

Beach Dreams

inspired by School Block Challenge 2021

Quilt: *Beach Dreams* by Becky Glasby



Featured Artist: Becky Glasby

Becky Glasby



Becky Glasby is a self-taught quilter who turned her love of quilting from a personal hobby into a professional career when she moved to Paducah to start working at the National Quilt Museum as the Director of Education.

At the museum Becky works to inspire the next generation of quilters and promote the art of quilting through: youth & adult tours, hands-on programs, off-site visits, community collaborations, the Block of the Month Club program, and coordinating the annual School Block Challenge for students across the country.

Becky enjoys sharing her love of quilting with everyone she meets, and loves encouraging creativity in other quilters.

Blog: <https://bumblebzs.blogspot.com/>

Instagram: @bumblybzs

Website: <https://QuiltMuseum.org/SBC>



Inspiration

This month we draw inspiration from several youth-created blocks that are part of the 2021 School Block Challenge. This annual contest is open nationwide to students in grades K-12 and is sponsored by Moda Fabrics, who provides the three challenge fabrics that we distribute each August to interested teachers, parents, families, youth leaders, etc.

Students are asked to create a 16" x 16" quilt block using a recognizable piece of each challenge fabric. They can add other fabrics as desired, and blocks must include some type of hand or machine stitching. Entries are then exhibited in the museum galleries at the start of the year, allowing our visitors to explore the students' creativity in fabric.

Each year, SBC entries cover a wide range of topics, sometimes the same idea appearing across grade levels and locations. This year there were several which centered around the beach. These four blocks are the basis for our pattern this month, from the beach to the sun rising or setting into the waves, and the personal details that make each block unique: surfboard, airplane, lighthouse, and palm trees.





Inspiration



Entry #321 "Surfs Up"
by Allison Bucaroff, CA
5th-8th Grade Category

"I did this because it reminds me of a place that we go to in the summer. I sewed most of the pieces on and finished in 2 days."



Inspiration



Entry #336 "Morris Island Lighthouse"
by Hannah Williams, MO
5th-8th Grade Category

"This summer we went on vacation to the beach. It had a lighthouse at the far end of the island. We walked out as far as we could and this quilt block is what it looked like. The lighthouse was out away far from shore. It looked really cool as the sun went down. The colors of the fabric reminded me of a sunset at the beach. I cut out the palm tree, sun, bird and lighthouse. I used fusible adhesive and ironed the pieces on top of my background fabric. Then, I blanket stitched around them. I attached a white bead on the lighthouse to make it look like a light shining. It took me about 6 hours to do the whole thing."



Inspiration



Entry #358 "Sunset Flight"
by Owen Bandstra, IL
5th-8th Grade Category

"I did the sky by piecing together the denim squares and used worn spots to give the fading look. I wanted it to fade so it would be darker away from the sun and lighter closer to the sun. The reason I did the sun this way is because I love being in God's nature and sunsets on the water are some of my favorites. I used the fabrics in reverse to create the effect of a reflection. I really like the water because of its beauty and fun. I wanted to show movement in the water, so I cut strips of the supplied fabrics to look like waves. The idea for the ultralight airplane is because I love them for their simplicity and because my dad and I are interested in them. We also want to learn to fly them together. I drew out the plan for this airplane because I thought it would be more recognizable. Even though I had some hard spots and frustrating moments the entire project has been lots of fun. I am looking forward to doing it again next time."



Inspiration



Entry #509 "Seaside Paradise"
by Jana Pak, NC
9th-12th Grade Category

"Everyone has their own paradise. Whether it be the beach, mountains, city or countryside, we always long to spend more time at our paradise. For me, my paradise is the beach, and when the Covid-19 pandemic first hit, I soon realized that I could no longer enjoy the freedom of feeling the ocean breeze, walking down the boardwalk, and observing the waves crashing to shore. The longer quarantine remained, the more I yearned for the seaside and the more I regretted taking beach trips for granted. Everyday, as I peered out my bedroom window, I wished that my view was the seashore and that the same humid and salty breeze would blow here too. But, reality always breaks it all. In hopes to reminisce my seaside memories and to allow my imagination to break free, I've created this quilt block.

The techniques I used in order to make this block were zigzag stitches, lock stitches, appliqué, and overlapping. Overall, I spent around 3 weeks brainstorming and about 1 ½ weeks placing everything together. I also learned the importance of ruminating on how the block creation process will go first, before I start making the quilt, because once I knew what I needed to do, it became much easier when making the block. Although I cannot visit the beach like before, this quilt block has gifted me the opportunity to reflect back on my happy times relaxing at the shore and to be grateful that I can express myself through visual art."



Sample Block



Sample by: Becky Glasby

Fabrics:

3 - rectangles 3" x 14" in blues for the waves

1 - rectangle 4 ½" x 14" in tan for the sand

1 - rectangle 9" x 14" for the sky

1 - circle, with diameter approx. 5" for the sun

1 - 2" x 8" yellow for sun rays

1 - 5" square in green for palm tree

1 - 3" x 6" rectangle in brown for tree. Cut a trunk shaped piece.

1 - 3" x 6" rectangle for surfboard.

Batting: 15" x 15" piece

Backing: 15" x 15"



Instructions

Photo 1



1. Place the water fabrics in order of preference A-C, with A being the closest to the sky (photo 1).
2. Place fabrics A and B right sides UP, overlapping each other along the long side by about 1" to 1 ½" (photo 2 a&b).

Photo 2a



Photo 2b





Instructions

Photo 3



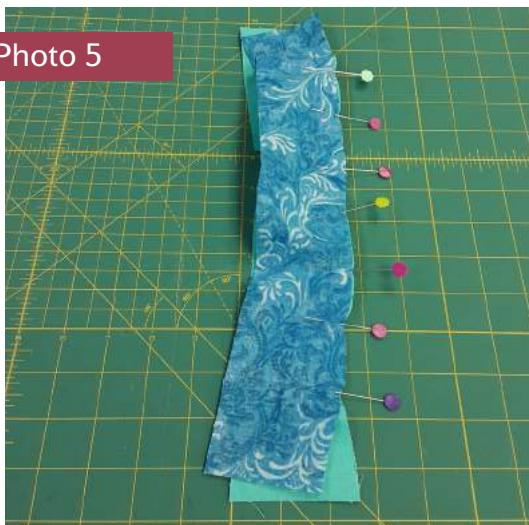
3. Carefully cut a gentle wavy line with the rotary cutter through both pieces where they overlap. Remove the cut off bits from both pieces (photo 3).

4. Flip piece A Right Sides Together with piece B. Pin the centers of the peaks first (photo 4). Then pull the valleys up to match piece B and pin in place. Add more pins as needed. As pins are added, the fabric strip will not be flat at this stage (photo 5).

Photo 4



Photo 5





Instructions

Photo 6



5. Use a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam to sew the pieces together. Focus on sewing from pin to pin, so take it slowly. Be sure to keep the raw edges together as much as possible for a smooth seam. Once it's sewn, press the seam towards piece A (photo 6).

Tip: A stylus or tweezers may help you hold pieces in place as they get close to the needle.

Photo 7



6. Repeat Steps 2 - 5 to add piece C (photo 7).
7. Repeat Steps 2 - 5 to add the sand fabric to the remaining long side of piece C (photo 8).

Photo 8





Instructions

Photo 9a

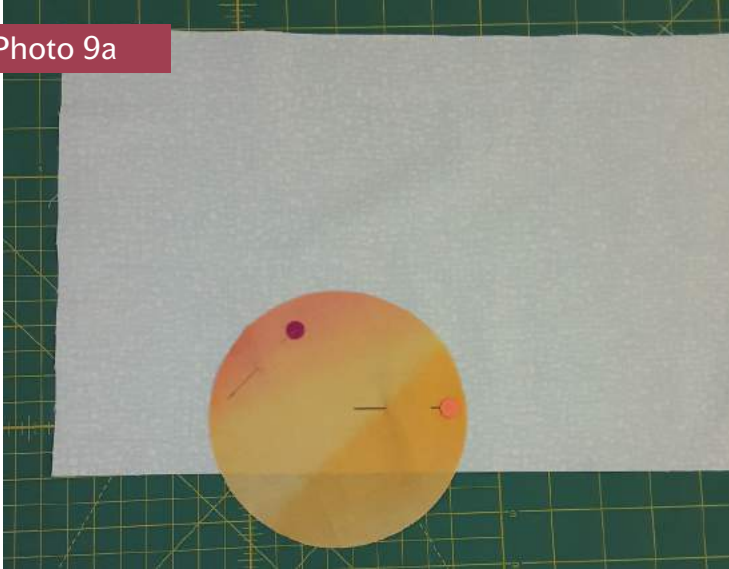


Photo 9b



8. Take the circle for the sun and lay it right side UP on the sky fabric. When it's where you want it, pin in place (photo 9 a). If there's any of the circle hanging over the sky fabric, trim it to be straight (photo 9 b).



Instructions

Photo 10

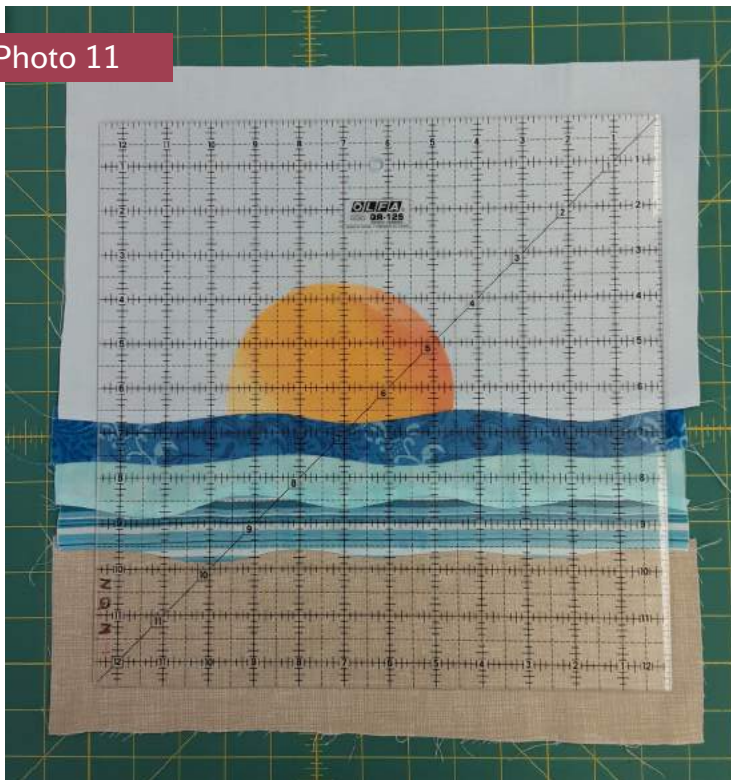


9. Repeat steps 2 - 5 to add the sky to the waves, along piece A (photo 10).

The block will be larger than 13" square at this point. If you have a 12 ½" sq. ruler place it on top of the block, but **DO NOT TRIM YET**. This is just to help visualize the final block size, and allow you to decide how much sky or sand to include (photo 11).

You can also cut strips of paper and tape them together to create a 12 ½" square frame if you don't have this size ruler.

Photo 11





Quilting

A walking foot is great if you have one since we're quilting through several layers of fabric. I used the walking foot for both the straight lines, and zig-zag stitching on the block. The details will be raw edge appliquéd through all the layers, meaning they will be quilted at the same time.

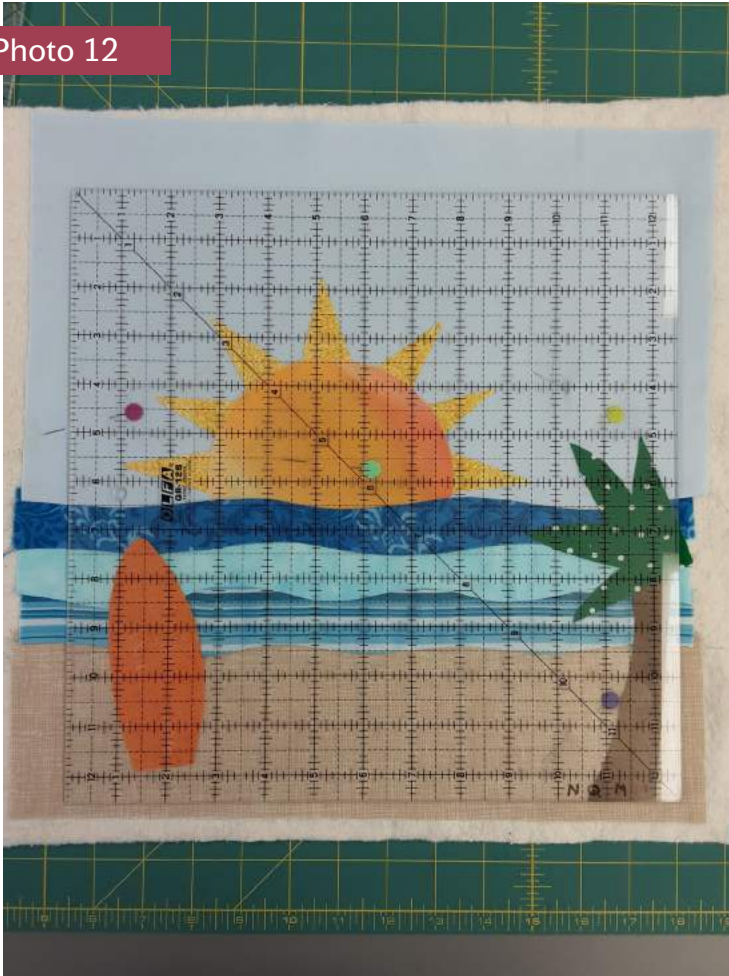
1. Layer the beach-scape with batting and backing fabric and baste together.
2. Use a straight stitch setting, and increase the stitch length. Quilt organic, wavy lines through the ocean waves. Follow the edge of the seams with the walking foot or use your hands to maneuver the fabric side to side to create the organic wavy lines.
3. Cut out sun rays as desired from the 2" x 8" strip of yellow fabric. Place these freestyle around the sun, tucking them underneath the sun fabric.





Quilting

Photo 12



4. Using a small zig-zag stitch, stitch around the curve of the sun first, then around the sun rays to secure them.
5. Stitch straight lines in the sky to echo the sun ray angles.
6. Cut out the surfboard and tree pieces. Place them as desired on the block. Use your 12 ½" square ruler (or paper window) to keep these shapes inside the final block size. When they are in place, pin (photo 12).
7. Use a small zig-zag to stitch the surfboard and palm tree in place.
8. Once you're satisfied with the quilting and appliqué details, use the ruler to trim the block to be 12 ½" x 12 ½" square.

Finished?
Fantastic!