Patchwork Patterns Inspired by Antique Quilts - Part One

Learn how to create your own versions of antique quilt designs from a collection of history-rich quilts spanning the late 1800s through the 1930s.

In a two-part Sewing With Nancy series titled, Patchwork Inspired Patterns by Antique Quilts, we unlock the secrets of quilts from yesteryear with guest Julie Hendrickson.

Julie and Nancy Zieman show antique quilts from her collection and teach you how to construct your own reproduction quilts in part one of Patchwork Inspired Patterns by Antique Quilts. Watch today’s episode online.

The Patchwork Inspired Patterns by Antique Quilts book and DVD are available from Nancy’s Notions.
Snowball Crossing
Let’s begin with the vintage Snowball Crossing quilt design. Alternating light and dark Snowball blocks with tiny corners make this quilt look like it’s pieced from circles, but in fact it’s very easy to assemble.

Now for a variation of the theme, a second Snowball quilt, shown on this first episode, features a Snowball pattern too. But here, the snowballs are arranged in a 9-patch formation and then set on point with alternate squares cut from shirting fabrics. This is a classic 2-color quilt, yet it uses more than just two fabrics.
Reproduction Chain
Julie shares her Reproduction Chain quilt on *Patchwork Patterns Inspired by Antique Quilts*, which is based on a quilt that was made in the 1930s. Julie thought it would be fun to see how it looked in an even older palette of 1890s fabric. The patchwork design is simple to make, and the perfect reason to not let your scraps go waste!

1930s Checkerboard Charm

Use this 1930s Checkerboard quilt as an inspiration. In part one of *Patchwork Inspired Patterns by Antique Quilts*, you’ll see the quiltmaker—most likely a saver of every inch of fabric—hand pieced one hundred 1-1/2” pieces into each 100-patch block. We are in awe of this quilt.

Not to be outdone by a 100-patch quilt, the next quiltmaker, again from the 1930s created another Checkerboard Charm quilt with 289 tiny squares, alternating between prints and muslin. The whole look is tied together with
solid-pink sashing.

Birthday Quilt
Julie told Nancy that she had spied the most compelling 9-patch quilt on display at a quilt show; the price tag was $25,000! She didn’t buy that quilt but couldn’t stop telling her friends about it. To her surprise, each time she wasn’t in her shop, Julie’s staff cut a 1” strip from each reproduction fabric they cut for customers, then pieced all 1,024 blocks and honored Julie with what she calls her Birthday Quilt.
The vintage-inspired quilt featured below—pieced and quilted by Susan Petruske of Pleasant Valley Farm Longarm Quilting—features Julie’s Birthday Quilt instructions as seen in part one of *Patchwork Inspired Patterns by Antique Quilts!*

Here’s a photo of Susan (right) revealing her vintage-inspired 9-patch quilt—with Julie (left) at the 2016 Quilt Expo!
Watch Patchwork Patterns Inspired by Antique Quilts (Part one and Part Two) on The Best of Sewing With Nancy online.
Share your favorite vintage inspired quilt pattern in the comments for a chance to win a copy of *Patchwork Inspired Patterns by Antique Quilts*. Thank you to our gift sponsor, *Nancy's Notions*.

The random winner of a copy of the *Doodle Stitching Book*, from *Nancy's Notions*, from the April 16, 23 and 30 blog posts is Nancy Sherman.
Her comment is: This is such an inspiring idea. I am going to try making something just out of my imagination. I am excited to see the result. I have an old machine with limited stitches, but I bet I can still create my own work of art. A new outlet!!

Be sure to check out the 2019 Modern Mini Quilt Challenge!

Happy Quilting,
Team Nancy Zieman
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