

Mystery Stay at Home Round Robin (SAHRR)

This year the mystery quilt will be a stay-at-home round robin (SAHRR). For those who are unfamiliar with a round robin, a round robin is a medallion quilt that is composed of a center block surrounded by a series of borders or frames. Each quilter makes a center block and hands it over to another quilter to put a border around the center block. The new border might be plain, pieced, appliqued, or embellished. It might not even go around all four sides. Then the center block is passed to a third quilter to add a 2nd border and so on to each member of the group. After the final border is added, the quilt top is returned to the center square maker to finish the quilt. The challenge is each quilter will be designing and putting a border on each quilt. It may be the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc. The maker of the center block does not see her block until the final border has been added to it.

What is a SAHRR? A SAHRR is similar to a traditional round robin, but instead of passing your piece around to others to add borders to your block, you will complete the rounds yourself, following instructions each month for what to add.

The SAHRR will begin January 1st. First you need to make/select a center block. This can be any size and any shape, such as a square, rectangle, circle, triangle, etc. You could even decide to use a panel. This could also be an opportunity to use a block or something you started in a class/workshop. But keep in mind that the larger your center block, the larger your finished top will be. A twelve inch square block makes a good size for a round robin.

Each month I will give instructions in the newsletter for that month's round, and possibly a set of instructions between newsletters. You can incorporate the suggested item/technique any way you want to, or ignore it. You can also wait a month and incorporate two months' rounds into one border. This is your quilt, so do it your way. The last set of instructions will be in May.

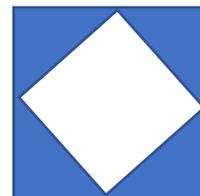
With traditional round robins, people are often hesitant to participate, fearful that they won't like what someone else adds to their pieces or that they won't know what to add to someone else's piece or that their quilting skills may not be good enough. (In my experience, most everyone does a great job adding rounds and the person with the original block is very happy with the results.) But a SAHRR eliminates these issues as you get to do it all yourself. Rounds will be very doable and I will often include options on how to incorporate the round's item/technique.

So, start thinking about and working on your center now.

Mystery Stay At Home Round Robin – Round One

Here are the instructions for the first round of the SAHRR. Hopefully, you have made/selected your center block. To recap, if you don't have your center block yet, this can be any size and any shape, such as a square, rectangle, circle, triangle, etc. You could even decide to use a panel. This could also be an opportunity to use a block or something you started in a class/workshop. But keep in mind that the larger your center block, the larger your finished top will be. A twelve inch square block makes a good size for a round robin.

For the first round incorporate a Square-in-a-Square (SAS) block. A SAS block is a square set on point, so all the tips that apply to setting a quilt or block on point also apply to a SAS block. The center square is the block placed on-point and the four corners are the corner setting triangles. These corner setting triangles should have their edges on the straight-of-grain.



Incorporate the block any way you want. Some ideas are to use it as cornerstones in your borders, make an entire border of them, or alternate them with a plain block or other type of block.

Instructions to make the SAS block:

- First decide what size block you want. For example if you have a 12" center block and you want to make an entire border, for the sides you could make four 3" finished blocks, three 4" finished blocks, or two 6" finished blocks.
- Cut the center square [A] the finished size you want your block plus 1/2" for seam allowances
- Cut four corner squares [B] half the finished block size, plus 1/2" for seam allowances).
- Mark a diagonal line on the four corner squares.
- Place corners on center block.
- Sew on diagonal line. Trim off outer corner. Press toward the triangle.
- Repeat for other three corners.
- Trim to unfinished block size. There should be 1/4" space between outer edge and corners of center block.

