

## BLOCK OF THE MONTH - 2008

### Happy Hearts Friendship Blocks

The emphasis this year will be on surface design and embellishment. Also the blocks will be **signed and traded** each month so at the end of the year you will have several blocks to use for a **Friendship Wall Hanging**.

The block size will be 8 1/2" x 10 1/2" with the finished size being 8" x 10" (a fat quarter may be used for two blocks).

Each month the same sized heart designs will be used, emphasizing different surface design and embellishment techniques. The hearts may be attached to the background by whatever applique method you choose.\* Blocks will be signed on the background at the lower right side of the heart using a permanent pen for writing on fabric. \*\*

#### Supply list:

Background fabrics - 8 1/2" x 10 1/2" creams to tans, and pinks to rose shades of fabrics.

Heart fabrics - Scraps of the above, they may be prints as long as they look like tan or pink shades of fabric

Embellishments- Lace, embroidery thread, buttons, ribbon, beads, etc.

Surface design,- rough edge applique, pleats/tucks, stamping with fabric paint or ink, 3D fabric folding, etc.

Each month you participate, you will place your signed block in a gallon sized baggie with your name also written on the baggie. Then drop your block off at the back of the church with the Block of the Month gals. They will redistribute the blocks and you can pick up your baggie at the break.

\*\*The Block of the Month gals will have a permanent fabric marking pen available if you need it to sign your block.

\* During the January ECHOS the Block of the Month gals will show you three easy applique techniques for hearts (Yo-Yo method, dryer sheet method, and the thermal bonding method ). Also examples will be shown for the first four trades.

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### FEBRUARY

Surface design: Rough edge applique of the two hearts.

Background: a cream or tan 8 1/2" x 10 1/2" piece of fabric.

Hearts : shades of pink to rose fabrics, three layers for each heart.

Directions: Each heart is three layers thick. Cut the fabrics the exact size of the heart patterns. Sew big heart (3 layers) to the background (centered) approximately 1/4" in from the outside edges of the hearts. Make cuts from loose ends of heart inward almost to stitching line about 1/4" apart, all the way around the large layered heart. Rough up the edge.

\* Attach the small three layered heart to the large heart following the same directions. Sign your name on the background along the lower right edge of the heart.

\*The usual way is to zig zag the edges of the background, put the block in an enclosed pillowcase arrangement (it sheds terribly) and throw it in the washer and the dryer. OR try an old toothbrush OR The Block of the Month gals will have a stiff brush you can use at MTQ.

### MARCH

Embellishment: Lace edged heart.

Background: a pink or rose 8 1/2" x 10 1/2" piece of fabric.

Hearts: cream or tan pieces.

Special needs: about one yard of fairly narrow lace if doing both hearts.

Directions: Try your best to make your one or two lace edged hearts the size of the basic heart templates. Example: ( if your lace is wide, make your heart shape"s maller all the way around before you sew your lace around the edge). Center your two hearts and sew them to your background using your chosen applique techniques. Sign your name on the background along the lower right edge of the heart.

## APRIL

Embellishments: Hand or machine embroidery.

Background: tan or cream 8 ½x 10 ½ piece of fabric.

Hearts: pink or rose shades of fabric.

Special needs: If embroidering with a sewing machine, you may need a stabilizer, such as Pellon or Stitch-n-Tear, behind the larger heart. You may also want to use an embroidery needle for your sewing machine and an open toe foot so you can see what's happening under your needle. If embroidering by hand you could use embroidery floss and an embroidery needle.

Directions: It's your choice of applique technique to prepare hearts for attachment to backgrounds. (For this month I used the thermal bond) You will be going around the perimeters of both hearts with some kind of embroidery stitch. Ladies with newer machines should have some fun with two or more of the fancy embroidery stitches. Other favorite stitches are the satin stitch and the blanket stitch. Those of you choosing to embroider by hand have many crazy quilt' stitches to choose from. Sign your name on the background along the lower right edge of the heart.

## MAY

Embellishment: Buttons and Bows

Background: pink or rose shade of 8 ½x 10 ½ piece of fabric.

Hearts: cream or tan pieces.

Special needs: assortment of buttons and bow making materials.

Directions: It's your choice of applique techniques to prepare hearts for attachment to backgrounds. (For May I used the dryer sheet method). Decorate your hearts and/or background with buttons and bows. You may want to use a stabilizer under the areas where the buttons and bows are attached. You may also want to use one or more of the embellishment or surface design skills that you have used in the first three months. Sign your name on the background along the lower right edge of the heart.

## JUNE

Embellishment: Beads

Background: a cream or tan 8 1/2 x 10 1/4 piece of fabric

Hearts: shades of pink or rose fabrics

Special needs: an assortment of beads ( any shape) in a color that you like.

Both Michaels and Jo-Ann Fabrics have selections of beads that can be purchased separately or in little packets.

Directions: For this month it would be wise to use a stabilizer behind your hearts or behind your background. Applique your hearts in place.

Possible placement for the beads could be: outlining your hearts, attach them in little clusters, or scatter them around to fit the pattern of your fabric. Here's your chance to experiment and be creative! When finished, sign your name on the background along the lower right edge of the heart.

## JULY

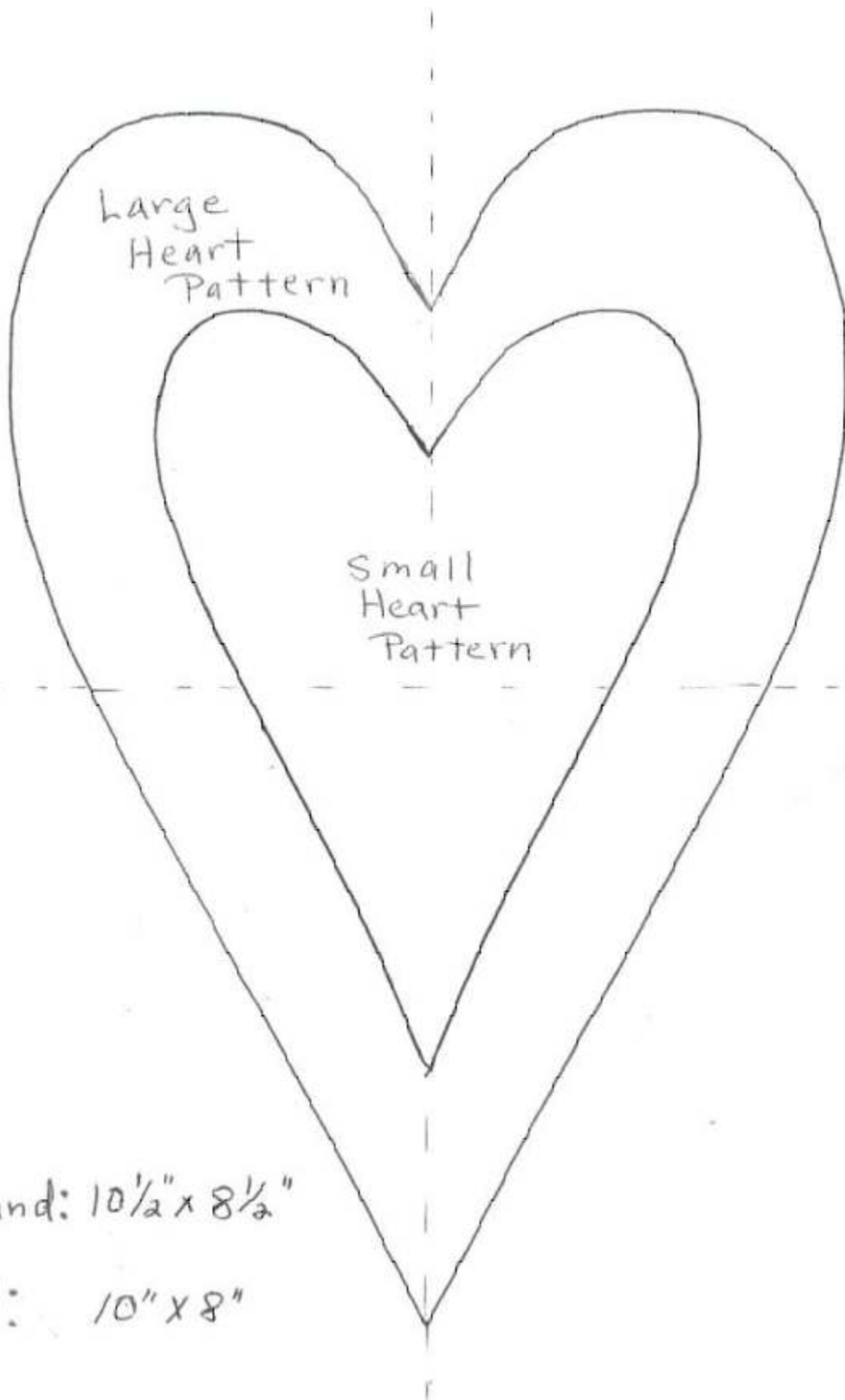
Surface Design: Tucks, pin tucks, or pleats or smocking

Background: a pink or rose 8 1/2 x 10 1/4 piece of fabric

Hearts: cream or tan pieces

Special needs: Tucks and pleats will take more fabric. If you want to do pin tucks you will need a double needle for your sewing machine. Also, you may want to use this technique on only one of the hearts because there will be added bulk.

Directions: Prepare your tan fabric with tucks or pleats, or smocking. I would suggest the fabric sheet method of preparing your hearts for applique. Center your hearts and applique them to the background. If you choose smocking, beads may also be fun to use. You are always encouraged to add other techniques to the one featured for the current month. When finished, sign your name on the background along the lower right edge of the heart.



Large  
Heart  
Pattern

Small  
Heart  
Pattern

Background:  $10\frac{1}{2}'' \times 8\frac{1}{2}''$

Finished:  $10'' \times 8''$

