

# Barn Quilting 101



A presentation by

*Neversink Renaissance*

## Barn Quilting 101

### Site Selection

There are a number of factors that should be considered when planning the location of a barn quilt including the type and size of structure, placement of windows and doors, the type of siding to which it will be mounted, and the visibility to the public. Typically a 4'X4' quilt will be best suited for a small barn or garage while an 8'X8' is most appropriate for a larger barn. For the purposes of this course, we will focus on the smaller 4'X4' version.

### Tools and Materials Needed

#### Tools:

1. electric drill or driver
2. square bit
3. hammer
4. putty knife
5. 2 wood clamps
6. tape measure
7. 2 1/2 in. paint brush
8. paint roller and tray
9. pencil
10. medium and fine grit sand paper
11. table saw
12. miter saw (hand or electric)

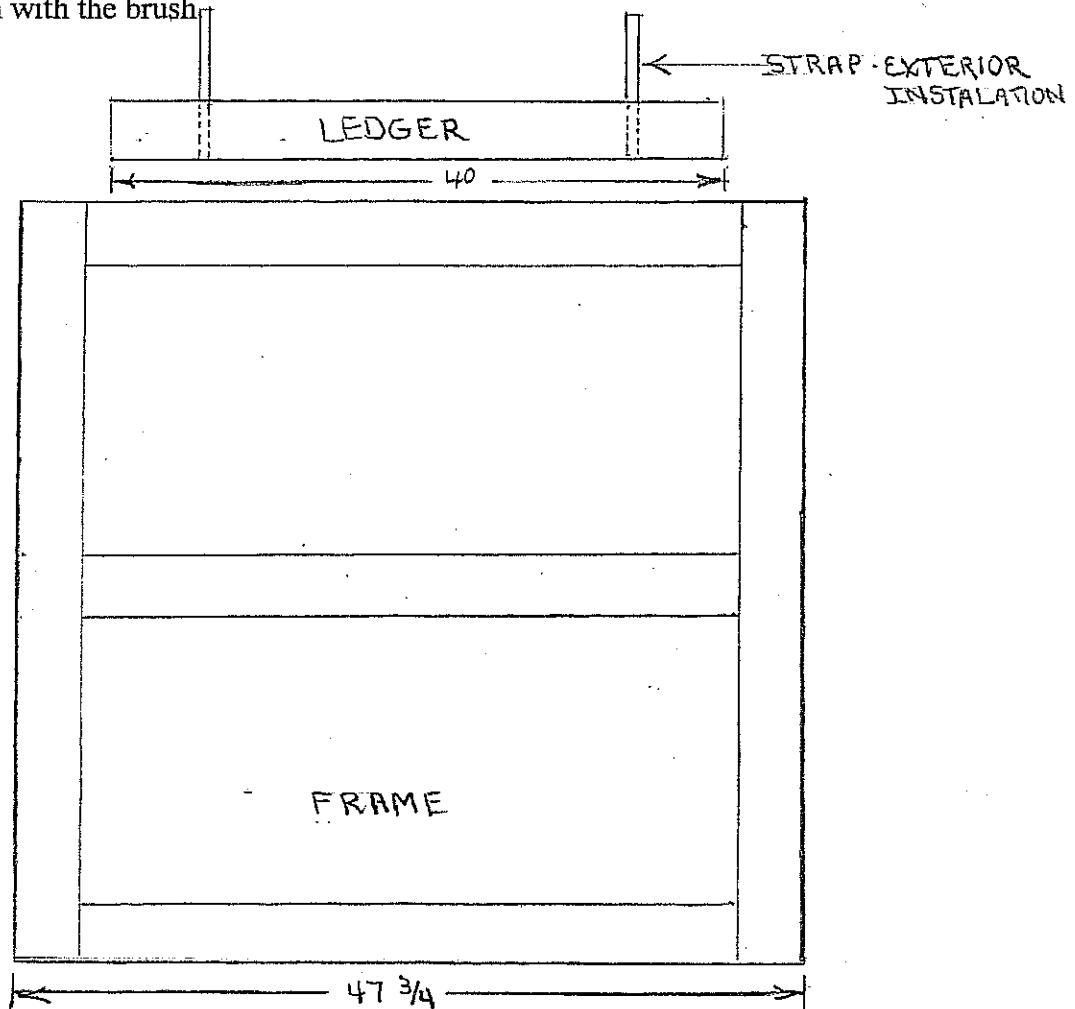
#### Materials:

1. 47 3/4 "X 47 3/4 frame or 3 2x4x8 pine to make your own
2. 1 4X4 1/2" MDO Exterior Sign Board
3. 1 1X6X10 pine board
4. 30 5/8" Square Hole Stainless Steel Trim Screws
5. 6 1 1/4" shims
6. 3 penny finishing nails
7. wood putty
8. 1 qt exterior primer
9. drop cloths

Note: a 47 3/4 "X 47 3/4 frame may be purchased from Grey's Woodworks in Grahamsville, 4X4 sign board available at Superior Lumber in Neversink.

### Preparation of Square

1. Inspect edges of sign board for any cracks or holes and fill with wood putty. Lightly sand when dry. This will help to prevent moisture from entering the board and causing paint to peel.
2. Mix primer and apply two coats to the rough side of the sign board. Allow recommended drying time between coats. Be sure knot holes are fully painted.
3. Place 4X4 frame on floor. With painted surface down, position sign board on frame so that two adjacent edges are perfectly aligned. Use a wood block along the edge of the frame to help assure alignment.
4. Using drill/driver and square bit, drive screw through sign board into back frame. Screws should be applied at least  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches in from the edge and should be approximately 10 inches apart including the cross piece. Each screw should be driven approximately  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch below the surface. Be sure to account for the location of the metal connectors on the frame.
5. With a putty knife or finger tip, fill each screw hole. After sanding the surface flush, apply a second coat of putty to those holes that have some depressions from shrinkage. Re-sand these holes.
6. Clean off the surface of the sign board. Stir primer. Using a roller, apply a coat of primer to the edges and surface of the sign board. While primer is still wet, using a  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inch paint brush, lightly brush the entire surface of the board to remove all roller marks.
7. After recommended drying time, place a second coat of primer with the roller and finish with the brush.



Now that you have the panel prepared, the fun begins. Please notice that some things have been **high-lighted**. Experience has taught me that they are the most important items and will give you the most professional job.

#### Choosing the quilt design

When sewing or painting a quilt the same rule to remember is: **pick a design to match your skill**. Quilting magazines, internet research or quilting books will offer designs galore. When choosing colors consider where the quilt will hang and in most cases pick colors that look good together.

#### Materials needed for project

1. picture or sketch of quilt design
2. graph paper
3. measuring device with at least 48 inches on it
4. a square (t-square, triangle, carpenter square or accurate square of cardboard)
5. pencils
6. eraser
7. wood or metal strip(at least 48in long) with straight smooth side
8. **good semi-gloss, outdoor latex paint** (colors of the quilt design)
9. **good 2in. and 3in. brushes**
10. small artist brush for touching up "spots"
11. old toothbrush
12. drop cloth
13. clean rags
14. **painters tape** ( 1 inch, good quality)
15. mat knife and scissors
16. stirring stick
17. garbage bag
18. a sturdy table to lay your panel on, have it at a comfortable level to work

When you have chosen the design, take a good look at it and you will see that it is done in blocks. **Pick a design that has an even number that will go into 48**. If the design that you really like has 9 blocks, pick it, but it will take about 4 times longer to set it up.

#### Step One

1. Mark off 48 squares on your graph paper. If the graph paper is small use 2 squares (96)
2. Pencil your design onto the graph paper using a straight edge. It may take more than one try and it must be accurate. You will end up with 4, 6 or 8 blocks according to design chosen. See illustration.
3. When you have the design transferred designate what colors go where either by number or actually color them lightly.

#### Step Two

1. Divide the panel into the same number of blocks that you ended up with on the graph. They will be much larger and **should be accurately measured**.
2. **Lightly pencil the blocks**, pencil lines show through the paint and **must be erased**
3. Now you must go to the panel and transfer what you just did on the graph paper to the panel+

4. Now draw in your design being as accurate as possible
5. Erase the first block lines that you drew
6. Touch up the second lines and you are ready to paint, almost!

#### Step Three

1. Decide which color you wish to paint first, light colors should be done first.
2. Tape around the outside of your first color blocks, using the painter's tape.
3. Double check to make sure you have chosen the right ones.
4. **Make sure the tape is secure, no wrinkles and tightly pressed down**, this stops the paint from bleeding under.
5. **Stir the paint well.**
6. Paint each color block, paint **in one direction, use light strokes and small amounts of paint**. When you have finished little or no brush strokes should show.
7. Go to the next, same color block and so on.
8. Make sure your paint is **absolutely dry**, overnite is best.
9. Apply a second coat using the same amount of care.
10. The paint should have covered with the two coats although some colors or paint do not cover as well, now is the time to give it a third if you feel it is necessary
11. Be sure to paint side of panel with the color used on that area
12. Pull off the painter's tape, say a prayer and hope it didn't bleed.

#### Step Four

1. Choose your next set of color blocks, sometimes it is easier if you tear off a small piece of tape and stick it on the blocks you plan to paint.
2. Use the same procedure as you did in step 3. You may put tape over a part that has already been painted and sometimes the tape must be carefully cut with mat knife if a sharp point is called for.
3. When two colors are next to each other and one has been painted, using new tape, **be very accurate and stick to the edge of the color or overlap ever so lightly over the color that has already been painted**. This will prevent any gaps between colors. Also be extra careful about adhering the tape properly. **This step is very important!**
4. Now follow the previous steps 8-11.
5. There may be some booboo's or gaps here and there even though you have been very careful, use the art brush and **very carefully** go over spot with desired color and it disappears.

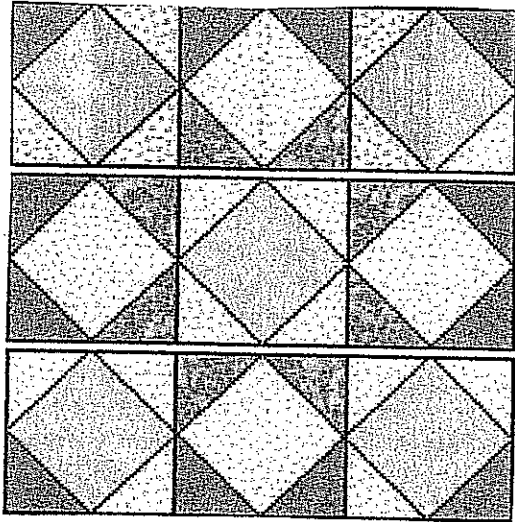
Now you have two colors on your panel. You can proceed with the same steps for the remaining colors and **you have a Barn Quilt.**

#### Reminders

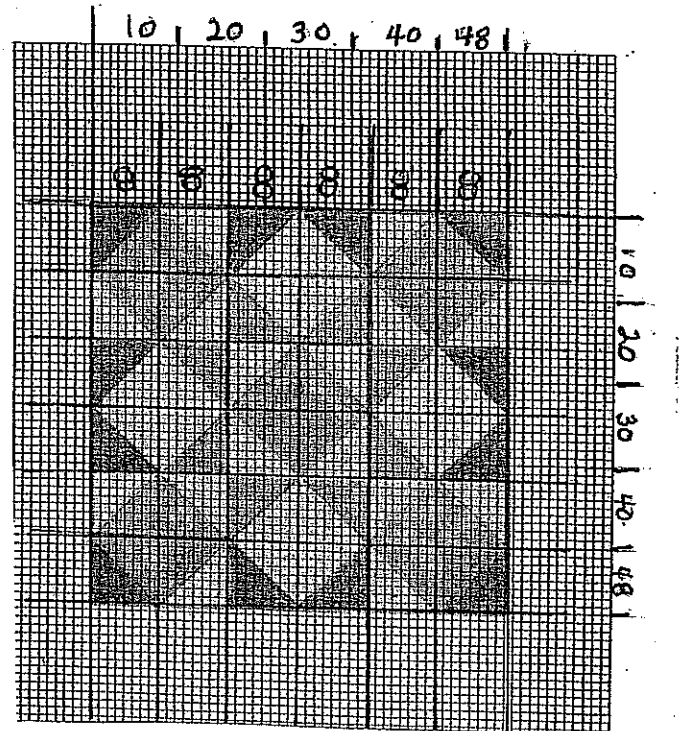
1. Be sure to "dust off" your panel before any painting
2. Treat your paint brush as your best friend, wash it immediately in cool water, never hot, a toothbrush is a great help in removing the paint, dry the brush and store it with the bristles up or hang it.

3. Some people prefer using the disposable foam painters. They work quite well but a brush does a little more accurate job. Some people use both, one to put the paint on and the other to smooth it. Which ever is used, direction and smoothness is important.
4. Close paint can securely.
5. Do not thin the paint and stir well before using.
6. It is not necessary to put any kind of protective element on the panel when finished, it tends to cause the panel to turn yellow and you cannot touch up if it is ever needed.
7. Take your time, let things dry thoroughly and take satisfaction in a job well done.
8. While your different color blocks are drying is a good time to paint the frame which will require 2 coats. Pick a color that is in your quilt that will not "steal attention from the quilt panel.

### Eight Point Allover Quilt Block



### Design on Graph Paper



### Preparation of Framing Material

1. The 1X6X10 pine board needs to be ripped precisely in half resulting in two, 2 ¾ inch width boards.
2. These should be painted with two coats of primer.
3. Paint with two coats of the desired color.

### Framing the Quilt

1. Using 1 ¼ inch shims, cut the length of the shim so that at its thickest point it will fill the space where the sign board over hangs the frame edge. Apply three to each of the two sides with a 3 penny finishing nail.
2. Measure the exact distance of one of the vertical sides of the quilt. Using an accurate saw, cut one of the boards to this length. Set the remaining piece aside to be used for the top or bottom frame. Position the side piece precisely in place on the edge of the frame and check for accuracy. Secure with at least four trim screws.
3. Measure the distance of the remaining vertical side. Cut this piece from the other 10 ft. piece. Secure precisely to the frame.
4. Measure top or bottom frame overlapping both the side pieces. Cut to length and secure to frame. Cut and install the last piece.
5. Fill all screw holes with wood putty, sand, and re-apply a second coat if needed.
6. Prime the cut off ends of the frame.
7. Paint over screw holes and ends of frame.

### Installing Quilt

#### Tools:

1. level
2. hammer
3. drill or driver
4. tape measure
5. two ladders of appropriate length
6. tin snips

#### Materials

- 1 40" 2X4 ledger board
- 2 10 3 inch Ceramic or stainless steel screws
- 3 Other screw lengths may be needed depending on the thickness of barn siding
- 4 ¾" hanger strap

Note: Two people are need for this installation

1. Mark the center of the 40" 2X4 ledger board.
2. On the building, locate the center point where the quilt will hang and the upper most location that it will be positioned. The top edge of the 40" 2X4 ledger board will be located 4" below the highest point where the quilt will hang.
3. Locate any beams or studs available to screw into and mark the locations on the ledger. Pre-drill holes large enough for the screw to pass through.
4. Position and level the ledger. Secure into building. (If securing quilt with hanger straps, review exterior application instructions below)
5. There are two possible methods for securing the frame to the building. The goal is to secure the quilt without drilling through the painted surface:

A. From Inside the Building (First Choice)

1. If you can access this part of the building and it has an unfinished interior wall it is best to attach the quilt from inside.
2. With one person on the outside and one inside, determine from inside the exact location that the frame will be located. Use windows, gaps in siding, or do a test bore above the ledger board to help in orienting the location.
3. Drill at least six through holes through the siding that align with the top and the bottom locations of the 2X4 frame of the quilt.
4. Check the thickness of the siding and select a screw that will be long enough to go through the siding and 1 inch into the frame.
5. Position the quilt on the ledger board and adjust for center.
6. As the quilt is being held to the building, secure from inside with screws through pre-dilled holes

B. From Outside of Building (Second Choice)

1. Identify and measure the location of any studs or beams where quilt will be hung.
2. Mark these locations on the siding
3. Cut three, 10" pieces of hanger strap with tin snips
4. To the back of the ledger board, secure two straps, perpendicular to the length of the board, approximately 6" in from each end. Secure the ledger board with the straps to the back and the excess extending upward.
5. Mark on the siding at the bottom most location where the quilt will hang. Secure the other two straps to the siding and into a stud or beam at two locations above the markings with enough excess strap to fall below the quilt.
6. Position the quilt and hold tight to building. Bend the top straps over the frame and secure with screws.
7. Hold bottom of quilt tight to building. Bend the bottom straps around the frame and secure with screws.
8. Trim back the excess straps.