

Bargello Quilts In Motion A New Look For Strip Pieced Quilts

Ruth Ann Berry

Bargello Quilts in Motion: A New Look for Strip-Pieced Quilts by Ruth Ann Berry

The world of quilting offers endless possibilities for creativity, and few techniques offer as much visual dynamism as Bargello quilting. Ruth Ann Berry's "Bargello Quilts in Motion: A New Look for Strip-Pieced Quilts" revolutionizes this already captivating style, providing quilters of all skill levels with fresh inspiration and innovative techniques. This book isn't just a pattern collection; it's a journey into the heart of strip piecing, exploring the potential for movement and depth within seemingly simple lines. We'll delve into the book's key features, examine its unique approach to Bargello quilting, and explore why it remains a valuable resource for both novice and experienced quilters.

Understanding Bargello Quilting Techniques

Bargello, also known as Florentine embroidery, is traditionally a form of needlework characterized by its distinctive diagonal lines and repeating patterns. Berry cleverly translates this principle into quilting, using carefully arranged strips of fabric to create captivating optical illusions of movement and texture. This technique, often associated with its traditional designs, is elevated in "Bargello Quilts in Motion" through the introduction of modern color palettes and unexpected compositional choices. The book demonstrates how even subtle variations in fabric placement and strip width dramatically impact the overall effect, creating quilts that appear to ripple, flow, and even dance. Mastering the intricacies of strip piecing, a core element of this technique, is crucial. Berry guides the reader through various strip piecing methods, showing different ways to achieve specific results and how to overcome common

challenges like seam allowance accuracy. Key elements within the book include detailed explanations of: *Color Theory and Application in Bargello*, *Advanced Strip Piecing Techniques*, and *Designing Original Bargello Patterns*.

The Unique Approach of Ruth Ann Berry

Berry's approach to Bargello quilting transcends mere pattern replication. The book emphasizes understanding the underlying principles of the technique, encouraging readers to develop their own designs and experiment with color combinations. This focus on creative freedom is refreshing; it transforms the quilter from a passive follower of instructions to an active participant in the design process. She meticulously explains how the angles and widths of the strips control the visual flow, enabling quilters to create a wide variety of designs, from subtle waves to bold, dramatic patterns. The book showcases examples ranging from traditional, elegant designs to modern, contemporary ones, demonstrating the versatility of the Bargello technique. The step-by-step instructions provided by Berry are clear, concise, and accompanied by abundant illustrations, making the process accessible even for those new to quilting. Specific techniques like manipulating color gradients and incorporating different fabric textures to add depth and complexity are discussed thoroughly. This attention to detail sets this work apart and allows it to cater to different styles and skill levels.

Benefits of Using "Bargello Quilts in Motion"

The book offers numerous benefits, both for experienced quilters looking to expand their skills and beginners eager to learn a new technique.

- **Comprehensive Instruction:** Berry provides a clear and comprehensive guide to all aspects of Bargello quilting, from basic strip piecing to advanced design techniques.
- **Inspirational Designs:** The book features a wide array of captivating designs, showcasing the versatility of the Bargello style and inspiring readers to develop their own creations.
- **Creative Freedom:** Instead of simply providing patterns to follow, Berry empowers readers to understand the principles behind the technique, fostering creative exploration and experimentation.
- **Accessible for All Skill Levels:** While covering advanced techniques, the book caters to quilters of all skill levels, providing clear explanations and illustrations suitable for beginners.

- **Enhanced Quilting Skills:** The reader will gain valuable experience in accurate strip piecing, color theory application, and creating dynamic movement within a quilt design.

Bargello Quilts: Beyond the Book

The impact of "Bargello Quilts in Motion" extends beyond the pages of the book. It has sparked a renewed interest in Bargello quilting, inspiring a new generation of quilters to explore this dynamic technique. Online communities have sprung up, sharing projects and tips based on Berry's techniques. The book's emphasis on creative exploration has led to numerous variations and adaptations of the Bargello style, showcasing the enduring appeal and adaptability of this classic quilting method. The book's success lies in its ability to bridge the gap between traditional techniques and modern creativity, making Bargello quilting accessible and exciting for quilters of all backgrounds. This modern approach to a classic technique continues to inspire quilters globally, leading to vibrant and innovative designs.

Conclusion

Ruth Ann Berry's "Bargello Quilts in Motion: A New Look for Strip-Pieced Quilts" stands as a significant contribution to the quilting world. Its comprehensive instructions, inspirational designs, and emphasis on creative freedom make it an invaluable resource for quilters of all skill levels. By understanding the underlying principles of Bargello quilting, as detailed within the book, quilters can unlock a wealth of creative potential, transforming simple strips of fabric into captivating works of art. The lasting impact of this book lies not just in the patterns it provides, but in its empowerment of quilters to explore, experiment, and ultimately, design their own unique and breathtaking Bargello quilts.

FAQ

Q1: What is the primary skill level assumed by this book?

A1: While the book teaches fundamental strip piecing techniques, it's designed to be accessible to quilters of all skill levels. Beginners will find the step-by-step instructions and clear illustrations helpful, while experienced quilters can benefit from the advanced techniques and inspiration for creating original designs.

Q2: Are all the projects in the book complex?

A2: No, the book offers a variety of projects, ranging from simpler designs perfect for beginners to more challenging and intricate projects for experienced quilters. This range ensures that there's something for everyone.

Q3: What types of fabrics are best suited for Bargello quilting?

A3: Cotton fabrics are generally preferred for Bargello quilting due to their ease of use and consistent texture. However, other fabrics like linen or even silk can be used depending on the desired effect. The key is to use fabrics that are similar in weight and drape to ensure consistent results.

Q4: How important is precise cutting and piecing for successful Bargello quilts?

A4: Precision is crucial in Bargello quilting. Accurate cutting and piecing are essential for creating the clean, crisp lines and precise angles that characterize this technique. Inaccurate cutting can significantly impact the final look of the quilt.

Q5: Can I create my own Bargello designs using the principles in the book?

A5: Absolutely! Berry's book emphasizes understanding the underlying principles of Bargello quilting, enabling readers to design their own unique patterns and color combinations. The book encourages creative freedom beyond just replicating the examples provided.

Q6: Are there specific tools required for Bargello quilting that are not commonly used in other quilting techniques?

A6: While standard quilting tools are used, precise rotary cutting tools and a good quality ruler are particularly important for achieving the necessary accuracy in cutting strips. Using a quarter-inch seam allowance is also crucial.

Q7: Where can I find the book?

A7: "Bargello Quilts in Motion" is widely available online through major book retailers and quilting supply stores. You can also find it through used bookstores or online marketplaces.

Q8: What makes this book stand out from other Bargello quilting resources?

A8: This book distinguishes itself by its focus on understanding the underlying principles of the technique rather than merely providing a collection of patterns. It empowers quilters to create their own designs and experiment with color and composition, leading to unique and personal creations.

Bargello Quilts in Motion: A New Look for Strip-Pieced Quilts by Ruth Ann Berry - A Deep Dive

Ruth Ann Berry's "Bargello Quilts in Motion: A New Look for Strip-Pieced Quilts" isn't just a manual; it's an epiphany for quilt makers. It redefines the traditional strip-pieced quilt, injecting kinetic movement into a genre often perceived as stagnant. Berry skillfully guides the reader through a process that transcends the simple repetition of strips, producing quilts that mesmerize with their flowing lines.

The book's power lies in its accessible approach to a technique that might seem complex at first glance. Berry simplifies the process into digestible steps, using simple language and copious illustrations. She doesn't just present the techniques; she illuminates the **why** behind them, helping quilters grasp the basics of color theory and design that are crucial to creating stunning Bargello quilts.

One of the book's major breakthroughs is its emphasis on planning. Berry advocates a deliberate approach, encouraging quilters to draft their designs before preparing a single fabric strip. This proactive strategy minimizes errors and optimizes the likelihood of achieving the targeted outcome. She provides numerous patterns and practice examples to help quilters refine their design skills, transforming them from beginners into assured designers.

The book also explores the adaptability of the Bargello technique. While the conventional Bargello quilt is known for its geometric patterns, Berry demonstrates how the same basic principles can be applied to create a vast array of different styles. From contemporary designs to realistic images, the possibilities are almost boundless. She offers numerous illustrations of her own work, and the work of other talented quilters, encouraging readers to innovate and push the boundaries of traditional quilt making.

The book's educational value is further improved by its clear diagrams and photographs. Each step of the process is carefully documented,

allowing no room for confusion. Berry's tone is accessible, making the book enjoyable to read, even for those who are unfamiliar to quilting. She effectively unites between the mechanical processes of quilt making and the aesthetic goals of design.

In conclusion, "Bargello Quilts in Motion" is more than just a how-to guide. It is a compelling exploration of a classic quilting technique, revitalized for the modern quilter. Berry's expertise shines through on every spread, encouraging readers to adopt the challenges and benefits of creating dynamic Bargello quilts that are authentically their own.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):

1. What experience level is required to use this book? The book is ideal for quilters of all skill sets. While some basic quilting knowledge is helpful, Berry's simple explanations make the techniques accessible even for newcomers.

2. What kind of materials are needed for Bargello quilting? You'll primarily need various fabrics in a range of hues, along with basic quilting supplies like a rotary cutter.

3. How long does it take to make a Bargello quilt? The time commitment varies depending on the quilt's complexity. Smaller projects can be completed in a couple of weeks, while larger, more intricate quilts might take several months.

4. Can I modify the designs in the book? Absolutely! Berry promotes experimentation and personalization. Feel free to alter the designs to reflect your own style.

5. Where can I find the book? The book is usually accessible from major online retailers, quilt shops, and bookstores – both in-person and online.

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