

Round Robin Guidelines

The following are ideas for successful Round Robins (some ideas are from the book Round Robin Quilts by Nagaret and Slusser)

The golden rule of Round Robin quilts: Work on another person's project as you want her/him to work on yours.

Commitment is a Biggie: When you sign up for the Round Robin exchange, you are committed to meeting the deadlines and finishing the project. Other people are depending on you. Remember that if one person does not bring her block to an exchange, the next person will have less time to work on it!

Do your best work. Respect the project. Trim threads, sew neatly, press when finished, etc. Take care to match points and corners. Do your best to make the craftsmanship on the quilt as good as possible.

Measure, measure, measure. Make sure your Medallion addition is "square." When you get a top to work on, it will help you to make sure it is "square" before you start your addition.

When adding blocks to a Medallion side, it helps to make sure each side of the top is divisible by 2, 3 or 5 plus a 1/2 inch seam allowance. You may need to add a narrow strip to each side to achieve that.

Avoid "great expectations" - don't enter a block hoping that it will turn into an heirloom. It just may do so, but you also may be disappointed if you have a preconceived notion as to how it will turn out.

In your notebook - include instructions like a size limit (wall hanging or make it as big as you want), or a color limitation (no pink or use as much purple as possible).

You may include fabrics in your bag and challenge your quilters to use just those fabrics, or give them the option of using their own too. If you are using a black background - supply that fabric.

Be willing to work with colors and color combinations you don't necessarily like. Add new colors to your stash if you don't have what the piece needs.

Look at the piece carefully. Sometimes it is ok to put a plain/solid/or tone on tone border on the piece to give the eye a rest

DO NOT CHANGE PREVIOUS WORK - Never Ever take out someone else's sewing. However, if the person before you has made an extra wide plain border, you may make it narrower to fit your math.

Think "what would complement the top or the center square?" rather than "what would the originator like."

If you are having difficulty deciding what to do - give it a rest, look at it for a couple of days and see if it will "talk to you."

Look for units to repeat from the original block (such as half-square triangles, drunkard's path units, etc.) or to avoid (maybe the piece is already full of tiny triangles, or you might need to add some curvy pieces if it's very angular looking). Look for colors to introduce, or colors to tone down what's already there.

Get a pad of graph paper - it can help when you're stuck for design ideas

Take a color photo of the top, then change it to black & white. That may help you decide where to place fabric tones.

Relax - this can be the most fun, creatively stretching exercise you have ever had in your quilting experience! If you feel stuck, call another group member for help and inspiration.