



Chatt Hills Barn Quilt Trail

Creating a Barn Quilt

PREPARATION

If this is your first time creating a barn quilt, you may benefit from attending a barn quilt class or from helping an experienced volunteer create a barn quilt. If you have some experience with painting and craft projects, review the following preparation steps before continuing with the instructions on the following pages.

ASSESS THE STRUCTURE

Before designing the barn quilt, consider the following items regarding the barn or structure:

- The available space on the barn or structure. This will determine the finished size of the barn quilt.
- The structure's exterior covering. Different materials can present challenges that must be addressed prior to attaching the finished block to the barn.
- The height of the point where the block will be attached to the structure. This will determine the number of people and what type of equipment is needed to safely attach the block.
- The structure's distance from the road. Structures closer to the road can display more complex quilt patterns, while those farther away should use simpler quilt patterns with more contrasting colors to be seen well.

CHOOSE THE BARN QUILT SIZE

Recommended sizes for barn quilts on the trail are 4'x4' or 8'x8'. These two sizes work well for both large barns and structures and smaller outbuildings. Additionally, these sizes help us economize the projects, since the sign board we used comes in the standard size of 4'x8'. Requests for other sizes may be approved under special circumstances. For barn quilt classes or beginners, a 2'x2' size is recommended.

SELECT A QUILT PATTERN

For inspiration in selecting a pattern, the internet is a great resource. Recommended sites are Pinterest and <https://www.barnquiltheadquarters.com>. Or check your family quilts for a pattern you like. A volunteer from the quilt trail can assist with your choice, and also help "digitize" your pattern so you can view different color combinations.

CONSIDER THE BARN QUILT MATH

Before going further, pause to consider the math. Most geometric quilt patterns are based on a grid, which is a whole lot easier to draw if the individual squares can be drawn by a standard ruler with $\frac{1}{4}$ inch increments.

For example, the math for a 24x24 inch barn quilt, with a 5 x 5 square grid pattern: $24 / 5 = 4.8$ inch for each square. This would create a challenge to draw. However, there are several options to address this challenge:

1. Fudge a little. Reduce your squares to 4.75 inches and add a tad more to make up for the $\frac{1}{4}$ inch left over.
2. Add a border. Reduce your squares to 4.25 inches ($4.25 \times 5 = 21.5$), which leaves 2.5 in / 2 for a 1.25 in border.
3. Consider another pattern that divides more evenly into the finished size of your barn quilt.
4. Cut your barn quilt board to a larger size to better accommodate the size of the individual squares.

GATHER MATERIALS

Check the list of materials and suppliers included in this guide. Of particular importance is the quality of the sign board and paint, as they will determine the quality and longevity of the barn quilt.

Traditionally, barn quilts were painted on exterior plywood or MDO, a special coated plywood. However; more and more barn quilt trails are using a light weight Aluminum Composite Board, which has been used by the sign industry for years and is known for its light weight and durability.

For the paint, we have two recommendations based on their durability and resistance to fading and mildew: Valspar Duramax (Lowes) and Behr (Home Depot) brand. We also recommend Yellow Frog Tape which works well with newly painted surfaces.

PREPARE THE ALUMINUM COMPOSITE SHEET

We recommend purchasing Aluminum Composite (AC) Board primed on both sides. This product comes in 4 x 8 ft sheets, which most suppliers will cut to size for an additional cost. However, it is very easy to cut and prepare following these instructions.

CUT THE AC TO SIZE

1. Mark points at the desired length and width of AC.
2. Clamp a straight edge ruler 2x 4 Clap along the desired length.
3. Run a utility knife along the straight edge several times to "score" the AC.
4. Remove the clamps and straight edge then place the score line over the edge of a table.
5. Wiggle the AC up and down to a few times then apply ore pressure. The AC will break evenly along the score line. See: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9EEQVDrJehc&feature=youtu.be>
6. Repeat to cut the width to desired size.



ADD BASE COAT TO AC

Once your sheet is the desired size, follow these steps:

1. Remove the protective film from each side slowly and carefully to avoid static build-up.
2. Pre-clean the surface with isopropyl alcohol, using non-colored cloth for best results.
3. Scuff the side you'll be painting with a sanding block or sand paper, preferably using a grain size of 360 grit. Do not grind through the coating to the aluminum metal.
4. Remove dust with a lint-free cloth moistened with isopropyl alcohol.
5. Apply two coats of Primer (water based) *
6. Apply two coats of your Background color of paint.

* I use Valspar Duramax Ultra-Pure White with primer for all of my base coats.

DRAW THE QUILT BLOCK PATTERN

1. Print a colored copy of your quilt pattern. (Figure 1)
2. Count the number of squares across and down to determine the quilt block grid pattern. (Figure 2)
3. Draw the grid pattern on your composite sheet with light pencil marks. (Figure 3)
4. Draw your pattern in each grid and label its color. (Figure 4)

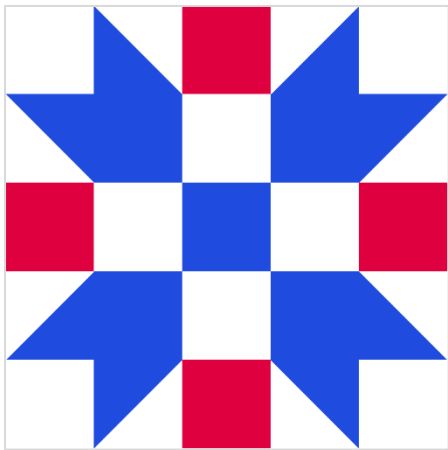


Figure 1 – Print the quilt block pattern

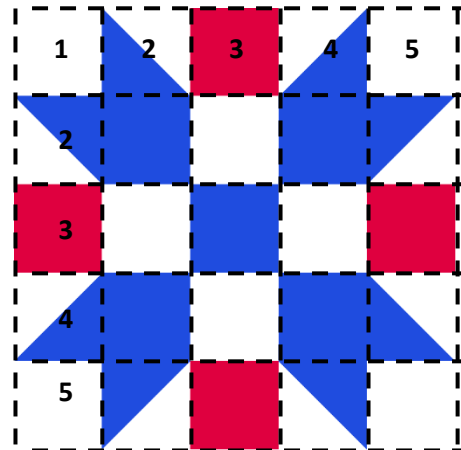


Figure 2 – Count squares across & down for grid

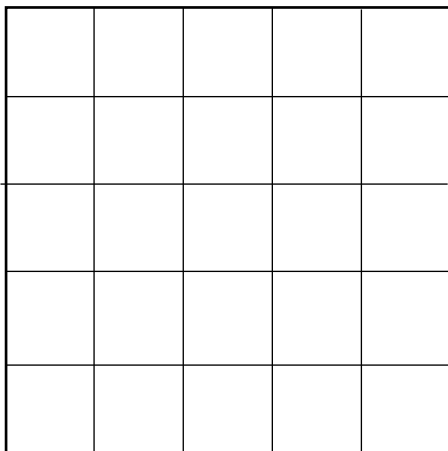


Figure 3. Draw the grid on the composite sheet

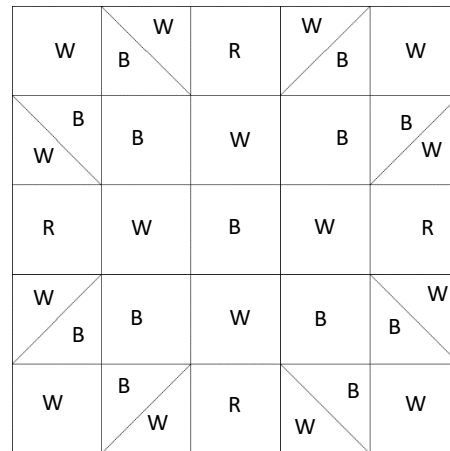


Figure 4 – Draw the pattern inside the grid and label the colors in each section

PAINT THE QUILT BLOCK

1. Tape off one colored section at a time with Frog tape, pressing the tape firmly to seal the edges. (Figure 5)
2. Apply a thin coat of paint to the first color using a small paint roller. (Figure 6)
3. Repeat step 2 to apply 3-4 coats of paint until well covered.
Note: To reduce drying time use a blow dryer on low temperature.
4. While the last coat of paint is still wet, carefully peel off the Frog tape by pulling it back on itself at a 45-degree angle, away from the section that was just painted. (Figure 7).
5. Repeat steps 1-6 for each color to finish the quilt block and touch up any paint errors (Figure 8).

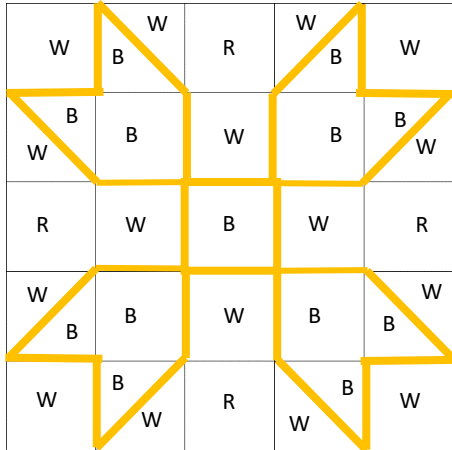


Figure 5 – Tape off one colored section

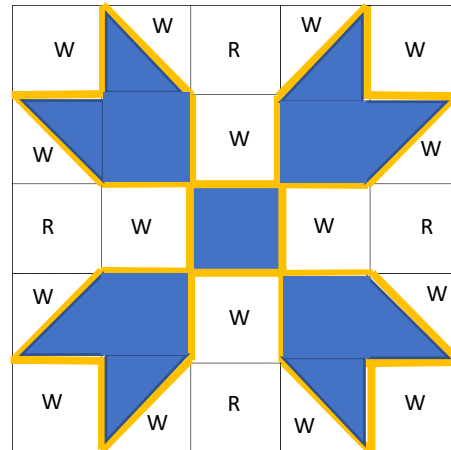


Figure 6 – Apply a thin coat of paint

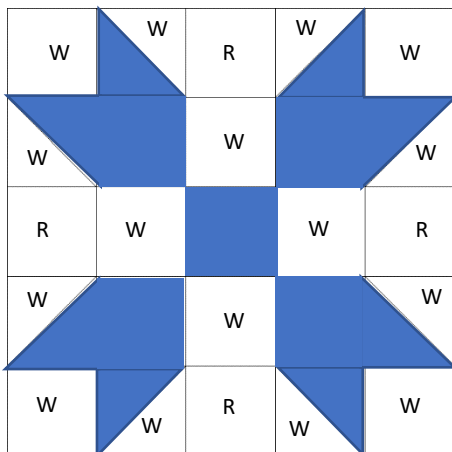


Figure 7 – Remove painter's tape

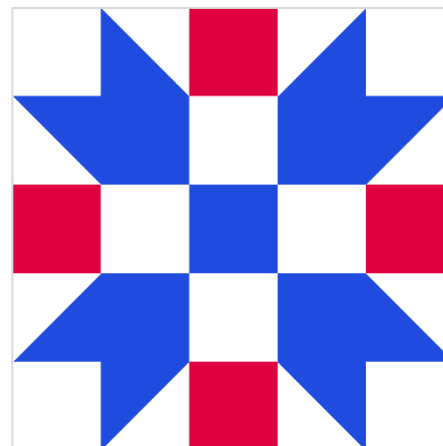


Figure 8 – Repeat painting process for each color and touch up any paint errors

INSTALLATION

The Chatt Hills Barn Quilt committee will coordinate the installation of barn quilts on its trails. For installations on taller structures, the committee will work with the City to obtain an installation contractor.

For individuals desiring to do their own installations, the following advice is provided:

1. Select the appropriate equipment:
 - a. For barn quilt sizes up to 4x4, installations may be done with a ladder
 - b. For larger barn quilts, a scissor lift or bucket truck may be needed.
2. Select the appropriate fasteners:
 - a. On smooth surfaces, the barn quilt may be installed directly to the surface with the recommended exterior screws.
 - b. On uneven surfaces such as those that have siding or barn board, wood strips may need to be installed to the surface first with exterior screws, and then the barn quilt would be screwed to the strips. (Figure 9).

Note: Care should be taken not to “over tighten” the screws, as this will cause the Aluminum Composite Sheet to bend.
3. The last step is to take a photo of the barn quilt with the host and the barn quilt painter. (Figure 10)



Figure 9 – Install wood strips to support the barn quilt on uneven surfaces



Figure 10 – Take a finished photo of the barn quilt with the host and the painter.

VIEW THE COMPLETE PROCESS

For an excellent presentation on the complete Barn Quilt process see the Alabama Barn Quilt Trail website:

<https://www.alabamabarnquilttrail.org/create>

MATERIALS LIST

(See supplier list on next page)

- Composite Aluminum Sheet (4x8)
 - One sheet will make two (4'x4') barn quilts
 - Two sheets will make one (8'x8') barn quilt
- Isopropyl Alcohol
- Lint Free Cloth
- Steel Wool or fine grit sanding block
- Pencil
- Erasers
- Straight Edge
- Long Ruler or Measuring Tape
- Exacto Knife & Blades
- Exterior Paint Primer
- Exterior Latex Semi-Gloss Paint
 - Approximately 4-8 oz needed per color
 - Typical barn quilt has 4-6 colors
- Paint Applicators
 - 3" paint rollers and tray
 - Touch-up artist brush
- Large Baggies (to put paint applicators in between coats)
- Delicate Surface Painter's Tape
 - Yellow Frog Tape (0.94 inch wide)
 - Yellow Frog Tape (1.41 inches wide)
- Exterior Screws
- Wood Strips, if needed for hanging the BQ (1x3" by length)
- Work Tables

SUPPLIES LIST

COMPOSITE ALUMINUM SHEETS (4'X8')

<https://www.nglantz.com/search?searchString=EMPB31L>

3MM 48" X 96" WHITE 2 SIDED BEBOND PREMI.

Glantz Code: EMPB31L

Cost: \$59/Sheet (delivery is @ \$7)

G GLANTZ

430 Satellite Blvd NW #104

Suwanee, GA 30024

PAINT

Both Valspar and Behr are excellent paint, but we've noticed some colors Behr stick to the yellow frog tape during painting. Valspar doesn't seem to do this, so it is now our number 1 choice.

Valspar Duramax Exterior Latex Semi-Gloss Paint

Cost: \$20/quart

Available at Lowes

Behr Ultra Enamel Exterior Paint (satin or semi-gloss)

Cost: \$20/quart

Available at Home Depot

ROLLERS

It is best to paint the composite panels with a roller (not a brush).

Recommend 3" Rollers from Home Depot

[3 in. x 1/4 in. Tiny Trim Shed Resistant White Woven Mini Paint Roller Kit](#)

Model# HD MS 4



PAINTERS TAPE

Amazon.com

FROGTAPE 280220 Delicate Surface Painter's Tape with PaintBlock 0.94 inch width, Yellow (Cost: \$8.84/roll)

https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B004Y6WM1Q/ref=ppx_yo_dt_b_asin_title_o04_s00?ie=UTF8&psc=1

Frogtape 280221 1.41" X 60 Yards Delicate Surface Painters' Tape (Cost: \$12.24/roll)

https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B06XW3L814/ref=ppx_yo_dt_b_asin_title_o04_s00?ie=UTF8&psc=1
