



## Pattern Testing

### What is Pattern Testing?

Pattern testers are a critical component of quilt pattern writing. They give patterns a 'run through' prior to their release and ensure that the patterns we sell are free of errors and are easy to understand, no matter your skill level.

### What do pattern testers do?

- Testers are required to complete a pattern, following the instructions exactly (if it is a quilt, you will only need to make the top).
- Give feedback.
- Send pictures of final projects.
- Have Fun!

### What is the pattern testing process?

When a new pattern is ready to be tested, I will send an email to my pattern testers stating:

- The timeline in which the project needs to be completed (usually 2-3 weeks)
- A picture of the quilt to be tested
- The skill level of the pattern
- The fabric & tool requirements
- The sign-up window dates
- Any specific skills needed

Such as...

- Hand Applique
- Machine Applique
- Paper Piecing
- Mitered Borders
- Partial seams (Y seams)
- Sewing curves

If you don't have the tools needed to complete the project, I will provide them. If they are newly purchased, they will be available for you to purchase at my cost when the project is complete.

Once the sign-up window is closed, testers will be chosen from the list of those interested. If you are not selected, don't worry! There will be many other patterns that need testing.

### What skills & tech knowledge do I need?

- Have the ability to meet deadlines.
- Be able to take clear photos (professional photography is not required) of the completed project and send digitally for promotional use.
- Have piecing and quilting knowledge.
- Be able to digitally send pattern with your notes when the project is complete (usually scan or photo).

### Are there any restrictions to pattern testing?

- The only restriction for pattern testers is a requirement to not share or redistribute the early access copy of the pattern. Please refrain from sharing any images that show the cutting instructions, pattern instructions, or measurements such as strip size, block size, or piece sizes. This information is proprietary and to be kept private to preserve the published pattern.
- There are no specific restrictions or requirements on the fabrics to be used.
- There are no restrictions on photography. You may photograph and share (or not share) your progress and work as you wish.

### How do I choose the right patterns for me?

- Is it a pattern you think you will enjoy making?
- Do you have time to complete it before the deadlines?
- Do you have enough experience with the techniques used to make a quality project (quilting techniques will be listed to help you choose which patterns you would like to test)?
- Do you have fabric that is compatible? Fabric is not provided. I mostly design for fabric companies; therefore, my patterns are created before the fabric is even produced.

### What things should I be looking for?

- Are the instructions clear?
- Are all of the measurements correct?
- Does it read well?
- Are there grammatical errors?
- Are the pictures and/or diagrams easy to understand?

### What Is expected of me?

- I want you to provide honest feedback as you work through the pattern. If you find that something is confusing, doesn't read well, pictures or diagrams are difficult to understand, or measurements are not right, I need to know! That kind of feedback allows me to improve my patterns, which will make my customers happier.
- The project needs to be completed within the time frame supplied in the email.
- Once the project is completed a quality picture needs to be provided with your final pattern feedback. This picture may be used on the website or in the pattern.

### Comments need to be...

- Direct & Clear
- Honest
- Helpful
- Written out
- On time

### Examples of useful comments

- Instructions were clear in Step 2 because I knew exactly how to piece the block.
- There seems to be a step missing in Block Construction. I wasn't sure how to trim the block.
- Beginner quilters may not understand the instructions in step 9 because... A diagram would be helpful in this step.

### What if...

- I start the project and find out I don't have the skills to complete it?
- I don't think my quality of work is good enough?
- I get stuck because I can't understand the pattern?
- Something comes up and I don't know if I can meet the deadlines?

### Contact me right away and we'll figure it out!

If you are unable to meet the deadline, I will take the notes that you have so far, and leave you on the list for future opportunities.



### So.....What's in it for me?

- FIRST LOOK AT NEW PATTERNS!
- The inside view of the pattern design process.
- A free copy of the final pattern and 2 more Cathey Marie Design patterns of your choice.
- Recognition via social media, links, etc.
- The project is yours to keep!
- Heartfelt appreciation!



**PLUS...A SURPRISE BONUS GIFT!**

## How do I apply?

- Email me answers to the questions below. You will be contacted via email once the next testing period opens.
- Please answer as accurately as possible. It is important to have a range of sewing experiences on the team so please be honest.
  - Name
  - Email
  - Facebook Name/Business Page
  - Blog or other social media presence
  - Photos of some of your completed sewing projects
  - Your sewing experience:
    - Beginner: A quilter who has been introduced to the basics of cutting, piecing and assembling a quilt top and is working to master these skills.
    - Confident Beginner: A quilter who has pieced and assembled several quilt tops and is comfortable with the process, and is now ready to move on to more challenging techniques and projects.
    - Intermediate: A quilter who is comfortable with most quilting techniques and has a good understanding for design, color and the whole process. A quilter who is experienced in paper piecing, bias piecing and projects involving multiple techniques. Someone who is confident in making fabric selections other than those listed in the pattern.
    - Advanced: A quilter who is looking for a challenging design. Someone who knows she or he can make any type of quilt. Someone who is willing to take on any technique. A quilter who is comfortable in her or his skills and has the ability to select fabric suited to the project.