

The Fabric Chic Quilt Hive 2025

Midnight Garden

Garden Ponderings

Since we've last meet, baseball is winding down, football is starting up, school is in session, and the breeze now holds the promise of fall. We've actually had our windows open day and night, letting fresh air into our home and energizing it with the cool air.

We're starting to see the plants transition too. Cool weather plants such as pansies are out again and mums will soon be everywhere. Before you know it, corn harvest will be here, ushering in the last of the summer harvest.

Our plants got beat down with the heat this summer and I am hopeful this fall and winter can provide a season of recovery for them.

This month, I'd like to challenge you to sit out in your garden (or yard) at night, the next full moon (October 6th) will be a great opportunity to do this. Take a peek at how different your garden looks at night. Notice any different sounds, smells, creatures out? How are the colors different at night? Use that to inspire your quilt blocks as we go along.

This Month's Theme

This month's theme is "What Garden Means to You". This is a month to create blocks that focus on the favorite things in your garden:

- People - When you garden, do you think of someone special? Your mom, grandfather, partner? What can you put in your quilt to represent them, a flower, vegetable, or a tool?
- Decor - do you have a stone path or raised beds? Maybe a gnome? Maybe a set of string lights brighten your space or you have a firepit.
- Animal Friends - do you have pets or other visitors that "help" as you work in your garden? Maybe the fireflies come out to play as you work in the evening.
- Plants - think about your favorites; flowers, vegetables, trees, fruit...do you plant something every year or, is your garden a container garden.
- No Boundaries - if you could do anything with your garden, what would you do? Do you love the flower Bird of Paradise, but it's too cold here to grow? Well, it isn't too cold in your quilt!

You'll want to make at least 2-3 blocks; working ahead is fine.

Stars are great blocks to work on throughout this project - feel free to create more this month if your brain needs a rest.

This Month's Tips

With this year's hive theme, we want you to put a distinct piece of you in your quilt. All techniques for block building are welcome and the only rule on block size is no smaller than 4 1/2" unfinished.

This month, we're going to chat about getting comfortable with "unknown". As humans, we like to know what to expect. The path, the process, the instructions. And, we want to be at the destination. One of my favorite quotes is "Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, today is a gift. That is why it is called the present."

The easiest thing for you to do is focus and be in the present. Focus on the monthly theme; not last month's not next month's. Be here and make your blocks. Now, that may be easier said than done. What helps?

- Treat each block as a mini quilt - remember, you can make blocks into a pillow, bag, mini quilt. You don't have to include it in your final quilt.
- Think of each month as a milestone; I made my moon. I completed my shovel.
- You could choose to hide your blocks away; out of sight, out of mind...allowing yourself to better focus on the month you are in. Or...
- Take a photo of your blocks and cut them to scale and start to play with your layout now.
- Reframe how you think of "Jack the Ripper." We don't fail, we learned what didn't work and adjusted.
- Enjoy the process, the company, and what you learn about your friends.
- Experiment - use this process to try a new block or technique from a friend. These themes are to get you started and the creative juices flowing.

As with anything, practice makes you better. YouTube and Instagram are also great resources.

Remember, you can use the code FabricChic at her site, quietplaydesigns.com, for 10% off her patterns.



Monthly Wrap-Up

It's about time to get spooky! Goth garden is next month. Bring out your bats, your moths, your roses, your poison, your brooms! Let's spin a web of gothic goodness into our gardens.

Our hive hashtags are #tfcquilthive and #tfcmidnightgarden. You can also search Instagram and Pinterest with the phrase "midnight garden quilt".

Our Pinterest Board:

- <https://pin.it/4KhUcNkzz>

Our Facebook QR Code:



Coming Up:

- October - Goth Garden
- **October Sew Day will be the 4th!**

In the Wings:

- November - Fairy Tale Garden

Remember, we sew the first Saturday (unless otherwise noted) of each month, from 10-4pm. Sew days are \$15 and you'll want to sign-up on our website to reserve your spot each month.