



Merry and Bright

Welcome and some notes!

Hi everyone and welcome to my very first Christmas BOM! I'm so glad to see you all. I hope we are going to have a fantastic, fun filled time sewing together.

This document is like the BOM encyclopaedia. Please read ALL of the following carefully - you will find that the answers to a lot of the questions you might have about the BOM already, and also as we go along, are in the following information. This information will be posted on the Merry and Bright webpage at www.sarahfielkeblockofmonth.com from now onwards so that if you're wondering about something, you know where to find the answer!

Here's some FAQ's about how the program runs before we get into the nitty gritty - but the most exciting thing you need to know is that for the first time, I have shops participating in my BOM program at the same time as it runs. That means kits! Read on for more info a little further down....

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 Merry and Bright tree skirt design, fabric inspirations and colour ideas.	May 15
Notions on sale	Optional acrylic template set and notions to help make the quilt – for sale at www.sarahfielke.com and participating shops.	Upon signup
Colour Planner	A large scale, printable black and white drawing to help you colour design your tree skirt	Upon signup

Notions Shipped	ASAP upon order. The template sets are made to order so there may be a week or two between your order and shipping. Please note that this may differ if you order from a store and not from me.	Shipped ASAP from May 15
Merry and Bright Patterns and Videos	Patterns and videos released onto website starting from July 15, 2021	Month 1 – July 15 Month 2 – August 15 Month 3 – September 15 Month 4 – October 15 Month 5 – November 15 Month 6 – December 15
Merry and Bright Competition	There are some BEAUTIFUL Christmas fabric bundles up for grabs in this competition! Details of how to win available May 15 on my Instagram (@sfielke), my blog (www.thelastpiece.net) or the Merry and Bright Facebook page.	Entry opens May 1, 2021, and closes July 15, 2021. Prizes shipped ASAP upon announcement of winners.

What happens when I join?

If you are a new BOM member:

You will receive an email receipt from PayPal after your payment. 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. Especially when the BOM first opens, it can take a long time to manually set everyone's accounts up so please be patient. The email asks you to set your password. Once this is done, you will be logged in for access to view the patterns and videos you have purchased. Waiting there right now will be the Merry and Bright Welcome Notes, a welcome video explaining the Notions and giving a few sneak peeks, and a Colouring Sheet to help you plan. Material Requirements for the skirt will be uploaded to the website on May 15.

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 the website already:

The new BOM page for Merry and Bright will be opened up on your existing website account within 48 hours. Simply log in at www.sarahfielkeblockofmonth.com with the email address and password you have used to access previous BOMs, 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 still have any problems, please email Damian at bom2017@sarahfielke.com for help.

What do I get with my BOM?

Each month you will be able to access a new part of the tree skirt – a pattern with templates and a video tutorial available on www.sarahfielkeblockofmonth.com . This project will roll out in six sections, each one being a different motif on the tree skirt. I will NOT, under any circumstance and no matter how hard you beg, release measurements, templates, etc. in advance of the release date on the 15th of the month. Sorry :)

How do I get the patterns and videos?

You will receive an email from us each month when the pattern and video is uploaded to www.sarahfielkeblockofmonth.com , but this email will NOT have anything attached to it.

You do not need this email to view the pattern and video. It is only a notification that the pattern and video have been uploaded to the website. You can go to the website anytime to view the new pattern and video (and all the previous months). They are uploaded by the end of the day on the last day of the month.

Access to this website is only for subscribers to the BOM. If you were a member in previous years, you will have already received instructions on how to access the website and reset your password. The patterns and videos will remain available to subscribers here for the foreseeable future, even after the BOM has finished provided you have paid in full.

If you are a subscription member and stop paying your monthly fees, you will lose access to the pattern you have not completed paying for.

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 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. If you are participating in the BOM through a shop, you must still sign up for the program yourself through our website to receive access to the patterns and videos. Access to the website is trackable.

If you are a shop and would like to be a part of the Merry and Bright program, contact bom2017@sarahfielke.com for more information.

What can I post on social media?

You can post your quilt in progress, I encourage it! We have such a lovely, fun group

of peeps on Facebook and Instagram, and it's so nice chatting to you all, seeing everyone's fabric choices, and then quilts, evolve. Many of the students have done quite a few of my BOM programs and are very helpful and encouraging. I am active on social media often and available to answer questions or give you advice here and there. Please post pictures of your project's progress and chat to me and the others in the program. However, please DO NOT post measurements, templates, template details, 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 Merry and Bright" 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 messages or your "other" folder in your messages.

If the name you signed up with on PayPal isn't the same as your Facebook name, 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. This is not your Facebook email address but the email address you used for PayPal. I get a lot of requests from people 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 lovely, friendly and social way of meeting other quilters and sharing your stitching, and as it's private no one else on the internet can see it or you, just us!

The hashtags for Instagram are #sarahfielkeBOM and #merryandbrightbom. Please tag your pics and tag me, @sfielke, so we can all see what you're up to! Feel free to check the previous year's groups too and see what amazing quilts everyone produced, #sarahfielkeBOM2016, #happydaysquilt, #sarahfielkeBOM2017, #downtherabbitholequilt, #sarahfielkeBOM2018, #simplefolkquilt, #thegrasshopperquilt, #cominghomequilt, #growingwildquilt, #alittlewildernessquilt and #sarahfielkebom. You can also see galleries of previous quilts made at my website, www.sarahfielke.com.

HOWEVER. Sometimes it's a sad old world, and this does need to be said - 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 as how they are meant. If you don't like something, think there is a pattern error, think someone is being mean or unfair, or have another issue PLEASE contact me first before posting about it. So often things are a misunderstanding or are easily cleared up, and posting impulsive cranky comments just makes things upsetting for everybody. I am 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 be asleep - or maybe travelling, teaching, eating my dinner, having my hair cut..... No one works 24/7, but I do my best to get back to you ASAP. Rude, unkind and negative comments will be removed and I reserve the right to block anyone from the Facebook group if that unfortunate need arises. I just want everyone to have fun!

Can I buy a fabric kit for this quilt? Or take a class at a quilt store?

For the first time ever in one of my BOM programs I'm excited to say - YES, you can! For this program I have several shops participating. There's only a few, but this is a bit of an experiment for me - I hope there's one near you, and if there isn't, let your local know that they can still sign up to participate right up until July 15. They need to email me, sarah@sarahfielke.com for the details.

You will need to sign up for the program through my website in order to get the pattern and templates. Some shops are stocking the template sets and some are not - you will need to talk to the various shops as to what you can get from them, but I will update this list on the BOM website and in the Facebook group with what everyone is providing, and with new shops if they join as we go along. You can of course choose to buy notions from me, and fabric from them, whichever is possible or works best for you. I will not be providing any fabric kits for the tree skirts.

The shops participating so far this year are:

Bossche Quilt and Meer - Netherlands

Wietske will be offering kits and a sit and sew support class.

Email - wietske.meinders@hotmail.com

Website - www.wietskesquilts.blogspot.com

Instagram - @wietskeweegenaar

Facebook - /wietskeweegenaar

Giddygoat Patchwork - Ireland

Gerardine will be offering fabric kits for the quilt, as well as running help and guidance or a sit and sew as Covid restrictions permit.

Email - gerardinecahill@gmail.com

Phone - 00353872360521

Instagram - @giddygoatpatchwork

Facebook - /GiddygoatCraTloe

Kate Quilts - Australia

Kate will be offering fabric kits and templates.

Email - katequilts@yahoo.com.au

Phone - 0411414099

Website - www.katequilts.com

Instagram - @katequilts

Facebook - /katequilts

Modern Quilt Club - UK

Lisa will be offering fabric and haberdashery kits.

Email - lisa@modernquiltclub.com

Website - www.modernquiltclub.com

Instagram - @modernquiltclub

My Fabricology - Australia

Susan will be offering fabric kits and a social sewing group.

Email - orders@myfabricology.com.au

Website - www.myFabricology.com.au

Facebook - /Susanmyfabricology

Instagram - @myfabricology

How does the notions kit work?

All of the information about the kit and what is contained in it you will find at www.sarahfielke.com in the “Merry and Bright Notions” tab. The notions kit is NOT compulsory, and you can buy all of it or just a few pieces as you need. If you are doing this BOM through a patchwork store you may find that they are stocking the notions and templates, so please check there first!

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 build in everything you want to purchase, and leave out what you don't. I ship the kits worldwide - please take note that the website will not take into account my being able to package things together etc. and so may charge you too much postage. I will refund any difference after shipping. If you would like a more accurate indication of postage please contact me before you buy, telling me what you would like and where you are in the world, and I can help you. I don't have any control over how much the postage costs; Australia is a long way away! You might be surprised though that the postage isn't as much as you think. However you chose to build your kit, it's a ONE OFF postage charge and everything will come all at the same time.

When will notions I ordered ship?

If ordered from my website, notions for this BOM will begin shipping asap. The templates are made to order so there may be a small delay before your order ships.

Notions will remain available for purchase throughout the program should you change your mind and decide you need something after all! Depending on availability, it may take a few weeks for the order to be sent but we will let you know if there are any issues.

What if I don't keep up?

Peeps, this is YOUR project! There is no pressure whatsoever from me to “keep up”. The patterns are there for you to start the next part of the skirt whenever you are ready, and if you want to take two years to make it, then you just knock yourself out! There will be people who complete the current section within days, and people who are months “behind” - or rather, making it at their own pace. Either one is just peachy with me.

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 - 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. Just PLEASE don't post on social media about how your technique is “better”, or “quicker” than mine or how to do it - all it does is make others confused and upset that they have done the wrong thing, I get avalanches of worried messages and it makes me cross that my peeps are upset. :)

Posts about or links to other teacher's techniques or patterns will be removed from the Facebook group without notice.

How big is the skirt?

The Merry and Bright Tree Skirt is a large circle that will fit inside a 44" square (110cm)

There is a lot of handwork in the skirt 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 is suited 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. I won't be giving instruction on machine applique as it just isn't my thing, but there are a plethora of excellent machine appliqué tutorials out there.

For Merry and Bright, all instruction is for hand applique and machine piecing.

Terms and Conditions of Membership

1. Membership to the program is conditional on paying for the full program. If you are paying your membership monthly, and you discontinue your payments, your membership access will be cancelled.
2. Any Member found sharing, photocopying, distributing, teaching from without permission or generally using the pattern illegally will have their membership cancelled immediately with no recourse.
3. There are no refunds for terminating your membership as PDF patterns are not able to be recalled.
3. Abusive behaviour on social media will result in your removal from the Facebook group.
4. We are working from a sketch. All my Block of the Month programs work this way. The sketch is not to scale, represents no measurements, nor is it a perfect representation of the project. Sarah reserves the right to modify the design as the process progresses.

How long does it take for Damian to return questions or contact via email?

Remember, we are based in Australia. So if you're on the other side of the world, any emails sent to Damian or Sarah (that includes the Contact form on the website), will be replied to within 24 hours except on weekends, when we will reply on the Monday. For example, most email from the USA or Europe, would come to us when we are asleep, so we will review the next day.

Please remember peeps - you might be participating through a shop, but the patterns are all written and designed by me. If you're having an issue with something to do with the design or construction, please go to the source - I know the answer :)

For all questions regarding website access, subscriptions and subscription payment etc, please contact Damian - bom2017@sarahfielke.com

For all questions regarding techniques, measurements, construction or orders from the shop, please contact Sarah - sarah@sarahfielke.com

For all questions regarding class times, kit prices etc please contact the specific shop you are interested in.