

May Block/Pattern of the Month

“M” is for Mushrooms

“N” is for Nebula

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As I've designed each letter, I often find myself unexpectedly wandering down memory lane, based on the fabrics I have found. My Air Force family lived in France when I was young, and my father learned where to look for wild mushrooms from some of the French civilians who worked on base. He brought home Inky Caps, Shaggy Manes, and Sheepsfoot mushrooms when they were in season in the nearby woods. The Sheepsfoot ones were my favorite—bright orange and yummy. I also remember seeing Death Angel mushrooms when I would go with him. They were always perfect and white—not even the animals or insects would eat them—a clear warning to stay away.

“Nebula” was the word used to signify any unclear, cloudlike structure seen in space. These fuzzy patches were not clear over the first centuries of telescope development, and some of the easiest to see were the Andromeda Nebula and the Orion Nebula, named for the constellations they appear to be a part of. Astronomers now know that Andromeda is a huge separate galaxy 2.5 million light years from our own Milky Way. The Orion Nebula is a nearby star-forming region some 1,344+ light years away, the closest such region to Earth in our very own Milky Way Galaxy. I continue to be fascinated with how astronomers figure these things out, understanding places that humans will likely never visit.







Each pattern can be enlarged 150% for a 10" block. Enlarge or reduce as needed for other block sizes.

Use your favorite applique method to create I Spy quilts, or combine with other letters to create your own monogram. Only six more months for me to finish the rest of the alphabet!