers. "I often find people standing in front of them marveling at my extraordinary piecing ability. Wrong - they're printed." Judy's from St. Paul, Minnesota.



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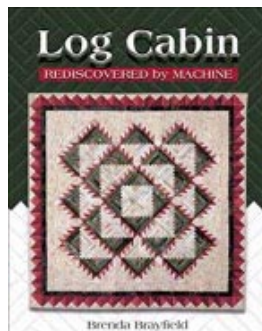
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An Interview with Brenda Brayfield (1 of 3)

Author of

Log Cabin: Rediscovered by Machine

Brenda used EQ to design patterns for her book, published by AQS in June, 2001. She has also produced a special product for EQ4 users. Her companion disk – “Patterns to Use with EQ4” – contains all her book’s patterns, plus more, with rotary cutting instruction notes. Patterns are ready to use and print from EQ4. We talked with Brenda about her start in quilting, and what it was like to publish a book.



EQ: Brenda, what’s your quilting background?



Brenda: Throughout the years my creative interests have gone in many different directions – dress-making, knitting, crocheting, doll making, cake decorating, photography, and a variety of crafts. It wasn’t until I registered for a Basic Quiltmaking class in 1993 that I found my true passion.

My entry into the quilting world was a gradual one. After completing my first class I registered for every technique class scheduled. During a block-of-the-month class, I casually mentioned to the shop owner to keep me in mind if she needed any part-time help. I started work two days later.

I worked in the store part-time for a year and a half, then decided I would like to teach quilting. I thoroughly enjoy teaching, and sharing with others the wonderful gift I have received – the joy of quilting.

EQ: How did you decide to write a book?

Brenda: Writing a book was not something I planned to do. It just happened. A simple 7” Log Cabin block sparked the inspiration for the book. I was preparing a class sample for a pictorial Log Cabin quilt made up of 35 - 7” Log Cabin blocks. Each block had 17 logs and the strips were cut 1 ¼” wide. Fabric placement was random, so I opted for the cut-as-you-sew construction method. Half-way through the first block I realized that an accurate, consistent block would be an unrealistic expectation for new quilters in the class.

The logical solution was foundation piecing. But the number of logs in the block would make foundation piecing from the bottom tedious and time consuming. I wanted foundation piecing’s accuracy, plus the speed and simplicity of the cut-as-you-sew method. I decided to combine the best of both, and developed the Top Foundation Technique I now use.

It took much trial and error to get the first block just right. But with a little patience, and a lot of assistance from EQ3, I conquered it. The class was an instant success! My students loved the ease of construction and the accuracy. I drafted more blocks in a variety of styles and sizes. As the blocks became more complex, so did the accompanying pile of text. It wasn’t long before the piles grew to manuscript proportions and I decided to seek a professional publisher.

EQ: Why do you prefer foundation piecing from the top?

Brenda: Oh that’s an easy one! I love to see my fabric when I sew! Plus:

- No flipping and turning, no wasted fabric, no fabric variations, and no more holding the block to the light source.

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An Interview with Brenda Brayfield (2 of 3)

- The technique is simple and accurate, and I don't have to re-program my brain to think in reverse.
- It's fast! Two logs or triangles can be placed and sewn consecutively in symmetrical blocks such as Courthouse Steps or Square-in-a-square. For the Pineapple block, after the center square is sewn, four logs can be placed and sewn consecutively. Really speeds up the piecing process.

EQ: How did you find a publisher?

Brenda: I contacted three of the large quilt publishing companies and requested a manuscript proposal package. I was very impressed with the packet from The American Quilter's Society in Paducah, Kentucky. There was so much information and advice in it. It was as if they were talking to me and had already given me a contract, which was a real confidence builder. It eliminated a lot of the "gray areas" for first-time hopefuls. After reading through their proposal I knew right away who I wanted to publish my book.

I had no idea what to expect after mailing the manuscript. Would I come home one day to find a large brown envelope sitting on the front porch marked "Return to Sender?" How long would I have to wait?

Needless to say, I was delighted when I received a phone call from Executive Editor, Barbara Smith, within three weeks, to say they had received my manuscript and "liked" it. Three weeks later I had a contract to write my first book!

EQ: What was it like to write your book?

Brenda: It was an arduous task that overwhelmed and consumed my life for the better part of a year. But was it worth it? Oh yes!

The first thing I did after receiving the contract was to prepare a timetable. I allowed myself seven months to design and make quilts, three months to compose the text and accompanying graphics and two months to proofread, rework the instructions, check the math and fine-tune the manuscript.

Making the quilts was easy, because the technique is easy. It was the decision making progress that bogged me down – design choices, color choices, size choices. As an author you are not longer making quilts for yourself, but trying to predict what will appeal to a wide variety of quilters. I wanted the book to have universal appeal.

I wrote the text and prepared the graphics with one thought in mind: "Don't assume the reader knows what you mean. Explain it. Leave nothing for interpretation." I constantly reminded myself that the reader did not have the benefit of classroom demonstrations or the luxury of being able to drop by the quilt shop for assistance.

To see my book published is the fulfillment of a dream.

EQ: Tell us about the floppy disk of EQ4 projects you produced as a separate product to accompany the book.

Brenda: One Saturday morning I had a light-bulb moment. A good friend had agreed to proofread the manuscript for me. I copied the blocks onto a floppy disk so



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An Interview with Brenda Brayfield (3 of 3)

she could check the accuracy of the blocks. As I was walking down the stairs with it in my hand I thought, "If I can do this for Sabina, why can't I do it for everyone?"

In Top Foundation Piecing each block must be individually drafted with the seam allowance included. You cannot select a basic Log Cabin block and print it to any size. In addition to the blocks from the book, the disk gave me the opportunity to offer EQ users hundreds more blocks in a wide variety of styles and sizes.

The set-up for EQ was perfect for what I wanted to do; it wasn't necessary to look any further. I was able to draft the block, name it, and include rotary cutting and special instructions in the Notecard. I didn't have to write another book or a manual to accompany the disk; I was able to do everything in EQ4.

Michael Buckingham from AQS designed the pattern cover for the disk. It is identical to the book cover with the tag line "Patterns to Use and Print with EQ4" included after my name. I think it is important to have a strong visual connection between the disk and the book, and was delighted when AQS gave me permission to use the cover design and suggested Michael could design it.

The disk is a companion to my book and provides EQ users with an accurate, convenient method for reproducing the blocks. Sewing instructions are not included – you'll need the book for that!

EQ: What's next for you?

Brenda: I thoroughly enjoy teaching and introducing Top Foundation Piecing to new

audiences, and plan to continue that. I have established a dedicated following in my area and they constantly ask, "What's new?" I can't disappoint them and will continue to design new patterns for Top Foundation Piecing.

The subject I have chosen is vast, with many ideas for design interpretation. If I never do anything else I will never exhaust the possibilities! I have organized my EQ Files and compiled the blocks on one floppy disk so that you too can enjoy the accuracy of Top Foundation Piecing with the convenience of computer printed blocks at your fingertips.

Rotary Cutting instructions are included for each block.

In this collection you will find a variety of blocks in sizes ranging from 2 ½" to 7 ½", and many varieties of these popular blocks:

- Log Cabin
- Off-Center
- Square-in-a-Square
- Courthouse Steps
- Steps to the Cabin
- Snail's Trail
- Thick and Thin
- Tulip Log Cabin
- Goose Tracks
- Thin and Thick
- Pineapple
- Wild Goose Chase

Brenda's book is available from American Quilter's Society, or your local quilt store. Brenda's pattern disk requires EQ4 for printing. You can order Brenda's EQ4 patterns from her [Web site](#). The price is \$12.95.

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QUILT UNIVERSITY

EQ Home-Schooling

EQ4 classes are as close as your own computer. Visit [Quilt University](#) to see the EQ classes they offer online throughout the year. EQ4 user **Carol Miller** is the headmistress. **Patti Anderson** and **Fran Iverson Gonzalez** teach a wide variety of EQ4-related classes there.

Patti Anderson

Patti teaches these Quilt University classes:

- EQ4 Wreathmaker Symmetries
- EQ4 Tracing Tactics
- EQ4 Labels for Quilts
- EQ4 Advanced Drawing



Click [here](#) to see samples of what Patti's students have done in her EQ4 classes on advanced drawing, tracing tactics and labels.

Fran Gonzalez, author of [EQ4 Simplified](#).

Fran teaches these Quilt University classes:

- EQ4 Basics
- EQ4 Ease into EasyDraw
- EQ4 Libraries and Layouts
- EQ4 Color Concepts
- EQ4 Phase into Patchdraw



Upcoming Class Schedule

Phase into Patchdraw - September 15, 2001 (Fran)

Ease into Easy Draw - September 29, 2001 (Fran)

Tracing Tactics - October 6, 2001 (Patti)

EQ Basics - November 25, 2001 (Fran)

Advanced Drawing - January 12, 2002 (Patti)

Libraries and Layouts - Jan. 27, 2002 (Fran)

What's it like to take a Quilt University class?

Vivian Galloway, Austin, Texas writes:

"Do yourself a favor and sign up for the EQ4 classes offered at Quilt University. They are fun, easy, inexpensive, and you learn so much. You attend class in the comfort of your own home at any hour of the day or night...no lugging all those supplies to class. You work at your own pace. The teacher is always available for questions and answers. The discussion forum is wonderful. And you can "hang" your creations in the Gallery to be admired by your fellow classmates. I've taken three classes already: EQ4 Basics; Easy Into EasyDraw; Libraries and Layouts... all taught by Fran Gonzalez (an excellent teacher). Today I start EQ4 Advanced Drawing with Patti Anderson.

I admit I was hesitant as first. It's hard to take that first step. But I'm so happy I did. I'm amazed at what I've learned. I have the manuals, books, etc., but there is something about these classes that makes it all "click" and come together."

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Electric Quilt Computer Lab at Houston Quilt Festival

October 30 - November 3, 2001

The Electric Quilt Company, with sponsoring help from Hewlett-Packard, will teach ten hands-on EQ computer classes at International Quilt Festival in Houston, Texas.



Click [here](#) for class, schedule and faculty details. Register **now**. Classes fill quickly!

Classes

- Beginning Electric Quilt 4 (Beginner)
- Printer Magic (Beginner)
- Electric Quilt 4 Introduction (Beginner)
- Drafting Feathered Stars (Intermediate)
- Country Set (All levels)
- Curves – New York Beauties (Intermediate)
- Ease into EasyDraw (Beginner)
- Exploring EasyDraw (Intermediate)
- EQ Libraries and Layouts (Beginners)
- Layouts and Labels (Intermediate)

Lecture

Computer Creativity

Sharon Hull Dinsmore – Quilter's Computing Resource

Craig Hamer – Hewlett-Packard

Registration

Registration is handled by [Quilts, Inc.](#) Class registration materials, including full travel and lodging information, is sent out in mid-summer.

To order Quilt Festival class registration materials

Send a check for \$3 (made out to Quilts, Inc.) to:
Quilts, Inc.
(Computer Lab Classes)
7660 Woodway
Suite 550
Houston TX 77063

Note: Quilt Festival class registration materials are automatically sent in mid-summer to anyone who has taken a class at Quilt Festival within the last two years.

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Redwork in EQ4

by Barb Vlack

Author of [EQ4 Magic](#)

One way of showing “redwork” on our quilt designs is by putting a design onto a block in Layer 3 and changing the thread color to red. The only problem is that line drawings of appliqué in Layer 3 will show transparent overlays of various patches and look a little messy.

Here’s a “new” and “improved” idea for showing redwork:

1. Take any appliqué block or motif.
2. Color all the pieces white.
3. Save (in Sketchbook and project).
4. Set in Layer 2.
5. Click the Thread tool.
6. Click the red color in the Color palette.
7. Click your “redwork” block.

We often overlook the fact that we can change the thread color of blocks in Layer 2, though we know we can do that for quilting lines in Layer 3. If you change the outline around an appliqué block, you’ll have your outline coloring, and the block will have the colored patches in stacking order. The transparency of the line drawing will be avoided.

You can do the same with a pieced block, if you’re interested. You could color all the patches in the block white or you could use the line drawing (because you won’t

have the transparent stacking that you do in the appliqué block). Either way, after you set the block in Layer 2, you can change the color of the “thread” that outlines the block and patches.

If you are using a line drawing only, know that if you rotate the block or set another block on top of an original one to replace it, you will have to hit the Refresh tool on the left toolbar to get rid of the ghostly first impressions.



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Dear Diane

a surprise quilt of BlockBase blocks

EQ staff member Diane McEwen-Martin was the thrilled recipient of a quilt called “Dear Diane,” made especially for her by BlockBase users. All 182 different blocks in the beautiful sampler quilt are old traditional blocks made from patterns printed from BlockBase software.



The project was initiated, coordinated, and hand-quilted (!) by **Jean Folkes**, of Arlington, Washington as a way of thanking Diane for drawing the over 4000 quilt blocks for the new Windows BlockBase version released at Christmastime, 2000.

This dazzling king-size quilt, emphasizing Diane’s favorite colors of purple and teal, will be something Diane will treasure as much as Dean and Penny do the [Info-EQ quilt](#) that Info-EQ members made for them in 1997.

Our warmest thanks to everyone who contributed a block, and especially to Jean Folkes!