

## **Educational Tidbit for November 2024**

### **HAVE YOU EVER MADE A POTATO CHIP BLOCK QUILT?**

November is here and it is time for Costco pumpkin pie and all the other autumnal stuff we do in November. For me it includes watching the Macy's parade, feasting too long at the Thanksgiving dinner table, and Black Friday shopping. I have lots of seasonal decorations that I put out for November, including table runners, pumpkins, pilgrims, and turkeys. Very festive, I just love it.

In the search for various options to use up the fabric in my overflowing cupboard, I came across something called the "Potato Chip Block" (PCB). I have never made a PCB. I read that it is called the Potato Chip Block (PCB) because after you make one quilt, you cannot help it, you keep making more PCB quilts. It's like eating potato chips, you cannot eat just one. I hope the PCB will provide a good solution for my growing "mount scrapmore".

My search yielded a great variety of PCB quilts. Whatever pattern you choose the PCB basics are the same; you begin with a center piece and then surround it with pieces that are twice as long as they are wide. You can create individual blocks, or you can create one large PCB as the quilt top. It seems the PCB is a very versatile block.

My search for PCB patterns took me to YouTube; and lo and behold Karen Brown from Just Get It Done Quilts had just made another Scrap Buster video, this time featuring the PCB. Her PCB pattern uses a stack of 2 ½ x 4 ½ inch pieces sewn together to create a vertical center column and then you sew other 2 ½ x 4 ½ inch pieces together to create strips in various lengths. Next you sew the strips vertically and horizontally around that center column, building the PCB quilt top. Her free pattern provides directions for various sizes up to and including King Size. I plan to use her process because she has already done all the math for me, the video acts as a tutorial, and the free pattern can be downloaded from her website. I have a nice collection of Kaffe Fassett I will be using to create my first PCB quilt. Using my Accuquilt cutter, I have made what feels like a bazillion 2 ½ x 4 ½ inch pieces from my Kaffe Fassett scraps.

The following pictures show the sewn center column consisting of 8 pieces.  
Row 1 circles the center column and will consist of alternating blue and green pieces. I will use the same for Row 6 and Row 11.



Row 2 thru 5 and Row 7 thru 10, will include a variety of colors. Everything at this point is pinned. I have not decided the final layout, but I wanted to show you this potential PCB quilt. Here is a picture of the potential Row 2.



I will continue to play with the pieces to come up with the final layout. This PCB is so easy and so much fun! I now see why it is called the "Potato Chip Block". I believe there will be more than just one quilt when this is over.

I wish you a great November and hope to have another tidbit for December, but as to what that may be, I am still awaiting inspiration. If you happen to think of an idea for a future tidbit, please let me know. Blessings to you and your family. Happy sewing!