

Patchwork Postcards and Pinboard Quilts



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Repetition of a Shape



▲ This is another use of small squares set 'on point' to appear as diamonds (see *Tips on Composition*). This time the 45° angle is echoed by the Prairie points in an adjacent seam.

➤ See previous page.



Rescue and Recycle



I found this small embroidery amongst a basket of old table linen in a charity shop.

Many such decorative embroideries were transfer printed, then the stitching filled in, but I like to think that this is an original piece of folk art designed by its maker. It shows an idealised scene: a thatched cottage in a summer garden, complete with flowering plants, garden gate with a path to the front door, and birds flying overhead.

I added the borders of strips and triangles to give this Pinboard quilt a strong frame. 8½ × 6½in (21.5 × 16.5cm)



Novelty Fabrics

▼ *This cat fabric has remained in production for years, a tribute to its enduring popularity. Maybe it's because each cat seems to have its own individual character.*

I cut a rectangle showing some of the faces, surrounded it with a couple of borders and added two half-square triangle details in opposite corners of the outer border. An unusual fish button carved from bone is strategically placed so all the cats seem to be looking at it. 7½ × 8in (19 × 20cm)

A visit to any well-stocked quilt shop confirms that there are dozens of novelty fabrics available, with images as diverse as animals, houses, farm machinery, garden images and even light bulbs. This is not a new idea; in the nineteenth century, novelty quilt fabrics were called 'conversation prints' – something to stimulate conversation when the gossip ran out!

Novelty fabrics make great focus points in Pinboard quilts. Often, all they need to give them a showcase is one or two borders with perhaps pieced details in the corners, and a button or bead to finish them off and complement the quilting.

Seek out original fabrics at the big quilt shows, where there are traders who source unusual fabrics and textile artists who produce original screen-printed fabrics. Start a collection of curious fabrics. You don't need much of each one for a Pinboard quilt. Some of mine date back years and I bought them just because they appealed to me, without a project in mind. You may even have fabrics you designed and printed yourself, just waiting for the right vehicle.

