

How to Make Your Quilt Block

1. Select a family, community, or regional tradition that represents one of five folklife themes: foodways, occupational folklore, traditional music, sporting (football, softball, race car, hunting, etc.), and annual festivals or cultural events.
2. Compose and design your block.
3. Begin with a 7" square piece of material.
4. Add your design.
5. Leave a quarter inch border around the entire block.
6. Provide information about your block and submit it to the Alabama Folklife Association.

There is no limit to the number you make. You, your friends, your family, or community group or gathering of participants can make one for each folkway category or an unlimited number in each category.

Submission Information

When your block is completed, you will mail it to the Alabama Folklife Association.

5709 Belle Ridge Trail, Irondale, AL 35210.

Blocks must be submitted by **May 30, 2019**.

Please include the following information with your block:

All About My Block (s): see the form on the next page or posted on the Common Threads web page, Alabama Folklife Association web site (www.alabamafolklife.org).

Make sure we have the following information:

- Title and/or subject of your block
- Location (community/ city/town/ or county) or the location of the sewing session you attended
- Date completed
- Information about maker(s)
- Folkways inspiration

Submitting Additional Documentation

We would love for you to use video, audio, or photos to help tell the story of your block! See below for guidance about file types. You may send files via email to alabamafolklife@att.net or send a disc by mail to 5709 Belle Ridge Trail, Irondale, Alabama 35210. AFA can also access electronic sharing via google and dropbox.

Video	Formats: mov, mp4, mpeg, or wmv; Resolution minimum 480 x 360
Audio	Formats: mp3, wav, or mp4
Image	.peg, tif, or png; 800 x 600 pixels or maximum of 300 DPI
Text	Microsoft Word (docx) or PDF

What Happens to My Block?

After May 30 2019, the AFA will begin working with master quilters to sew the blocks together into a quilt top and then form the Alabama Folkways Quilt Collection. The quilts will go on tour and then become part of a museum collection.

Recognition:

All contributors will be recognized including any organizations, institutions, clubs, etc.

Hosting A Sewing Session

We invite museums, organizations, guilds, libraries, community centers, educational institutions, parks, cultural centers, and all other interested parties across the state of Alabama to host a sewing session. Build community while sewing your blocks and/or participating in Quilt Across Alabama. Here are some tips on how to make your sewing session a success.

- Hold sessions in an ADA-accessible location and make it open to the general public.
- Give every participant enough space and time to complete their block.
- Provide ideas and include experienced sewers or master artists, who can assistance.
- Try to keep your group to a reasonable number based on the size and capacity of the facility.
- Expect a session to last about 3 hours.
- Inform participants if they need to register or not, how to register, and whether supplies and equipment will be provided or if participants are expected to bring their own.

Since 2014, AFA has completed step-by-step instructions for quilting techniques used during our workshops. All of these will be in a comprehensive information booklet available by March 15, 2019. Due to copyright restrictions, we cannot post all of it.

Hosting the Alabama Folkways Quilt Collection

In July, 2019, our quilts will be ready for display anywhere in Alabama that can properly accommodate them. If your institution, community, or organization is interested in hosting a show of the Alabama Folkways Quilts, let us know! alabamafolklife@att.net.

Here are some things to keep in mind if you are interested in hosting the quilts:

- Quilts must be displayed in venues open to the general public.
- Quilts must be displayed in an ADA-accessible facility. You can find more information about ADA guidelines at www.access-board.gov.
- Quilts are works of art! Environmental conditions for display should protect them from exposure to UV light. Quilts will need to be hung on racks with bars or dowel rods that slide through the slip on the back. The facility should be secure.

After the quilts are complete, AFA will know more details such as sizes and the required display space.

AFA has portable quilt racks including six poles and five support bars that can be delivered and used on loan. In order to hang all of them using our equipment, the quilts will all have to be lined up, one next to another, but they can be set up in a weaving pattern or presented in the shape of a U or another creative formation.