



COMMON THREADS

QUILTING GUILD OF PARMA OHIO

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2025 Challenge Quilt: Red, White, and Blue — Celebrating America's 250th

Concept:	America is celebrating our 250th birthday of the Founding of the Country: 1776 – 2026.
Challenge:	<p>Make a quilt that depicts some aspect of American History — you have 250 years to choose from — the Declaration of Independence to the present time. You can choose an historically documented event, or something out of your imagination to portray a theme. The quilt must include red, white, and blue in a prominent way. Subjects can be fun, celebratory or solemn — it's your quilt!</p> <p>Prompts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What exemplifies America for you? • What event in American history means the most to you or your family?
Due Date:	December guild meeting — December 15, 2025
Size:	18w x 24h (18-inches wide x 24-inches high)
Finishing:	Face quilt (see instructions below). No false backs (those will disqualify your quilt from judging in other shows).
Label:	<p>Label your quilt on the back with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quilt name • Your name • Finished size of quilt • Date completed <p>Cover the label. (Just pin a piece of fabric or paper on the back for judging.) <i>NOTE: Design this label very simply, or make it an upscale project. Totally up to you.</i></p>
The Story:	<p>Provide a short (1-2 paragraphs) typed or plainly hand-written story about your quilt.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Title of quilt or story optional. • Do not include your name. • Pin to front of quilt.
December:	Bring your quilt to the December meeting in a covering of your choice (cloth or plastic bags are fine). Turn in at Membership Desk.
Voting:	Current members present will cast one vote for their favorite.
Prizes:	<p>1st, 2nd, 3rd place ribbons will be awarded, in addition to cash prizes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st – \$150 cash prize • 2nd – \$75 cash prize • 3rd – \$32.50 cash prize

Facing Your Quilt (*Triangle Method*)

Finished size (after facing) = 18w x 24h

Step 1: Correct Size	Since your finished size will be 18w x 24h, make your quilt at least 1-inch wider (or more) on all sides so that “quilting” will not overly shrink it. Iron / block if needed.
Step 2: Trim	After quilting, trim your quilt (<i>top / batting / back</i>) to 18.5w x 24.5h (<i>18-1/2-inches wide x 24-1/2-inches high</i>). Set aside.
Step 3: Cut Facing	Out of material that blends well with your backing (<i>can be same material as backing</i>), you will make (4) triangles and (2) long facing pieces and (2) short horizontal facing pieces. Cut: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (4) 5-inch squares. Fold into triangles; right side of fabric on outside. Iron. Set aside. • (2) 22-inch long; 3-inch wide strips. Fold lengthwise. Right side out. Iron. Set aside. • (2) 16-inch long; 3-inch wide strips. Fold lengthwise. Right side out. Iron. Set aside.
Step 4: Assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place trimmed quilt top side up on table; top of quilt away from you. • Place triangles in each corner (<i>see diagram below *A</i>). Match raw edges to corners. • Place 22-inch long strips vertically; and 16-inch wide strips horizontally (<i>*B and *C</i>). • Use quilter binding clips to hold everything in place. (<i>It would be very difficult to try to pin this.</i>) • Starting at top left corner, sew scant 1/4-inch seam horizontal from off the quilt to the other side, also off the quilt — it is important to sew off the quilt. (Use heavy duty machine, or heavy duty settings on your machine. Perhaps a “jeans” setting.) • Continue to sew each side from off the quilt to finishing off the quilt.
Step 5: Cut Corners	Cut out each of the four corners. Do not cut the sewn lines (<i>*D</i>). (<i>Note: if you don't cut out the corners, when you turn the facing, it will be very difficult to get square corners.</i>)
Step 6: Turn Facing and Sew Down	Turn the sewn facing to the back of the quilt. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use something rounded to poke out the corners (<i>there are tools for this</i>). • As you hand press the sides and corners, use sewing glue on the quilt back (not facing) side of the seam to help hold the seam down. (<i>Makes for easier hand sewing.</i>) • Hand sew all horizontal and vertical pieces of the facing. • Hand sew triangles. Iron using “press down” method to set facing.
Step 7: Label and Rod Pocket	Affix any label and rod pocket after all facing is sewn. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labels are required. • Rod pockets are optional — although they will make hanging easier.

