

Infants Remembered In Silence, Inc.

“Infant Loss Memorial Quilt”

The Infants Remembered In Silence “Infant Loss Memorial Quilt” is designed to honor, remember, and celebrate an infant or young child that has died.

For 25 years Infants Remembered In Silence (IRIS) has worked directly with those who have experienced the death of a child from early pregnancy loss (miscarriage), stillbirth, neo-natal death, SIDS, illness, accidents, and all types of infant or early childhood death. In honor of this momentous occasion we would like to invite you to join with us and create a quilt block in memory of your child/children.

Who can contribute a quilt square?

Anyone who has had an infant or young child die. Quilts and quilt blocks are traditionally made by groups of people in what is known as an old-fashioned “quilting bee”. In this case, parents with help and/or input from family, friends or quilting groups are encouraged to come together to create a memorial block. Having input from others allows time for talking, remembering, and sharing of memories. While this type of involvement may be appropriate for some, it may not be for you. You are certainly welcome to create your block without input from anyone else. You do not have to be a professional artist or a wonderful seamstress to create a precious quilt block in memory of your child.

How many blocks can I make?

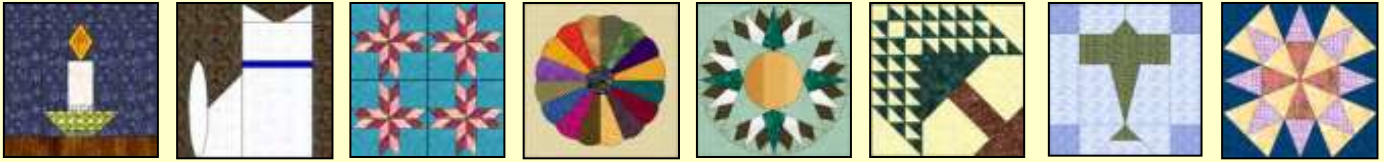
Due to the tremendous overwhelming response to this project and the size of each block, we request that each family honor their child by creating one (1) block per child that has died.

How many children can be remembered on one block?

While honoring many children on one block may seem ideal, it may diminish the impact the child has had on the lives of the parents, family, friends, and care providers. Therefore we ask that each child has their own block. Exceptions would include siblings that have died. (In the case of siblings, you are welcome to make one block per child and request that they be located by each other on the quilt.)

General Requirements for IRIS Memorial Quilt Block

- Finished quilt block must be 12 inches by 12 inches square.
- Each block will have a center square that will hold information such as name, date of birth, date of death, pictures, etc. (color of your choice) See pattern.
- Your entire design must fit inside the 8 inch center square of your block.
- Each block will have a 2” boarder on all sides. (color of your choice) See pattern.
- Block must be made of a durable washable fabric. It is our experience that the quilt will be touched, handled, and folded often. 100% cotton fabric is recommended to ensure that your child’s block will withstand normal wear and tear.
- Inkjet printable fabrics are acceptable.
- Finished quilt block should NOT be “hemmed or finished” in any manner.



Helpful Hints for Decorating Your Memorial Block

You are encouraged to decorate your block any way that you would like. Below you will find basic recommendations that will protect your child's memorial block and the blocks of others.

- The memorial blocks may be adorned with photographs, poems, prayers, quotes, symbols, names, dates, town, etc.
- To include photographs on your block use your computer printer and print directly onto printable fabric.
- Avoid using "iron on transfers" for pictures as they tend to crack and peel off of the block.
- Consider using fabric markers rather than permanent markers as permanent markers will fade.
- Sew everything securely in place on the block. This includes patches that are heat fusible.
- Avoid using glue, glitter, crayons or paper (unless laminated), as these items can easily fall off of your quilt block.
- You may wish to incorporate sentimental items such as baby blankets, socks, clothing, etc. into your block, please remember that you will be gifting your block to IRIS, and it will not be returned to you.
- Take a picture of the memorial block before sending it to IRIS so you will always remember your design
- Please consider submitting a story about your child and/or the memorial quilt block.
- consider making a second matching block to have as a keepsake.
- Do Not Use the following items in your block. If any of these items are used, your block will not be placed in the quilt.
 1. Puffy Paint - it will crack, break and fall off of the block. In time it will become sticky and destroy your block and the whole quilt. Please do not use it!
 2. Indian Ink or Water Colors as it is not washable. Please do not use them!

If you are unsure of what to do:

- Ask a friend or relative to help.
- Ask local fabric stores, quilting shop, and/or quilting guild to help.
- Attend a IRIS quilt-making workshop

What is the Deadline?

- The IRIS 25th Anniversary Quilt will be made of blocks received through December 31, 2012.
- Due to the popularity of IRIS Memorial Quilts, there will be no official deadline. The "Quilt" is never really finished. This project is ongoing so that new families always have the opportunity to remember their child in this special way.



Mailing in Your Quilt Block

- Please take a photo of your Quilt block before you mail it so you will always remember your design.
- Please complete the Quilt Release Form below.
- Enclose the square in a zippered plastic bag to ensure its clean, safe arrival.
- We recommend that you send your Quilt Block in a padded envelope with cardboard to protect it.
- You may also want to insure and/or track your Quilt Blocks delivery.
- Send your Quilt Block, Quilt Release Form, and Story (if desired) to:

IRIS Quilt
 112 Third St. NE
 Faribault, MN 55021

- You will receive an email confirmation letter of your Quilt Block and safe arrival in our office.



Quilt Release Form ~ Return With Your Finished Block

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____

Best Phone Number to Contact you : _____

E-mail Address: _____

Name(s) of Child/Children Remembered on Block: _____

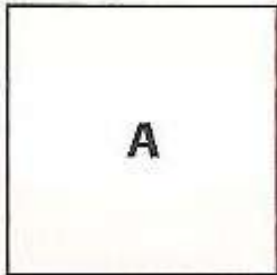
Special Request: _____

Feel free to include a page with a short story about your child and/or block.

Official Use

IRIS Memorial Quilt Block Pattern

1. Cut pieces as indicated below.



Cut 1 of Piece "A"
9 1/4" Square

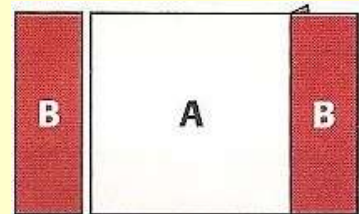


Cut 2 of piece "B"
9 1/4" X 2 5/8"

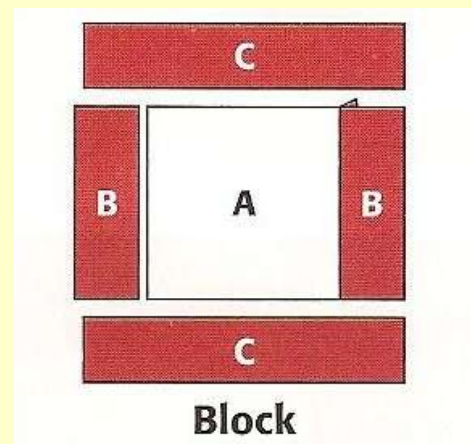


Cut 2 of piece "C"
12" X 2 5/8"

2. Decorate piece "A" being sure to leave 5/8" boarder for the seam allowance on all sides.
3. Sew pieces "B" to the right and left side of piece "A" as indicated.



4. Press seam allowance toward piece "B".
5. Sew pieces "C" to pieces "A" and "B" as indicated below.



6. Press seam allowance toward piece "C".
7. Complete paperwork and mail to:

IRIS Quilt
101 Third St. NW
Faribault, MN 55021