

100 Day Quilts for LLT

By Jill Smith on behalf of LLTF
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To contact Jill to ask questions on her patterns
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The recommended measurements for a **100 Day Quilt** are 80cm by 120cm.

In quilting terms, this is 32" by 48".

These dimensions lend themselves to the use of 2 ½ " squares and 4 ½ " squares.

3½ " squares are also a possibility. When using 3½ " squares, the finished size is 33½" X 48".

To make a random scrappy quilt with no borders, you will need

Square size	Layout	Number of squares needed	Finished size
2½	24 rows of 16 squares	384 squares	32 ½ " by 48 ½ "
4½	12 rows of 8 squares	96 squares	32 ½ " by 48 ½ "
3½	16 rows of 11	176 squares	33½" by 48½"

NOTE:
Depending on how much fabric I have to work with I am prepared to crib a bit in either direction. I have gone as wide as 34" but not smaller than 32". Lengthwise, I have gone down to 45" but no more than 48½".

The design of the quilt is limited only by your fabric choices.

(I have a boxes of (2 ½ "), (3½"), (4½) & (5") squares randomly cut from any scraps from other projects, especially the little dresses and shirts I make for the preemie babies. By themselves or mixed with a neutral or solid, these can have stunning results)

Possible combinations:

- ❖ Shades of the same colour.
- ❖ Dark/light pairs
- ❖ Colour wash
- ❖ Eye spy
- ❖ Grouping similar colours in 2's, 4's or 8's.
- ❖ Totally random (*my favourite*)

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Adding borders

If you like to finish your quilts with a border, you have many possibilities. This is only 1 of many....

2 ½ "squares - random

- Make 20 rows of 12 and stitch together.
- First border - Cut 4 x 1 ½ " strips WOF of a strong contrast colour to the centre piece. Measure through the middle of the centre piece for the length of the 2 side strips. Attach to the sides. You may need to ease this in as some of the square may have stretched. Press to the border. Measure across the middle border to border. This will give you the measurements for the top and bottom strips. Attach and press to the border
- Second border – Cut 4 X 3 ½ " strips WOF of a fabric used in the centre piece or any other fabric that will work. Measure through the middle of the centre piece, for the length of the 2 side strips. Attach to the sides. Press to the first border. Measure across the middle, this will give you the measurements for the top and bottom strips. Attach and press to the first border.

NOTE:

If you press the seam of the first border away from that border, it will "sit down", giving the impression the centre piece & the outer border are floating. The method above will give the impression that it is "sitting" on top and will be a solid frame for the centre. The look you are going for is a personal choice. Give both a go, and see what your preference is.

Binding choices for this option:

1. Bind with the same fabric as the first border – gives a "framed" look.
2. Bind with the same fabric as the second border – gives a more flowing finish.

For the 100 Day quilt, I like to do a "fat flat border" This was a mistake I made a couple of years ago, but it turned out really well, so now I use it often.

Especially if I know or hope the quilt will be very, very well loved.

Adding Numbers

Adding numbers (100) to your quilt is a personal choice. Some quilts showcased on the LLTF Facebook page have numbers & some don't.

As this quilt is to celebrate & acknowledge the brave & joyous journey the baby and their family have travelled, I like to add them.

However.... I am mindful of a few things.

- Subtly - We cannot know the family's feelings here. Some may wish to celebrate loud & proud, while others may still be taking it one day at a time.

LLTF will know which families go with which quilt, so I do a variety of sizes. The smallest is 2½" through to 5" as the biggest.



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This is a website I use to draft my numbers

<http://online.rapidresizer.com/make-name-patterns.php>

- colour of numbers - again, consider the look you're going for...
- subtle - similar fabrics to those in the quilt & small to allow the number to almost blend in.
- "out there" - larger size & a strong contrast to the overall quilt.

When attaching the numbers, I use a small zig-zag. I also add a piece of "Whisperweft" tape to the back of the top where the number is placed. This stabiliser is very soft and won't spoil the drape of the quilt, but will stop the fabric puckering during the process. I usually attach the numbers before I quilt. However, I have been known to get carried away..... finish top, iron, pin or baste with wadding & backing, quilt, bind - done & dusted..... WHOOPS NO NUMBER!!!



To add the number

Lastly you need to work with a bit bigger numbers and a bigger zig-zag stitch

Some Considerations before you Start

- **to wash the fabric or not wash the fabric**

I have 2 thoughts here

1. If I am using scraps leftover from making the little outfits, this fabric has been washed. Other scraps have not.
2. I have started marking my quilts to help with my quilting. When this is done, the quilt needs to be washed to remove any pencil/pen pattern markings. I wasn't thrilled with this, but have changed my mind. I now get to see what my work will look like when a family washes it. It shows up if I need more quilting or if I've missed a seam. It is easy to gently pull back into shape. Pop in the dryer for 10 minutes and then give the quilt a light iron both sides... comes up a treat!!

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- **marking quilts**

I always thought the long arm quilters were very clever and artistic and some are. However some mark the quilts with designs or use the computer facility on their machines. I just made a mess trying to do it in my head. I attended a class on marking quilts and am now a convert. The tools you use though need to be trialled beforehand. Depending on the project, I use any or all of these:

- a Wacky Jacky water erasable marker.
- a chalk wheel
- a Prep 6B pencil - blunt
- Roxanne's Quilting pencils

These all disappear when washed and the first 2 disappear when sprayed with water and left to dry flat over night.



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Gallery

"Jane of the Jungle"

This quilt is made using 4½" squares. The small animal print, which has strong pink, purple & aqua in it, was my starting point. I rifled through my stash to find other fabrics to match & contrast.

The quilting is "stitched in the ditch" & then cross-hatched using a wavy decorative stitch on my machine. The thread is a pale pink. A walking foot was used throughout. The backing fabric is pink and brown. The binding is done using fabrics in the quilt centre and is what I call a "fat flat binding."

"I would like to think these quilts are used long after the babies go home. This type of binding is very strong and will hold the quilt shape through many washings".

The "100" is 4" tall and attached to the top before quilting, using a medium size zig-zag stitch. The number was then free motion quilted around & inside.



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"Tarzan of the Jungle"

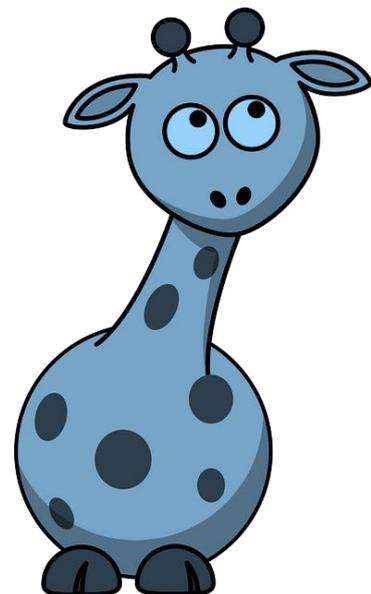
Using the same base fabric as "Jane", partnered with a range of blues and greens.....

Tarzan was created.
Again 4½" squares are used throughout.
The blues & greens highlight the aqua animals.

The quilting is "stitched in the ditch" & then cross-hatched diagonally, in only one direction using 2 lines quite close together.

The thread is a dark royal blue.
A walking foot was used throughout.

The backing fabric is predominantly blue-green geometrical print.
The "fat flat" binding is done in the same aqua as used in the quilt centre.



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Rocket Man

This "rocket" quilt is made with 4½" squares set in a diagonal pattern.

I added a rocket as it was very bright. It is "stitched in the ditch" first and then some custom working has been done.

The bottom right-hand corner has large arcs for the Earth. There are straight lines coming from the nose of the rocket as a headlight.

The rest is a variety of star shapes. It is bound in the same orange & grey.

I am working on the pattern for this one. Contact me if you would like a copy.



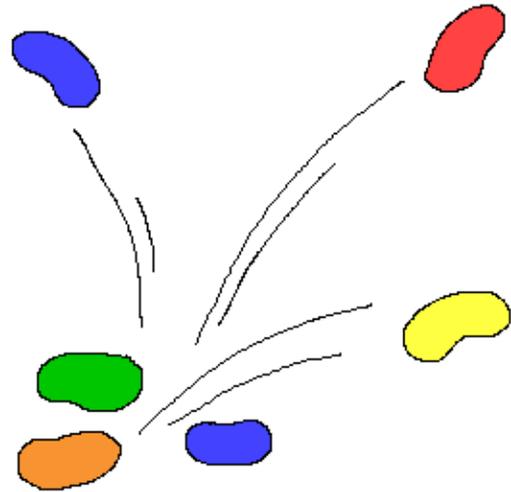
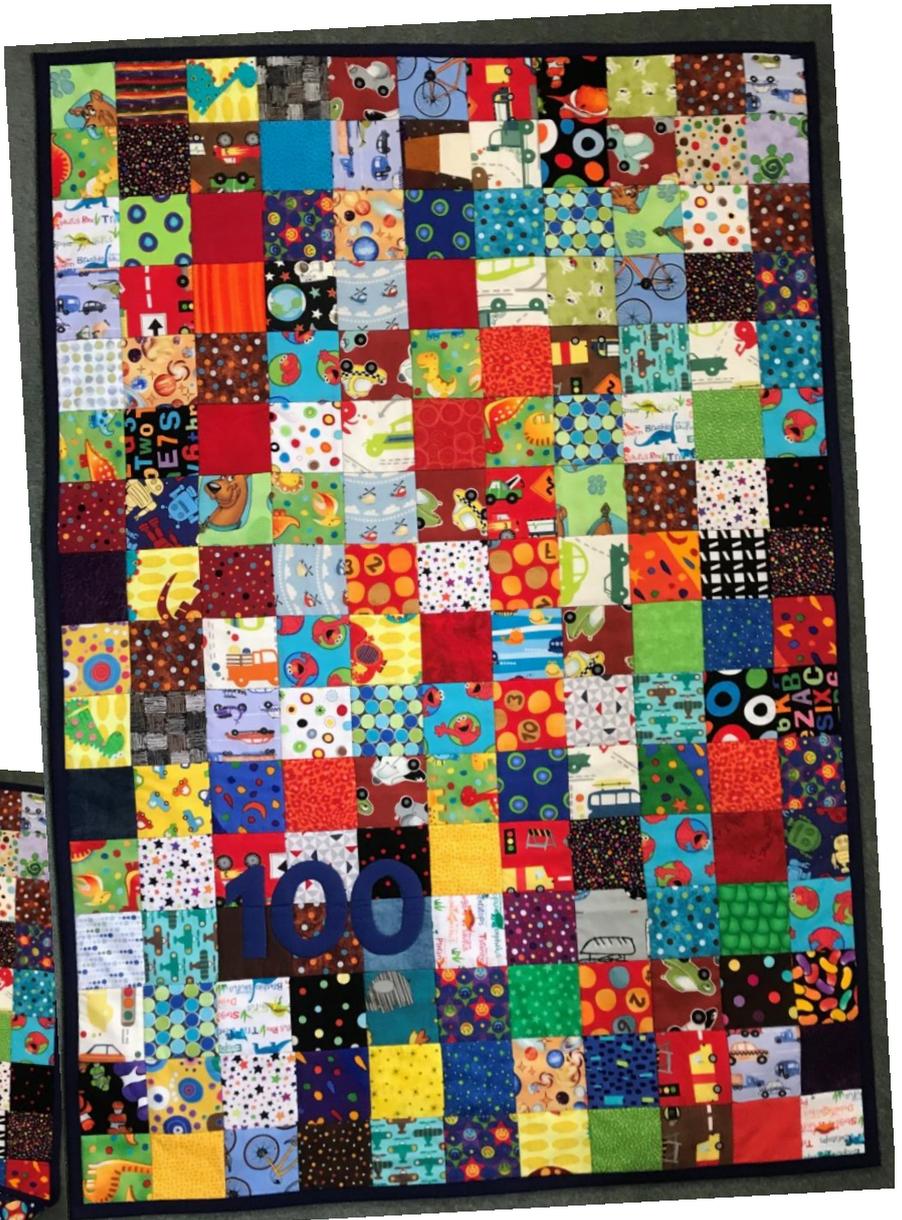
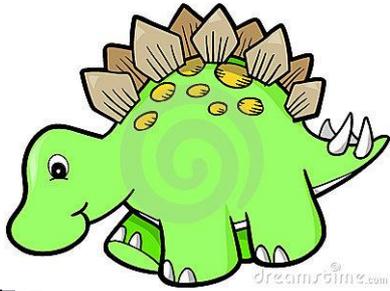
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Scrappy 3 ½" squares - No border.

Bright 3 ½" squares selected from my stash and sewn together on pairs of light & dark.

No border, as it has **WOW** all by itself.

The backing fabric has bright owls on a royal blue background. This quilt has been "stitched in the ditch" - both horizontally & vertically using a walking foot and royal blue thread. The numbers are 4" tall & in the same rich blue as the binding.



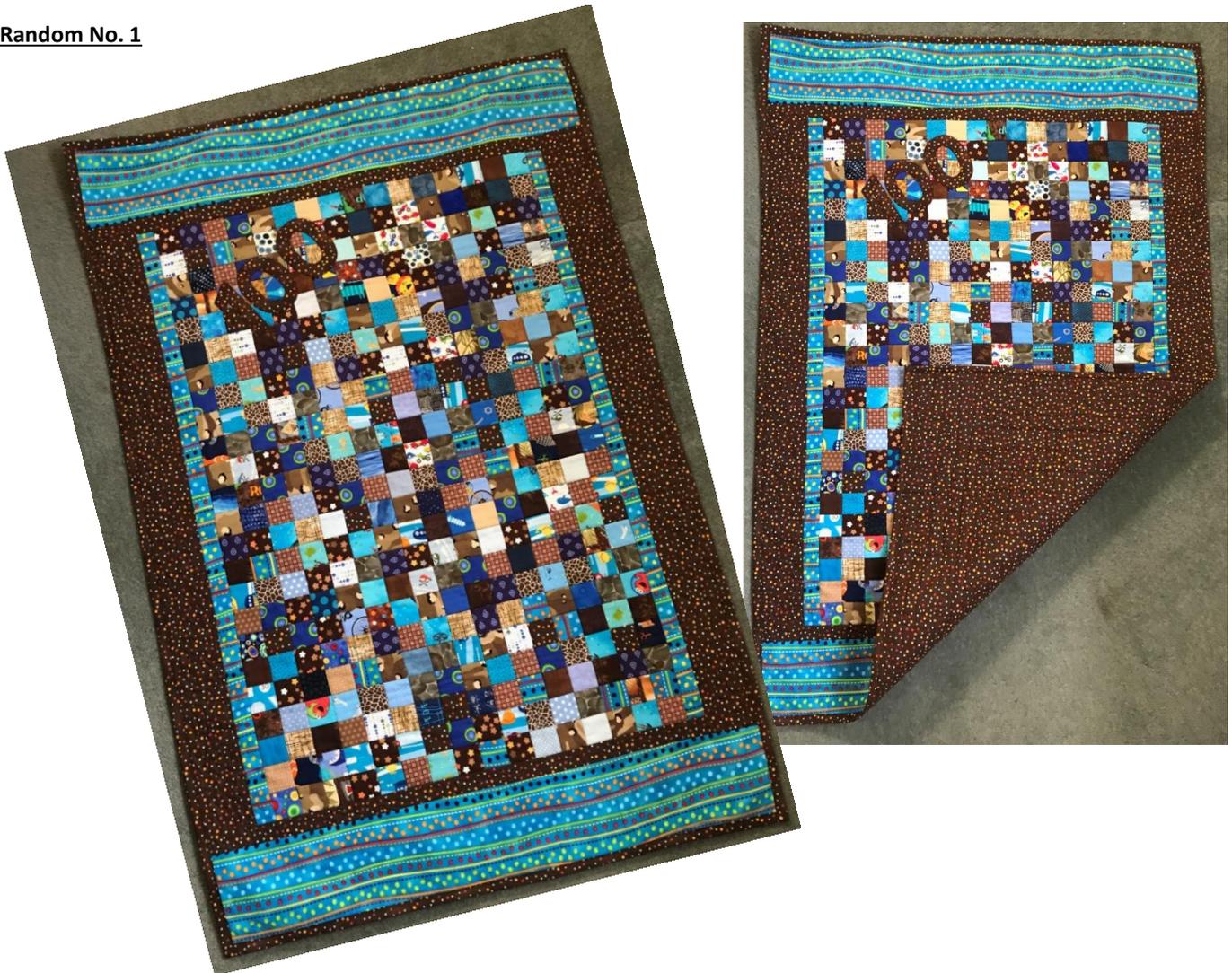
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Random... What if's

Before LLTF & I discussed specific sizes and uniformity, I made a few "What if quilts...
What if I use this fabric in this block? What will it look like? I didn't check to see if I had enough fabric or anything like that.. WHOOPS again.

The following quilts are pretty close to the "right" size, only being a bit shorter or a bit skinnier.
I am working on patterns that will be closer to our 32" X 48" measurements & will hand them over to Karen as they are finished.

Random No. 1



This started off as 2 little "everyday quilts" that weren't big enough. I put them together and added some more 2" squares. BUT, I ran out of blue & brown, so added random borders.

The backing and the side borders are the same, as the binding.

The centre squares are "stitched in the ditch" & the large blue borders are done following some of the lines using a walking foot.

The brown side & skinny top/bottom borders are free motion stippled with a few swirls in a rich chocolate brown thread.



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Random No. 2



The centre blocks in this quilt were made for a class run by Anita Ellis at Hillside Quilting in Warrandyte. I was unable to attend the class & so they became orphan blocks. I later attended a different class with her at The Quilt Shop in Eltham. Using the skills I gained there, I pieced them together & added some borders. The quilting was done using some of Anita's techniques.

If you want to hone up on your piecing & machine quilting skills, I cannot recommend the classes Anita does at The Quilt Shop highly enough. She also runs workshops using rulers at her studio in Warrandyte. Check them out!!

<https://www.thequiltshop.com.au/>

<https://hillside-quilting.myshopify.com/>

These 2 are also on Facebook - worth making friends with.



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Random 3



I saw this design on the Moda Bake Shop website. I tried to down size it ... not very successfully but the end product was OK.

The Moda Bake Shop is a fantastic site... & best of all it's FREE!!!!

If you subscribe to their email feed you get regular patterns & ideas.