

- Sign up for the Quiltster Newsletter, which is on the main Quiltster page at <http://www.quiltster.com>. You may need to scroll down to see the newsletter signup form. A newsletter subscription is not automatic with a Quiltster subscription. So, please sign up separately.
- On Facebook, find the Quiltster Support Network and the Quiltster business page. Both will help get you started more easily on using the program.
- Find the Quiltster Youtube Channel! There, you can find tutorials and other fun videos to help you along the way.

**Step 1:** When your subscription is complete, log in to Quiltster.

**Step 2:** Below My Projects, click CREATE NEW. If you plan to purchase your project through Quiltster, you can also click on Marketplace as well. If you want to color it with fabrics not available in the Marketplace, or fabrics you upload yourself, start with My Projects.

**Step 3:** The patterns are listed in Alphabetical order and there is also a search for them using drop down filter menus. To search alphabetically, scroll to the bottom, then go to the next page, and the next page, until you locate the VALLEY BLOSSOMS design.

**Step 4:** There, you will see a variety of layouts. One has fabrics as shown on the cover sheet, the other is blank. Choose the blank to start from scratch or choose the colored version if you want tweak a few things or generally follow this color option and simply switch out the fabrics.

**Step 5:** When the project opens up, click on an area of the quilt. You will see we have Pre-linked the blocks as groups. If you do not want to color all the blocks the same, you can use the unlock feature (top of the screen, upper right, click on the lock so it unlocks). Then, you can choose one block at a time.

**Step 6:** When you click on a block, then click on the thread spool at the bottom center of your page to begin adding fabric. You can use filters to search fabrics and find your favorite. Review the tutorials on the Quiltster Youtube channel if you need more help from here.

**Step 7:** When your quilt has been fully colored, you can click on the little yardage button on the left side of the quilt editor screen. There, you will find yardage for your custom colorway. You can see yardage totalled by fabric for the entire quilt, or click on Block (upper left) and get yardage on the block level, where each fabric shows up multiple times and has a fabric reference.

**Step 8:** You can also click on "Inch Strips" in the drop down menu on the yardage page. This will give you the inch strip sizes you need to cut to prepare your pattern and the fabric references to label each strip as you work through your design. It is at this level that you need to prepare your pattern before you begin with the video tutorials.

**Step 9:** If you do not have quiltster, but have purchased a kit and do not want to buy quiltster to get this information automatically, you will need to cut each fabric to the strip size. Reference Page 3.

## HELPFUL HINTS

While the instructions in each booklet are complete and thorough, part of what you will be learning with this pattern is how to adapt a custom colorway created in Quiltster to the instructions in each Mixer Booklet. So, below are some things to watch out for on the colorway shown on the cover, versus the information in the Mixer

booklets (note that if you are working with your own colorway, the following hints may or may not be the case). If you follow the inch strip cutting information in Quiltster, then label the pieces, you will be able to follow along in the instructions and videos to make your version of the quilt. If you have a kit or want to follow the cover quilt, you can follow the inch strip cutting information on the next page. We recommend pre-cutting the strips as noted for each fabric, then labeling each strip with the fabric reference and strip size. Note that the information on the next page assumes fabric strips that are Width of Fabric (WOF) 42".

- Complete all of the strip cutting and fabric organization for this quilt PRIOR to beginning Workshop #1. This way, everything will be in the correct place and you will be ensured to have the proper yardage to complete the quilt.
- Please note, there are Applique fabrics in EVERY Group. As such, Applique Fabrics that start with APB belong to the Basket Diamond Group. Applique Fabrics that start with APD belong with the Flowering Cactus Group. Applique Fabrics that start with only AP belong to the Bridal Bouquet Border. Make sure these are all labeled correctly!
- For the Flowering Cactus, you will have (2) booklets. You will have a Fabric Chart for both booklets. However, there are several pieces of fabric that have leftover space on the strip when cutting for only (4) blocks. Quiltster calculates the yardage for the actual number of blocks you can get from each strip. So, if you can get (8) blocks from one strip, Quiltster factors that in. Therefore, you will need to pay attention as you cut your fabrics for this booklet. For example, the yardage chart in each booklet says you need (2) 5-1/2" x 42" strips for Fabric BD1. If you add that up for both booklets, it suggests you need (4) strips. However, each strip can be used to cut for (3) blocks. Therefore, to make (8), you only need (3) 5-1/2" x 42" strips. This is what the tables on the following pages say. The same thing applies for all of the APD fabrics. Only (1) strip is needed for all (8) blocks. So, just move the excess fabrics to the 2nd booklet after you cut for the first.
- We chose to use a lot of fabrics for the Applique. Therefore, there is a lot of 1/8 yard cuts required to complete the applique in this quilt. If you have lots of fabric stash and small strips, feel free to condense the yardage and mix and match the pieces in a different way than we did on the cover quilt. You may save yourself a couple yards of fabric if you are more efficient with your yardage. We simply wanted a very colorful and dynamic look to the applique, justifying the use of more colors.
- On the Basket Diamond, for Fabrics AB4 and AB5, please note that the cover quilt uses two different fabrics for these, while the mixer booklet only suggests one fabric. Place a swatch of each next to AB4 and AB5 in the booklet on the fabric chart and cut half the pieces from one fabric and half the pieces from the other. Mark half your papers with one colorway and half with the other, then make sure as you sew the pieces to the fabric, you have the correct color as noted on your fabric swatches glued to the papers. This will help you keep this straight.