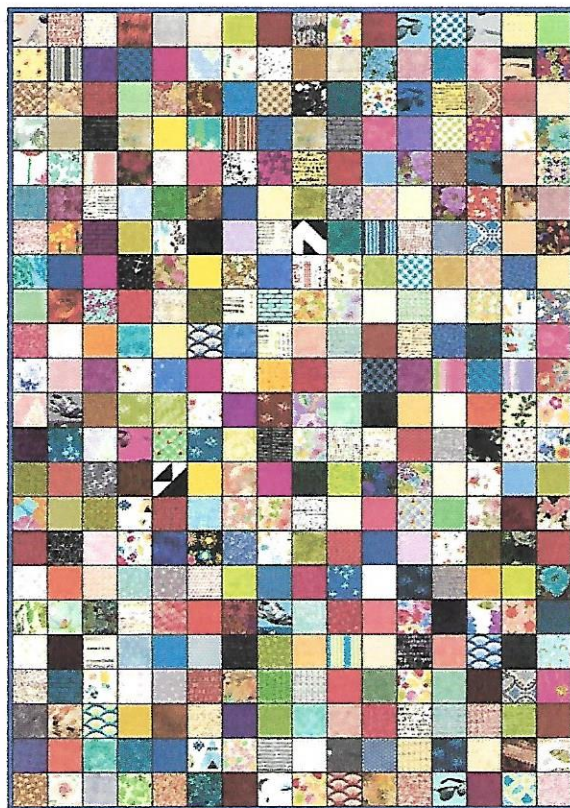




## Pattern of the Month - August 2018

By Evelyn George

### Charm A Day Quilt



Do you have a LOT of scraps? Maybe it's time to make a charm quilt! That means that every square will be of a different fabric. Here's an easy one that you can start any time and work on for 5 minutes a day for a whole year!

If you follow this plan, you won't even have to keep count of the 365 squares; just make rows 16 squares long. When you have a row of 16, put it in your project box, along with this instruction sheet, and start the next row. At the end of a year, you should have 23 rows -- that's about one row every two weeks or so. The total number of squares in this layout is actually 368 -- that includes 2 or 3 extra squares, depending on whether it's a leap year or not -- so just make those from plain white and write your label info on them: quilt name, your name, and date/place. Include these in the rows wherever you feel inspired -- they will be on the front of the quilt, adding to its charm!

The quilt shown is 56" x 80  $\frac{1}{2}$ ", made from squares cut 4" x 4". You can cut just one 4" square each day, or cut a stack and add one a day to the row you are working on. Try not to repeat any fabrics; a charm quilt features one-of-a-kind. What? You don't have 365 different fabrics in your stash? That's an excuse to go shopping! Or, organize a fabric swap with your friends.

Note that 4-inch squares are not the typical size available in packs, but they're easy to cut, and the result is a nice sized throw. If you choose 5-inch charm squares, a year's worth would make a 72" x 103" twin; 2  $\frac{1}{2}$ " squares would make a 32" x 46" quilt. The row plan is the same for any size squares, to make it a Charm A Day quilt. Of course, there's no rule saying you couldn't cut and sew the whole thing all at once, if that's your preference.

You only need to find a couple of minutes a day to add one square to your current row. If you've missed a day, catch up by adding two, etc. You get the picture. It's a painless way to make a charm quilt! And it's a catalog of your fabric stash, too. At the end of the year, or whenever you've finished 23 rows of 16 squares each, sew the rows together to make your quilt top. The arrangement will be entirely serendipitous, the only planning will be as you decide which square to add each day. It's kind of a daily meditation, a few quiet minutes in your sewing space.

Watch your charm quilt grow as a year goes by, one beautiful patch after another, with perhaps a few sad ones, too, but overall, lovely! And it's a chance to feel grateful for the bit of beauty each day brings!