

round robin, *reinvented*

6 quilters. 12 months. 6 quilts.

by trisch price

the basics

The originator and final owner of the quilt will make six square feet of the quilt top to start. It can be in any form – six 12” blocks, one 2 foot by 3 foot panel, anything goes. Pack up a box to pass along that includes:

- 1 large piece of muslin that will serve as a portable design wall. The outline of the final top should be drawn on the muslin to define a footprint to work within.
- The final dimensions, clearly indicating which is the width and the length.
- Fabric that can be used to make the top more cohesive – but anyone can add other fabric to the mix.
- Anything that will convey inspiration for the quilt – but NOT a quilt design.
- Anything one would like to see in a final quilt (such as: “I want my blocks to be in center as a medallion”) or not (such as: “I really don’t like improvisation piecing” ... what??).

The next four people in the rotation will each add 6 square feet to the quilt. Again, the 6 square feet can be in any form (well, not just scraps of fabric pinned to the muslin!). Everything should be in sizable chunks. Each time the pieces can be rearranged on the portable design wall, but don’t cut into anyone else’s work. If someone has five 12” blocks, leave them as 12” blocks. The pieces that are added shouldn’t be completely trimmed, and don’t need to be trimmed at all; the final person might appreciate that. When the design is passed on, it should include:

- All pieces of the design arranged and securely attached to the portable design wall.
- Some pieces of fabric that you added to the quilt to continue the cohesion of the design.

The sixth person will make the final arrangement of the quilt. At this point, anything can be cut, trimmed, pieced--whatever the final person decides. The only requirement is to make the quilt the size that was originally intended and try to abide by any desires or aversions that were set forth by the originator!

the timeline

Designer/author/quilter Trisch Price and five friends decided to reinvent the Round Robin, a popular group project structure where starter blocks get passed around in a specific rotation, with each group member adding something around to the blocks. She writes about this group design journey—nicknamed the Modern Evolution—in our Spring 2016 issue, now available on newsstands. Here are specific guidelines Trisch and her friends used to improve on the process.

(Note: Trisch's group started their journey in March 2015, and will finish in April 2016. Adjust the timeline as it makes sense for your group.)

Month 1 – Boxes are packed and started in the rotation (6 sq. ft.)

Month 2 – First round completed and passed on. (12 sq. ft.)

Month 3 – Second round completed and passed on. (18 sq. ft.)

Month 4– Third round completed and passed on. (24 sq. ft.)

Month 5 – Fourth round completed and passed on. (30 sq. ft.)

Month 6 – Fifth round completed and passed on. (30 sq. ft.)

(Allow an extra month for final work.)

Month 8– Final composition. Top is assembled and given back to the originator.



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