



Rainy Days and Sun Rays

Introduction Document

Hello everyone and welcome to our Block of the Month project for 2021! I'm so glad you've all decided to join me to make this happy quilt. I hope we are going to have find this project a bright spot to be sewing together.

This document is like the BOM encyclopedia. I know it seems a lot, but boil the kettle, have a cuppa and a nice sit down and **PLEASE READ ALL OF THE FOLLOWING CAREFULLY**. You will find that the answers to most of the questions you have about the BOM already, and also as we go along, are here in the following information. I encourage you to refer back to this document throughout the year if you're wondering about things! It will always be available at the VERY TOP of the pattern page on the website, so that if you're wondering about something, it's right there for you. We get several hundred emails and Facebook posts a month, all asking very similar questions - all the answers are already here waiting for you in the document. Having a look for your question saves you having to wait for an answer, and us a lot of man hours :)

Here's some FAQ's about how the program runs.

When do the patterns start to come?

Here is a table listing when all the patterns, videos and important information will be posted online at www.sarahfielkeblockofmonth.com for you.

Information	Content	Date
Welcome Notes	Includes information on BOM and FAQs	Upon signup
Material Requirements	Includes complete fabric requirements for the Rainy Days and Sun Rays quilt design, fabric inspirations and colour ideas.	Dec 10, 2020

Notions on sale	Optional acrylic template set and notions to help make the quilt – for sale at www.sarahfielke.com	Dec 15, 2020
Colour Planner	A large scale, printable black and white drawing to help you colour design your quilt	Dec 15, 2020
Notions Shipped	Priority given to all notion orders made by Dec 31. Notions ordered after this date will be shipped ASAP.	First orders shipped from Jan 10, 2021
Rainy Days and Sun Rays Patterns and Videos	Patterns and videos released onto website starting from Jan 31, 2021	Month 1 – Jan 31 Month 2 – Feb 28 Month 3 – Mar 31 Month 4 – Apr 30 Month 5 – May 31 Month 6 – Jun 30 Month 7 – Jul 31 Month 8 – Aug 31 Month 9 – Sep 30 Month 10 – Oct 31 Month 11 – Nov 30 Month 12 – Dec 15
BOM 2020 Quilt Competition	Opportunity for you to send in pics of your finished quilt tops from BOM 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 or 2020 to go into our competition to win fun prizes	Email quilt pics to bom2017@sarahfielke.com by Feb 21, 2021 Voting from Feb 23 to 28, 2022 Winners announced Mar 1, 2022

What happens now I've joined?

If you are a new BOM member:

You will receive an email receipt for payment and be directed to a webpage where you can download the BOM 2021 Introduction Notes. Then you will receive an email invitation from the website, www.sarahfielkeblockofmonth.com where all the patterns and videos are hosted to for access. This email is sent to **the email address you used to make payment**. This email is sent manually by Damian (my BOM support) and will be sent to you **within 48 hours** from joining. The email asks you to set your password. Once this is done, you can log into the website whenever you like.

Please look out for the email as it is *time sensitive and personal to you*.

If you are an existing BOM member with access to website already:

The new BOM page will be opened up on your existing website account within 48 hours. You can then log in at www.sarahfielkeblockofmonth.com as usual with your existing email address and password, to view patterns and videos that are available, anytime.

What happens if I can't remember my password?

You can reset your password by going to www.sarahfielkeblockofmonth.com, click on LOG IN tab in navigation, then click on "Reset my password" on that page. You will receive an email to reset your password. *This may take up to 20 minutes to arrive in your inbox.* Sometimes this email is trapped in your SPAM folder. If you have issues with your password or need to change your subscription details, please email Damian bom2017@sarahfielke.com - Damo handles all the subscriptions, website access, payment issues and video or pattern download questions, and will help you as soon as he is able. Please don't send subscription or log in issues to me on Instagram or Facebook as I can't help you with them, and via social media as its very easy for them to go astray.

How do I get the patterns?

The first pattern, the January pattern, will be sent on January 31. This will be Month 1. The patterns come on the LAST DAY OF EACH MONTH. The December pattern will be sent two weeks early on December 15, so that everyone has time to get the pattern before the silly season starts rather than getting it on December 31 when everyone has other things to do!

When the pattern is released, it will be on the website for everyone to view, all at the same time. We will then email to say it is there. However, the email isn't the key to getting the pattern, it's just a heads up that it's been loaded. You can log in to the BOM website any time you like and access the patterns and videos WITHOUT the email, and check if the new one is there yet. It's a good idea to bookmark the website so you can find it next time you want it.

I will not, under any circumstance and no matter how hard you beg, release forward measurements, templates, bonus patterns etc. in advance of the release date at the end of each month. Sorry! :)

What do I get?

Each month you will be able to access a new part of the quilt. Obviously, looking at the sketch, this is not a quilt where you get one "block" as such each month. Some of the months involve a more work and some are less to allow you to catch up. You will have access to the patterns and videos for the foreseeable future after we actually finish, so don't panic and don't think you've "fallen behind" - everyone works at their own pace with these quilts, and people join up all through the year!

Along the way there will also be some bonus patterns or little extras for you, just for fun!

How do I get the patterns and videos?

Each month you will receive an email from us when the pattern and video is ready. The email will NOT HAVE ANY PATTERN OR VIDEO ATTACHED TO IT. The email is just a notification that the new pattern is ready for you to see at the website. You do not have to wait for the notification. You can go to the website any time you like and log in to see if the new pattern is there, or to see previous months patterns or videos.

The patterns are able to be downloaded and saved to your computer and printed as many

times as you like. The videos are NOT able to be downloaded, they are only hosted at the website, are encrypted and are not available for sharing or posting elsewhere.

Access to the website is ONLY for subscribers to the BOM. Each subscription belongs to you and you only. Please do not share your subscription and password with friends or a group, as this is a breach of copyright, and also just not cool. :)

The patterns and videos will remain available to subscribers at the website, even after the BOM has finished.

How can the patterns and videos be used?

All the information for the BOM is for your own personal use only. That means you can copy and print out pages for your own personal use to make the quilt, as many times as you like. If a group of friends wants to make the quilt, each person must sign up for the BOM separately. Access to the website is trackable and those sharing one subscription among a group will unfortunately have their access revoked.

There are lot of shops and designers participating this year and every year (hi everyone!) and I'm so glad to see you all! There have been a lot of questions as to how this BOM may be used by shops.

To clarify - you can run a class or sit and sew group for the 2021 BOM, in fact please do, I would love you to! However, EVERY member of the class or group MUST be a member of the program in their own right through my website, and therefore downloading their own copies of the patterns and videos. It is not OK to copy the pattern for the class, or to copy the pattern to kit it up. If you want to offer fabric you are very welcome, but the members must bring in their material requirements and then you can help them out.

If you would like to run the Rainy Days and Sun Rays quilt as a monthly BOM program for your shop, it will be available as a pattern book and broken-down month by month as a shop program. The 2020 quilts, Growing Wild and A Little Wilderness are available from March 2021. The 2016, 2017 and 2018 and 2019 quilts, Happy Days, Down the Rabbit Hole, The Grasshopper, Simple Folk and Coming Home, are all available as stand-alone books for you to sell, or shop programs for you to run right now. Contact bom2017@sarahfielke.com for more information or to order. The BOM program has been run very successfully by shops since 2017 and we look forward to having you on board!

What can I post on social media?

You can post your quilt in progress, I really encourage it as everyone loves seeing what you're all up to, and so do I! It's lovely to share your progress with other BOM members and with your friends. Please say what the pattern is and where people can find it if they want to - so many times people see what you're making and want to play along with you.

We had such a lovely, positive, fun group of peeps on Facebook and Instagram in 2020 and it's so nice chatting to you all, seeing everyone's fabric choices and quilts evolve.

I am active on social media often and available to answer questions or give you advice here and there. Please post pictures of your quilt's progress and chat to me and the others in the program. However, please DO NOT post block measurements, templates, technique

instructions, excerpts from the patterns, your password etc. on social media, your blog or other quilting websites.

The private Facebook group can be found by searching “Sarah Fielke BOM Rainy Days” in your Facebook search bar. You will then send me a request to join the group and I will approve it.

If you have requested to join the group and aren't approved within 48 hours, please check your Messenger messages. If the name you use for PayPal isn't the same as your Facebook name (often people use their business name or their husband's name in PayPal), then I can't find your subscription and will need your help with a name or email address to find you so I can approve you to the group. I get a lot of requests from people who are spam or not subscribed to the program, which is why I need to check.

Even if you aren't really into Facebook, I do encourage you to join this group and get to know everyone - it's a really lovely, friendly and social way of meeting other quilters from many other countries (and close by too!) and sharing your stitching, and as it's private no one else on the internet can see it or see that you've been there, just us! You won't miss any information if you don't join; it's just a nice extra.

The hashtags for Instagram are #sarahfielkeBOM and #rainydaysandsunraysquilt. Please tag your pics and tag me, @sfielke, so we can all see what you're up to! Feel free to check out previous year's groups too and see what amazing quilts everyone produced. #sarahfielkeBOM is the main one but there's also #happydaysquilt #downtherabbitholequilt #thegrasshopperquilt #simplefolkquilt, #cominghomequilt, #alittlewildernessquilt and #growingwildquilt.

**Unfortunately, it must be said- it's a sad old world sometimes. Let's keep the social media experience positive peeps! It's so easy for people's feathers to get ruffled and comments that are typed often don't translate how they were meant. If you don't like something, think there is a pattern error, think someone is being mean, critical or unfair, or have another issue PLEASE (please?) contact me first before posting about it. So often things are a misunderstanding or are easily cleared up, and posting impulsive comments just makes things upsetting for everybody. I am very available, via Facebook Messenger, Instagram PM or sarah@sarahfielke.com. Please remember that I live in Australia and if you live elsewhere, sometimes I might not respond immediately because I'm asleep - or maybe travelling, teaching, eating my dinner, in the shower..... No one works 24/7, but I do my best to get back to you ASAP.

Rude, overtly negative, links to other websites or teachers' videos etc. and ALL political comments will be removed, and I reserve the right to do that, or to block anyone from the Facebook group if that very unfortunate need arises. I just want everyone to have fun!

How does the notions kit work?

*****Orders for the notions kit will open on December 15*****

All of the information about the kit and what is contained in it you will find in the material requirements document, which will be uploaded to the website AND ALSO EMAILED TO YOU on DECEMBER 10. This gives everyone a chance to have a look and a read before the orders

open. You will also find a lot of information about the products I suggest and their uses in the Notions video on the website which will be uploaded on the same day.

The kit is NOT COMPULSORY, and neither is the template set, you can buy all of it or just a few pieces as you need. The kit is an option for those wanting to use the same notions and templates as I do, and some things to make the process easier for you. The kit is structured on my website so that you can buy everything in one go, or just add the bits and pieces you want to purchase and leave out what you don't.

I ship the kits worldwide - please take note that the website cannot take into account my being able to package things together, box size etc. and so may charge you too much postage. I will always refund any overage after your package has shipped and let you know that I have done so. I structure the BOM programs like this on purpose - it's a once only postage charge on notions, instead of a monthly shipped fabric package - which makes it all cheaper for you in the long run. I will always try to avoid customs costs for you where I can.

All prices on the website are in AUSTRALIAN DOLLARS which are worth a lot less than US dollars, UK pounds or Euro, so the prices are cheaper for you in those currencies!

All of the notions are for preorder and will ship from mid-January onwards. You will receive an email when your package is shipped. Everything will remain available all year for purchase should you change your mind and decide you need something after all!

IMPORTANT!!! Australia Post's regular fees do not include tracking on international packages. (Domestic packages are automatically tracked). While it is very rare for an International package to go missing, I have had a few in this last year with the whole Covid situation, and so those who have ordered from me in the past will find that the costs are slightly more than usual. This ensures that every package is tracked. If you don't want tracking please let me know and I can lower the postage slightly for you, however I cannot then be responsible for a replacement if the package does go missing.

Do I have to have the templates?

The short answer is no - you don't. All the templates will be included in each month's pattern for you to print out and make your own each month. The kit includes the piecing templates, and this year it also includes some of the larger applique templates, as well as the circles. I really do recommend that you get them however, and that's not a sales pitch - it really does make things much easier and more accurate for you. Every circle in the quilt except the largest ones also come with a peeper and a pre-cut cardboard circle for my circle technique, so that you have accurate appliquéd circles.

To see more about the kit please watch the Notions video on December 10.

Design FAQs for Rainy Days and Sun Rays

* No! You can't see a picture of the whole quilt. Why? Because it's not finished yet! I work a few months ahead of you all. This means I can tweak and tailor the design and videos as I go to see if people have issues. The design will be as close to the sketch as I can manage, but I of course reserve the right to change things here and there as I go.

* Yes! the backgrounds behind the circles are pieced.

- * The Whirligig and Dresden blocks are pieced and then appliquéd into the background.
- * All the applique instruction given is for my own method of hand needleturn applique, however all the templates are suitable for machine appliqué.
- * The border rainbows are appliquéd on the outside, and the insides are free standing machine sewn tabs that are movable! If you are familiar with my Whirligig quilt, then they're like that - and if you're not, then you're in for a fun surprise.

Are there any design options this year?

Ok so if you've done my BOMs before you know I like giving you options. And also, that I really like birds. Birds are cheery and chirpy and cute and pretty. My house is surrounded by bushland that is FULL of birds, everything from tiny little finches to parrots and kookaburras. I even see pelicans because we are near the sea! So, they're always on my radar I guess. I also know that some of you really don't like birds, because you've told me :)

So, the design options this year are:

- * Option to change the little birds out for flowers (there will be a special design for each block). My quilt will have birds.
- * Option to not piece the background triangles, and instead just have one piece of fabric for each block
- * Option to make the borders wider or smaller etc. to make the quilt a different size
- * Option to leave the tabs out of the border and applique them instead

Please note that I will not give information on resizing the blocks or the appliqué in order to make the quilt smaller.

What if I don't keep up?

Peeps, this is YOUR quilt! There is no pressure whatsoever from me to "keep up". The patterns are there for you to start the next part of the quilt whenever you are ready, and if you want to take two or three years to make it then you just knock yourself out! There will be people who complete the current section of the quilt within days, and people who are months "behind" - or rather, making it at their own pace. Either one is just peachy with me. As I say regularly, you aren't behind you're just working at your own pace.

It must also be said, I have a lot of beginner quilters, and especially beginner hand appliquérs, taking my BOM program, and I LOVE that. If you are NOT a beginner quilter, a lot of my techniques might be different than what you are used to. I have been teaching, writing and designing for over 20 years, and I have my own and sometimes quite unique way of teaching things. Give them a go! You might learn something new.

You are welcome of course to make your quilt in any way and with any technique that you fancy - I just ask please that you don't post in the BOM social media groups about how you don't use my technique and how to do the technique you are using. All it does is make other students confused and upset that they have done something wrong. It may seem like a little thing but it's actually a really big issue that I've encountered in all the previous years in the

BOM, so I'm asking you all nicely please :)

How big is the quilt this year?

The Rainy Days and Sun Rays quilt is a Queen size, at 96", or 2.4m square finished.

If you choose to alter the size of the templates I cannot be responsible for the rest of the measurements in the quilts. I will not be giving instruction on altering the size of the quilts, or material requirements to do that.

There is a lot of hand applique in these quilts by the looks of things. Can I do it by machine?

Sure thing! It's YOUR quilt; you can do it however you please. All the appliqué templates are able to be used to fusible machine appliqué if you would rather do it that way - you just need to remember to flip the templates over when you trace them, or they will be facing backwards.

Like most of my quilts, Rainy Days and Sun Rays is designed as a project where the piecing is done by machine and the applique by hand. All instruction given will be for machine piecing and hand needle turn applique using my personal method.

How do I get the colouring sheet, and how do I use it?

The colouring in sheet is available to everyone at no cost. It will be available as a download on the website from December 10 when the material requirements are posted.

This sheet is able to be printed as many times as you like for your own personal use (or for your kids to colour in!) If you have trouble with your local printer, take this page of the pattern with you and show them this -

I, Sarah Fielke, designer of this quilt and pattern, give permission for this colouring sheet to be printed and copied for personal use.

The sheet is designed to be printed at A3 size due to the complexity of the quilt - any smaller and it makes it very difficult to colour in by hand. Please watch the notions video on December 10 for information about colouring the sheet digitally in an app.

Why can't it hurry up and be January 31?

I know right?? I can't wait to start either! Not too long to go peeps :) In the meantime, everyone please be safe and healthy and happy, and watch out for the first bit of excitement on December 10.