

## The Quilt and Needle

May 22, 2009 Discussion Session Transcript

Subject: EQ6

Moderated by: Jess Smith

**Jess:** okies, yall ready to get this party started?

**Gerda:** I bought a slab of ham and salad fixings for supper - yahooo, it's finally warmed up - this morning was still cold and windy, now it is great!

**misisipimenace:** whoohooooo let's PAR-TEEEEEE

**Jess:** Mom just called, she forgot about the chat again, will try to drop in in a bit.

**Gerda:** how was that, Cindy

**buggalugs:** yes please Jess

**msmeow:** ummm...jess...we already started the party! LOL

**Jenn:** yes! I'm ready to be able to use this software that I have had (both 5 and 6) and never learned how to use them

**misisipimenace:** the squash?

**Jess:** hehehe, too true!

**Jess:** labor stories and all!

**Gerda:** Please, Jess, I can't stay much longer than 6 - kiddos and hubby need fed!

**misisipimenace:** it's ok - i just got to learn how to cook it and not get it too mushy or underdone

**Jess:** (Jess slaps Jenn's hand)

**Jess:** and why not ms. Jenn?

**misisipimenace:** ooo jenn wanna borrow the dunce cap?

**Jenn:** because when I bought 5 i bought it as a present for myself (since I never got one from the ex) but then he made it conveniently impossible for me to ever have any time to sit and learn it...

**dorian:** what does it taste like Cindy?

**misisipimenace:** i said BORROW mind you

**Jess:** okay, so since we have chatted it up and may go a bit over Gerda, I will make sure to copy it all into a PDF. Also, feel free to ask questions in the discussion thread.

**Jenn:** and well...now I've got more projects and kiddos to take care of

**Jenn:** and a full time job so i just haven't squeezed in the time

**msmeow:** It does take some time!

**misisipimenace:** dorian, the taste of the squash is rather bland - but it's a good sub for spaghetti noodles

**msmeow:** I took a couple of Quilt University classes. They were pretty good.

**Gerda:** Well, I might be ok, Maya is finishing some ice cream, and Haley is browsing for something to eat...

**dorian:** Ok Cindy, dh has lots growing, so I was curious

**Gerda:** How much do they cost. Donna

**Gerda:** ?

**Jenn:** i'd really like to be able to plug in fabrics and play around with blocks for a layout design

**Jess:** okay, well EQ is super simple once you get the hang of it. Everyone, chime in - how many projects have you designed in EQ?

**Jenn:** none

**Gerda:** 0

**buggalugs:** 2

**msmeow:** I think they're about \$25 or \$30, but you can download the lessons and refer back to them.

**dorian:** I don't even have it...I just came for the chat. lol

**Jess:** High five Jacqui!

Gerda: hmmm, thanks, Donna, will have to keep that in mind.

Jess: haha dorian.

msmeow: I've done quite a few.

misisipimenace: dorian, i'll let ya know the best way to cook it - so far i've tried the microwave - next is the crockpot, then the overn - got to see which is best

buggalugs: well its good you are here Dorian

Gerda: yes, 'tis

dorian: thank you Jacqui ...Ok Cindy

Jess: yeppers, now she is just gonna want it even more!

Gerda: But Jess, I really WOULD appreciate a PDF file

msmeow: I even entered a "Do You EQ?" contest

buggalugs: oh yes you are Dorian sweetheart

dorian: Sigh, and a computer of MY OWN to go with it. lol

Jess: okay, well I am no expert but I can definately help you get started. Donna, please chime in if you have something to add!

misisipimenace: LOL

misisipimenace: all ears!

Gerda: mine are listening!

Jess: Gerda - no designs for you yet either?

Gerda: no

Jess: Okay, well I shall start from the beginning. Those of you who have played in there a bit, be patient with me for a sec.

misisipimenace: y'all better get to using your EQs

nawma joined the room.

misisipimenace: CONNIE!!!!!!!!!!

dorian: Hi Connie!!

msmeow: Hi Connie!

misisipimenace: \*waving wildly\*

nawma: Hi ladies

Jenn: hey Connie

buggalugs: Hello Connie

dorian to Jenn: Sooooooooo nice to see you Connie

nawma: how is everyone tonight

dorian to Jenn: how are you?

dorian: LOL, ooops

Jenn: heh i just did that too!

nawma: nice to see you ladies too

nawma: i'm doing good

dorian: LOL, easy to do!

Gerda: Hi, Connie!

dorian: I'm doing alright here

Jess: When you have installed EQ and you open the program, it automatically opens a tip of the day window. These are good to read.

dorian: cool

Gerda: OK

Jenn: thats pretty much where I'm stuck at Jess

Jenn: lol

misisipimenace: yep cool

dorian: lol

misisipimenace: LOL jenn

Jess: If you see a tip and it tells you about something you have no idea about, ask about it on the Forum, someone will chime in and help.

Jenn: **the QN forum?**

msmeow: EQ has a forum, too. The moderators are pretty quick to answer questions!

Jenn: **oh...i should go check them out.**

Jess: Then when you close the tip box, it will bring up your new project screen. For beginners, I suggest that you start with a quick-quilt project (third tab on this first screen). You can use this project to acquaint yourself with the program.

Jess: Yes Jenn, Q&N Forum or even the EQ one. If you do post it on the EQ forum, let us know. We all might have been wondering the same thing!

Jess: If you do, however, want to start a project from scratch, you can create a new project with the first tab of this window. Just type in the name and off you go.

dorian: **Ok, I want to do this now already. lol**

misisipimenace: into the deep end

Jess: Many of my projects have come from the Quick Start projects EQ offers. I will start with an Amish Nine-Patch and end up with something like the friends and fellows because I change sooo much. Sometimes when your canvas already has some colors and shapes on it it helps your design come out.

misisipimenace: that makes sense

Jenn: **that sure beats sketching it out with colored pencils and markers=what I've done**

misisipimenace: jumping off point

Jess: Okay, okay. so say you have started a project. Let's say that you start with a Quick Project or a new blank project, and you want to change the layout, blocks, fabrics, etc. We have to talk about the Libraries.

misisipimenace: jenn!!! and you HAVE eq!! shame on you

Gerda: me, too, though when I have blocks already sewn, I put them on the design wall

Jenn: ;p

Jenn: **i don't have a design wall**

Jenn: **YET**

Jess: I started that way too Jenn, ask Mom, I totally rebelled against EQ... until I used it. Then I was kicking myself for doing it the longer way by hand!

dorian: **it sure would come in handy for these RR borders!**

Gerda: wouldn't it though?

misisipimenace: yep dorian!

Jess: Jenn, just tack some flannel up onto a wall on sewing day. That is what I do. Design wall, quick method!

Jess: okay, let's start with layouts.

buggalugs: **oh the libraries are wonderful**

Gerda: **I plan to put my flannel sheet on our bedroom wall - no room in the sewing room**

Jess: one sec, let me copy the chat so far.

nawma: yes i am staying on it night and day LOL

misisipimenace: on what connie

Jenn: **well when i get the garage cleaned out i want to use one wall for a design wall**

Jess: yep Gerda, mine was in the living room until I finished up my studio.

nawma: on the stuff for the show

dorian: **LOL, I whispered how her preps were going for the quilt show**

dorian: **didn't want to interrupt**

Gerda: on your flannel sheets, Connie? Boy, they must be so colourful with all the dyeing your'e doing

nawma:lol sorry

misipimenace:LOL

dorian: **that's ok, lol**

nawma:no flannel sheets here LOL

Gerda: Oh that's what the whisper thingy means! Thanks, Dorian

misipimenace:no apology necessary!

Gerda: no prob, Connie, I was teasing

Jess: Mom, be another color tonight, kay?

Gerda:I know you folks down south don't need flannel sheets - I don't either, but hubby LOVES 'em

dorian: **your weclome Gerda! but you have to use the drop down to say who it's going to then, UNcheck the whisper and put the drop back to all when done**

nawma:ok

Gerda: TY

msmeow:Gerda, my hubby loves ours too

nawma:how's this

Jess: Okay, so libraries

dorian:**yes, so does my hubby, he gets cold so easily**

Jess: Great Nawma

Gerda: yes'm

misipimenace:looks fine to meconnie

Gerda:is meconnie related to pecannie?

Gerda:

misipimenace:1st cousin!

Jenn: **(snicker)**

dorian: **teehehee**

nawma:sorry ladies one of my students called about the time i logged on and i'm not good at talking and typing at the same time

Gerda: LOL oh this is such fun - I've missed this chatting

misipimenace:why connie i don't know why not?!!!!

There are six (I think). Layout Library, Block Library, Fabric Library, etc. I won't be touching on the

Jess: embroidery library, etc. tonight. Those are for a later chat. Today, let's talk about the first three I mentioned.

nawma:off the phone now LOL

dorian: **that's ok Connie**

nawma:so are you ladies soaking in all the info on EQ

msmeow: Sometimes with the libraries there are too many choices! LOL

buggalugs:**Jess will you be posting the pdf onto the forum or just to interested parties?**

misipimenace:yes'm

nawma: Jess is very good with that program

Jess: Yes buggs!! I run into that myself.

buggalugs:**I'm getting tired but don't want to miss things lol**

Gerda:did you get in a nap today, sweetie??

I usually start with the layout library. However, very often I change the layout in the middle of

Jess: designing, but, that is so easy to do it is okay. You will put your cursor over the Library tab on the top, scroll down to Layout Library and click.

dorian: **I almost did, but just as I was heading to sleep, the gang came home from the creek. lol**

buggalugs:**no hun I didn't,**

msmeow: I had a nap at my desk!

Jenn: lol

Gerda: LOL

dorian: **LOL Donna, nothing else to do!**

Jenn: **me either this weel**

misisipimenace:

Jenn: week

Jess: This pops up a new window that is looking into the EQ Layout Library. There are files listed down the left side of the new window, like "Basics by Style" with subcategories "Square in a Square", "On Point Medallions", etc. Browse through these files (they will all bring up loads of pre-drawn layouts) and if you see a layout you like, click it, then click "add to sketchbook"

Jenn: **do you have to know a block's name to find it in the library**

misisipimenace: good question jenn

Jess: Now, this is a good time for an aside. Anything you want to use to design this project will need to be in your "sketchbook". You will go through the layout libraries, block libraries, fabric libraries, etc. and add anything you might want to use to your sketchbook. If you love all the stars in the block library, add them all! No problem. This will make them available to you when you want to start trying out different blocks in different locations.

Jenn: **ahh ok.. so would you recommend loading your sketchbook with potential stuff before doing anything else?**

msmeow: Jenn, you can use the search function. I usually "Search by Notecard" and if you have an idea of the name, type all or part of it and it will find what it can.

buggalugs left this room.

dorian: **and can you free hand draw? or do you have to use the blocks that are there?**

Jess: Jenn - not necessarily. The block library is divided into folders, and if you know what the block looks like, you should be able to find it fairly easily. For instance, if it is traditional applique pattern, you wouldn't look in the modern appliques. If this applique was flowers, you would look under the traditional appliques, flowers, then hopefully find it.

nawma: the sketchbook is a wonderful tool for sure

msmeow: Dorian, you can draw anything you want...you can also import pictures.

nawma: it is like having a smaller file from all your favs

dorian: oohhh

Jess: EQ definitely doesn't have all of the blocks out there that you could want, but it is easy enough to edit a block once it is in your sketchbook (though I am not sure we will have time to touch on that today).

Jess: one sec, let me copy again

nawma: and EQ has a companion program that has over 4000 blocks

dorian: wowee

Gerda: I really need to sit down one of these days with the book, and read it well - we might be going to Vancouver to pick up a couple of scissor lifts, so lots of driving.

msmeow: I use patterns I already have and draw them in EQ - it's a great way to learn how to use it, then you can play with the pattern and change it around.

Gerda: 4000????? Is that Barbara Brackman's?

nawma: yes it is gert

msmeow: Gerda, you need to sit in front of the computer while you read the book!

nawma: its called Block Base

Jess: hmmm... stop typing for a minute ladies, it doesn't want me scrolling.

dorian: **thats' what I was thinking, I can't read the book and understand it as well, if I am not doing as well as reading**

Gerda: Thanks, Connie!!! I'll look into it. I'd like to know how to import othe blocks

Gerda: Oh, shucks, Donna!!!

Jess:

Jess:

Jess:

Jess: Okay, that will make it easier next time. Type away, I got it done.

dorian: lol

Gerda: GReat!

Midge joined the room.

Gerda: Sorry to gum up the works, Jess - not intended, I assure you!

Gerda: Hi, Midge

msmeow: Hey Midge!

nawma: gert when you install Block Base on your computer your EQ will give you that option as one of the block libraries

dorian: Hi Midge!

Jenn: hihi midge

nawma: hi midge

Midge: Good morning everyone

Jess: no problem Gerda... I have a hunch I can find an easier way to save these. Will look into it before next chat.

Gerda: Oh, thanks, Connie, that's good to know!

Jess: morning Midge.

Jenn: i don't have block base, what does that run \$ wise?

dorian: How are you today Midge?

Jess: Jenn, your program already has loads of blocks in it.

nawma: jenn i bought it in Houston at the show and Jess can correct me if i'm wrong but i think it was around 40 dollars

misisipimenace left this room.

Midge: I am great. I have just put Rory down for a sleep - hope it works

Jenn: ahh ok thats not bad

misisipimenace joined the room.

Jess: I have no idea nawma. Sounds right.

Jenn: wb cindy

dorian: awww, glad you have Rory visiting.

dorian: wb cindy

nawma: but jess is right the program itself has hundreds maybe thousands of blocks already in it

Jess: Okay, so you go into the layouts, find several you like, add them to the sketchbook. Do the same with the blocks and the fabrics.

misisipimenace: i whispered to jacqui then couldn't figure out how to chat with the rest of y'all!!

misisipimenace: LOL

Midge: She has been here all week

misisipimenace: hi midge!!!!!!!!!!!!

Jess: Gerda - I have never imported my own blocks, but I have imported loads of fabrics.

dorian: LOL Cindy

Midge: hi cindy

nawma: got to go ladies, dinner is on the grill

Jenn: thats what i would like to do,,,import my own fabrics

dorian: you just UNclick whisper and on the drop down, put it to "all"

Gerda: REALLY!!!!?????

I have heard of importing fabrics, too - sounds like fun!

msmeow: Bye Connie!

dorian: **night Connie!**

misisipimenace: btw - jacqui said good night y'all - she didn't want to interrupt the lesson

nawma: have fun it was good to say hello!!

nawma: bye 4 now

Gerda: **Night, Connie**

Midge: bye connie

msmeow: It is Gerda - you can scan fabric you have on hand and import it to see if you like it.

Jenn: **since i'm pretty confident that my camo military fabrics wont be found there**

nawma left this room.

misisipimenace: i did odrian and it told me the specified user was not available

Gerda: **Oh, I'm so glad I have a scanner!**

misisipimenace: **night connie!!!**

Jenn: **me too**

dorian: **LOL Cindy!**

Jenn: **but--if you have an image already like a .jpg of the fabric can you use that?**

msmeow: **Yes, you can Jenn**

Jess: Jenn - if they are fabrics from your stash you can scan them directly into EQ... not sure how, but I can find out. I have never done it. I always have the images on my computer already for the store.

Jenn: **i have jpgs of all my camo**

msmeow: **You can copy pictures from some of the fabric companies websites**

Midge: I do not have EQ but I do have Quilt Pro are they much different?

Gerda: **good question, Midge**

Midge: I know I can scan my own fabrics in QP

Jenn: **midge i know nothing about quilt pro other than there used to be a comparison thread on BC between the two**

Jess: At the bottom of the fabric library window there is a button that says import. You select to import from image files and you can browse your computer to import images of fabrics. Super easy. They import into "My Library." You just select them all, add them to your sketchbook, and voila!

msmeow: **On the fabric library page near the bottom is a button to Import - it gives you the option of from a file or from an EQ project.**

Jenn: **cool...i may play with this in the morning before the rest of my late sleepers wake up. I'll be up for hours before they are**

misisipimenace: **play away jenn**

Gerda: **Yeah, then you can give us pointers!**

msmeow: **Jenn, you'll never get any actual quilting done!**

dorian: **I know that R and C would love playing with it. They enjoy a free designer I have...it's extremely basic, but they have fun making blocks**

Jess: Okay, so once you have all of your fabrics, blocks, and layouts in your sketchbook, close the libraries, and get started.

Jenn: **i can't sew while Jacob is sleeping. his crib is in the same room**

Jess: You need to put a layout in first.

Midge: So much for Rory sleeping I can hear her. I it is not sleep she has on her mind

dorian: **it's too noisy Jenn??**

dorian: **lol Midge**

msmeow: **Mark will be home any minute so I need to go get those taters started. Have a great evening!**

dorian: **night Donna, nice to visit with you**

misisipimenace: night donna!!

Gerda: night, Donna

Jenn: **i don't want to risk waking him up. he's a grumpy bear if awakened too early**

Gerda: Thanks for your tips

dorian: **LOL oic**

msmeow: My pleasure!

Midge: bye

Jenn: **so i read or cross stitch when everyone's asleep. thats how I read so many books@**

msmeow left this room.

dorian: **the best time to read them too!!**

Jess: Okay, so there are Two buttons at the top of the normal EQ screen that you all NEED TO KNOW

Jess: Add to Sketchbook, and View my sketchbook.

misisipimenace: y'all i'll say goodnight too - spend some time with billy - i'll catch the rest of this on the pdf on the forum!

Midge: I need to get my QP set up on my laptop and play as I have heaps of ideas. I usually just draw them on graph paper

dorian: **ok, night Cindy! Have a great one**

misisipimenace: night!!!

Jenn: **night Cindy!!**

misisipimenace left this room.

Midge: bye cindy

Jenn: **Midge I just said the same thing earlier before you arrived**

dorian: **set it up Midge! be much easier. lol**

Jess: When you click add to sketchbook while editing a quilt or block, it will save it in your sketchbook just like you have it drawn. This is important to do often! Just like you save your work in a word program every five minutes, do it here too.

dorian: **Carson wanted us to draw the other night, so we were drawing and he says "you're drawing another quilt pattern!! Thats all you draw" LOL**

Jess: lol Dorian

Jenn: **will it save over what you previously saved or will each "change" be a new file?**

Gerda: brb I think

Jess: Okay, at this point you need to click on "View My sketchbook"

Midge: Is there anything else to draw???

dorian: **LOL**

Jess: All of the layouts that you have chosen will be in the sketchbook, first tab that is labeled quilts. Click on the one you want to play with, and then click edit. It will be your new canvas.

Midge: Is it easy to do circles in these programs?

Jess: Um, I think it would be Midge, but honestly I haven't played with circles much.

Jess: Okay, now you have a layout and you want to start placing blocks.

Jess: On the right toolbar, there is a button to Set a block. When you click on that button, all of the blocks that you added to your sketchbook will come up in a new side window. Click the one you want to place, then click on the layout where you want to place it. That easy!

dorian: **Sounds good**

Jess: When you want to start coloring in your design, you click on the paintbrush tool on the right menu. It will bring up all of the fabrics and colors that are in your library (all of the ones you added yourself and a few others that are already there).

Jess: If you hold down Ctrl when you click on a piece of a block, it will color in that piece of every block.

dorian: **thats good**

**dorian:** sigh~ well Ladies, I need to say good bye too. You all have a great night!

**Jess:** Okay Dorian, I think we lost everyone...

**Jess:** hehe

**Jess:** Nighty night Dorian!

**dorian:** LOL

**Gerda:** Putting supper on - I will look forward to the PDF - thanks, Jess, and everyone.

**dorian:** night

**Jess:** Gerda - I will answer your question in the thread.

**dorian left this room.**

**Jess:** Okay ladies, this wraps up where I wanted to get to today, about 10 minutes late! Hehe, better not chat so much next time I guess.

**Jess:** Here is my best advice - Do the tutorials in the book and familiarize yourself with the program. The tutorials are really easy to follow and will take you step by step through the process. It is hands on training. When you run into a snag, post on the forum about it. If I don't know how to do it, I can find out or someone else will know.

**Jenn:** i'm here still

**Jenn:** i've got eq up in the background

**Jess:** Best thing to do is get started with the tutorials. I promise, if you just open the program and start going it will make more sense.

**Jess:** oh, great Jenn!

**Jenn:** i'm trying to follow what you've said so i can see. i'm a visual learner so i have to see it to learn it

**Jess:** If you come down to Festival in Houston next year, take Barbara Vlacks classes. She is super awesome!

**Jess:** Okay Ms. Visual Learner, you need to do the tutorials then!! Hehe.

**Jenn:** hehe

**Jenn:** i'm hoping I can but that will all depend on whether or not I've got a deployed hubby or not.

**Jess:** I am the same way. I did several tutorials, took one of Barbara's classes. I am fairly intuitive about computer programs so I can figure most of it out if I try.

**Jess:** Yep, can't help the deployment!

**Jenn:** i'll be trying to work out something to farm out my kiddos for a couple of days in March already so i can make it back to Tomball for more than a few hours.

**Jess:** Grin!

**Jenn:** yeah usually if I play long enough i can find what i need, but i just havent been able to devote real time to learning this

**Jenn:** hoping i can use this to design the marine quilt I have to do. totally having designers block on what to do with it

**Jess:** Just do the stuff I say above, and that will get you started. Each tutorial takes like 20 minutes, you just have to make it a priority. If you are like me, you can make the time, you just put it off until you can't stand it anymore.

**Jenn:** haha thats me

**Jess:** Yes, this helps me a lot when I have a block. You would not believe where I started on the Friends and Fellows.... way different. In fact, I was trying to do BOM and came up with that last Mystery instead!

**Jenn:** you and your mom need to come to the Dallas show next year. I'm bummed I can't make it to the show in Woodland

**Jess:** If you have some drawings and want to bounce ideas off someone, feel free to send them my way. I have done that several times in the past with my patterns.

**Midge:** I am back

**Jenn:** I might take you up on that. This camo doesn't lend itself to really creative outlets color-wise so finding good contrast without destroying the pattern is tough

**Jess:** We shall see. Not sure if we are going to like doing the vending stuff, so we are trying this first show and

then will take it from there. I would honestly rather start doing Mystery Workshops than vending, but I got to pay the bills!

**Jess:** Howdy Midge!

**Jess:** Rory get back to sleep?

**Jenn:** **exactly! I gotta sell a few more items so I can fill my wishlist of taxi and christmas fabrics in your shop**

**Jenn:** **part of the \$ from selling my embroidery piece will fund that**

**Jess:** Super Jenn!!

**Jess:** Me too... I want some taxi too...

**Jess:** I sell those fabrics to myself at full price most of the time too, and money is a bit tight until Taxes come back!

**Jess:** So what type of pattern are you thinking for the camo stuff?

**Jenn:** **oh--i was in my LQS today grabbing a couple of FQ for my next RR and the guy that I adore in there (there are no females working in this shop!) did a turning twenty in the Taxi fabrics**

**Jenn:** **and he used a ruffle maker foot to create a pleated yellow border around it. it was amazing looking**

**Jess:** wow, must have been awesoem!

**Jenn:** **well this marine desert camo is 3 shades of brown. lol!**

**Jess:** Is that all you want in it, or are you open to some zingers?

**Jenn:** **so i'll have the camo, pull out one of the tans and get a solid muslin in that, and then contrast it with the olive color that is used for their patchesnametapes**

**Jess:** hmmm... send me some photos. I am thinking that if you use those colors, but shades that are not in the camo, etc. that will help. Do it Jinny Beyer style.

**Jenn:** **i'll email you some photos after i feed my family who is whining...**

**Jenn:** **lol**

**Jess:** another idea is to google images of the desert. The camo in the soldiers uniforms is used to blend in, but that does not mean there are not other colors that naturally occur in the dessert.

**Jenn:** **i've got free reign to make whatever I want really on this one**

**Jess:** Well, if you want to step out of the box a bit, I can help there. I think we could find some nice additions to your palette. Send the pics. For now, I got to feed Sammy and Sapphire too!

**Jess:** Good luck!

**Jenn:** **lol**

**Jess:** another idea is to google images of the desert. The camo in the soldiers uniforms is used to blend in, but that does not mean there are not other colors that naturally occur in the dessert.

**Jenn:** **i've got free reign to make whatever I want really on this one**

**Jess:** Well, if you want to step out of the box a bit, I can help there. I think we could find some nice additions to your palette. Send the pics. For now, I got to feed Sammy and Sapphire too!

**Jess:** Good luck!

**Jenn:** **it's for a boy, he's a young marine, but she wanted a quilt for his bed and curtains to match-his whole room is done in camo**

**Jenn:** **will do...enjoy your dinner I'll email you later tonight or in the morning**