



Phoenix Modern Quilt Guild – Vitamin D Bee Guidelines and Rules

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Overview:

This Quilting Bee will be created to build skill sets, create community among members of the Phoenix Modern Quilt Guild (PHXMQG) and produce amazing quilts!

General Information:

Quilting bees started as a way to quickly make a quilt to be used for some special reason. Be it a wedding quilt, a charity quilt, or a quilt for a loved one, the concept allows for many people to work together to create a quilt in presumably less time than it would take just one person to complete.

Most quilting bees elapse over one calendar year. There are 12 members who each take turns coordinating one month, thus reducing the strain this would place on any one person. The coordinator of the month is referred to as a “Queen”. Before their month arrives, the Queen is responsible for creating a detailed tutorial featuring the block they would like the other members to make as well as collecting the fabric of their choice to give to each collaborator. During the month, the bees create the block then return the completed block and remainder fabric to the Queen for that month. This repeats throughout the year until all members have had a turn to have blocks made for them.

PHXMQG Quilting Bee Rules:

- All blocks must be machine sewn unless specified otherwise by the month’s Queen.
- All fabrics necessary to complete the block must be included in the kit given to the other members. Queens must ensure they have allotted the proper amount of each fabric in each kit. Kits must include fabric, tutorial (with pictures), and any special tools needed to complete the block.
- All Queens must have fabrics and tutorials prepared in advance and ready to hand out at the PHXMQG meeting PRIOR to her designated month. This means a Queen will have more work to do the month prior to her assigned month than the assigned month itself. *For example, if Tiffany is Queen in February, she will need to have all her kits prepared to hand out at the*

January meeting. The other members of the bee will then have until the February meeting to create the blocks for Tiffany.

-Blocks must be delivered to the month's Queen at the meeting for the month. *For example, Tiffany is Queen in February. All her blocks must be turned in at the February meeting.*

-Queens must make their own block prior to printing out a tutorial for the other bee members. This will ensure A.) the tutorial works, and B.) it allows the Queen to point out any difficult portions of the tutorial that she may have changed. A Queen may use an online tutorial.

-Failure to turn in a block two months in a row will result in removal from the bee for the calendar year. A member asked to step down from the bee may reapply the following year when sign-ups are opened again. This is only flexible if a bee has made a special agreement with the Queen whose block she needs to make.

-Blocks should not take more than 1.5 hours on average to create. Be mindful when choosing a block that it is not too intricate to complete in 1.5 hours.

-You do not have to turn in a block proposal to the Bee Mama, however, if your block is too intricate to be completed in the allotted time frame, you may be asked to change your block choice. When in doubt, ask the Bee Mama first.

-If you do not have your kits prepared to pass out at your designated guild meeting, you must have mailed them out to all members PRIOR to that meeting to ensure everyone has the full amount of time to complete your block. If you do not mail them before and are unable to get your blocks to the meeting, you forfeit your turn to be Queen.

-If you are unable to attend a meeting, it is YOUR responsibility to get a kit from the Queen for that month. You can discuss whether it should be mailed or if you can pick up.

Vitamin D Bee Tool Requirements:

In order to participate in this bee, members must have access to cutting tools (rotary cutter, scissors), a cutting mat, a straight edge quilting ruler, a sewing machine, an iron and an ironing surface. Members must also have any other basic sewing tools necessary to complete the blocks each month (needles, thread, seam ripper, etc.) Members will NOT be required to purchase special tools to complete a block. Should a Queen want a block for her month that requires a special tool, she will need to provide the tool to members by either adding the tool to the kits, or, if the tool is a template or some other form of paper tool, the Queen will either need to include it in her kits or send it to all members of her hive via email. Any templates must be compatible with printing on 8.5"x11" standard printer paper. Templates to be printed on legal size paper will be considered special tools that will need to be printed and included in the kits.

Bee Mama Danny Blurb About Tools:

Some tools may seem basic to me but not to other quilters. For example, I use Elmer's Glue and [Glue Tips](#) from [Purple Daisies, LLC](#). rather than pinning just about anything. Here is a list of tools that I use regularly while piecing but *may not* be in the average quilter's toolbox:

-spray starch

- EPP paper
- Thread Heaven
- glue sticks/glue tips/glue bottles
- fancy rulers, like Add-a-Quarter or 1/4" seam guides for sewing machines
- freezer paper
- chalk pencils/Frixion pens/marketing tools
- foundation paper
- applique paper
- Free Motion Quilting (FMQ)/Darning foot or any feet other than a basic presser foot
- tweezers
- pinking shears

If you would like a block that requires the use of one of these, contact the Bee Mama to send an email out on your behalf to the entire hive to ask if they have the tool on hand. Who knows? Everyone may have glue sticks at home and not need you to add some to their kits! By going through the Bee Mama, other hive members will feel more at ease about being honest. If they do not have the tool on hand, they can let the Bee Mama know who will then discuss with you about your block choice. If there is more than one way to create a block, maybe one that does not require a non-basic tool, share both methods so members can choose the method that works best for them and their toolbox. And if you are going to have the Bee Mama send the email, be mindful of your timing. Try to do it a month or two in advance so you have time to come up with a new block idea if your hive members cannot complete your first choice block.

PHXMQG Quilting Bee Angels:

If a bee is unable to create a block for a certain month, she can request an Angel to create a block in her stead. Angels can be any bees who would be willing to make their block AND the block for the bee who cannot fulfill her duties for the month. If possible, an Angel should be requested prior to when the kits are handed out so the Angel can take two kits home to work on during that month.

Note to PHXMQG Quilting Bee members:

We will be using the PHXMQG Flickr site as a common ground to post pictures of blocks (either finished or in progress) and discuss topics regarding the blocks (i.e. Would it be easier to paper piece this block, Does anyone know how to close this partial seam, etc.) It will be a great tool for us as we work together to create beautiful, one-of-a-kind quilts! It will also be a place of encouragement and constructive comments. We use the hashtags #phxmqg and #vitaminDbee on Instagram. If you post a picture to Instagram, please be sure to tag it with both hashtags so members can search for the images. As always, email is a great tool for communicating, as well.

I am not sure at this point whether we will have a six month or 12 month cycle. It will depend greatly on the number of members who sign up to join. Once we have completed the sign-ups, I

will place members in hives, assign months, and decide on the cycle length. The cycle will not last more than 12 months.

I am hoping we will have a design wall where each month we can put up our blocks so everyone in the guild can see them. Should we get this, it will give us a place to highlight our work all in one place and give us all a chance to see the blocks together before they are whisked away by the Queen.

Block Quality:

Blocks should be quality. Do not be of the mindset "It's not staying with me so I don't care what it looks like." You should be diligent about SA and fabric stretching (mostly in bias cut shapes). Be mindful of thread color choice and make-up. Threads made of 100% cotton are ideal for piecing as they will shrink proportionately to the quilting cotton fabric. Thinner threads (50wt and 40wt) are the ideal size for piecing because they leave little bulk in the seams. If you are skipping stitches, triage the issue and fix the block (many times it's a sign of a dull needle). Size matters. If the Queen asks for an unfinished 12"x12" block, be sure you leave enough edge fabric to square it down to 12"x12" prior to turning it in. If your block is not the required size, contact the Queen Bee directly to discuss issues with the tutorial and how to proceed. It is the recommendation of the Bee Mama that the block be remade, however the Queen Bee may be interested in taking the block that is sized incorrectly. Blocks do not have to be squared up unless requested by the Queen Bee for the month. Some Queens may prefer to square their own blocks once they have all been collected.

Choosing a Block:

Be mindful that every quilter has idiosyncrasies when choosing your block:

- Some will use an exact $\frac{1}{4}$ " SA. Some will use a scant $\frac{1}{4}$ " SA.
- Some will press open. Some will press to the dark side.

You will want to be specific in your tutorial regarding preferences, if you have any.

- Choose blocks that do not have to be exactly the same to fit in a quilt (Granny Square blocks do not make a good bee block because if all the SAs do not match up, the Queen Bee will have to trim down, losing some points in order to use all blocks).
- Choose blocks that can be sashed.
- Choose blocks inspired by a place, a photo, a color scheme, a theme.
- Choose blocks that are paper pieced to ensure accuracy in size.
- Choose blocks without a size requirement.