



Hidden Agendas

a Hugs pattern for Quilts of Valour - Canada

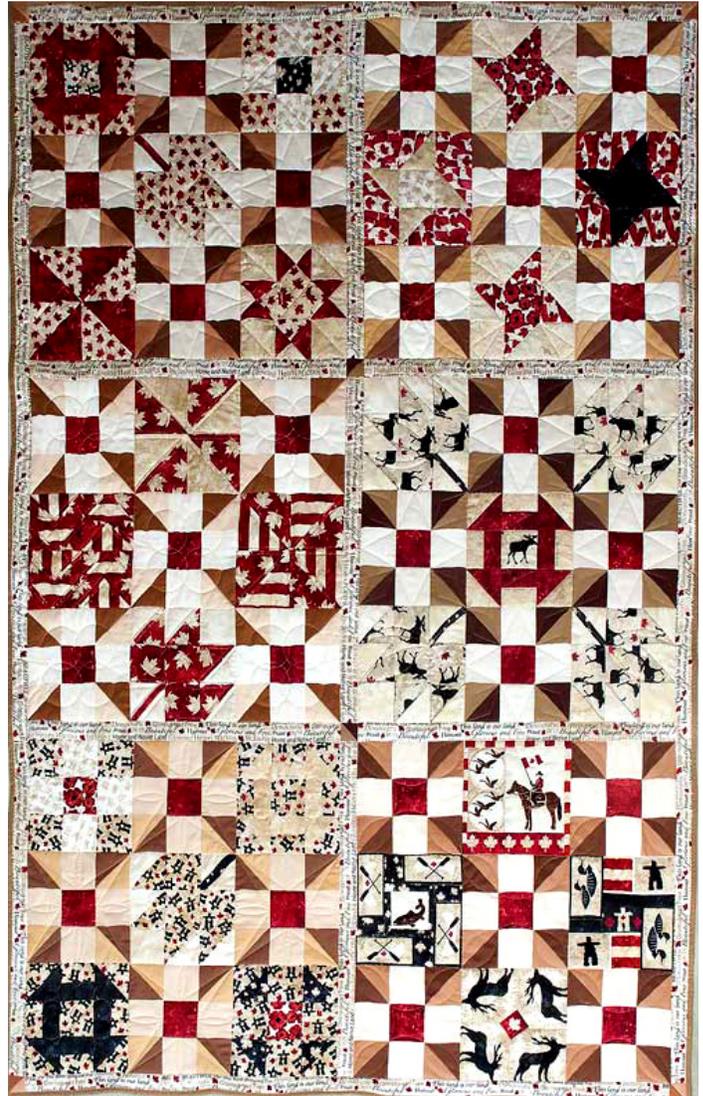
59in x 86in. medium level of sewing skills

Designed by QOV rep Gina DeLorenzi, Niagara Region

For this intriguing quilt you will need 27 hug blocks. It is constructed in 6 sections, each measuring 27in x 27in. Within each section there are nine 9inch blocks. Hidden Agendas refers to the layout: the hug blocks in each of the 6 sections have a theme, a similarity that I hope will engage the viewer. The idea was born when I received a pile of hug blocks that had 4 identical Maple Leaf blocks sewn from the Oh Canada moose fabric. So I began to sort the blocks, trying to make groupings of 4 or 5 hug blocks based on something that was the same in the block design or fabric.

There is a secondary pattern formed by 27 offset blocks. In sample quilt these off set blocks were sewn with a variety of dark, medium, and light solid shades of brown fabric. Dark and medium shade Half Square Triangle (HST) blocks move diagonally across the 6 sections creating the secondary pattern. Three sections are comprised of 4 hug blocks and 5 offset blocks. Three sections are comprised of 5 hug blocks and 4 offset blocks. The offset blocks will be called Nine Patch blocks in the instructions below. For these Nine Patch blocks, choose dark, medium and light fabrics from either a variety of printed fabric or select solid shades in a colour theme of your choice. Greens or browns blend best with the Oh Canada fabric from Northcott. Northcott is a major donor and supporter of Quilts of Valour - Canada. When laying out the Nine Patch blocks, be sure to keep the orientation of dark/medium HST's consistent as you would for a pinwheel layout.

The quilting on the sample quilt followed the theme of Hidden Agendas. Each section had different quilting patterns. The hug blocks had the one treatment and the offset blocks had a different treatment. All six sections were quilted differently.



Fabric Requirements:

- .3M dark shade fabric, either in one piece or from an assortment of scraps.
- .3M medium shade fabric, either in one piece or from an assortment of scraps.
- .9M light shade fabric, either in one piece or from an assortment of scraps.
- .3M red fabric
- 1M printed fabric for sashing and borders
- .6M binding fabric
- 5M backing fabric
- batting measuring 70in x 100in

Sort the hug blocks with Hidden Agendas. Themes in the sample quilt are: stars, moose, inukshuk print, poppy and flag prints, printed motifs such as loons, and Maple Leaf blocks. Decide on a pleasing array for the 6 sections in a 2 by 3 grid layout (two sections in each of three rows).

Cutting Instructions:

From both dark and medium shades of brown, cut $31 \frac{3}{8}$ inch x $3 \frac{7}{8}$ inch squares. See note below this section for an alternate cutting method.

From light brown fabric cut 108 3.5in x 3.5in squares.

From red fabric cut 27 3.5in x 3.5in squares.

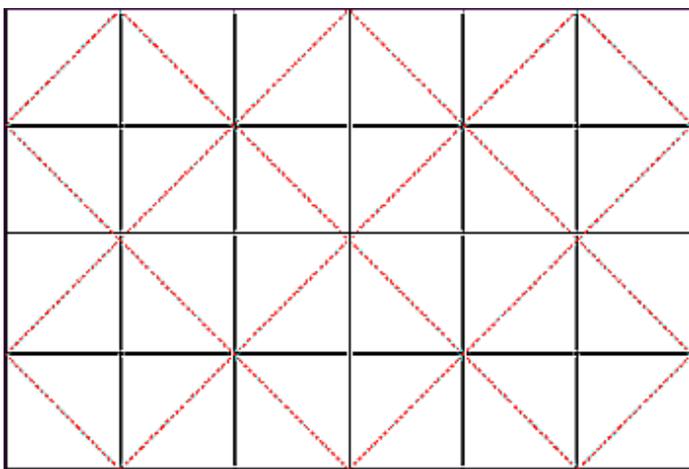
From 1M printed fabric cut three 2in x 27.5 inch strips across the width of fabric (3 vertical sashes). Cut four 2in x 27.5 inch strips across width of fabric, (4 horizontal sashes). Cut eight 2.5in strips across the width of fabric, (4 borders).

From binding fabric cut eight 2.5in strips across the width of fabric.

Divide backing fabric in half lengthwise.

Making the Half Square Triangles (HST's)

Method 1: Pairs of squares make the HST's. To make two HST's: place one dark and one medium $3 \frac{7}{8}$ inch square together, lined up accurately, right sides together. Carefully draw a pencil line diagonally across the medium patch. Now sew a scant quarter inch seam on either side of the drawn centre line. Cut along the drawn line, press seam to the dark side. Now you have made 2 HST's.



Method 2: You can make the HST's quicker and more easily if you decide to use only 2 pieces of fabric in total, one dark piece and one medium piece. Mark a grid of sewing lines with pencil on the wrong side of the medium shade piece, much as you would do if you used a paper piecing method for constructing the HST's. The grid divisions are $3 \frac{7}{8}$ inches per square, each square has diagonal cutting line as shown in the diagram. Several sites on the Internet give detailed instructions for making identical HST's in larger quantities using a grid system.

Construction:

1. For the 27 Nine Patch blocks: using your preferred method of making HSTs, from the dark and medium fabric(s) make 56 HST. Set four aside for cornerstone blocks, (four outer corners of quilt top).
2. Refer to the diagram for layout of a Section 1. Make 4 Nine Patch blocks, being careful to have the dark triangles rotate in a pinwheel style around the red centre square. Alternate 4 Nine Patches with 5 hug blocks with a Hidden Agenda. Make 3 Section 1.
3. Refer to the diagram for layout of a Section 2. Make 5 Nine Patch blocks, being careful to have the dark triangles rotate in a pinwheel style around the red centre square. Alternate 5 Nine Patches with 4 hug blocks with a Hidden Agenda. Make 3 Section 2.
4. Refer to the colour photo of the quilt. Sew a vertical sash between the two top sections, between the two middle sections and between the two bottom sections.
5. Make the small HST in the centre of both horizontal sashes from left over scraps: the size of the squares to cut is $2 \frac{3}{8}$ inches. These HST's will measure 2in including seam allowances. Sew 1 HST between 2 sash strips. Repeat. The new sash width should be 56in. Sew these sashes between rows made in step 4. Press all seams towards the sashes.
6. Join remaining eight 2.5in width of printed fabric strips in 4 pairs for the 4 borders. Measure across the top, middle and bottom of quilt top and take the average measurement. The sample quilt measurement was 56in wide. Cut top and bottom borders at this measurement, being sure to include the quarter inch seams on both sides. Sew these borders to the top and bottom of the quilt top, taking care to distribute the fabric evenly: divide the width of quilt into 4 divisions, divide the border strip into 4 divisions. Use a pencil to mark the divisions on the wrong side of both fabrics. Now carefully pin border divisions to quilt top divisions without stretching the border. Stitch these two seams and press seams towards the borders.
7. Repeat Step 6 for vertical borders. The sample quilt height measurement was 84.5in. Trim the 4 cornerstone HST's you had set aside to the same width as the border and sew one HST to either end of both vertical borders. Continue as described in step 6, distributing border fabric and quilt top divisions evenly. Remember that you will be pressing these seams towards the borders so try to not flip the sash seam allowances. This helps the quilter make a lovely stitch in the border ditch if she chooses.
8. Sew two backing fabric halves together to form the quilt backing making a one inch seam. Trim off the selvages, and press seam open or to one side, as you prefer. Complete the quilting process.
9. Sew binding strips together with diagonal seams. Press seams open, then press this continuous binding strip in half, wrong sides together. Attach binding in your preferred method.
10. Be sure to ask your area rep for the new official QOV label. Your rep will give you a quilt ID number. Quilt recipients often wish to send a thank you note and the ID will aid Quilts of Valour relay their message to you.