

Temperature Quilt:

My good friend Nicole put the idea into my head about Temperature quilts. She talked about making one herself. The idea intrigued me. So I started looking for patterns and couldn't find anything that excited me. Most of the patterns were with 1/2 square triangles and squares with circles. Those patterns didn't seem to really show the ups and downs in the weather temps. On one of my many searches I came upon this quilt from Canuck Quilter. The quilt pattern was free and gave great instructions how to organize your fabrics. After doing more research on choosing fabrics I then started collecting fabrics for the Temperature Quilt.

The pattern calls for 2 inch blocks for the main size. I decided to use 2 1/2 inch blocks because of having an acc quilt cutting machine. So my high and low temp were 2 1/2 inch squares which are the colored blocks. The high temp of the day was the top color and low was the bottom color. You have a neutral color to create the stagger effect. The other thing I really liked about there pattern was that each month was a separate row. Most patterns just had a solid block to show the start or end of the next month. This pattern also made it a lot easier to see how the high and lows as you went through the month as they were next to each other.

I decided that beyond the basic white border the pattern had that what I wanted to do was to put the legend on the front of the quilt. Most of the quilts put something on the back of the quilt so unless you looked at the back of the quilt you wouldn't have any idea what the quilt was about. I also felt that knowing the location of where the temperatures came from and year the quilt was also important for the quilt.

When designing the border. I had thought about cutting temps, months, year and the town out HTV or using a black permanent marker using my Shilouttte cutting machine. Neither of these gave me the dimension that I felt that was needed, so I went with machine embroidery. When designing the border I thought by doing a square in a square and bringing in the colors I used for the temperatures in the quilt, gave it a little more interest. I centered each month on the row that it was and then filled in with the white fabric at the top and bottom so it equaled the height of the rows. I then sewed the temps together and centered them with the length of the border . I also centered the town and year on the top and bottom border.

When I changed the block size by making the square 1/2 inch larger I needed to resize the blocks A, B, C and D. I subtracted my seam allowance's and then

added in the 1/2 inch in extra length that I wanted and added back in my seam allowances. For the top and bottom blocks I only subtracted only 1 of the seam allowance because the top and bottom edges were still there. Here is a diagram of my math process of figuring how to adjust the on the attached page. You can use this method on any block that you want to change the size smaller or larger.

I used a site called **Weather Underground**: <https://www.wunderground.com/> to obtain the daily temperatures. You put in your zip code to find the closest weather station and bring up the year and month you need. I usually did this on weekly basis. One of the most important things to do is to make your color sheet, and mark each block with the date. I also had bags labeled with the temperature range of each color. I would sew blocks for the week at the end of each week and sewed the weeks block together then. At the end of the month I would sew the whole month together. I always double checked by temps for the whole month and always marked each block to me sure everything was in the right order. It was very easy to find my mistakes if the block didn't go up and down the way the pattern was suppose to look.

I purchased approximately 1/4 yd for less used temps. and a little more for the more popular temps. (1/3 yd). I have several controlled scrap quilts in mind for the leftovers.

The fabrics I used were Grunge by Moda. I would choose fabrics for this quilt that read more to a solid, but are not necessarily solids. My temperature range was every 3 degrees. You can do more or less. I looked at temperature charts to see what the lowest of lows were and the highest of highs. I used 25 fabrics. I probably bought more like 30 or so fabrics and then decided on the color I like the best. I had enough of each color for the quilt blocks with the amount of fabric I purchased and enough left over for the colors in the border.

I decided to use 2 1/2 in blocks instead of 2 in. With that I needed to change the size of each block. For the pieced blocks the method I use is to subtract my seam allowance to get the finished sized of the block and then add the increase of the size I want and then add back in my seam allowance. The width of the block for this quilt stayed the same. The block is 2 inches finished I take out the 1/2 inch seam allowance then add the increase you want for the block and finally add back your seam allowance. For the end block that isn't pieced just add the increase you want, because you don't have any seam allowances to worry about.

Basic (colors) are 2 in I wanted my blocks to be 2 1/2 in.

Then I need to resize blocks A-E length to the new size. Each width of the block with be 2 1/2 in like the colored blocks.

A. length was 2 3/4 in. I subtract my seam allowance 1/2 in then add the extra length of 1/2 in and put back in my seam allowance. My cut size now is 3 1/4 in

B. length was 2 in. I subtract my seam allowance 1/2 in then add the extra length of 1/2 in and put back in my seam allowance. My cut size now is 2 1/2 in.

C. length was 1 1/4 in. I subtract my seam allowance 1/2 in then add the extra length of 1/2 in and put back in my seam allowance. My cut size now is 1 3/4 in.

D. & E. These 2 blocks are 1 piece with no seam allowances so I just in my extra 1/2 in. for a cut size of 7 1/2 in.

A B C D E

