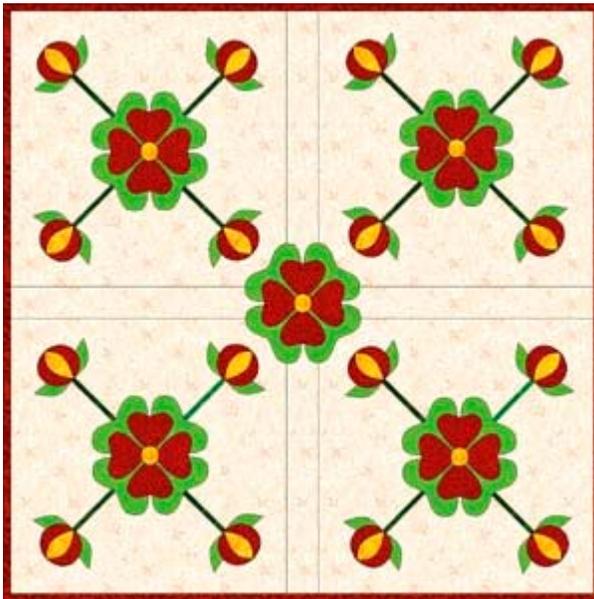


Two Rose of Sharon Bible Appliqué Block Patterns



A Flower and Quilt of Many Names

It appears that the Rose of Sharon in the Bible might actually refer to a wild tulip that even today grows on the plains of Sharon in Palestine. When the Bible was translated into English the word "rose" was used. Of course our foremothers would have imagined a rose, probably a wild rose. When we see this motif on a quilt it is usually a stylized rose like flower. This applique pattern was often done in red, yellow and green.

The Whig Rose is another name for this pattern. It is thought this name came from the 1928 United States Presidential election. The newly formed Whig party

hoped to beat out Democrat, Andrew Jackson. The Whig party dissolved in the mid 19th century but the pattern name lived on.

The Rose of Sharon in a Full Quilt

There are a great many variations in Rose of Sharon quilts. Usually stems with leaves and flowers radiate from a central rose. There are also different ways the flowers can be arranged. One way was to make very large blocks with very elaborate roses. These were big enough that four of them filled the whole quilt. In the case of the quilt pictured above it could be a small wall hanging or you could use many rose blocks to make a full quilt. These block would be lovely in a quilt set on point.

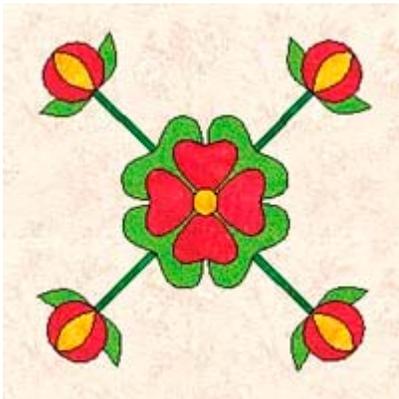
For the pictured quilt you would appliqué each block then sew them together with sashing of the same fabric between the four blocks. Then you would appliqué the single rose in the center. The sashing gives the space in the center needed for the rose.

Two Patterns for the Rose of Sharon Block

I've designed the simple rose, pictured to the right, that can be easily appliquéd by hand or machine. This is the easier block. You might want to alternate pieced blocks with this Rose of Sharon block in a quilt .



I designed the more detailed pattern with a rose and 4 radiating buds. See an example of it pictured just below and see it in a Rose of Sharon Quilt at the top of this page. I've made both examples in a very simplified version. Often the stems or vines would be curved which is something you could do by simply making curved stems for the rose with buds block.



Tracing and Cutting Out the Pattern

I've put an outline drawing of each block at the end of this information. You will need to resize them to the size you want with a copying machine (Unless you are very good with graph paper). Or you might want to reproduce the pattern using the cut paper method we used when we made snowflakes as children. This might well be how our foremothers designed their Rose of Sharon Quilts.

If you go to <http://www.quiltindex.org> and search the words, "Rose of Sharon" you will find over thirty quilts, most from the nineteenth century. A click on any of them will give details and a click on the picture on that page you will bring up a nice enlargement of the quilt. With cut paper you could design your own Rose of Sharon pattern based on one of these quilts.

Appliquing This Motif

You can turn the edges and hand appliquéd, use fusible machine appliquéd or fuse the motif then blanket stitch by hand to decorate and hold down the edges. The last method is a favorite of mine.

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