



Pattern of the Month

March 2012

"My Stamp Collection"

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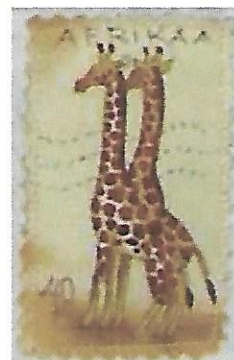
Did you have a stamp collection when you were a kid? I did, but I have no idea what became of it! Here's a chance to create a "page" from your stamp album, and "frame" it for display.

Look through your novelty, juvenile and exotic fabrics for small motifs which can be cut out to represent stamps. Cut a strip or two of lightweight, paper-backed fusible adhesive about 3" wide. Working at the ironing board, cut a square or rectangle of fusible large enough to cover each selected motif with at least $\frac{1}{2}$ " to 1" extra all around. Place fusible on *wrong* side of fabric, with adhesive side toward fabric. Fuse it to fabric, following package directions.



With *sharp* pinking shears or scalloped rotary blade, cut out the "stamps." Motifs may be centered or positioned as desired, to leave space for writing the name of a country, a person, place or event being commemorated, value of the stamp, etc. (These could be completely imaginary!) You could also use rubber stamps and fabric ink to create stamps.

Remove paper backing, arrange stamps on a piece of background fabric and fuse in place. Stitch stamps to background using straight or decorative stitching, and add details with fabric pens. If desired, sketch in "postmarks", dotting with a light touch to simulate the rough, partially inked marks. Study real stamps, or pictures of them, for more ideas—and use your imagination!



Trim "page" to desired size, including seam allowances, making sure corners are square. Add borders any width or style you wish, to look like a frame. (Remember to allow extra length if you want to miter the corners.) Layer, quilt and bind.

Your "stamps" may be larger than real ones, depending on sizes of the motifs you find in your fabric stash. But whatever size the quilt turns out to be, it's a lot of fun to make --- perhaps even as a special gift for someone!