

Bargello Quilts In Motion A New Look For Strip Pieced Quilts Ruth Ann Berry

Bargello Quilts in Motion: A New Look for Strip-Pieced Quilts by Ruth Ann Berry

The world of quilting offers endless possibilities for creativity, and few techniques offer as much visual dynamism as Bargello quilting. Ruth Ann Berry's "Bargello Quilts in Motion: A New Look for Strip-Pieced Quilts" revolutionizes this already captivating style, providing quilters of all skill levels with fresh inspiration and innovative techniques. This book isn't just a pattern collection; it's a journey into the heart of strip piecing, exploring the potential for movement and depth within seemingly simple lines. We'll delve into the book's key features, examine its unique approach to Bargello quilting, and explore why it remains a valuable resource for both novice and experienced quilters.

Understanding Bargello Quilting Techniques

Bargello, also known as Florentine embroidery, is traditionally a form of needlework characterized by its distinctive diagonal lines and repeating patterns. Berry cleverly translates this principle into quilting, using carefully arranged strips of fabric to create captivating optical illusions of movement and texture. This technique, often associated with its traditional designs, is elevated in "Bargello Quilts in Motion" through the introduction of modern color palettes and unexpected compositional choices. The book demonstrates how even subtle variations in fabric placement and strip width dramatically impact the overall effect, creating quilts that appear to ripple, flow, and even dance. Mastering the intricacies of strip piecing, a core element of this technique, is crucial. Berry guides the reader through various strip piecing methods, showing different ways to achieve specific results and how to

overcome common challenges like seam allowance accuracy. Key elements within the book include detailed explanations of: *Color Theory and Application in Bargello*, *Advanced Strip Piecing Techniques*, and *Designing Original Bargello Patterns*.

The Unique Approach of Ruth Ann Berry

Berry's approach to Bargello quilting transcends mere pattern replication. The book emphasizes understanding the underlying principles of the technique, encouraging readers to develop their own designs and experiment with color combinations. This focus on creative freedom is refreshing; it transforms the quilter from a passive follower of instructions to an active participant in the design process. She meticulously explains how the angles and widths of the strips control the visual flow, enabling quilters to create a wide variety of designs, from subtle waves to bold, dramatic patterns. The book showcases examples ranging from traditional, elegant designs to modern, contemporary ones, demonstrating the versatility of the Bargello technique. The step-by-step instructions provided by Berry are clear, concise, and accompanied by abundant illustrations, making the process accessible even for those new to quilting. Specific techniques like manipulating color gradients and incorporating different fabric textures to add depth and complexity are discussed thoroughly. This attention to detail sets this work apart and allows it to cater to different styles and skill levels.

Benefits of Using "Bargello Quilts in Motion"

The book offers numerous benefits, both for experienced quilters looking to expand their skills and beginners eager to learn a new technique.

- **Comprehensive Instruction:** Berry provides a clear and comprehensive guide to all aspects of Bargello quilting, from basic strip piecing to advanced design techniques.
- **Inspirational Designs:** The book features a wide array of captivating designs, showcasing the versatility of the Bargello style and inspiring readers to develop their own creations.
- **Creative Freedom:** Instead of simply providing patterns to follow, Berry empowers readers to understand the principles behind the technique, fostering creative exploration and experimentation.
- **Accessible for All Skill Levels:** While covering advanced techniques, the book caters to quilters of all skill levels, providing clear explanations and illustrations suitable for beginners.

- **Enhanced Quilting Skills:** The reader will gain valuable experience in accurate strip piecing, color theory application, and creating dynamic movement within a quilt design.

Bargello Quilts: Beyond the Book

The impact of "Bargello Quilts in Motion" extends beyond the pages of the book. It has sparked a renewed interest in Bargello quilting, inspiring a new generation of quilters to explore this dynamic technique. Online communities have sprung up, sharing projects and tips based on Berry's techniques. The book's emphasis on creative exploration has led to numerous variations and adaptations of the Bargello style, showcasing the enduring appeal and adaptability of this classic quilting method. The book's success lies in its ability to bridge the gap between traditional techniques and modern creativity, making Bargello quilting accessible and exciting for quilters of all backgrounds. This modern approach to a classic technique continues to inspire quilters globally, leading to vibrant and innovative designs.

Conclusion

Ruth Ann Berry's "Bargello Quilts in Motion: A New Look for Strip-Pieced Quilts" stands as a significant contribution to the quilting world. Its comprehensive instructions, inspirational designs, and emphasis on creative freedom make it an invaluable resource for quilters of all skill levels. By understanding the underlying principles of Bargello quilting, as detailed within the book, quilters can unlock a wealth of creative potential, transforming simple strips of fabric into captivating works of art. The lasting impact of this book lies not just in the patterns it provides, but in its empowerment of quilters to explore, experiment, and ultimately, design their own unique and breathtaking Bargello quilts.

FAQ

Q1: What is the primary skill level assumed by this book?

A1: While the book teaches fundamental strip piecing techniques, it's designed to be accessible to quilters of all skill levels. Beginners will find the step-by-step instructions and clear illustrations helpful, while experienced quilters can benefit from the advanced techniques and inspiration for creating original designs.

Q2: Are all the projects in the book complex?

A2: No, the book offers a variety of projects, ranging from simpler designs perfect for beginners to more challenging and intricate projects for experienced quilters. This range ensures that there's something for everyone.

Q3: What types of fabrics are best suited for Bargello quilting?

A3: Cotton fabrics are generally preferred for Bargello quilting due to their ease of use and consistent texture. However, other fabrics like linen or even silk can be used depending on the desired effect. The key is to use fabrics that are similar in weight and drape to ensure consistent results.

Q4: How important is precise cutting and piecing for successful Bargello quilts?

A4: Precision is crucial in Bargello quilting. Accurate cutting and piecing are essential for creating the clean, crisp lines and precise angles that characterize this technique. Inaccurate cutting can significantly impact the final look of the quilt.

Q5: Can I create my own Bargello designs using the principles in the book?

A5: Absolutely! Berry's book emphasizes understanding the underlying principles of Bargello quilting, enabling readers to design their own unique patterns and color combinations. The book encourages creative freedom beyond just replicating the examples provided.

Q6: Are there specific tools required for Bargello quilting that are not commonly used in other quilting techniques?

A6: While standard quilting tools are used, precise rotary cutting tools and a good quality ruler are particularly important for achieving the necessary accuracy in cutting strips. Using a quarter-inch seam allowance is also crucial.

Q7: Where can I find the book?

A7: "Bargello Quilts in Motion" is widely available online through major book retailers and quilting supply stores. You can also find it through used bookstores or online marketplaces.

Q8: What makes this book stand out from other Bargello quilting

resources?

A8: This book distinguishes itself by its focus on understanding the underlying principles of the technique rather than merely providing a collection of patterns. It empowers quilters to create their own designs and experiment with color and composition, leading to unique and personal creations.

Bargello Quilts in Motion: A New Look for Strip-Pieced Quilts by Ruth Ann Berry - A Deep Dive

Ruth Ann Berry's "Bargello Quilts in Motion: A New Look for Strip-Pieced Quilts" isn't just a guide; it's a revelation for quilt makers. It redefines the traditional strip-pieced quilt, injecting dynamic energy into a genre often perceived as unchanging. Berry expertly guides the reader through a process that transcends the simple repetition of strips, creating quilts that mesmerize with their flowing lines.

The book's strength lies in its clear approach to a technique that might seem complex at first glance. Berry deconstructs the process into digestible steps, using clear language and abundant illustrations. She doesn't just show the techniques; she illuminates the **why** behind them, helping quilters grasp the principles of color theory and design that are crucial to creating breathtaking Bargello quilts.

One of the book's significant achievements is its emphasis on pre-visualization. Berry urges a thoughtful approach, encouraging quilters to outline their designs before cutting a single fabric strip. This forward-thinking strategy minimizes errors and increases the probability of achieving the targeted outcome. She provides numerous patterns and exercises to help quilters refine their design skills, evolving them from novices into confident designers.

The book also explores the versatility of the Bargello technique. While the classic Bargello quilt is known for its angular patterns, Berry shows how the same core principles can be applied to create a multitude of different styles. From contemporary designs to realistic images, the possibilities are virtually boundless. She offers numerous illustrations of her own work, and the work of other gifted quilters, motivating readers to innovate and break the mold of traditional quilt making.

The book's educational value is further improved by its accurate diagrams and photographs. Each step of the process is carefully documented, allowing no room for ambiguity. Berry's writing style is friendly, making the book enjoyable to read, even for those who are unfamiliar to quilting. She effectively connects between the practical details of quilt making and the artistic vision of design.

In conclusion, "Bargello Quilts in Motion" is far exceeding just a how-to guide. It is a compelling exploration of a classic quilting technique, reinterpreted for the modern quilter. Berry's mastery shines through on every page, encouraging readers to adopt the challenges and benefits of creating lively Bargello quilts that are authentically their own.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):

1. What experience level is required to use this book? The book is appropriate for quilters of all levels. While some basic quilting knowledge is helpful, Berry's clear instructions make the techniques understandable even for novices.

2. What kind of materials are needed for Bargello quilting? You'll primarily need cotton fabric in a range of colors, along with quilting tools like a sewing machine.

3. How long does it take to make a Bargello quilt? The length of time varies depending on the quilt's complexity. Smaller projects can be completed in a couple of weeks, while larger, more intricate quilts might take many months.

4. Can I modify the designs in the book? Absolutely! Berry promotes experimentation and customization. Feel free to modify the designs to reflect your own style.

5. Where can I find the book? The book is usually accessible from major online retailers, quilt shops, and bookstores – both physically and online.

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