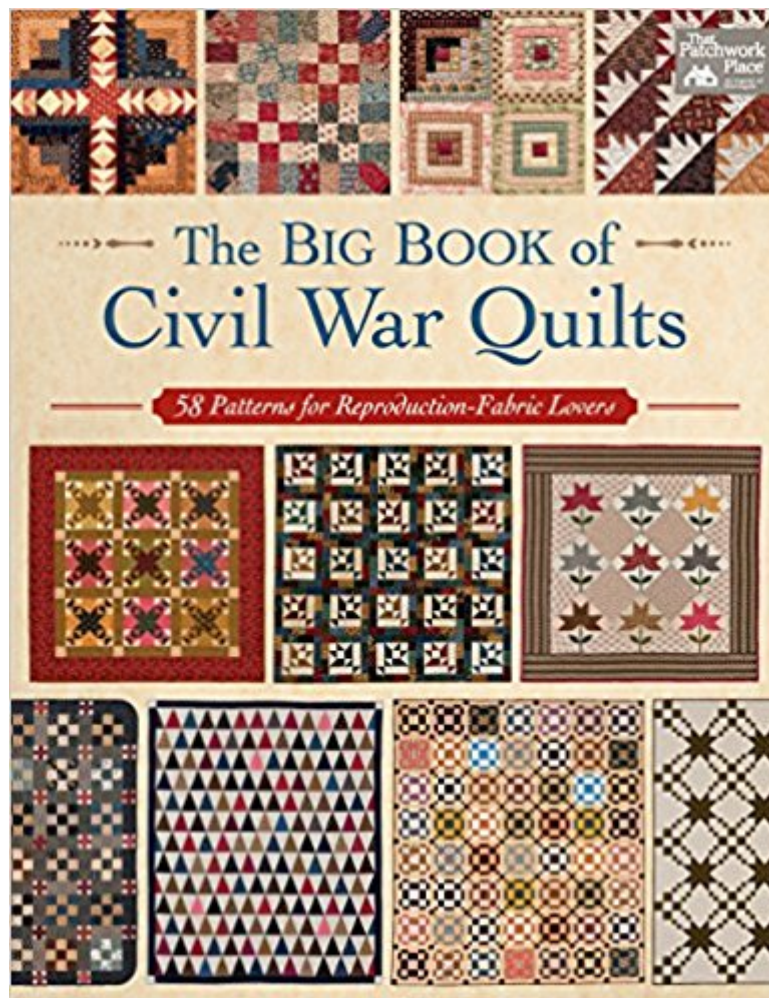




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The Big Book Of Civil War Quilts: 58 Patterns For Reproduction-Fabric Lovers



Synopsis

Explore the patchwork style and scrappy flair of 58 history-rich quilts inspired by patterns and fabrics from the 1800s. Showcase the traditional color combinations of reproduction fabrics and popular Civil War-era blocks that quilters love in patterns for mini-quilts, lap quilts, and large bed-size projects. Use your favorite reproduction fabrics--including scraps and precuts--in quilts ranging from simple to intricate, all created by expert designers.

Book Information

Paperback: 240 pages

Publisher: That Patchwork Place (August 15, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1604688556

ISBN-13: 978-1604688559

Product Dimensions: 8.3 x 0.7 x 10.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 5 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #14,952 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #2 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Antiques & Collectibles > Textiles & Costume](#) #3 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Crafts & Hobbies > Needlecrafts & Textile Crafts > Patchwork](#) #3 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Crafts & Hobbies > Needlecrafts & Textile Crafts > Quilts & Quilting](#)

Customer Reviews

there is nothing new or particularly interesting in this book. most of the projects are for small or miniature quilts. and the only connection to the Civil War era is the use of reproduction fabric. if you are looking for historical context or the use of authentic mid-nineteenth century quilts as inspiration or point of departure for contemporary pieces perhaps Barbara Brackman would be a better source. disappointing.

The Big Book of Civil War Quilts contains a broad [selection of Civil War era quilt designs](#) and at times odd [selection of Civil War era quilt designs](#). The editors wisely chose to include a range of sizes and skill-levels: from miniature to over-sized and beginner to unchallenging for an experienced piecer. (Yes, there is the occasional Y-seam, but it is rare. Ditto for any special rulers, noted below.) But the selection is from a surprisingly limited pool of designers. And how would you even know? The editors do not list the designers in the table of contents, nor are the sources

identified or credited. These "Big Books" are irksome in that regard. I want to know whether I already own the patterns before I buy a compendium.

You'd have to do your own bibliography. And who is crazy enough to go through all 58 quilts to figure this out?? That would be me! I made an ordered list by BOOK name that matches designers to quilts to the books they were selected from. I also included sizes.

This bibliography is in the comments section so as not to clutter up white space here. Some quilts had me doing a double-take, wondering if they truly are era-based. The strip-based

"Blooming Stars" (62" x 62" by Deanne Eisenman is from the book *Scrap Quilts Go Country*. The text contains no references to the period. Nearly every quilt is scrappy and repeats 1 or 2 of the same blocks. An extreme example is *Biz Storms* (72.5 x 72.5) contains 372 of the same block in 2 sizes (4" blocks around a center medallion made of 2" blocks.) The directions do not include speed-piecing the hour-glass block. Instead, they call for manipulating 1488 triangles.

Similarly, "Civil War Log Cabin" (50" x 66.5" by Mary Etherington and Connie Tesesne involves

building 48 log cabin blocks which are each made up from 21 individual logs. That's 1008 logs in a small space. In fact, each block is only

8.25" x 8.25" finished. A fabulously beautiful example is

"Confederate Courtship" (84" x 105" by Evelyn Sloppy. It is well-placed as the very last quilt in the book. It has been on my bucket list for years, and is about the loveliest quilt setting in both this book and Ms. Sloppy's book *Log Cabin Fever* (2002). It uses Courthouse Step blocks, but with posts and intricate center

block. Any special techniques? Mostly there is nothing more complicated than folded corners,

1/4"-square triangles, repetition, bulk-maintenance (managed with drawings and directional arrows for seam pressing), and an abundance of seams that will need precise matching. However, a

few quilts are more difficult. One tricky example is "Buckwheat Star" (64.5" x 64.5" by Mary Etherington and Connie Tesene from their

book *Civil War Remembered* (2015). It requires set-in seams aka Y-seams (with the requisite pinning, backstitching, and dot-matching) to piece foundation-based strippy diamond units into an

8-pointed star. There is 1 or 2 more, but I don't want to scare anyone away from

what is a worthy collection of quilts. Any special tools required? A 15x15 grid ruler is good to own for squaring off blocks. A 6" x 12" ruler with appropriate markings and

masking tape can help you avoid having to use the triangle template needed for

“The Bars Quilt” (75”x80.5” by Biz Storms. This quilt alternatively uses Qtools Cutting Edge Strips to generate the necessary 3500 triangles.

“Hexagon Flowers Doll Quilt” (16”x19.5” by Kathleen Tracy from her book *The Civil War Sewing Circle* (2011) uses English paper-piecing. As such, it calls for cardstock and a single-hole paper punch to remove the paper later. Either template plastic or a 45 degree Kaleidoscope Ruler is needed for

“Antique Angles” (63”x76” by Julie Hendricksen from her book *Remembering the Past* (2015). All in all, a good selection of designers, quilts, techniques, blocks, and settings. But a disservice is done to both readers AND designers by not including a proper bibliography. See the first comment to check your library against the bibliography I put there. Turns out I already own 98% of the books these patterns were pulled from. I have no regrets in buying *The Big Book of Civil War Quilts*, but you might wish to make a different purchasing decision. I rated the book 4 out of 5 stars for leaving out this important detail.

This is a big thick book filled with beautiful historic quilts featured in classic colorways and fabrics. The names of the quilts are great! Most of the designs are created with tiny pieces. Great piecing instructions and illustrations to make the process go smoothly. There are also fun little stories about the designer or origin of the pattern.

this is a great book

Awesome book. It is well worth the weight. Clear instruction with a picture of every quilt Even though this is a Civil War Quilt book, I'm looking forward to use Kaffe Fassett material on them.

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