

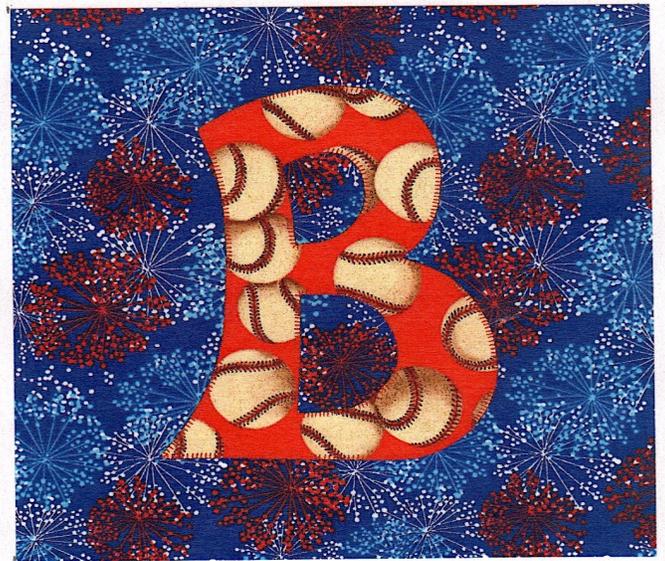
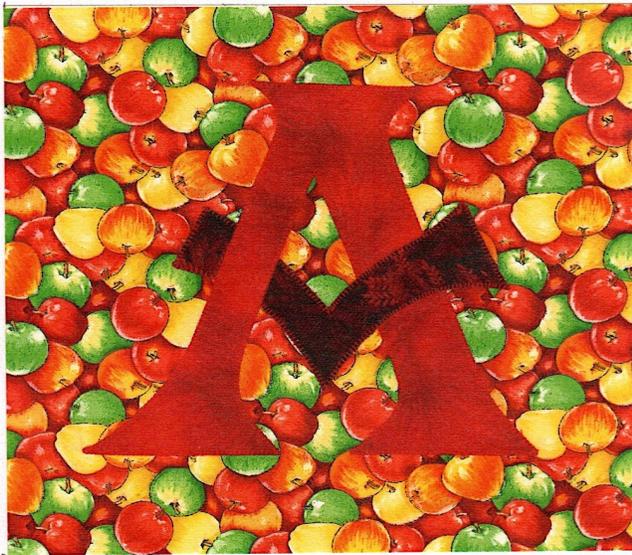
**Pattern of the Month: November 2021**  
**Karen G. Fisher**

As promised, I am starting on a series of letter designs. I will present them all in a 10-inch square format, but any of them will be easy to make narrower if you want them to fit together with other letters into a word, or someone's initials. Or, the patterns for the applique ones can simply be reduced in size on a copy machine.

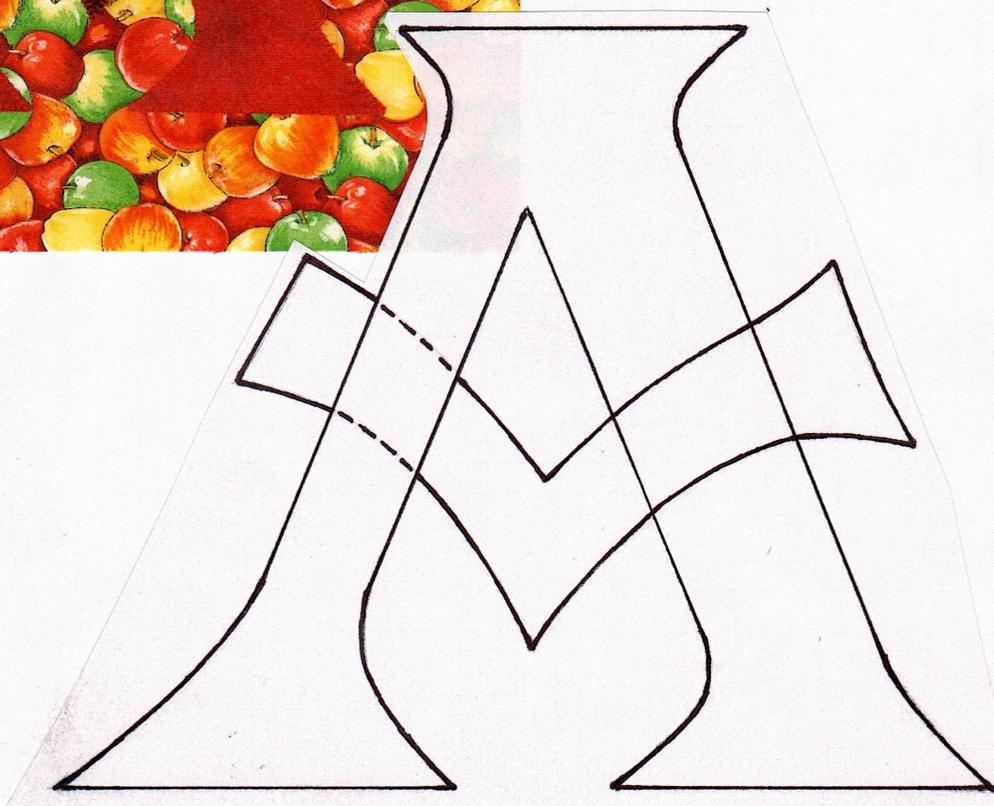
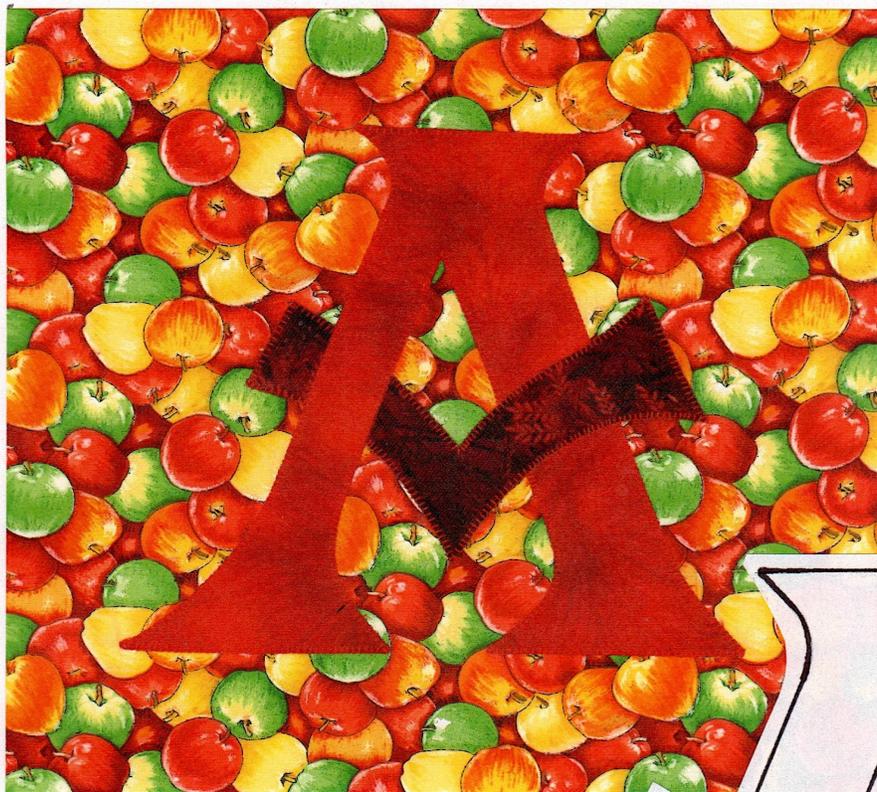
I began learning calligraphy in high school, when I was designing and silk-screening posters for school events. I discovered that if you read a western language, it's easier to read a combination of upper and lower case letters, rather than all capitals, and it can be very awkward to read letters that are stacked up, like people do on bowling alley signs. Because we are used to seeing "BOWLING" this way on signs, we are probably semi-used to it, but try figuring out something as long as ALBUQUERQUE, and it's much harder when it's vertical!

Of course, there are languages that read from right to left, rather than left to right, and also read in columns, so people who are used to those standard arrangements may struggle with all the European languages. But then, not only is variety the spice of life, it's also one of many spices in lettering design.

Starting at the beginning, I am giving you "A" and "B" this month, and will probably do two letters a month, or I will be at this for a very long time. Some of the letters will be my own designs, and others will be adapted from the long list of typefaces on my computer. I will try to make them all easily legible, not too Medieval or too Victorian. I'm also planning to have a bit of fun with novelty fabrics, matching imagery to letters: apples with "A", and baseball with "B".



For a 10" finished block, enlarge either pattern 145%. Because there are no seams, either pattern can be enlarged or reduced to fit any size. The "B" is, obviously, all one piece. The A is made in two pieces, but can be made as one piece. The A can also go either direction, with the cross piece set in either direction.



**My favorite applique method:**

Cut fusible interfacing the size of applique shape. Trace your design, in reverse, on the non-sticky side of the interfacing (this is why the patterns, as printed, are backwards). Do not use a product that fuses the two pieces of fabric to each other—you are making your applique fabric more stable. If you are using a variety of fabrics, cut the number of pieces of interfacing you need (I like the “A” in two fabrics).

Fuse interfacing to the wrong side of your applique fabric. **MAKE SURE** the whole surface is securely fused so that it does not peel apart as you cut it apart. Cut the shape out with small sharp scissors. Stitch letter to background. A small zigzag or blanket stitch gives a sturdy finish and adds a bit of detail.

