

## Put a Label on your Quilt

by Evelyn Evers

You should always put a LABEL on every quilt that you make. Since your quilts will most likely outlive you, it makes sense to preserve their heritage for future generations. Imagine your great grand-daughter saying to her friends " My grandma made this, and I can prove it ". Mark your masterpiece with your name, your city, the date, a poem, or a good-well wish. The label personalizes your work and however you choose to label your projects, it's very important that you do so. The last touch an artist puts on his painting is his signature. It's a thoughtful act for present and future recipients who may ask " Who made this Quilt ? " It is especially important to put a label on every quilt when entering them into a Quilt Show.

There are several ways to make labels ...

- (1) Hand Embroidery
  - (2) Machine Embroidery
  - (3) Hand-written with fabric markers
  - (4) Printing on fabric with computer & printer .. ... or a combination of these methods.
- There is also fabric available which has frames, pictures and other label ideas.

The most common method is printing on fabric ...you will need the following :  
a computer with word processing program and printer, iron, starch and freezer paper.  
You can purchase printer ready fabric pieces or you can make your own



- (1) Choose a fabric which compliments your quilt and cut a piece 8 " x 10 ½ "
- (2) Starch and iron the fabric because if the fabric has some extra body, it is more printer friendly.
- (3) Cut a piece of freezer paper 8 ½ x 11. If the paper is curling, lightly press it onto your ironing board, let it cool, when you lift it from the board, it will be flat. **Always use Dry iron – no steam.**
- (4) In your word processing program, start a text document, in most cases the default is 8 ½ x 11. Type the name of the quilt, who is receiving it, type your name, the date, and any good wishes. If you are putting the quilt in a show, you should name the pattern maker, and the person who quilted the quilt. Use bold, clear fonts and print in black or navy blue. Centre and re-arrange the text in your document until it resembles the inside of a greeting card, making sure the bulk of the text is in the middle of the 8 ½ x 11 area. Print your work on a piece of paper first and check the placement, the spelling, the message, etc. If you work with ClipArt or frames they can also be added to your label at this time.
- (5) After starching the fabric, make sure it is completely dry. Place the plain fabric on the shiny side of the freezer paper, right side up, and press it several times on the fabric side and on the paper side.

If your printer is finicky doing this job, here are some tips that have worked for me .....

- (a) when you first place the fabric on the freezer paper, slide the fabric down about ½ inch from the top edge. Cut a strip of freezer paper about ½ inch wide and iron it over the top edge of the fabric. Trick the printer. If the sensor detects the edge of the fabric it will balk.
- (b) when printing on a fabric which is heavier than quilting cotton, see step (a) with one exception ... cut the small strip about 1" wide and add a piece of medium cardstock on the back as a stabilizer. Layer the (3) pieces, so you can see the top edge of each, then iron the 1" strip of freezer paper over the top edge of the fabric, the freezer paper, and the cardstock.



- (6) Once the fabric is well-stuck to the freezer paper, put it in the printer. I only do one label at a time. Hit PRINT. After the fabric is printed, let it sit for 10 minutes and let the ink dry. Then peel the fabric from the freezer paper, and let it sit for another 10 minutes. Place the printed fabric, right side down on a thin towel and press it using a dry iron. The heat sets the ink into the fabric.
- (7) If you want to do hand or machine embroidery on the label, it should be done after the printing is complete.
- (8) Trim the label to the size required, score the edges with a dritz wheel, turn the edge under using a ¼ " seam allowance. Press the edges well. Again, use a dry iron .. the steam may cause the printing to run.
- (9) Hand stitch the label to the back of the quilt.

