

QUILTING TERMS

Applique: The art of sewing fabric designs on top of the background fabric. The seam allowances are usually turned under and then stitched in place. Other pieces are added on top and layered. An excellent way to create intricate designs with great detail.

Reverse applique: Placing the applique fabric on the back of the background piece, and then cutting through to reveal the fabric.

Backing: The back of the quilt. This can be one piece or several pieces of the same or different color. Traditionally quilt backs were muslin, but we are using more colorful backs now. The color or print also helps to cover any quilting inaccuracies.

Batting: The inner layer of a quilt. The batting can be cotton, polyester or a blend, wool or flannel. It is what makes the quilt warm, and gives it "body". The batting can change the look of the quilt.

Bias: This is the stretchy grain that runs from corner to corner of a square of fabric. The bias is used for bindings that have curves.

Binding: The final step in completing the quilt. It is the fabric that covers the edges of the layered quilt.

Blocks: The patchwork pattern piece. Usually comprised of several smaller pieces and sewn together become the block. Blocks are of various sizes and are usually square but could be rectangles

Borders: The area outside of the main pattern of the quilt. Can be strips of fabric or another pieced pattern. It borders the center of the quilt.

Color family: A group of fabrics in the same color, ranging from light to dark. example would be making a quilt of the green color family....all fabrics will be different shades, tints and tones of green.

Color way: The manufacturer prints several color ways of a particular family of coordinating fabrics. For example, the family of fabrics may include large and small prints, solids, dots, lights and darks. The manufacturer may print these same patterns in several colors: green, red, blue, brown.

Cut in half diagonally: Usually a square, cut in half on the diagonal, corner to corner

Diagonal set: Blocks that are the put together on point (corner up).

Fabric glue: several manufacturers make a fabric glue, water soluble, to hold pieces in place particularly when appliquéing.