



Finger Lakes Barn Quilt Trail

% South Bristol Town Hall, 6500 Gannett Hill Road, Naples NY 14512

How to Make a Barn Quilt Block

We have written directions for you to make your own Barn Quilt Block. Our goal is to create beautiful Barn Quilt Blocks that are made of the best quality products for an enduring piece to enjoy. This is fun project and we are here to help you. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Location and Sign Board

1. Choose the location for hanging your Barn Quilt Block. The area on the building will determine the size of the quilt block. We typically use a 4'x4' or an 8'x8' block for our Barn Quilt Blocks, but a 2'x2' is also a commonly-used size.
2. Determine your substrate. We recommend aluminum composite sign boards because they are extremely durable, corrosion resistant, retain their shape, and are lightweight. Solid wood panels or boards are a nice alternative for a rustic, weathered result.
3. Aluminum composite 4' x 8' sign board sheets may be purchased from Garston Sign Supplies located at 180 Commerce Drive, Rochester, NY, 14623. Telephone - 800-966-9626. The cost for Omega Bond Grade Aluminum Composite sign board, .008 Skin, Product Number LMOMB318W, is approximately \$50 for a 4'x8' sheet. Delivery, depending on the address, may be available with a \$100 minimum order. Garston does not cut the sheets to size.

Pattern and Paint

1. Select your quilt block pattern. Patterns are endless and may be found in quilt books, an internet search, Pinterest, created from a pattern in a heirloom family quilt, or you may draw your own design.
2. Select your paint colors. Use top quality **exterior** latex satin or semi-gloss paint such as Sherwin Williams or Valspar. Use colors that appeal to you, are meaningful to you, and complement the building's backdrop.

Sign Board Preparation and Sanding

1. Remove the protective film from both sides of the sign board. Cut the board to size with a table saw or skill saw, if applicable.
2. Lightly sand the edges and the front of the board with steel wool or a fine grit sanding block. This will allow the paint to properly adhere to the aluminum.
4. Clean the sanded surface and edges with a soft, clean cloth and alcohol.

Framing

1. Framing is optional, but if you choose to frame your piece, attach a 2"x2" primed wood frame to the back of the perimeter of the board with countersunk sheet metal screws. The wood frame adds dimension to the quilt block and helps to mount the block to the building.

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Priming

1. Work in a dry and dust-free area. Lay the sign board on a large table or across sawhorses.
2. Paint the front and the edges of the board with 2-3 coats of good quality exterior primer such as KILZ. Use white primer for a light-color background and gray primer for a dark-color background.

Drafting and Taping

1. Select your drawing tools. For straight edges, we typically use a T-square, quilting ruler, or aluminum straight edge in various sizes depending on the size of the quilt block. Circular drawing tools, contact paper, or homemade stencils are used for curvy or circular shapes.
2. Apply the lightest color of paint over the entire surface of the board before drafting the pattern. This saves time on taping and painting allowing several squares to be painted so you may start taping with the second color.
3. Measure and draw the border. Then draft the quilt pattern. Draft the pattern on to the board with a pencil or Crayola erasable colored pencil, which washes off easily. Border sizes and patterns vary depending on the size of the board and your personal preference. There are two ways to approach the drafting. You can measure and use drawing tools. Math is optional. The other way is to make a grid on your block by finding the middle point by drawing a light line from corner to corner, divide the board into quarters by using a T-square, continue to divide each square in a likewise fashion until you get the desired grid. This works for 4 patch, 8 patch and 16 patch designs.
NOTE: For an 8' x 8' block, it is imperative that your design be drawn so that the two 4' x 8' boards match exactly along the center. You may do this one of two ways: a. Clamp the two boards together while drawing the pattern then separate them to paint OR; b. Draw half the design on one board, then clamp the two boards together to mark the center points on the second board. Then separate to finish drawing the design on the second board. Double-check the boards to ensure the centers match exactly prior to taping and painting.
4. Tape along the edges of the design shapes with the brand name Yellow or Green Frog Tape. Seal the taped edges well by pressing with a credit card or plastic scraper. Use a craft knife or razor blade to cut angles in the tape.

Painting

1. Gather your paint supplies including foam brushes and mini thin-nap paint rollers. An artist brush is good for touch ups.
2. To help designate the color in each area, you may place corresponding colored sticky notes or a small dab of paint in each area. Start with the lightest color paint then proceed to the darkest color.
3. Applying with light coats, paint the taped areas with as many coats of paint as it takes. Paint along and away from the taped edges which helps to deter the paint from bleeding under the tape. Allow each coat to dry completely before applying the next coat. Normally, 2-3 coats will be sufficient; but some colors, especially reds and purples, require 3-4 coats.
4. After the final coat of paint is dry, peel the tape by pulling it at a low angle away from the painted surface.
5. Proceed with taping and painting the next color. Continue until the design, border, and wood frame is completely painted.
6. Re-tape and touch up paint bleeds or blemishes with an artist paint brush.

Finishing and Mounting

1. Allow the paint on your finished barn quilt to cure for at least 48 hours prior to hanging.
2. A sealer or polyurethane should not be applied to the quilt block. Sealer will prevent retouching and polyurethane will yellow the colors.
3. Feel free to contact the Finger Lakes Barn Quilt Trail for questions regarding best methods for mounting your quilt block.

Admire your work of art!