

# Appalachian History Course Project Slide Show

- Quilting
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- 8:20 Spring Block

# A Quilt Ripe for the Making..

I chose to make an American flag quilt for several reasons. First, I thought it would be very fitting considering our current situation in Iraq. Second, it provided a great challenge. Going into this project, I realized that this quilt was going to take tremendous time and effort, and I have to admit— the promise of hard work and dedication excited me. I wanted to produce a quilt that I could look back on and be proud of. In a sense, this project was far more than just another school assignment for me.

The quilting process begins by making "squares". Squares are the patterns that you actually see on the quilt. All of the squares are eventually sewn into what my grandmother calls the "top". A "top" is basically just a fancy word for the quilt without the warm lining added on. Below are pictures of me making the squares for my quilt.



I never actually realized how time consuming quilting was until I sat down and made one for myself.



Sometimes the needle and thread gets stuck and you have to start all over. Being a beginner, this happened to me a lot, and I started to become frustrated, but I knew the end result would all be worth it.



The next step in the quilt making process is to cut out the strips you want to border the squares. To do this, you use a cutting board that is marked off to make measuring easier.

I learned that this process is very challenging, and most of it requires that you use a tremendous amount of math skills. You have to be able to calculate the area of your quilt in order to make sure you prepare enough fabric to go all the way around the perimeter of your pattern. I soon realized that the phrase my mother always told me, “Math is necessary for even the simplest things” is actually true.



After all of the squares are assembled, it's time to make the "top". To make the top, you have to sew the strips you cut out to the squares and then sew the squares together with a sewing machine.

At first, I was very apprehensive about using a sewing machine. Until recently, I hadn't used a sewing machine since I attempted to make clothes for my Barbie dolls in the sixth grade. It may sound silly to state that I was more sewing machine literate at a younger age, but that's how it is.

Here is a picture showing my immediate concerns about getting my hands near a needle that moves faster than my grandmother drives on the highway.



Can't you see the tension in my shoulders and the worry in my eyes? My mother got a kick out of this picture.

Sewing the squares together proved to be a whole lot easier than I had previously thought. It turns out that it only took me two days to sew the top together. The following week was what took the longest.

I had to make sure that all of the squares lined up and that the American flag was pinned on straight. I then sewed the warm lining in and put the decorative backing onto the top.





As I stated earlier, the sewing machine was more intimidating than anything. It was actually fun once I got the hang of it.





The final step after sewing the backing on was to do some decorative tie stitches on top to ensure that homemade look. I never thought the day would come when I would finally be able to stretch the quilt over my couch and take my picture beside of it.



Finally, after nearly a month of working on this quilt, I could spread the final product out and get the “golden picture” of me beside of the complete project.

