

QCNNY Block of the Month June 2011

JEANS AROUND THE WORLD

(Source: D. L. Collier)



Finished block size: 6" x 6"

This block is inspired by our own Sandra Samaniego, a textile artist and re-cycler *sin par*. Her talent for re-purposing mundane found objects into her projects is astounding.

“Jeans around the World” acknowledges the universal appeal of a fashion icon by combining American blue jeans with another cotton fabric that represents a cultural influence.

1. Rough-cut an 8" square of blue denim from an old pair of jeans (or jacket, skirt, tote, etc.). Including a design element – rivet, pocket, seam, loop, label, small tear or hole – is a plus, but not essential.
2. For the heart appliqué, choose an “ethnic” fabric from your stash: ikats; batiks; Asian, African, Australian, or European motifs; calicos; etc. are all suitable. Using your favorite method, hand or machine appliqué the heart to the denim piece. The finished appliqué should be no larger than 5" and placed centrally – but not necessarily dead center – on the denim background.
3. Press from the wrong side onto an old towel. Trim to 7" square.

To make a rag quilt from denim blocks, no batting is required:

Make the desired number of blocks and arrange them into rows. From backing fabric (quilters cotton, homespun, or flannel) cut as many 7" squares as there are blocks. Pair each denim block with a backing square, wrong sides together, treating them as one. With backing sides facing and denim facing out, sew the blocks into rows with $\frac{1}{2}$ " seams. Finger-press them open at intersections and outside edges. Sew $\frac{1}{2}$ " around the entire quilt top, catching the backing. Clip the seam allowances and outside edges at $\frac{1}{4}$ " intervals, almost to, but not through, the seam/stitching lines. Machine wash and dry several times; the softened fibers of the seams and edges will fringe or “bloom”.