

Quilters Unlimited Challenge 2022-2023

Take Me Back to 1973 –

Remember polyester, flared trousers, platform shoes, sideburns, mullets, Afros, and Farah Fawcett Flicks? Put those memories and others from the early 70's to the test and make a Far Out! quilt that reflects your imagination. You can tie a yellow ribbon round the ole oak tree or kill it softly with a song, but make it about the 70's. Can you dig it?

For additional inspiration on 1970's quilting, take a look at this article - [Modern Quilt Designs - Roots in the 1970s - Quilting Daily | Quilting Daily](#)

Celebrating Gold –

The 50th Anniversary is celebrated with gold. Gold signifies optimism, achievement, and wealth. While 50 can also sound old, we are just warming up folks. We have a wealth of quilting experience in the 50 years of Quilters Unlimited. Bring out your gold fabrics and celebrate 50 years of Quilters Unlimited – or maybe the future of QU.

For additional golden inspiration, take a look at this article - <https://symbolsage.com/color-gold-symbolism/>

Your challenge is to create a quilt with either “Take Me Back to 1973” or “Celebrating Gold” as its theme. Or maybe you will be inspired to do two quilts – one for each theme. We encourage everyone in the guild to participate in one or both of these challenges.

Basic Rules of the Challenge:

- **#1 RULE: HAVE FUN!!!** Use your imagination! Your creation can be traditional or contemporary.
- **Item Selection:** Your challenge must be a quilt or wall hanging, not a tote bag, pocket book, vest or jacket, etc.
- **Finished Size:** Your challenge can be any finished size you want, BUT --- and there is always a but --- **it must be at least 20” wide and at least 20” long** – no mug rugs. Your challenge does not have to be square.
- **Methods of Construction:** You are free to use whatever construction or quilting methods work best for your creation (i.e., machine piece, hand piece, paper piece, machine appliqué, hand appliqué, machine or hand quilt, etc.). We encourage you to challenge yourself and be creative. [While the first rotary cutter wasn't released until 1979, we will still allow you to use them for this challenge.]

- **Fabric Requirement:** You can use whatever fabrics you want in your challenge (even pieces of that polyester leisure suit hiding in the closet). There is also no limit to the total number of fabrics or kinds of fabrics used in your challenge.
- **Embellishments:** Embellishments are optional. If you use embellishments, please ensure they are secure to the quilt and not dangling or loose (unless it is gold necklaces or earrings and you invite me over to inspect before showing them – wink, wink, nudge, nudge).
- **Sleeve:** Make sure you put a sleeve on your quilt. The instructions for a sleeve follow.
- **Label:** Make sure you put a label with your name on the back of your challenge. Give credit to the source that inspired you.
- **Due Date:** Finished challenges should be completed by the end of January 2023.
- **Virtual Sewing Sessions:** We have set up a couple of virtual sewing sessions where we can share ideas, processes, get feedback from others, or just sit and sew together. Mark your calendars now for
 - Sunday, July 17, from noon to 4:00 p.m.
 - Sunday, August 7, from noon to 4:00 p.m.
 - Sunday, October 2, from noon to 4:00 p.m., and
 - Sunday, December 4, from noon to 4:00 p.m.
- We'll send reminders out with the Zoom links a week or so before these dates.

If you have any questions about the challenge, please contact Joanne Fitzgerald at QUPresident@quiltersunlimited.org

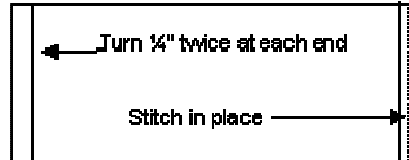
Here's a crazy quilt made with lots of polyester from the 1970's that belongs to CQU member Linda Meyer – thanks for sharing that with us. I'm pretty sure I had a skirt or top made of some of those fabrics. Catch you on the flip side!



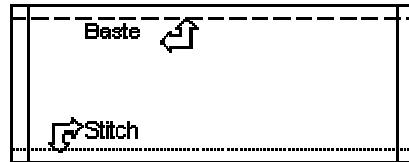
How to Make a Quilt Sleeve

The hanging sleeve for your quilt does not need to be a permanent hanging sleeve. If, however, you put a temporary sleeve over a permanent sleeve (for instance, if the show sleeve needs to be wider than the permanent sleeve), be sure that the permanent sleeve is completely covered.

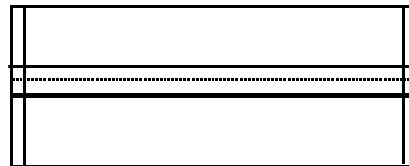
Cut a 10"-wide strip of washed muslin or cotton fabric, making it 1" shorter than top edge of quilt. Turn under and press 1/4" at each short end, then turn and press again (Diagram I). Stitch in place.



With wrong sides together, stitch long edges together 1/2" from raw edges (Diagram II). Baste the long folded edge loosely, 1/2" from edge.



Roll the seam to the middle of one side, and place this side against the quilt backing. Press open or to one side; doesn't matter. The basted seam should be away from the quilt, opposite to the stitched seam.



Slipstitch the top edge of the tube to the quilt backing about 1" below the inner edge of the binding and the lower edge of sleeve flat to the quilt backing, catching only the lower layer of sleeve. Remove the basting so the front of the hanging sleeve is a little larger than the side which has been slip stitched to the backing. This excess will be taken up by the pole, allowing your quilt to hang smoothly without a ripple at the top. If you like, write your name, address and phone number on this hanging sleeve in permanent ink.