

# PRODUCTION-LINE PATCHWORK

Cathy (left) and Sarah prepare for their next one-day quilt course. To the left of the machine are the fabric strips laid out in a specific order. In the foreground are rotary cutter, cutting board and patchwork ruler.



An immensely satisfying technique for those who haven't time to quilt

**“YOU** can complete that patchwork design in a day,” said Cathy Anderson, pointing to an exquisitely coloured Log Cabin quilt. Noticing my scepticism, she challenged me to join her assembly-line quilt-in-a-day class. I did just that.

“We can't believe it,” gasped my friends as they admired my finished masterpiece. I couldn't either.

The quilt is created in a series of logical, easy steps, devised by American Eleanor Burns. When her children

A star Cushion-Quilt and (inset) the quilt cushion. The quilting, backing and batting are completed in a day course. An ideal gift, this cushion-quilt is particularly useful in a confined space such as a caravan where the cushion by day becomes a quilt by night. ▼



were small, she gave patch-craft lessons to supplement the family income. As there was very little time for preparation, she had to find quick ways to sew traditional patchwork patterns.

The production-line approach is in keeping with today's faster pace. Beautiful patterns can be created with no laborious templating and tacking to slow you down.

This streamlined method seems tailor-made for someone like Cathy — a born achiever and young woman who hates wasting time. She runs a busy legal practice from home each morning, then devotes the rest of the day to her two-year-old Timothy and husband Paul's Durban business, Mary Lou Collection.

Cathy and partner Sarah Dawson run quilt-in-a-day courses on certain Saturdays at the Anderson's lovely Durban North home. They meet you a week or so before your course to discuss fabric requirements and cutting procedures. Traditionally, your quilt design is made up of blocks, each block composed of light and dark strips of fabric.

Most of the pupils in my course matched colours to their bedroom fabric; I had to



Colleen Goy made this Log Cabin quilt with the Barn Rais-ing design using large floral motifs instead of small strips for the centres.



An unusual Log Cabin quilt in a combination of yellows and greens, made by Colleen Baise to match her bedroom curtains.



For her son's bedroom, Adie Phillips chose dramatic reds and blues using the Flying Geese pattern.

rely on Cathy's help and experienced eye to choose suitable fabrics for a little girl's cot quilt.

To complete your patchwork design in a day, you must come to your lesson well-prepared with sewing-machine, thread, scissors, pins, tape-measure, ready-cut fabric strips, rotary cutter and patchwork ruler (to cut borders).

Before starting, lay your fabric strips to the left of your machine in the following order: centre, 1st light, 1st dark, 2nd light, 2nd dark, 3rd light, 3rd dark (see Photograph 1). You then follow a specific procedure until all your strips have been used and your blocks are complete.

The next step is to lay out your quilt in the most suitable design, and sew your blocks together. This stage proceeds quickly because you're now working with large pieces (blocks) of fabric.

Because I made a small quilt, I had time to attach the batting and lining on the same day. However, if you tackle a larger item – a single or double bedspread – you'll have to complete the quilt at a later stage. Here again, you're shown a quick way to do this.

Cathy and Sarah have noticed that many of their pupils come to love quilting simply because they've been introduced to it through this easy method.

"One woman had never sewn a stitch before her Saturday class with us," enthused Sarah. "She was so proud of her achievement, she promptly enrolled for another course."

What Sarah didn't mention is the unflagging support and encouragement she and Cathy undoubtedly gave the novice throughout the day.

Classes are never larger than six to eight, so you're assured of individual attention. If you make a mistake, it's a comfort to have help at hand. Had I worked at home on my own, I'd have thrown in the sponge a couple of times. But Cathy's and Sarah's prompt assistance prevented me from becoming discouraged. They kept the momentum going.

As my beautiful squares grew before my eyes, I became more and more determined to see the project



▲ Philippa Humphrey cried with sheer delight on completing her Log Cabin quilt in a Fields and Furrows design.

▶ Colleen Baise's Flying Geese patterned quilt makes a striking wall-hanging or cot quilt for baby.

through to the end.

For someone like myself, with a mound of unfinished sewing lurking in my cupboard, it was an immensely satisfying experience to complete my quilt in a day. No doubt I learned enough to work on my own in future; but it was the companionship, encouragement and exchange of ideas within the Durban North group that spurred me on to achieve.

And I was happy to part with my instant heirloom as a christening gift knowing my next quilt was only a day's work away.

For details of Cathy Anderson's Quilting classes at the Your Family Cookery and Crafts School, please contact Gertje Schoeman at (031) 42-2041.

● See Buyers Guide.

