



Mid Week Moments #60

Wednesday 19 May 2010

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In this week's issue of Midweek Moments we start a new regular column called 'Class Report', which will alternate with other popular columns such as 'Show and Tell' and the tutor profiles. In 'Class Report', someone who has recently participated in a Blueberries class will give their impressions of the class; what it was like, how the tutor worked with them, what they achieved from the class, the highlights of the class and whether they'd recommend it for other people.

So today we have the lovely Tracy Hansen who recently participated in Chris Jurd's Mariners Madness class and is eager to share some of the details with readers.

Class Report

A new column where the pupil gives us a report from the class.

Pupil: Tracy Hansen

Class: Mariners Madness
(6 and 7 April)

Tutor: Chris Jurd



What did you do in the class?

We cut our fabrics, did some sewing and put it all together using the papers. It was totally new for me as it was something I'd never tackled before. I got a lot of cutting and stitching done and completed one and a half of my circles.

How was the tutor?

Chris was wonderful. She was just so patient with everyone and managed to give people one-on-one attention even within the class environment. She made everything seem so simple just by showing us.

What was the best part of the day?

There were several best parts. Meeting with the girls from Blueberries was great, as well as seeing all the gorgeous fabrics. I also really enjoyed the social aspect, spending two days stitching with other people instead of sitting at home. Getting out and socialising was a big thing for me. And of course, all the fun and laughing we had.

Did the class meet your expectations?

Absolutely. I suggested that maybe a follow-up class would also be good. The whole experience was wonderful. There was so much room that we weren't sitting on top of each other. The atmosphere being so great helped the creativity to flow so much better.



*Chris Jurd's
Mariner Madness quilt*

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Would you encourage others to do the class?

Definitely. Doing a class like this is good for confidence building - Chris just helped to build up my confidence unbelievably. I haven't stopped using my machine since. It's also great for what you learn technically, and seeing what's out there, what's new.

Tracy's Mariner quilt a couple of weeks after finishing the class



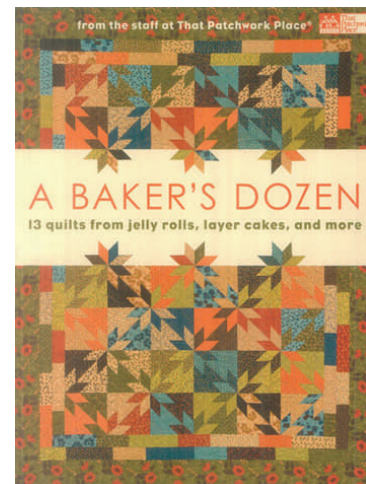
Blueberries Bus Trip to the Sydney Craft and Quilt Fair

Would you like to go to the Craft and Quilt Fair in Sydney, next month, hassle free? Then join the Blueberries Bus Trip which includes return bus fare and entry to fair! click [here](#) to find out more.

Book Review on A Baker's Dozen by Susan Carr

When was the last time you had a look at the fantastic range of books at Blueberries?

As the tutor at Blueberries I am constantly asked "do you have any ideas on what I should do with this fabric?" or "can you help me choose a pattern?". So we look at all the patterns available in the shop and discuss the options, however many quilters rarely consider buying a whole book. Books can be expensive when compared to buying one pattern, but, you are not getting just one design. Sometimes for the cost of 2 patterns you are getting up to 20 options when you buy a good book. A book can be an inspiration for many years and projects. But the great thing about a book is that you will have full details on all the techniques required for the designs that you won't get in a paper pattern.



I was so impressed by a couple of books that arrived in the shop that I just felt I had to share my thoughts with you.

A Baker's Dozen 13 quilts from jelly rolls, layer cakes, and more. By That Patchwork Place. This is a terrific book. It covers a large range of exciting designs for the uses of layer cakes, jelly rolls, fat quarters, charm squares and more pre-cut fabrics. The advantage of the pre-cuts for me is the great range of fabrics they contain, less cutting, and best of all for me, very few leftovers.

It amazes me how many different designs are now available for using pre-cuts. This book has both traditional and modern designs. There is a variety of designs that appeal to adults and children, and the options are great using piecing and appliqué. The instructions are clear and easy to follow. There are clear large colour diagrams for each step making the process so easy to follow. (Importantly there are cutting instructions for every design even when you're using your stash and not a pre-cut fabric). In essence this is a versatile book that is so useful especially the great technique references.

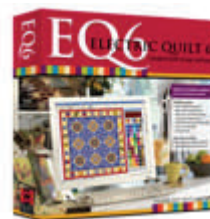
Next time you are in the shop or looking for that special design for that fabric you just fell in love with, check out [Blueberries great range of books](#). Books are a great investment.

Click [here](#) to purchase this book from our online shop.

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EQ6 Advanced Class with Anne Sommerlad

If you have completed the Introduction to EQ6 class with Anne, then you should not miss this one day workshop to further increase your skills in EQ6.



The following topics will also be covered:

- Advanced drawing techniques – rotating, cloning, resizing
- Appliqué drawing – using the various tools – freehand drawing
- Using Patch Draw and Patch Draw Motif
- Importing and tracing an image
- Saving images in different forms, exporting
- Designing a medallion quilt
- Designing an irregular grid quilt

Techniques will be covered in the morning then participants will design a medallion and an irregular grid quilt after lunch.

Participants would get the most out of the day if they have done the first workshop or are quite comfortable using Easy Draw, the Libraries, designing basic regular quilts and generally being familiar with the programme layout, icons.

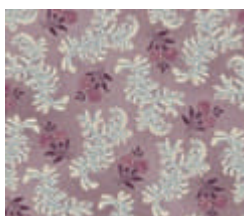
Dates: Friday 4 June 2010

Time: 10:00am - 3:30pm

Cost: \$45

Click [here](#) to register for this class.

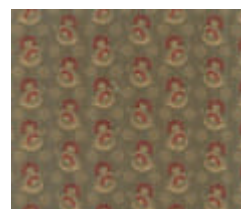
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Who wants to be a Milliner?

The Secret Life of Hats, Episode 10 – The Hard Hat

The ever-reliable hard hat has long been a common sight in modern western society. This helmet-like protective headgear is most often found on the heads of all manner of construction workers and other people who congregate at building sites, such as architects, union representatives and, of course, politicians.



In fact, polities of all political persuasions are particularly good at demonstrating an ever-increasing desire to be filmed and photographed wearing hard hats. Maybe it's the gutsy, no-nonsense, down-and-dirty, nation-building perceptions that hard hats evoke.

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But what's the story behind hard hats and when were they first invented? German writer Franz Kafka is popularly credited with this honour, supposedly when he was working for the Worker's Accident Insurance Institute for the Kingdom of Bohemia in 1912. In the absence of any real documentation, however, other people have also claimed credit for the hard hat's invention. Principally among them is E.W. Bullard, an American WWI soldier whose father ran a company that sold protective hats. However, these hats were only made from leather, and when Bullard returned from the war, the steel helmets that soldiers had worn in combat inspired him to utilize the design and improve industrial safety.

Bullard's first design was patented in 1919 and was mainly made from steamed canvas and glue. It was dubbed the "hard boiled hat", and proved so popular that the US Navy commissioned Bullard to design a protective hat for use in shipyards. In the process, Bullard improved his design by adding an internal suspension to the hat, making it dramatically more effective.

In 1933, the construction of San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge became the first construction site in the world where hard hats were mandatory. Five years later, aluminium became a standard material for hard hats (except for electrical applications). This was replaced by fiberglass in the 1940s and thermoplastics in the 1950s. Since the 1980s, most hard hats have been made from high-density polyethylene or other advanced engineering resins. The hard hats of today are much more than simply protective hats. Many of them are now fitted with face shields, chinstraps, mirrors, sun visors, earmuffs, radios, walkie talkies, pagers and even cameras – a far cry from Bullard's original "hard boiled hat" from almost a century ago.

Quote of the week: Blessed are the Quilters for they are the piecemakers.

Til next week!
The Blueberries Team.