

Oriental Dreams

By Angela R Herremans aka Dawsie





Quilt Size 80 x 94 inches - Printed from Eq6.

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All estimates are worked on 24" wide fabric.

Fabric key	Number of patches	Yardage estimate	Metres estimate	Fabric key	Number of patches	Yardage estimate	Metres estimate
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Rings for 3 of the blocks + part of the prayer gate.

	12	3/4	.686
	18	5/8	.572

Asian Lettering.

	98	3/8	.343
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Background Fabrics

	134	4 + 7/8 [#]	4.458
	179	7/8	.800
* 	416	1	.914
	246	2 + 3/8	2.172

Binding Made on the Bias.

* 	4	3/4	.686
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The estimate for this fabric assumes that long strips ARE pieced.

! Some patches of this fabric are longer than the fabric width.

* Border triangles and Binding are the same colour.

On the next page I have given a rough guide as to what fabrics are used for what blocks.

I will be giving more details with each block.

As the blossoms come in many colours you can change this as you go. so if you do not want to have all pink blossoms then don't buy the blossom fabrics until it is time to do them I will give you the amounts needed for the blocks when we get to them.

Applique Fabrics for the blocks. Most of these fabrics you will only need small charm squares.

	436	1	.914	All of the Cherry Blossoms.
	310	3/8	.343	All of the Cherry Blossoms.
	1	1/8	.114	Prayer Gate.
	4	1/8	.114	Bamboo notches.
	31	5/8	.572	Fan blades + Rock.
	249	7/8	.800	All the Cherry Blossom leaves.
	9	1/8	.114	Prayer Gate + Rock.
	11	1/8	.114	Bamboo leaves.
	2	1/8	.114	For the bridge.

Used on both the Cherry Blossom Wreath and the 2 long Weeping Cherry Blocks.

The weeping cherry branches are all in one piece so Eq6 has done the calculations towards this. The idea is to create a bias strip for the branches and set that in first and then add the blossoms, buds and leaves afterwards.

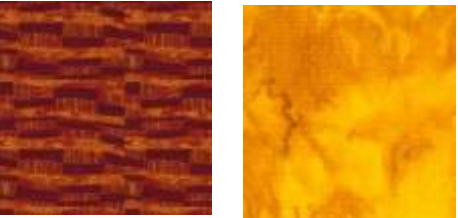
For the Cherry Blossom Wreath this is done in all one piece. so you will need a full square of fabric for this.

	50	1 + 1/4	1.143
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The fan has been changed since I first posted the picture to my website. I would like to think it is now improved :)

The fabric for the pictures on the Fan I used 1 FQ fussy cut. For the picture of the quilt I have shown 3 different kinds of fabrics.

I have used an Oriental Dragon fabric by Hoffman. I will go into more details when we get to the fan.



Rings on three of the blocks



Bamboo



Cherry Blossom Fan



prayer Gate



Weeping Willow



Weeping Cherry
Also for the Cherry Blossom
Top and bottom of the quilt.



Oriental Writing.

Some of the dark pinks on the cherry blossoms are very small and you may want to use silk ribbon or embroidery floss and embroider the dark pink details in. The other option is to try reverse applique. I myself will be using embroidery work on all of the small pieces. As I am doing blanket stitch to sew down my applique pieces this will

The inspiration for this quilt came from a couple of directions, Last year I made a second copy of the wall hanging I designed called "Tai Chi Dragon" for a friend who does not know how to sew.

This year she has told me that she is now planing on getting married in the Spring of 2008 and would like to learn how to sew so she can make matching pillow cases to go with the wall hanging.

So in designing a couple of blocks so that she could use them on the pillow cases I was not able to stop at just a couple of blocks and so "Oriental Dreams" was born.

As her wedding is in the spring time and in Japan, they have a wonderful display of cherry blossoms every spring I decided that the humble Cherry Blossom would be the main feature of the quilt.

I would love to see the Cherry Blossoms in Japan myself one day :) I have seen them in a documentary and this was the second inspiration for the quilt design.

So for now I am letting my fingers take me on a trip through Japan. :)

Prayer Gate.

This block was designed from the famous "Shinto" gate found in Japan.



Itsukushima Shrine is a Shinto shrine on the island of Itsukushima in the city of Hatsukaichi in Hiroshima Japan dating back to the 6th Century. The shrine is one of Japans National Treasures and is one of the main tourist attractions.

In 1168 the shrine was funded and built by the Warlord Taira no Kiyomori (born 1118 died 1181) but was again replaced in 1875.

When the Typhoon Songda hit on the 5th September 2004 this caused damage to the Shinto shrine and out laying buildings found around the shrine and so work was carried out to fix it.

The island once commanded a "Holy" status and no deaths or births were permitted at the shrine. To this day, burials on the island are still forbidden.



Weeping Willow

The weeping willow looks so delicate and matched with a slow flowing river or pond with an island in the middle with a bridge connecting the two looks and sounds peaceful. With a couple of boulders



placed so you can sit and contemplate life or just to make new dreams makes it sound just perfect.

So as I am not able to sit and do this at least I can dream about it as I sew the block.

Bamboo.



Bamboo is a plant that just keeps on growing, at the back of my parent's home between their backyard and the house behind them is a living fence of bamboo that is thick and the local finches and other small birds live in it. If you sit long enough you can see them pop out of the thicket of bamboo to hop onto the fixed fence all along the top of it.

The Asians consider bamboo to be lucky and I actually like bamboo to, so I have added it to the quilt. Not too much of it, :) just a little bit. Bamboo comes in many colours and not just green. I will add a few pictures with the bamboo pattern so you can see some of the colours.

Cherry Blossoms.

Cherry blossoms are delicate flowers, and in Japan there is a time that you can follow the flowering of the Cherry Blossoms Starting from the South of the country and working your way North.



While watching a documentary "Trails of the Cherry Blossom", I have found that cherry blossom comes in many colours ranging from white right through too deep pink and also it comes in a dusty yellow colour too. Depending on the tree you also have the blossoms starting out with only five petals right up to blossoms that have 100 petals or more.

Not all cherry blossoms have pink in the centres of the blossoms this all depends too on which cherry blossom you are looking at.

Some white blossoms have pink in the centres while others have yellow or some are so pale they look white.

Because of the wide range of cherry blossoms, you can have fun and mix in different colours for the blossoms in the quilt. I will talk more when we get to those blocks.

Weeping Cherry Blossom.

When I was watching a documentation on the "Trails of the Cherry Blossom" I saw my first weeping cherry tree and loved it so I just had to add them to this quilt rather than doing long

lengths of bamboo Which I was going to do the first time around. I loved the way the weeping cherry draped and so I changed my mind about the bamboo and replaced the long blocks with the weeping cherry tree branch.

I have noticed that there is also a dusty pink that looks almost peachy in colour. So with all the colours that you can use you can have a lot of fun with your blossoms.

The Fans.



I remember reading in a book many years ago about how the fan was used for more than just cooling us down, it was and still is a weapon they can be beautiful but deadly. Pictured is a Chinese fighting fan made of iron.

The Chinese name is "shanzi" and the Japanese is "tessen" These fans were made out of iron and could be used open or closed and some fans had spikes or points on the ends of the fan rods, these were carried by men. As the fans were made of iron that made them a little heavy for woman to carry and so their fans were lighter in weight but could be just as deadly.

The story goes that in ancient times the "Ba Gua practitioner" were forbidden to practice martial arts outside of the temple. As they needed to protect themselves, they chose weapons that were light and easily concealed within their long sleeves of their uniforms. A fan made the ideal weapon in that it could easily be explained why they were carrying them.

Today, the fan is still a favourite weapon for woman, men tend to think of the fan as too delicate and graceful so they tend to shy away from them. When the fan is used correctly, it can be as deadly as any other weapon.

Oriental Words.

The Asian words all have meanings. The one shown here is Chinese for Dragon.

I love the look of the Asian words they look softer than having them written in English, and they are so simple to sew so that makes them a handy font to use on quilts.



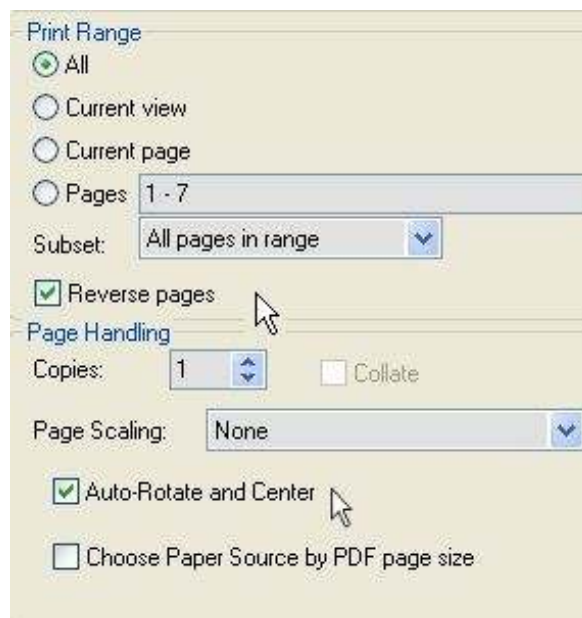
For this quilt I have used seven as an odd number is considered lucky. Each of the words have a good meaning all meant to bring everything positive that you would need to help you have pleasant dreams.

Printing out PDF files.

Between different countries there is also a difference in the national standard for paper size. To work around this problem I have worked out a compromise. For the USA you will not notice much of a difference unless you are using

foolscap paper. In Australia you will not print to the end of the page because the PDF files have been set to the shortest page. In the USA you will find that you will not be printing to the far right of the page as the PDF has been set to the smaller width paper.

Short of having 2-3 different files each month for the different page sizes this just worked out to be unrealistic. So to print out the pattern files you will need to set up your Adobe Reader to the following settings.



This is how I print it out on my printer. These settings will not change the size of the printout, it will only ensure that it will print out on you paper. I use the "Reverse pages" option as it will print the last page first this way when you take the work of the printer it is already collated.

Okay now that we have this out of the way we can get down to the business of making this quilt :)

Cutting The Blocks.

The following are the blocks that you will need to cut out.

I have added an extra ½ inch onto the block to allow for the shrinkage caused by applique work.

I find that I would rather be safe than sorry, we can always cut the extra off but we can not add it back.

cut 5 at 16¹/₈ inches high by 16³/₄ inches wide.
cut 21 at 8 inches high by 9¹/₄ inches wide.

cut 1 each of the following.
8 ½ inches wide by 65 ½ inches long. Right side.
8 ½ inches wide by 48⁵/₈ inches long.
8 inches high by 33⁵/₈ inches wide. Top
8 inches high by 34⁷/₈ inches wide. Bottom.

Leave the rest of the background fabric aside for later use in the border.

I have added both Yards and Metres as you have noticed for the fabric requirements. I personally always use the yards as Metres as I then gain fabrics for my scrap stash.

To get EQ to calculate for the fabric requirements I have used the option of 42" wide fabric, this always helps me so that when I do buy my fabrics I buy the 44" wide fabric using these estimates. This allows for the extra that I take for the blocks for the applique shrinkage.

I was luck enough to buy my background fabric this time around on extra wide fabric which was 246 cm wide which when converted to inches came to $96\frac{7}{8}$ inches wide. Because of this I only bought 2 Metres which is $2\frac{1}{4}$ yards.

This was more than enough. Now the fabric looked like it was a random pattern on it but on closer inspection I noticed a repeating design in the fabric. The fabric is a mock hand dye. In truth it is a printed fabric, but I liked it :)

So to work with the fact that there is a repeat design in the fabric and it all points in one direction I have layed out all the blocks making sure not to turn the fabric at any point just as if it was a dress pattern.

This is why I have given you all of the block sizes now so that if you too have bought fabric like this you can at least cut the pieces out now.

If the fabric you have bought is not wide enough to get the two blocks going across the quilt you can divide the length of the block in half and add the seam allowance and sew the two halves of the block together. Eq6 took this into account when working out the yardage.

Once you have all the blocks cut out go to the sewing machine and sew $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in from the raw edge around the block using a straight stitch. I find that this helps to keep me centred on the block when it comes to placing the applique and also stop any stretch.

Make sure that you mark the blocks as too the top of each block. Would hate for you to have it all finished only to find that you had turned the block as none of the blocks are square. Use pin or a pen to write on the edge that you know will be trimmed of later.

As we all have our own method to sew applique please chose your favourite way. I love to design and make quilts but I am not very good at teaching someone how to do it.

I will show you how I am doing mine as I go along and will share with you any tips that I have picked up while making this quilt on using the method that I like which is "steam-a-seam" and blanket stitch.

I love this method because I find that it flows into embroidery very easy and I love adding embroidery work to my quilts. It is a personal choice.

One note when I did the inner ring on the blocks I made up some bias strips with steam-a-seam and then cut it raw edged. I have a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch bias maker but not a $\frac{1}{2}$ inch one so I will have to pick one up from the craft show.

I find that making the bias I can get the fabric to curve around nicely :)

Now as much as I would like to stay and keep going it is time to sign of and go back to work onto the first block for this quilt.

The first block that you will get will be the Bamboo block only because I had the fabric on hand for it right now :) then in March we will be working on the Oriental Words which I have started now that I have finished the first block.

Once I have been to the craft show this month and have been able to pick up the fabric for the blossoms I will work on one of them :) not sure which one yet it will all depend on how soon I finish the words :)

You would have noticed that I have not given the cutting instructions for the border or sashing fabrics at this time. We will sort them all out later so make sure that you keep all the fabrics for them put aside.

You can contact me either through my website Dawsie's World of Treats <http://www.dawsie.com/>

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Quilt Size 80 x 94 inches - Printed from Eq6.

[Dawsie's World of Treats.](http://www.dawsie.com/)
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