

Underground Railroad

May 2025

Log Cabin

The log cabin block indicated which house was a safe house along their journey to freedom. The usual center color of the block was red, representing the hearth or fire of the cabin. Gladys-Marie Fry, *stintched from the soul*, suggested a log cabin quilt with a black center hanging in front of the house indicated it was a "safe house". It also may have directed runaways to build a log cabin to weather out winter and establish permanent residency in a "free" area.

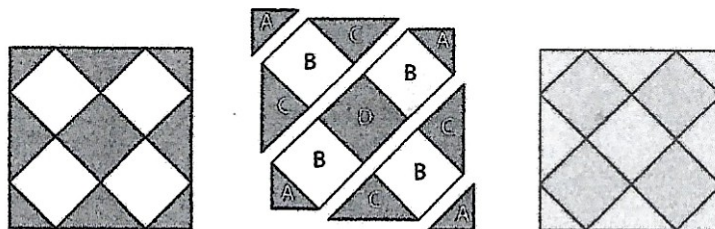
There was a famous black Underground Railroad conductor, named William Lloyd Still, who had a log cabin quilt with a yellow center. The yellow center indicated a light or beacon in the wilderness.









Crossroads

Once fugitives made it safely through the Appalachian Mountains, they were to travel to the "crossroads" or a city where they would find protection and refuge. The main crossroads or terminal was Cleveland, Ohio. Four or five overland trails connected with Cleveland, and numerous water routes, crossing Lake Erie into Canada and freedom.

As part of their secret language, fugitives referred to Cleveland as Hope. Detroit, Michigan was another "crossroads" referred to as Midnight. Men ready to be delivered to safety were "hardware" and women were "dry goods".

Crossroads



FOR	CUT	NEED	6"	8"	10"	12"	36"
A	2 	4 	2 3/8	2 7/8	3 3/8	3 7/8	9 7/8
B	4 	4 	2 5/8	3 3/8	4	4 3/4	13 1/4
C	1 	4 	4 1/4	5 1/4	6 1/4	7 1/4	19 1/4
D	1 	1 	2 5/8	3 3/8	4	4 3/4	13 1/4

December 2013

Every Barn Tells a Story

Log Cabin

Cutting Instructions for one finished 12" block

A - 4" square

A - Cut one 3 1/2" square (center square)

B - 5" x 6"

B1 - Cut one 2" x 3 1/2" rectangle

B2 - Cut one 2" x 5" rectangle

C - 5" x 7 1/2"

C1 - Cut one 2" x 5" rectangle

C2 - Cut one 2" x 6 1/2" rectangle

D - 5" x 9"

D1 - Cut one 2" x 6 1/2" rectangle

D2 - Cut one 2" x 8" rectangle

E - 5" x 10 1/2"

E1 - Cut one 2" x 8" rectangle

E2 - Cut one 2" x 9 1/2" rectangle

F - 5" x 12"

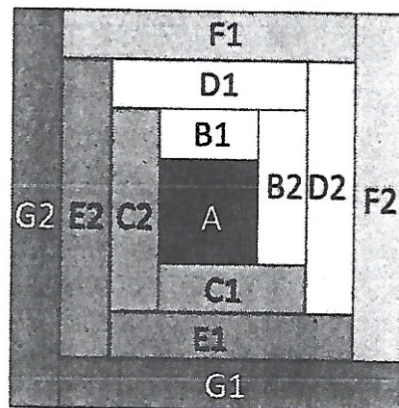
F1 - Cut one 2" x 9 1/2" rectangle

F2 - Cut one 2" x 11" rectangle

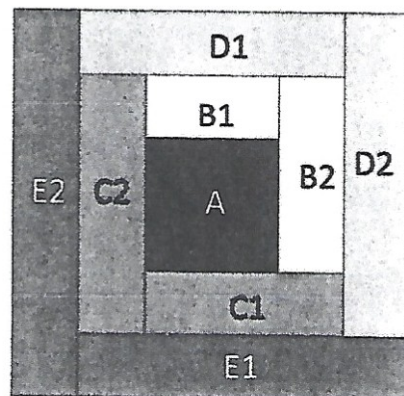
G - 5" x 13 1/2"

G1 - Cut one 2" x 11" rectangle

G2 - Cut one 2" x 12 1/2" rectangle



12" finished (12 1/2" unfinished)



3" finished (3 1/2" unfinished)

Cutting Instructions for one finished 3" Block

A - Cut one 1 1/2" square (center square)

B1 - Cut one 1" x 1 1/2" rectangle

B2 - Cut one 1" x 2" rectangle

C1 - Cut one 1" x 2" rectangle

C2 - Cut one 1" x 2 1/2" rectangle

D1 - Cut one 1" x 2 1/2" rectangle

D2 - Cut one 1" x 3" rectangle

E1 - Cut one 1" x 3" rectangle

E2 - Cut one 3 1/2" rectangle

Sewing Instructions: Sew with a scant 1/4" seam

1. Starting with A (center square) place B1 rectangle right sides together and sew to center square. Press seam towards B1 rectangle. Continue in order (B2, C1, C2 etc.) following diagram until all logs are sewn on. At this point block should measure 12 1/2" square (or 3 1/2" square)