

# ANN HOLTE QUILTING

## Getting Started with the Lancaster Diamond



Time: One-day workshop, generally 6-7 hours

The diamond-shaped block found in the Lancaster Diamond Sampler Quilt is unique to a small area of northern Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, from the mid-1800s. The “girl cousins” who lived in this area and sewed together seem to have invented a way to produce this shape by folding paper.

Today, we use rotary cutters. We don't want to make paper templates, trace them, with a pencil, and cut with scissors. Because of the availability of this new cutting method and because the geometry of the diamond is different from other diamond templates you may have used in quilting, Ann had a special acrylic template designed and produced. With this template, you can use your rotary cutter to easily cut the main shapes: the large diamond, the small diamond, and the sashing pieces. If you have this template, you are ready to begin making blocks.

Students will learn to cut and sew the diamond, sashing, and cornerstone units to assemble many different designs. This technique is a good way to make scrap quilts, art quilts, traditional designs, or something original with you. The technique is good for groups working together on a joint project.

Some examples of quilts made with the diamond template:

