



BRANDYWINE VALLEY QUILTERS

December 2019 Block of the Month



A Log Cabin Christmas

The Log Cabin is one of the most beloved and recognizable quilt block pattern. Popular during the late 1800's, the Log Cabin became a favorite block among quilters and is very much associated with the pioneer spirit of the mid-west and values of America. Bed-covers had to be made and in quantity because drafty houses required many quilts to provide warmth during the bitter cold winters. Money was scarce and buying whole cloth was expensive. Worthless scraps of fabric, some as small as 1 inch, were salvaged from worn out clothes and other cloth articles. The small red center square symbolized the hearth in the log cabin and a yellow center represents a light in the window. The surrounding light and dark strips represent the cabin "log" walls. Pioneer women loved this block because there was minimal amount of straight cutting and sewing which saved a lot of time. Not a lot of curves and small pieces to cut and stitch together. No seams to match, too.

Anne Marie Kiesling

610- 876-6552

14 1/2" unfinished

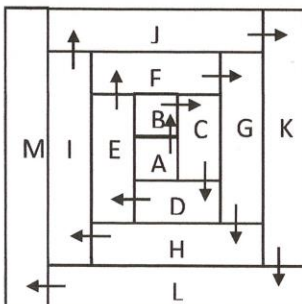
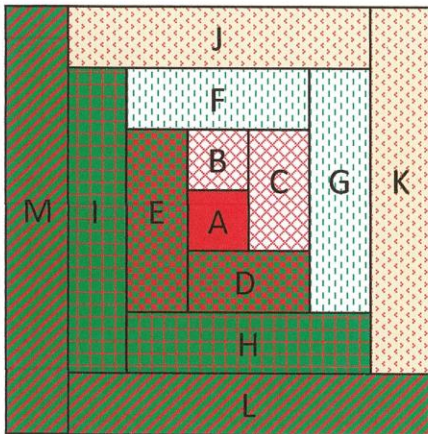
14" finished

Fabrics: Use one small red scrap of solid or tone on tone fabric
Use **three** different Christmas prints with a **lot of white in the background** and **three** different **dark** Christmas prints.

Note: No snowman or comic Christmas prints

Cutting:

- 1 2 1/2" x 2 1/2" square red fabric for **letter A**
- 1 2 1/2" x 2 1/2" square for **letter B** and 1 2 1/2" x 4 1/2" rectangle for **letter C** from light print no. 1
- 1 2 1/2" x 4 1/2" rectangle for **letter D** and 1 2 1/2" x 6 1/2" rectangle rectangle for **letter E** from dark print no. 1
- 1 2 1/2" x 6 1/2" rectangle for **letter F** and 1 2 1/2" x 8 1/2" rectangle rectangle for **letter G** from light print no. 2
- 1 2 1/2" x 8 1/2" rectangle for **letter H** and 1 2 1/2" x 10 1/2" rectangle rectangle for **letter I** from dark print no. 2
- 1 2 1/2" x 10 1/2" rectangle for **letter J** and 1 2 1/2" x 12 1/2" rectangle for **letter K** from light print no. 3
- 1 2 1/2" x 12 1/2" rectangle for **letter L** and 1 2 1/2" x 14 1/2" rectangle for **letter M** from dark print no. 3



Note: Cut all the long sides of the strips, A – M, on the straight-of-grain of the fabric. It is easier to sew and the outside edges of the strips will not stretch.

Sewing: Sew Letters A and B together and press according to the arrow. Starting with letter C, stitch in a clockwise rotation and press after each strip is sewed.

Suggestion: The finished size of this block is great for a bed quilt, placemats, pillows and table runners.

Anne Marie's Scrap Tip When washing very small pieces of fabric, rather than putting them in the washing machine, put then in an empty plastic butter container with the lid on in hot water and soap and then gently shake the fabric. Rinse in cool water and drain well. Then lay the pieces flat between two towels to squeeze most of the water out. There is very little fraying and they can be pressed dry.