

## 4-H Log Cabin Quilt Workshop

4-H Leader  
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### CHECKLIST:

- Read all of this instruction sheet
- fabric yardage as outlined on chart
- 2 spools thread, polyester spun. Color should match light fabrics.
- Bonded batting such as Thermolane
- Sewing machine (and knowledge of how to use and thread it!!)
- Scissors
- extension cord

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### INTRODUCTION:

The traditional log cabin quilt can be quick, and fun to make – once you know how. The quilt is made up of anywhere from 4 to 48 fourteen-inch squares. Each square has a center, traditionally red to symbolize the hearth of the home, surrounded by the “logs” of the cabin. The squares can be laid out in a variety of patterns creating many different possibilities.

Before you come to class, you will have to decide what size quilt you will make. I encourage first time log cabin quilters to make either a four or nine square baby quilt.

You may wish to select the fabric for your quilt before the first session. However, we will spend some time at the beginning of the first session discussing fabric selection.

### CHOOSING FABRICS:

A few words on color selection are necessary. There are four parts to this quilt: the center, the light and dark sides of the square, the borders, and the back. For your first quilt, you will get good results if you select a pair of contrasting colors – maroon and white, deep green and pale yellow, etc. As an example, let's use navy and white. You will need:

- 3 different navies (called 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> dark)
- 3 different whites (called 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> light)
- 1 center color – dark and solid, possibly navy or traditional red
- Border(s) – pick your favorite among the seven fabrics already selected. Borders are used to extend the size of quilts. Use 1 or more borders.
- Back – use one of the above fabrics or to save money use a colored sheet.

The attached chart tells you how much of each fabric is needed for each quilt size. Think about your skill level and time commitment before selecting a quilt size. I have limited the quilt sizes to baby or lap quilts.

Please bring:  
- Sewing Machine  
- Extension Cord

Choose 100% cotton calicos. They are the easiest to work with, the softest and easiest to care for, and believe it or not – they don't wrinkle in a quilt.

Stick to small prints for most of your fabrics. If you want to put in one larger print (flowers ½" to 1"), use it for one of the major fabrics – 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> light or dark. A small stripe will work nicely but nothing larger, too confusing. Stripes work best on either the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> light or dark. Plaids are hard to match and are tricky. Try to get a variety of print sizes.

The colors of your quilt should flow from one strip to the next. Try to arrange the colors so that they either become progressively darker or lighter from center to the outside of the square. Look for contrast between the 3<sup>rd</sup> light and the 3<sup>rd</sup> dark. They should be different in both pattern and tone. Solid colors tend to leap out of combinations and should be used either exclusively or sparingly.

In the store, line up the bolts of your candidates fabrics in this order:

Third Light  
Second Light  
First Light  
Center  
First Dark  
Second Dark  
Third Dark

This will give you a sense of how your finished square will look.

**PREPARATION OF FABRIC:**

**DO NOT CUT THE FABRIC INTO LITTLE SQUARES!** We will be using the strip quilting method and use long strips of fabric only. We will be cutting the fabric in class.

Your fabric can be pre-washed.

**FABRIC YARDAGE CHART**

	# of SQ	Center	1 <sup>st</sup> LT	1 <sup>st</sup> DK	2 <sup>nd</sup> LT	2 <sup>nd</sup> DK	3 <sup>rd</sup> LT	3 <sup>rd</sup> DK	Border	Back
Baby	2 x 2	¼	¼	¼	¼	¼	3/8	3/8	a- 3/8 b- 3/8	1 1/4
Baby	3 x 3	¼	¼	3/8	3/8	½	½	½	1/2	2 1/4
Lap	4 x 4	¼	3/8	½	½	¾	7/8	7/8	5/8	2 7/8

That's about it, I look forward to meeting with you on April 11 & 18.  
Thanks Susan Rose