

# Digital Quilt Labels

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ST. LOUIS MODERN QUILT GUILD

Sew Me St. Louis

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## Introduction

**Why Should I Label My Quilts?** Quilt labels are optional, of course, but adding a label to your quilt can serve important functions, such as identifying you as the creator (much like an artist signing a painting) and preserving a record of its making on the quilted item itself. You can also use your quilt labels to add a dedication for the recipient. Your quilts, if properly labeled, may become part of your legacy. If you sell your quilts, your unique label can help identify your brand.

**What Information Should I Include?** You may want to include the name of the project, a dedication to the recipient, your name, the date or year the quilt was completed, who quilted it, the name of the pattern design and designer, and the name and/or designer of the fabrics used. I number most of my quilts and enjoy seeing how my quilting has progressed over time.

Here are some (reduced-size) examples from quilts I have made:

**AGED BRASS**  
MADE BY KRISTINA OLSON  
ST. CHARLES, MISSOURI  
APRIL 2023

PATTERN: AGED BRASS BY KRISTINA OLSON  
FABRIC: DECORUM & GRUNGE BY BASIC GREY  
LONG-ARM QUILTING: TRACE CREEK QUILTING  
QUILT # 22

**Autumn Stridi**

Designed, pieced, and quilted by Kristina Olson.  
Pattern: *Wondermore* by Kristina Olson  
November 2022  
Quilt # 18

## HUGS



Made by Kristina Olson  
for Britt & Jay's Baby Boy

Pattern: *X & +'s* by Brigitte Heitland  
December 2022



## KISSES

Made by Kristina Olson  
for Britt and Jay's Baby Girl

Pattern: *X & +'s* by Brigitte Heitland  
December 2022

**Why Create Digital Quilt Labels?** Using a word processing program on your computer is an easy way to make detailed quilt labels that you can print directly onto fabric using an ink jet printer. Alternatively, you may want to use large decorative fonts to print labels you then embroider by hand.

**What Supplies Do I Need?** To create digital quilt labels, you will need a computer with a word processing program (such as Microsoft Word), an inkjet printer (not laser!), spray baste, heavy 8.5" x 11" paper, and a solid or very-low-volume quilt fabric in a light color. Note that the text will

appear lighter when printed on fabric instead of paper. I use Spray n Bond Basting Adhesive Temporary Bond (available at JoAnn Fabrics and on Amazon), and 20 lb. copy paper with a matte finish (i.e., don't use glossy paper).

### **Directions**

- 1) **Design your quilt label.** Open Microsoft Word, and select "New" to create a new document. Decide where you want your quilt label to appear on your finished quilt. If you want your quilt label to be a particular shape or have a border, you may want to first insert a shape (such as a triangle, or square), then insert a text box inside that shape. You also may insert icons to add simple graphic images to your label. Type your label (inside the text box, if using), and adjust the fonts and sizing as desired. For readability, use a 14-pt. or larger font in black. Depending on the size of your quilt label, you may be able to fit several labels on one page.
- 2) **Cut your fabric.** Using your 8.5" x 11" heavy paper as a template, cut your fabric to size. Your fabric needs to be exactly the same size as your paper; if it is smaller, it is likely to jam your printer.
- 3) **Baste your paper.** Lightly spray the paper with the basting adhesive. Carefully lay the cut fabric on top of the paper, smoothing out any wrinkles. You need it to be as smooth as possible to feed through your printer.
- 4) **Print a test sheet on *plain paper*.** In a new Microsoft Word document, type "test print" in large type. Open your printer paper drawer, and on the top piece of paper, handwrite "top of paper." Print your test sheet. Check your printout. If your "test print" appears on the same side of the paper as the side on which you wrote "top of paper," then you know to load your paper/fabric combo fabric side up. If "test print" appears on the other side, then you will load your paper/fabric combo fabric side down.
- 5) **Load your paper/fabric combo into your printer.** It may help to have a small stack of regular printer paper underneath. Only attempt to load/print one fabric page at a time.
- 6) **Print your label onto the fabric.** From the "File" menu on Microsoft Word, select "Print."
- 7) **Let your fabric label dry for a few minutes, then carefully peel the fabric from the paper.**
- 8) **Cut out your label, using a ruler and rotary cutter.** Leave at least a ½" blank border around your label for sewing; leave more room if you want any of the edges of the label sewn under the binding.
- 9) **Sew your label to your quilt back.** I prefer to do this before sewing on the binding. You may choose to press and fold the edges under before sewing for a finished look, or just sew the label with the cut edge showing to allow it to fray when washed for a more natural look.