



## **Mystery In The Desert** © 2005 Evelyn George

(Finished quilt size: 70" x 70")

### **Introduction: Hints on fabric selection for your mystery quilt**

Hello, Mystery Fans! Here's a new (and very mysterious!) quilt designed just for you, members of the Tucson Quilter's Guild. It will be published in 5 monthly installments in the guild newsletter, both the online and mailed versions. Do you love a good mystery? Join in the fun!

Fabric requirements and cutting instructions are given in the first chapter. Each succeeding chapter will give directions for the steps to make Units I, II, III and IV. In the final chapter, you will discover how these units are joined to reveal the mystery!

Fabric selection is very important for this quilt. With only 4 fabrics in the quilt, strong contrast is needed for the mystery design to be fully revealed. Start with a multicolor focal print, then add a light, medium and dark fabric to coordinate. **(Non-directional fabrics work best.)** All 4 fabrics are used in the blocks. Decide which of these 4 fabrics would also make the best border, and buy extra border yardage of that one, or add a 5<sup>th</sup> coordinating fabric for the border, if you wish. Yardage requirements for various border options are given in Chapter One. Also, you may want to buy 2/3 yard for binding, if you will be binding your quilt.

Prepare your fabrics by prewashing and ironing if you wish.

The yardage requirements given are at least 1/8 yard more than is needed for cutting, which is adequate to allow for minor shrinkage and for trimming the edges of your fabric, in case it is uneven. (You may wish to purchase a bit extra as insurance against cutting mishaps, etc.)

For illustration purposes, we have chosen to label the fabrics as follows:

A = Multicolor focus fabric

B = Light

C = Medium

D = Dark

Note: This means that, in our illustrations, B will be shown as a light, for example. It will also be labeled with a B. However, your personal fabric selection could vary from this; for example, your B might be dark and your D might be light. In any case, the design will work as long as there is plenty of contrast between the fabrics.

Therefore, in order to keep instructions clear, it is strongly recommended that you make a fabric swatch card, or use the space provided on the yardage and cutting chart, to attach swatches of your 4 fabrics, labeling them A,B,C,D. Refer to this during cutting and stitching to avoid confusion! Keep in mind you may need to disregard the positioning of dark, medium and light in the illustrations—just use the letters A,B,C, or D to refer to your fabrics.

Choose fabrics that look good together, and importantly, show up well against each other. If you choose fabrics you love, you will enjoy solving the mystery, and you will be rewarded with a beautiful quilt!

*Hint, hint: There will be a surprise ending!*

**Note: Please save all chapters until you have completed the project, because you may need to refer to them again!**

*If you have any questions about the mystery quilt, please ask Evelyn George at the Block of the Month table, email her at [quilter4ever@cox.net](mailto:quilter4ever@cox.net), or call her at 325-0166. (But of course she won't reveal the ending, so don't ask!)*