



CALICO CAPERS QUILT GUILD

WHAT IS SHOT COTTON?

BY THE SEA by designer, Mary Elizabeth Kinch for American Patchwork & Quilting August 2015.

*'BY THE SEA...memories of seagrass baskets and gentle beach days in South Carolina's Low Country
beget this wall hanging's woven look.*

Designer Notes: Mary Elizabeth Kinch actually used four shades of rust shot cotton and six shades of aqua shot cotton in this project. "The same shot cotton color can vary from bolt to bolt," she says, "If you want your quilt colors to be uniform, buy sufficient quantities for your entire project from the same bolt."

Designer Tips:

- Shot cottons behave a little differently than regular quilting cottons; keep in mind these tips from designer, Mary Elizabeth Kinch.
- There is no right or wrong side to shot cottons.
- Seam allowance bulk is not a concern, as these fabrics are lightweight.
- Some shot cottons have a bit of give and stretch, which is helpful if you are stitching curves but otherwise can be frustrating. Handle pieces as little as possible after cutting to prevent stretching as well as fraying.
- Steam exacerbates the tendency of shot cottons to stretch. Lightly finger-press seams or press lightly with an iron.
- To add stability to the fabric, lightly spray it with starch and press before cutting. Be sure to wash the quilt after it is completed to remove any starch residue which could attract pests.'

Is this a *new* fabric option in our world of quilting OR has it been around awhile? We decided to do a search and see if we could answer our question...**What Is Shot Cotton?** We share here with our readers what we have found.

Two fabric designers' names kept coming up:

- Kaffe Fassett with his collection **Shot Cotton**
- Cory Pepper with her collection **Peppered Cotton**

We discover that in both collections, the characteristics and challenges are similar.

1. They are cotton fabrics in which the warp (lengthwise threads) are one color and the weft (side-to-side threads) are in a second color. The word 'shot' here means that the shuttle carrying the weft thread is 'shot' (thrown or mechanically moved) across the warp.
2. What is intriguing about shot cottons is their mutability and interesting changeable color. The fabric almost shimmers between the two different colors as the light catches the dissimilar threads.
3. Another characteristic of shot cotton is that the threads (called yarn in the textile industry) are dyed before being woven into fabric.

-Yarn-dyed fabrics can achieve an intense color that is different than fabric dyed the same color after being woven. Call it richer and deeper.

- Since the cotton threads are normally dyed in small batches, variations in color and small imperfections in the weaving are a natural part of the process and to be expected.
- Tonal warp and weft create soft and subtle color effects.
- Chambray, as in chambray shirts, is also a type of shot cotton. In chambrays, the warp is a color but the secondary color (weft) is white.

The biggest problem with shot cottons is that it is really hard to photograph them - most pictures online makes them look flat and one color thus making it very hard to buy. Suggestions are if you unable to view & touch the fabric ask for samples first so you wouldn't be disillusioned with your 'sight unseen' purchase.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Our monthly meetings will be held at the Trinity United Church of Christ Fellowship Hall located at 234 N. Church Street, Endeavor unless otherwise noted.

January 9th—6:15 pm Snacks/6:30 pm Meeting NOTE DATE CHANGE

- * PROGRAM: Fabric Manipulation & Embellishment presented by AS. Bring along your needle, thread & scissors—fabric will be supplied. Try a new technique for manipulating your fabric to create a ‘new’ look!. Bring any examples you wish to share of ways you have manipulated or embellished *with* fabric.
- * *Reaching Out* BOM
- * Show ‘n Tell
- * Hostesses

February 6th—6:15 pm Snacks/6:30 pm Meeting

- * PROGRAM: Let’s GO! presented by JW. Tonight’s demonstration will be using the Accuquilt Cutter and sharing ways to make cutting projects easier & quicker.
- * *Reaching Out* BOM
- * Show ‘n Tell
- * Hostesses

March 6th—6:15 pm Snacks/6:30 pm Meeting

- * PROGRAM: Bindings Revisited presented by PJ. Our focus will be on the application of binding, various finishing techniques and tools on the market place to make the job easier. Different styles of binding will be demonstrated during this presentation.
- * *Reaching Out* BOM
- * Show ‘n Tell
- * Hostesses

OUTREACH 2016 RECAP

2016 was a very productive year for Outreach! Early in the year, members worked on many of the 2015 BOM. Then as we approached spring, we added working on and completing several QOV. Those were given to Joanne VanWie to be presented to veterans in October. Throughout the year many members worked on making Comfort Quilts for Divine Savior Healthcare. We delivered those that were completed to DSHC at the end of October. (Hey, we even made the local papers!) We also completed three quilts that were raffled off at our CCQG Quilt Show in October.

In August, Outreach found out from the Christmas Party Committee they had chosen Hope House in Baraboo as this year’s recipient of donations brought to the annual Christmas gathering. They told us that among other needs that Hope House desired, were pillows/pillowcases. The Outreach Committee decided to dedicate our October & November workdays to making pillowcases. (After all, handmade is better than store bought, right?) Janis Proebstle filled out an Action Team application from Thrivent for “seed” money to help purchase fabric for the pillowcases. Thrivent accepted our project and sent a Visa Gift card for \$250.00! This allowed us to purchase fabric for about 32 pillowcases. Janis applied at the Portage Wal Mart for a donation of pillows. WalMart donated a WalMart gift card of \$50.00 to purchase pillows! At the end of the November Outreach workday we had completed 148 beautiful pillow cases!!! Of those, 13 pillow cases were made from fabric we had in the Outreach stash. That means YOU as members of the guild made over 100 pillow cases using your own donated fabric! We have heard that there were more that are being made that will be turned in on December 5th! Will we hit the 200 mark?! Several members have purchased and donated pillows to go with these pillowcases as well! **Update...230 pillowcases & over 90+ pillows!!!**

The Outreach Committee couldn’t be prouder of the members of Calico Capers Quilters Guild!! To think we had hoped to reach 50 pillowcases! Well done Calico Capers, well done indeed! You are our “*Outreach Angels*” and can’t wait to see what you will accomplish in 2017!

Happy New Year from your Outreach Committee

Hostesses:

Thank you for sharing your hospitality with us.

We ask that you have the snacks ready for members by **6:15 PM**. We will start with this and then proceed to our meeting promptly at 6:30 pm.

Doors at the church Fellowship Hall will be opened by 6:00 PM for your convenience unless you make other arrangements.

Thank you.

REACHING INTO THE COMMUNITY & BEYOND

DIVINE SAVIOR NEWS

QUILTS PROVIDE COMFORT FOR PATIENTS AND FAMILIES

On October 27th, the Calico Capers Quilt Guild made their generous donation of hand crafted quilts to the *Comfort Care Bags* program at Divine Savior Healthcare.

Melissa Tennier, an RN on the Medical Surgical Floor at Divine Savior Healthcare, coordinates these collections as she leads efforts for the *Comfort Care Bags* program. This program was implemented on both the Medical Surgical Floor and Intensive Care Unit through a group called Transforming Care at Bedside. The *Comfort Care Bags* are distributed to patients and their families that are at the end-of-life and receiving comfort care.

Comfort care is care that helps or soothes a person who is dying. The goal is to prevent or relieve suffering as much as possible while respecting the dying person's wishes. The hope for this program is to deliver the best possible care for patients and their families throughout the dying process.

Melissa shares how this process all started, "I read an article a few years ago how another hospital was using a "comfort cart", this cart was for dying patients. It was eye-opening to see how we spend so much time and energy on crash carts and the emergent patients, but sometimes don't give the care and attention that is needed at the end-of-life, which is equally important. I submitted the idea to the Innovations Committee at Divine Savior and here we are! My goal was to give something to the patient and their families that we care for at the end-of-life on the Medical Surgical Floor and ICU to have as a comfort during this very difficult time. From there I started contacting churches for donations of quilts."

This quilting group is made up of members from Marquette, Sauk and Columbia Counties. Their website is www.ccqg.org. There are also quilts donated by the St. Mary Catholic Church in Kingston, WI & SW from Kingston, WI has also personally donated quilts. The CCQG would like to thank GJ, Oxford who donated the four-inch squares in the quilts made.



OUTREACH WORK DAYS

Community Outreach will be meeting at the Endeavor Community Center on the following Tuesdays from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm. Dates: January 31st; February 28th and March 28th. Join in 'reaching' out to our communities as we continue to meet needs with our *stitched with love* projects.

\$ 8 SPECIALS

The new year is almost upon us and already your Officer Team is hard at work getting together creative projects to fill those first three months of the year. Who knows what the weather may bring but these will certainly help you with any 'cabin fever' that may set in. As in the past, you must have registered and made payment before receiving your supply listing. Samples at monthly guild meetings.

The 1st National Bank Community Room in Montello has been reserved for these sessions listed below.

The room is reserved for 9:00 am–3:00 pm.

Thursday, January 19th: Wedge Dresden Tree Utilizing your 'wedge' tool and strips, create a lovely seasonal quilted project.

Thursday, February 16th: Scrappy Circle Denim Tote Bag—Create a large tote bag using circles of denim and charm squares. The tool, Charming Circles, by June Taylor is very useful in marking and cutting out denim circles. A quilt could also be made using this method. Great way to use up those denim jeans you no longer wear.

Thursday, March 16th: Latticed Disappearing Four-Patch—Bring along a pile of four-patch blocks. We will cut once to create the 'disappearing' and then another cut to lattice them. Great way to take an age old favorite block and give it a 'modern' twist!

QUIPS & SNIPS—SCRAP USER'S SYSTEM

Thanks to our President for sharing a blog which we were able to work up an article from. Might our 'prez' be inspiring us with a New Year's resolution of creating a scrap quilt OR just getting our scrap stash organized?!

"This original post (11/29/2011) was written long before blog-land existed, and I've moved it where things are easier to find on the blog. Like all good things in life---our methods evolve. And what once worked for me quite well needed some fine tuning, the more I got into my own Scrap User's System. I still follow the belief that if I have my scraps cut into usable sizes, I can find more ways to use them, and I love that I have a variety to choose from.

I'm sure we've all heard "*Oh, it's just scraps.*" Have you ever stopped to realize that your scraps cost you just as much per yard as the original fabric purchased that they came from? Your scraps could be worth \$9.00 or more a yard. Makes you think twice about tossing them out, doesn't it? Or relegating them to the lowly position of "*just a scrap*"?

It used to be if I wanted to make a 'scrap quilt' I'd have to dig through all my scraps, big chunks, odd shapes, pieces of this or that all stuffed in a basket or box for 'some day'. I'd have to iron them, sort them, cut them...even before I started sewing. I think I would lose interest before the quilt even got started! Are you the same way?

I thought first about calling this the "Scrap Saver's" system, but the point is, we want to USE our scraps, not hoard them! The purpose of this little explanation is to show you how I continually work my scraps so they are always at the ready for scrap piecing. I've been doing this for years now, and it WORKS for me. I have shared this with many quilters who ask how I get so much done. So this is my effort in explaining how I work with scraps, and makes my scraps work for me.

Remember when you were little that wooden blocks came in different pre-cut sizes (or legos if you aren't that old!) and you could make things with them? Build a house, build a road-certain sizes just went together and FIT. I think of my scraps like building blocks...and that is what they do go for, *building* QUILT blocks!

STORAGE! You need a way to have your scraps at hand in the sizes that you will use them most.

Bins of strings and drawers of the smallest crumbs that I can't bear to toss away.

I DO use these so it is okay for me to save them!

I sort my strips in sizes of 1.5", 2", 2.5", 3" and 3.5". I consider a strip anything about 12-inches or longer. Anything shorter than that gets cut into squares, nickles and bricks.

- ◆ Squares: 1.5", 2", 2.5", 3.5"
- ◆ Bricks: 2"X3.5"; 2.5" X 4.5" and 3.5"X6.5". A brick is the height of one square, with the width of two squares plus seam allowance.
- ◆ Nickel squares (5"X5" charm squares)

Look at block mock-ups, see what the units are constructed of, use the pattern as an idea, but see what you can do with your strips/squares easier and faster because they are already cut and waiting for you to dig into!

What I suggest you do is find a pattern-any pattern-something that calls you, something that says MAKE ME! And start taming your scraps with that pattern in mind. And plan to have LEFTOVERS! If you are cutting across a piece of fabric for 2.5" cuts and there isn't enough left at the end of the fabric to get a full 2.5" width...cut the next size lower & feed it into the 2" or the 1.5" bin or into the strings.

When trimming something you really HATE? Don't be afraid to throw it out if the fabric content or quality is questionable. I have come across poly/cotton blends from when I was first sewing and said good riddance and poof they were gone. No guilt there! Something you aren't sure you like, but don't want to toss out? My rule? If it's still ugly, you just didn't cut it small enough! Cut it as narrow as possible! 1.5" is good! By the time you take the seams you've only got 1" of fabric showing.

I like to think of my scrap strips like sourdough starter. You know, to make a batch of sourdough bread, you take some starter, add it to the recipe, but before you are finished, you have to add something BACK to the starter to keep it going. Even though I am continually using my scraps, I continue to add back to them with the trimmings from other projects, pieces of binding, borders, sashings, backings, and other pieces from block construction. Cleaning up after a quilt is finished, trimming down those pieces and adding them back into the scraps is part of the process for me!"

Editor Note: This article here only 'cuts the surface' of what the blog has to share. For a more extensive look at scraps/storage and usage—checkout quiltville.blogspot.com/2005/06/scrap-users-system

WHAT IS SHOT COTTON? (con't from page 1)

All shot cottons, after being woven, go through a finishing process where they are washed, dried and calendared. The term *calendaring* means a heat-plus-pressing process which imparts a subtle sheen and a soft 'hand' to the cotton fabric. The final step for the finished goods is to go through a doubling machine where the fabric is folded and wound tightly into bolts. This means that the feel of the fabrics will change.

- * Art quilters who do not need to wash their fabrics can use shot cottons straight from the bolt.
- * But if plans are for a bed-size quilt that might eventually need to be washed, it is suggested to pre-wash before starting your project.
- * Washed & pressed shot cottons have a slightly different 'hand' than when they were on the bolt. The calendaring sheen rinses out.
- * The weave firms up giving these fabrics the 'hand' (texture + weight) of good quality unbleached muslin.
- * The brilliant colors intensify when the light reflective finish is gone.
- * Because of the finish difference between on-the-bolt and washed shot, the best advice is to purchase all you will need for a project at one time and to treat that length of fabric the same.

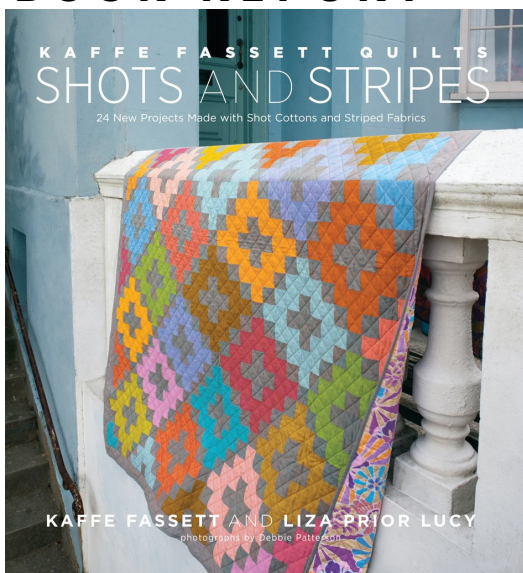
NOTE: Fassett **Shot Cotton** collection states: 'Made in USA and Imported' while it appears that the **Peppered Cotton** collection comes from India.

Cory Pepper's blog from the late summer of 2013 shares, "*The home of almost all shot cottons and shot silks is India. Weavers in India have been using the two-color combinations for hundreds of years. When very lightweight threads are used, the resulting shot cottons are used for summer saris, the traditional Indian dress. A sari takes 5-9 yards of fabric so the fabric must be light.*

Probably more than any other point, convincing the Indian weavers to try weaving shot cottons using thicker threads in the hope of producing fabric of a comparable weight to other quilters' fabric was a challenge. But they gave it a try and when we examined the samples we were delighted. Here at last are the rich and interesting shades of shot cottons but with the right feel for quilters. With the tactile quality of hand-woven fabrics in the quilters familiar weight plus all the beautiful colors made possible by yarn-dyeing, they fill a need in the quilters' palette."

While you would think a blue warp and a yellow weft might produce a green [as we were taught in art class by mixing blue + yellow = green] instead the results is a soft green-ish blue or blue-ish yellow.

BOOK REPORT



Finding an author and book on shot cottons was a challenge! After reviewing several authors to get me started...I found several Kaffe Fassett books in the Winnefox Library system.

Kaffe's book, Shots and Stripes, was perfect. This book was a dream book for Kaffe and his partner, Liza Prior Lucy. They had discussed using his stripes from India and the shimmer of his shot cottons for years.

Inspired by worldwide travels and a plethora of ethnic textiles, including Amish quilts in America, Japanese indigo patched works clothes and African weavings, the book has twenty-four projects. There are a variety of quilts, table runner and a tote. His quilts have a very modern twist. The colors are very bright and vibrant seeming to answer the current call for quilts that make bold graphic statements.

It is a fun book, very colorful! I learned many new and exciting things reading it.

So...check it out and enjoy!

WHY DO QUILTS COST SO MUCH?

Costs for materials, construction & finishing for a 65-inch x 65-inch throw quilt.

MATERIALS FOR THROW QUILT

Fabric for Top:

6 yards @ \$11/yard = \$66.00

Fabric for Backing:

5 yards @ \$11/yard = \$55.00

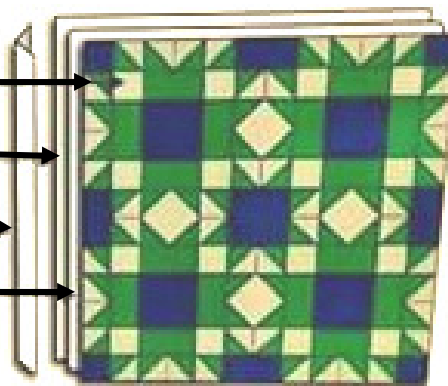
Fabric for Binding:

.875 yards @ \$11/yard = 9.63

Batting:

2 yards @ \$11/yard = \$22.00

Total Cost of Materials = \$159.88

**CONSTRUCTION**

(Labor rate based on \$10/hour)

Making the top:

50 hours x \$10/hour = \$500.00

Includes preparing the fabric, cutting the pieces, sewing the blocks, setting into rows and adding borders.

Assembling the Quilt Sandwich:

3 hours @ \$10/hour = \$30.00

Quilting Edge-to-Edge on Domestic Machine:

4225 square inch x \$.015 = \$63.38

Thread for Quilting=\$15.00

TOTAL Cost for Construction = \$768.26

FINISHING

Making the Binding:

2 hours x \$10/hour = \$20.00

Attaching the Binding:

10 hours x \$10/hour=\$100

TOTAL Finishing Costs=\$120.00

TOTAL COST OF QUILT = \$888.26

THREADING YOUR NEEDLE

“To reduce thread torque, which causes annoying knots to form during stitching, try these tips:

- * Before cutting the thread off the spool, cut the end of thread thus creating a clean, even edge that should go through the needle eye more easily.
- * The proper way to unwind thread from a spool is to hold the spool loosely at the top/bottom and pull from the side.
- * Instead of trying to push the thread through the needle-try needling the thread or pushing the needle eye over the end of the thread.
- * Troubling threading a needle—lick the needle eye before pushing it over the thread end. Your saliva acts as a lubricant, drawing the thread through more easily.
- * Waxing and then flattening the end of the thread may help to thread a stubborn needle.
- * Try turning your needle over—the eye is punched from one side during manufacture, which sometimes creates a side more easily threaded.
- * Pull the thread through the eye, then pull 18-inches of thread off spool and cut.
- * OR if all else fails, a needle threader may be helpful.”