

2016 Texas Department of Agriculture Quilt Block Competition Rules and Guidelines

Rules

1. Use the ivory colored fabric (labeled Background) for the background. It should measure approximately 11" x 11."
2. The finished size of the block will be 10" x 10;" however, your entry must be submitted as a 10½" x 10½" unfinished block. All winning blocks will be trimmed for finishing, once selected. Please ensure your entire design fits within the 10" x 10" area, and any embellishments should be approximately ¼" from the unfinished edges of the square.
3. You must supply an accurate, full-size pattern of your design for judging and documentation purposes. You may use tracing paper, wax paper or another medium as appropriate to create a pattern.
4. The design of your block should pertain to the theme of the quilt, *Texas Wine and Floral – Two Texas Treasures*, through the use of fabrics included in this kit and any you provide. Refer to the information included in the kit for more details on the theme for inspiration. Blocks should clearly reflect this year's theme and include **both** a wine and floral element.
5. Please include a brief description (100 words or less) of how your block depicts the theme.
6. **DO NOT** quilt your block.
7. The postmark deadline for block submission is **June 10, 2016**. Please mail your completed block with pattern and description to:

Texas Department of Agriculture
Attn: GO TEXAN – Texas Wine and Floral Quilt
P.O. Box 12847
Austin, TX 78711

Guidelines

1. The fabric in the kit has not been prewashed. If you want to "set" your fabric, please wash in the following manner:
 - a. Soak like colors in warm to hot water in the sink for 5-10 minutes. You do not need to add any soap. If you'd like, add ½ cup of white vinegar.
 - b. Put in dryer for 2-3 minutes. Remove while damp.
 - c. Press dry.
2. Please incorporate the brown suede in your block wherever possible. **DO NOT** wash this fabric.
3. You *may* add up to three additional fabrics not included in the packet to the design, but the block packet fabrics must remain the focal colors of your design. In addition to the ivory background fabric, you **MUST** use a minimum of six fabrics provided in the packet.

4. Your block may be an original design or an adaptation of a traditional pattern. If it is an adaptation, credit your source. It may be pieced, appliquéd or a combination. You may use hand or machine construction.
5. You may embellish your block with pearl cotton, embroidery floss, silk ribbon or beads. Please be sure to permanently secure these embellishments. Remember, any embellishments should be approximately 1¼" from the unfinished edges of the square.

Helpful Hints

1. Making Templates and Pattern Pieces
 - a. Use a sturdy transparent plastic, such as Mylar, or a template plastic from your local quilt shop. This will guarantee a constant shape over repeated use. Cardboard does not retain its shape.
 - b. Freezer paper is another popular template material, especially for the machine piecer and appliqué artist. Draw your design onto the flat side of the freezer paper, cut on the lines and iron the shinier side to your fabric. Add your seam allowance to the fabric, not the paper.
2. Use a pencil (HB or harder) or other removable marking device to mark the fabric for appliquéing or piecing.
3. Use 1/4" seam allowance for all piecing.
4. When appliquéing, use matching threads (100 percent cotton or silk). **Do not** cut away any fabrics. This can lead to the weakening of your block.
5. Press all seams from light to dark fabrics when possible.

If you have questions regarding the theme or rules of the competition, please call (877) 994-6839 or email GOTEXAN@TexasAgriculture.gov.