

Quilt Labels

By Shantelle Cox

Your quilt label tells the story of your quilt when you are not there to tell the story yourself.

Read about the history of quilt labels at:

www.womenfolk.com/quilting_history/quilt_labels.htm.

What information should you put on a quilt label?

Who made the quilt?

Where the quilt was made

Date the quilt was finished

Additional information for a quilt label that will fill in more of the quilt's story:

Who the quilt was made for

Why the quilt was made

Who quilted the quilt, if someone other than quilt maker did the quilting?

Other items that can be on a label:

Verse, saying or message

Photo, picture or graphic

Quilt care/washing instructions

Anything you would like to include on the label

How do I make a quilt label?

1. Pigma pen—write directly on the quilt back.
2. Preprinted label fabrics—fill in your label information with a Pigma pen.
3. Draw on fabric—use a light box to trace a design and the lettering onto your fabric.
4. Use your computer and printer. (More information about this method below.)
5. Quilt blocks—write your label information with a Pigma pen.
6. Your sewing/embroidery machine. (More information about this method below.)
7. Hand stitched with embroidery or cross stitch techniques.

How do I attach a quilt label?

1. Piece label into quilt back.
2. Appliqué label to quilt back.

Making quilt labels with your computer and printer

Software:

Word or other word processing program

- special fonts and sizing to do lettering
- add graphics, clip art or pictures
- print onto paper and use light box to trace onto fabric or print directly to fabric

Photo Shop or other program that can be used for digital scrap booking

- special fonts and sizing to do lettering
- add graphics, clip art, pictures, borders, etc.
- print onto paper and use light box to trace onto fabric or print directly to fabric

HP Label Maker

- Note: this program is no longer being manufactured or supported by HP, but it is still available in some quilt shops and online. Use an internet search engine to search for "HP Label Maker." Once you have purchased and installed the program on your computer, contact Shantelle to get the free add-on files that HP offered.
- select a label layout from menu of options
- select colors for background, borders and printing
- add picture from selection in program or one of your own
- select font and size, add lettering to label
- print directly to fabric
- prints lines for folding back raw edges of label

HP Web Site for "Made by Labels"

Go to www.hp.com

Enter "Made by Labels" in search box at top right

Scroll down to "Made by Labels"

Click on "Get Started"

Follow prompts to upload an image, add border, overlay and text to your label, download PDF file of label page and then print to fabric

Other web sites

--label images to download:

www.nmia.com/~mgdesign/qor/quiltlits/quiltlabels/label.htm

--7 labels to print with or without titles and instructions to prepare fabric and print:

www.victorianaquiltdesigns.com/VictorianaQuilters/PrintableQuiltLabels/Freeprintablequiltlabels.htm

--verses for your label: <http://reddawn.net/quilt/label.htm>

Fabric sheets available to purchase for use in your printer:

- several brands available, including: June Tailor, Electric Quilt, Blumenthal, Color Textiles, Miliken. Read ALL of package instructions and suggestions for use in determining which package or type of printer fabric to buy. (See Quilters Newsletter Jan/Feb 2007 and March 2007 for a two part article on Photo Transfer Fabric.)
- fabric sheets can be found at Wal-Mart (June Tailor) and Joann's (June Tailor and Blumenthal) and online at www.Joanns.com (June Tailor and Blumenthal), www.electricquilt.com, www.colortextiles.com, www.printedtreasures.com (Miliken), www.softfabricphotos.com (Soft Fabric Photos Dyeset).

Preparing your own fabric to use in your printer:

- You must use a fabric treatment to permanently set the ink from your inkjet printer or it will wash out. The ink from laser printers is permanent and needs only to be heat set with a hot iron. Create a test sample with your fabric and printer to see how permanent or color fast the ink is.
- Bubble Jet Set 2000 and Rinse—available at Joann's (store and online), best price to purchase both from www.createforless.com. Product details online at: <http://www.cjenkinscompany.com/ProductDetails.asp?ProductCode=bubblejetset2000&Click=3174>.
- Fabric must be top quality, 100% cotton with a tight weave.
- Cut fabric into rectangles 9" x 11 ½". Pre-treat following package directions.
- Press fabric to glossy side of freezer paper then trim fabric and freezer paper to 8 ½" x 11". Note: I have found that a thin line of glue stick between the freezer paper and the fabric on the leading edge of the sheet helps with feeding the sheet into the printer.
- Print a test page on plain paper. Then load fabric/freezer paper into printer. Orient fabric side to receive printing.
- For laser printer: heat set printing with a hot iron.
- For inkjet printer: allow sheet to dry for 30 minutes, remove freezer paper and then rinse according to package instructions. Dry completely. Press and trim label to size needed.

Making quilt labels with your sewing/embroidery machine

Computerized sewing machines

- Many computerized sewing machines come with a few built in fonts for stitching lettering. Follow the instructions in your sewing machine manual, program the memory to stitch one line of text at a time. You will need to pay attention to how many characters your machine memory will allow per line.
- Prepare fabric with a layer of stabilizer on the wrong side. This will stabilize the stitches and make it easier for your machine to feed the fabric as it does the stitching. Many varieties of stabilizer are available for use.
- Mark straight lines on your fabric. Use a mark that can be completely removed from the fabric. These lines are for you to follow to keep the lines of text on your label straight.
- Set up your sewing machine with a dark color of thread. You want to have a good contrast between your stitching and your fabric.
- Line up your needle or presser foot with the marked lines and start stitching.
- Once you have stitched all the lines of text for your label, clip threads as necessary and remove or trim stabilizer according to package directions.

Free motion labels with any sewing machine

- This type of label can be made with any machine that you can drop or cover the feed dogs.
- Prepare fabric with a stabilizer on the wrong side of fabric.
- Using a marking pen or pencil, draw, trace or write what you would like to free motion stitch on your label. All markings will be removed later.
- Set up your sewing machine with a dark color of thread. Drop or cover your feed dogs. Put on a darning foot.
- Following the lines you have drawn, stitch your label. You can change thread colors as desired.
- Once you have finished all the desired stitching, remove the markings you made before stitching.

Embroidery machine labels

- Prepare your fabric according to your user manual instructions.
- Program machine memory with your label information and any other design being stitched into label.
- Set up your machine with thread and pressure feet according to user manual instructions.
- Position fabric and stitch label.