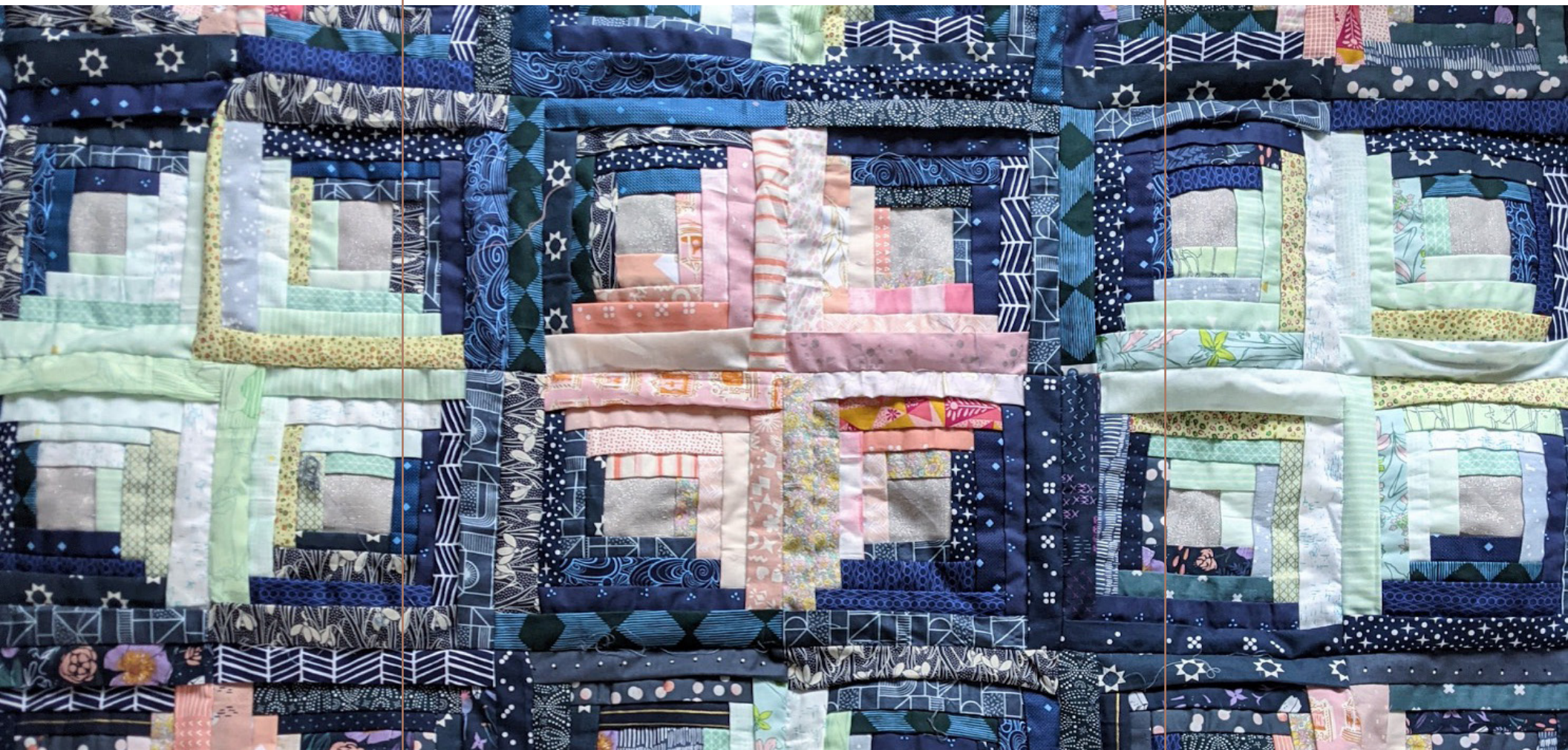


Quiltfolk



MANX QUILTING WORKSHOP



HOSTED BY

Jenni Smith

WORKSHOP

Manx Log Cabin

This technique was born from a necessity to use scraps and keep warm, with very basic equipment. A Manx Log Cabin block is very portable, and I encourage you to try tearing strips and embracing the slight imperfections to create a block so personal - in fact it is based entirely on the shape and size of your own hands!

MATERIALS

- ☐ Light and dark fabric strips, plus a contrast colour for the centre square
- ☐ Foundation (backing) fabric
- ☐ Sewing thread and needle
(Note that the thread is visible, so you may wish to choose the same as your foundation fabric).
- ☐ 2 pins
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Batting, if desired*

Instructions

1. Using the fabric which is going to be the foundation of your Manx Log Cabin block (this is also what you see on the back of the quilt when finished):

Measure the span of your hand and add $\frac{1}{2}$ " to determine the size of square to cut (or rip) from your foundation fabric. Round up or down to make it an easy measurement if rotary cutting. My span is 8", so I prepare my squares at $8\frac{1}{2}$ ".

Fold this fabric square across both diagonals to create an X, and a centre point.

* If you wish to include batting in your project, cut it to the same size as your foundation fabric, and follow the same instructions on these pages. After step 12, trim away $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance to make it easier to sew a knife-edge binding.

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2. The centre square of the block (traditionally red) is measured from the tip of the middle finger to the base – mine is 3". Cut a square this size and fold across both diagonals as before.

Position in the centre of the foundation square and secure with pins.

3. Fold the edge of the foundation square up to meet the edge of the centre square. Finger press to crease at the fold. Fold again and finger press. This will create a grid of 3 lines where the log strips will sit.

Repeat on all 4 sides of the square.



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4. Cut or rip the strips to make the logs – using a combination of light and dark fabrics. The width of these is determined by the distance from the bottom of the nail to your thumb joint (approx 2"). These can vary in length from 3 inches up to the size of your foundation square and are trimmed down as each strip is added.
5. Use a double thread on your sewing needle with a quilter's knot (this prevented losing the needle in poor light).
6. Place the first light coloured 2" strip at the top of the centre square matching the raw edges. Keeping the knot on the front of your work, hand stitch at about a 1/4" seam allowance using a running stitch. At a 1/4" before the end of the centre square, drop the needle and thread to the back of the foundation block. Trim away any excess strip at the left-hand side to align with the centre square.
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7. Fold the strip back aligning the raw edge with the first grid line made in step 3 and finger press. Pin in place (there will be a fold of fabric created which is correct and was thought to trap warm air between the layers of a Manx quilt, each log will have this fold of fabric).



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8. Rotate the block clockwise and position the next strip at the top, aligning the raw edges on the right and top. Bring the needle up to continue with a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance and try to keep the stitch length consistent on the reverse side. The first stitch will not be at the beginning of the second strip, but you will catch the fold of the first strip. The unsewn half inch will be secured by the next round of stitching.

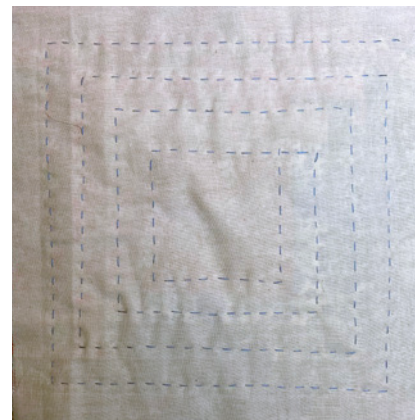


*All knots are buried between the folds in the strips and are not visible from the reverse of the block.
When you need to change thread, take a couple of small backstitches in the seam allowance of your log strips.*

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9. Continue to add strips, using the grid lines as a reference and always dropping the needle to the back of the foundation block $\frac{1}{4}$ " before the end of the strip. After the first 4 log strips have been added, you will then be aligning the next round of logs to the second grid line, and so on every time you go to the next round.



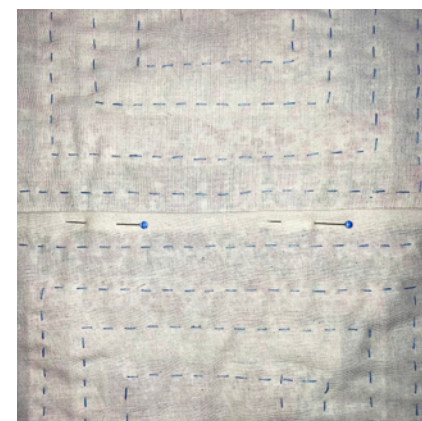
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10. The final round of logs will align with the outer edge of the foundation square. On the final strip, finish stitching approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ " before the end to allow for joining the blocks together in the next steps.



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11. Once all strips have been added, repeat to make the desired number of blocks.
 12. To join the blocks, take two and place them right sides together. Sew with a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance, securing the foundation fabric out of the way and stitching only through the outer strips of each block.



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13. On the reverse side overlap the foundation fabric and finger press a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance on the top fabric and slipstitch in position, making sure the stitching is not visible from the right side.



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14. Finish the outer edges with a knife-edge binding by folding under the seam allowance on the front and back by $\frac{1}{4}$ " and slipstitch or ladder stitch to join.
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PHOTOGRAPHS
All photographs courtesy of Jenni Smith
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This page and front cover photographs
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