



Pattern of the Month - December 2013

by Evelyn George

## "Ways to Use Your Holiday Block Collection"

Holiday blocks are so much fun to make and swap! Do you have a collection (like I do), still waiting to be made into a Christmas Quilt? Actually, I have so many, I've been thinking of other projects I could use them for. Here are some of the possibilities I thought of, and no doubt you'll come up with more, depending on how many blocks you have:



1 or 2 Blocks - pillow, mini-wall hanging, placemat, hot dish mat (or potholders if small), tote bag (or just the pocket), large or small gift bag

3 to 6 Blocks - table runner, apron, larger wall hanging (horizontal or vertical, to fit your space), banner for a door, or one to hang across the room

Lots of Blocks - bed runner, couch throw, long party skirt, vest or jacket, curtains or valances --and quilts of all sizes, of course!

Consider whether your project is going to be washed or not. Highly embellished blocks are best used for a wall quilt, tote bag, or other project that won't be washed. Take care to choose suitable blocks for table use or any project that might get washed from time to time. (Since blocks from many different makers may be constructed from such a wide variety of materials, dry cleaning is potentially risky.)

If you are not averse to cutting up some of the blocks, the creative possibilities expand. Think crazy patch pillows or garments, collage, stuffed toys, dolls, lamp shades, appliqued accents on other projects, etc.

Choose coordinating fabrics (and embellishments, if you wish) to add to your pretty holiday blocks. Whether you start with a basic pattern or get creative and make it up as you go along, let the holiday spirit inspire you. And since the blocks are already made, it won't take long to complete your project!



For wall hangings like those shown: Blocks are squared up to the same size; narrow sashing strips and inner borders are cut 1" wide; borders are cut 2" wide. Cut into lengths as needed to match measurements of your blocks. First, join blocks with sashing and press. Measure and add inner border all around, press; then measure and add outer border. Quilt and bind. Add hanging sleeve or tabs at top if desired.