

Good Morning All!

It was great to see those of you who ventured out last night to our first Guild Meeting of the Year. It was fun.

As for this year's Challenge: Card Tricks, we had a few more members sign up to play last night. I still have cards. There is plenty of time - I collect the Quilts in March. So, come play with us!

Since playing cards have a slightly rounded edge, our card must have one as well. After several auditions, I settled on the following:

To Round your Playing Card corners:

- * You may round your corners prior to quilting or after. You could use template as a marking line in the corner so that you know that the card will have even spacing around the edges. This would be the same as if the card was one block that you would square up. The choice is yours. I plan to mark my edge. Then, after I have squared the card, I will round off my edge, just prior to binding.**
- * Make a 7" circle template out of paper or what ever material works for you. Place that 7" circle up into the corner of your card and secure in place.**
- * Use this gentle curve pattern to cut the quilt edge off leaving you with a slightly rounded corner.**
- * I will be ordering the binding fabric with assistance from Lisa at Pins and Needles. I will keep you posted as to when it will be ready for distribution.**
- * Lisa has also offered to do a zoom video with me on how to create the bias binding. It really is an easy process. So, if there is a need, we will do it.**

This email is coming from my direct email so please use this email to get in touch with me. I am in the directory as well and my info is current. As always, never hesitate to contact me.

April

NORTHERN STAR QUILT GUILD QUILT CHALLENGE 2023

Ready for the next Challenge?? Good! me too! This Challenge will be the perfect opportunity to try something new! Leave your comfort zone and experiment with some of the wonderful things we have learned during all our zoom classes. It is a great opportunity to even combine techniques. The Challenge is a good size but, not overwhelming.

Without further adooooo, The 2023 Challenge is:

"CARD TRICK'S"

FORMAT:

- You will be picking a card from a traditional deck of cards. You must contact me with the card you want to make. I will then pull that card out of the deck and record your card choice. First come first served!! So, contact me early to get the card you want. If you want an additional challenge, I could contact me and I will pull a blind card from the deck for you. Your choice.
- As a reminder, a standard deck of cards has 4 of each card number, Ace through 10, 4 Jacks, 4 Queens, 4 Kings and 2 Jokers.
- I will record the card that you have gotten. This is being done to ensure that the deck we create follows the integrity of real deck of cards.
- The suits of the card are out and are being replaced with any sewing notion of your choice!
- There **must** be at least **one** notion on your quilt card along with the number or letter which represents your card. An Ace has an A, a Jack has a J, a Queen has a Q and the King has a K.
- The quilt must consist of 3 layers - back, top and batting and quilted by either hand or machine and created by only one maker.
- The choice of fabrics, colors, threads and embellishments and quilting, are all up to you.
- The quilt can be constructed in any technique you wish, i.e., paper piecing, traditional piecing, appliqué or collage. It's also the perfect opportunity to try something new like improv. It's your choice!
- Don't forget the sleeve for hanging and a label with your name and quilt name if you choose.
- The quilt size **must** be 30 inches across the top and it **must** be 42 inches long. These proportions are in keeping with a standard deck size proportions.
- The Guild will be supplying the binding for this Challenge. The binding fabric will be black and white. It will be a small scale print. This will make the quilts uniform and will make for a wonderful display.
- The fabric will be distributed to you when we know that you are committed to participating in this challenge. This is being done simply to make sure the Guild does not purchase excess fabric that will not be used.

Deadline: The Quilts will be collected at the March meeting.

Voting: Voting will take place at the April meeting.

Ribbons: Three Ribbons (1st, 2nd & 3rd), will be awarded in the following categories:

Most Creative
Best Design
Best Visual Impact
Best Workmanship

- **Additional Information:**

If your card is the number 5, you can make one large notion in the center along with the number 5 or you can make 5 notions in the pattern or your choice along with the number 5. You get to

be really creative with the design. I have attached an example of the 5 card with a very basic very boring example.

If your card is a King, Queen or Jack, you can make just one large picture or you can split them in half as they appear on the deck of cards. Also, your choice!

Here are some cool stuff that I have found on Pinterest with some really awesome inspiration. Once you start searching more and more, lots of options and inspiration will start popping into your inbox. playingarts.com; search vintage playing cards; wings of whimsy; the world of playing cards; playing cards stop 1000; 2011 the curator deck

This year's Challenge will be a little different. We are revisiting the plan to enter our Challenge in the AQS Show in Grand Rapids, Michigan, in November. AQS has an entry for The Ultimate Guild Challenge Quilts. Only 8 Quilts will get entered from our Challenge into theirs. The Rules are strict so make sure you follow our Challenge Rules. I will have more details at the September meeting on this topic. If we do not wish to participate in this AQS Show going forward, we could discuss this at September meeting as well. However, we are a talented bunch and we should flaunt it!

We are considering doing a Zoom Pop-Up where I could schedule a short info style Zoom to do a Q & A. Let me know your thoughts and if this would make it easier.

As always, any ??? don't hesitate to ask.

Thank you,
April Russell, Challenge Coordinator