

ROSIE & BEAR

Diamond Jubilee Quilt Book

Queen Elizabeth II 1952 - 2012: A Quilting Celebration

Helen Dickson



Diamond Celebrate with Rosie and Bear as they
travel around the Commonwealth

Jubilee Quilt Book

HELEN DICKSON



Bustle & Sew
www.bustleandsew.com

For my daughter Rosie, a little girl so long ago and far away, who still loves to set off on adventures! And for my husband who has given me so much encouragement and support.

A Bustle & Sew Book

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Helen Dickson started her online pattern business, Bustle & Sew, in 2009.

She creates designs for patterns that are lively, interesting and fresh, and that she hopes will inspire others to pick up fabric and thread to produce their own piece of work with all the sense of achievement that brings.

She loves stitching and is passionate about sharing with others through her blog and e-zine.

Connect with Helen through her blog:

www.bustleandsew.com/blog

Discover her patterns on her website:

www.bustleandsew.com

If you like Helen's patterns, then why not consider the Bustle & Sew e-zine, an eclectic mixture of her original designs, vintage stitching, features, articles and even a recipe page contributed by her now grown-up daughter Rosie? It's the nicest, best value way to build your library of Bustle & Sew designs. Learn more here:

www.bustleandsew.com/magazine

THE STORY BEGINS ...



Princess Elizabeth 1929

Our Queen, Elizabeth II is the constitutional monarch of 16 sovereign states (known as the Commonwealth realms) and their territories and dependencies, as well as head of the 54-member Commonwealth of Nations. She is Supreme Governor of the Church of England and, in some of her realms, carries the title of Defender of the Faith as part of her full title.

But, when Elizabeth was born in April 1926, no-one anticipated that she would become our Queen as her father, then Duke of York, was the second son of the reigning monarch, King George V. Her father ascended to the throne in 1936, following the abdication of his brother, King Edward VIII when Elizabeth became first in line to the throne.

During 1951, George VI's health declined and Elizabeth frequently stood in for him at public events. In early 1952, Elizabeth and Philip set out for a tour of Australia and New Zealand by way of Kenya.

On 6 February 1952, after a night spent at Treetops Hotel, word arrived of the death of the King. Elizabeth was proclaimed Queen throughout her realms and her coronation (the first ever to be televised) took place in Westminster Abbey in 1953.

The Queen has witnessed, during the course of her lifetime, the break up of the British Empire, and its

transformation into a family of independent, and equal states, the Commonwealth of Nations. Spanning 1953–54, the Queen and her husband embarked on a six-month around-the-world tour. She became the first reigning monarch of Australia and New Zealand to visit those nations.

Throughout her reign, the Queen has undertaken state visits to foreign countries and tours of Commonwealth ones and she is the most widely travelled head of state in history.



It felt natural to celebrate Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee with a journey around the Commonwealth - and who better to undertake such a journey than Rosie and Bear?!

The idea for my Rosie and Bear designs came to me as I was looking through my collection of photographs from those long-ago, far-away days when I had a very small daughter called Rosie.

My collection contained photos of Rosie enjoying all sorts of events - summer holidays, Christmas parties, barbecues in the garden and much more. On the next page you'll find a picture of her all dressed up as Little Red Riding Hood - ready to head off to yet another party given by one of her friends.





And you can be sure that, even when he couldn't be spotted in the pictures, Bear was never too far away. Indeed, he was probably just out of camera range!

Of course Rosie is all grown-up now, but she still treasures Bear, who has become quite an elderly gentleman. These days he is content to wait quietly on the end of her bed, snoozing away the hours until Rosie returns home in the evenings to tell him all about her days. He is such a very good listener and **never** reveals the secrets he learns.

I have always loved vintage blocks of the month, particularly popular in American during the 1930s and 40s, often being published as series in newspapers of that period. Although I have discovered lots of lovely contemporary embroidery designs, when I began to search for a collection of blocks to incorporate into a quilt, I couldn't find any that really appealed to me. That was when I decided to design my own "Rosie and Bear" quilts.

The series began with my Rosie & Bear "Around the Year Quilt Book" (also available on Amazon) and now continues with this very special celebration of Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee year. As you'll discover, I like to keep things simple when I'm designing, so whether you're a quilter who is trying out freestyle embroidery, or a stitcher who wants to create a special quilt, you're sure to achieve a good result.

The only difficult thing about this project was trying to decide what countries to include. I was influenced by the Jubilee visits made during 2012 by members of the Royal Family. Countries visited included Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Singapore, Mozambique and India. I also added a special "Friendship block" for the USA who, whilst not a Commonwealth member, has been a very special friend to the Commonwealth during the years of the Queen's reign.



Of course, if you have a special child of your own in your life, you might like to think about customising Rosie, perhaps changing her hair, or skin colour to reflect your own child's? This is sure to make your quilt very special to, and treasured by, its lucky recipient.

And finally, I do hope you have as much fun making your very own Jubilee quilt as I had putting this book together for you.

Helen Dickson
September 2012

USING THIS BOOK ...

You will find all the material requirements for making the whole quilt on page 15, before the individual patterns for each block of the month.

I am sure that some readers might be planning to make individual blocks - maybe stitching a single design for a particular project, or perhaps making their quilts over an extended period of time. To make it easier for those who intend to do this, I have also given the material requirements for each individual block at the beginning of its section.



As different stitchers prefer different methods of transferring designs to fabric, I have provided the embroidery patterns both the right way round and reversed to suit your preferred method of transfer. I have also included guidance on how to transfer your design.

As well as a glossary of perhaps the less familiar stitches at the back of this book, I have also included guidance for embroidering fur. Whether you're a newbie stitcher or more experienced, I recommend you read this before starting to stitch as you will find lots of hints and tips to help you make Bear's fur the best it can be. Lots of stitchers are put off by the idea of embroidering fur, but it really isn't that hard at all.

Bear is the only solid part of the embroidery - this is because he's the only character that remains unchanged to the present day. Childhood is very fleeting and the little Rosie in those blocks simply doesn't exist any more. Now my daughter is a lovely young woman, and I'm very proud of her, but she is quite different to the child of 20 years ago of course!

This quilt is such fun to stitch as it's pure imagination - Rosie and Bear never did go to India and ride on an elephant, and nor was Bear carried off by a lioness in South Africa! I tried to design patterns that would represent the countries I had chosen to stitch, while also showing them in a unique "Rosie and Bear" sort of way!

One final tip ... don't forget to label your quilt on the back when you've finished. I've included a Rosie & Bear label for you to use for this purpose. Future generations will thank you for taking the time and trouble to do this as "Granny's Diamond Jubilee Quilt" is sure to be loved by your children and your children's children too!





Canada



Singapore



South Africa



New Zealand

HOW TO EMBROIDER FUR

The quilt blocks in this book feature my daughter, Rosie, and her childhood friend Bear. Although Rosie is very simple to embroider, using stem and back stitch, Bear is shown in all his furry glory. I know the thought of stitching fur can be a bit scary if you've never tried it before. But don't worry - it's really quite easy - and with Bear's help I'm going to show you how...

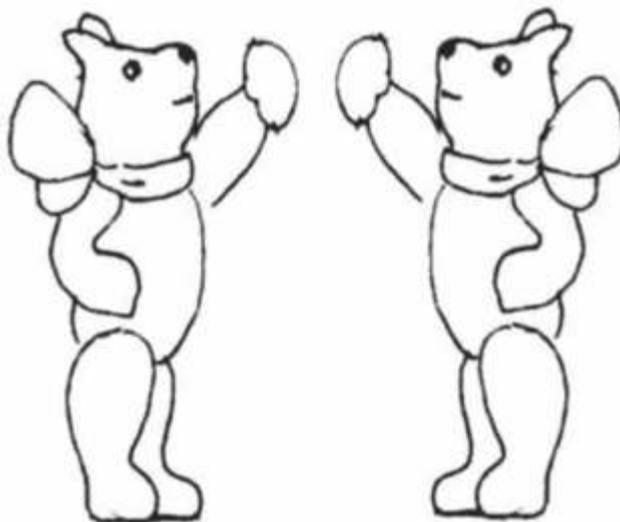
You might like to practise your fur embroidery before starting your quilt, in which case you will need a 6" square piece of cotton or linen fabric suitable for embroidery. You will also need stranded cotton embroidery floss in dark chocolate, milk chocolate, toffee and fudge colours (*OK that's very dark brown, mid to dark brown, light brown and golden yellow colours.* But as I recall that Bear was always very fond of sweets I thought I'd use our common language!) You'll also need some black for his eye and the tiniest little bit of white to put the sparkle in his eye. Using linen floss in with the cotton gives interest to the texture as the linen is matt which contrasts nicely with the shine of the cotton. But if you can't get linen floss, then it's fine to use all cotton.



First transfer your Bear onto your fabric. My Bear measures between 2 1/2" and 3" tall - small enough so that there's not too much stitching but large enough to be able to delineate the different shades of fur clearly and effectively.

IMPORTANT: You will be using 2 strands of floss throughout unless specified otherwise.

Hoop up and take a good look at the soon-to-be furry fellow. If you have a pet, then take a good look at him or her too - or check out some animal pictures.



Notice the direction in which the fur grows. ALWAYS away from the nose



The nose, therefore, is the focus of all your fur stitches. And look at how their fur overlaps so that the fur nearest the nose lies on top of fur further down the body.

This is the first key to achieving realistic Bear fur - getting the *direction* of your stitching correct.



THE QUILT BLOCKS





Australia



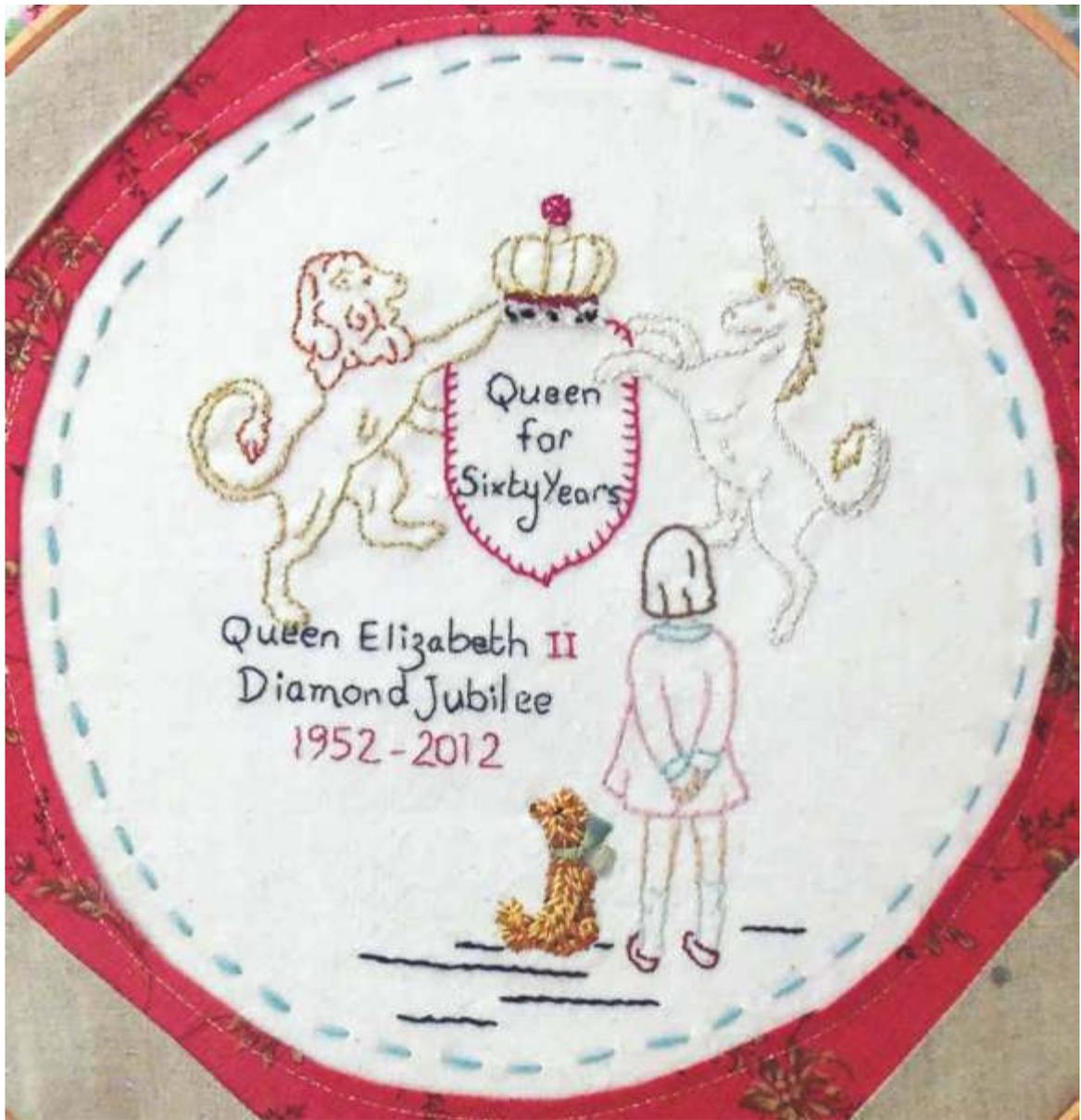
Barbados



Canada



Great Britain



Queen for Sixty Years



India



Kenya



Mozambique



New Zealand



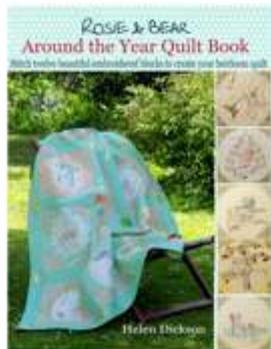
Singapore



South Africa



United States of America



The Rosie & Bear "Around the Year Quilt Book" is another great quilting title from Bustle & Sew.

Travel through the year with Rosie & Bear, stitching their adventures into twelve wonderful blocks - and one beautiful heirloom quilt that will be treasured forever.

Learn more on the Bustle & Sew website.

www.bustleandsew.com

The Bustle & Sew magazine is a monthly e-magazine delivered direct to subscribers' email in-boxes on the last Thursday of each month as a pdf file that's easy to download and print. It's a great, low-cost way to build your library of Bustle & Sew patterns, and you can be sure of always having the latest designs at your fingertips, ready to print and create.

So, if you've enjoyed this collection, then please visit my website to find out more about the magazine - and all my other Bustle & Sew products too.

www.bustleandsew.com

And you can keep up to date with all my news, and find out what's happening down in deepest rural Devon on my blog too!



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