

## Pattern of the Month: Teardrop

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As quilters, we know that ideas can come from anywhere.

For this month's "block," I saw a pattern for a heart applique, and immediately thought, "What if I cut it in half, to make a teardrop shape? I can still make a heart, as well as using it for multiple other shapes, simply by doubling it, and/or changing its size.

A heart can be made by placing one side of the teardrop against a fold of fabric and cutting it out, just as we did when we made our own Valentines.

A Shamrock can be made from three green "hearts" and a stem.

Teardrop shapes can become flower petals—I found I liked 7 petals best, and the number reminded me of "he loves me, he loves me not," which always seemed to end on



“he loves me” which indicated an odd number of petals. Because the point of the petal is more than 45°, there will be a bit of space between the individual pieces.

More petals can be fun too—just overlap them a bit. This could be pretty in several shades of one color.



My last (almost) flight of fancy was to turn my “teardrop” into a topiary tree. I can imagine a whole Christmas Tree Farm by using the right fabrics! And this little scene was completely dependent on a well-organized fabric stash: I knew right where to find house and background parts, and the fall foliage for trees.



Another idea was to use the teardrop shape with bilaterally symmetrical fabric designs, a la Paula Nadelstern's kaleidoscopes. Because the point of the teardrop is more than  $45^\circ$ , the spaces between the "petals" looks like a very elongated star.

The patterns below can be used as is with interfacing and raw-edge applique. If you prefer needle-turn, simply add a seam allowance. The largest one with the center line is for the Paula N. idea mentioned above—I will have a sample at the monthly meetings. Feel free to make them larger or smaller to make the hearts, shamrocks, flowers and trees that will fit with your own designs.

