

# The Fat Quarter

OLFA® Quarterly Crafting e-Newsletter

DEC 2009

## Featured Designer



**Debbie Roberts**  
**The Quilted Moose**

Debbie Roberts owns the whimsically named store "The Quilted Moose" in Nebraska. Why such a name? We'll let you discover that on your own from the [store's website](#). The Quilted Moose was named a 'top ten' shop in the 2007 Fall issue of Quilt Sampler magazine, and with a quick look around her shop, it's easy to see why. A soft chair and TV with videos is ready for any non-quilters that are along on the shopping trip, fabrics are everywhere, and every customer is greeted as they come through the door. When Debbie decided she was ready to open her store, she visited other shops and talked to

## Holiday Decor

Are you ready?



The weather is changing, decorations are up at the local mall, and kids are counting the days to winter break. But do you have all your decorations? It's not too late to have a beautiful hand-made holiday! Consider a theme - such as snowmen or trees, or a color scheme - and create decorations to coordinate. These ideas make up quickly, and you'll be thrilled with the results!

- [Festive Mantle Scarf](#)
- [Christmas Table Runner and Placemats](#)
- Pillow made with appliquéd circles
- Wine Glass Cozy - see free project feature
- Yo-Yos for ornaments, tree garland, and more

## Gift Giving



Hand-made holidays can extend to your gift-giving as well, and yes there is still time. Can't make a full quilt up, consider a wallhanging, need a hostess gift? What about a winebag or a quilted liner to dress up a basket of goodies? Here's a list of ideas to get you started:

quilters about what they wanted in a quilt store. The one request she kept hearing was for better lighting to show off the natural fabric colors. Debbie listened, and her customers enjoy a well-lit shop that uses white cabinetry to display their fabrics. A visit to their website will give you access to the [online store](#), make sure you check out their kits - Debbie makes a point of creating a kit for almost all of the Quilted Moose patterns.



Debbie has generously posted a free pattern on her website for our readers. [American Beauty](#) can be made up in any color scheme you choose, and will be sure to provide the 'wow' factor of a pieced quilt.

Be sure to check out her website in January, when the Quilted Moose will be offering "Moose Twigs" to use for 'triangle square exchanges' (see Trade and Trends feature for more on this new idea).

- Drawstring Gift Bag such as:
  - [Fleece Gift Bag](#)
  - [Drawstring Bag from Craft & Fabric Links](#)
- [Poinsettia wallhanging](#)
- [Consider making your own gift tags](#)
- Hot pads made to look like ornaments (pictured to the right)

## Favorites From Our Sewing Basket

### [Rotary Circle Cutter](#)

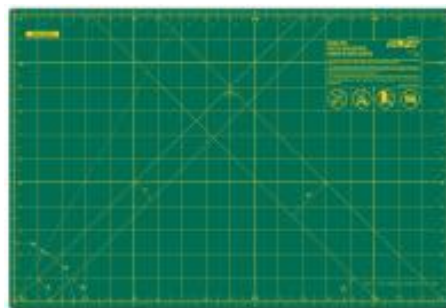


If you haven't tried the [OLFA Rotary Circle Cutter](#) yet - then it's high time. The cutter is designed to work simply and easily, with a pin point to mark the center and an 18mm blade cutting the circle. The Rotary Circle Cutter is designed for left or right handed users, and has recently been awarded the "Today's Creative Home Arts - Member Tested and Recommended Seal" for 'ease of use' and 'performance'.

Need a bit of help getting to know the Rotary Circle Cutter? Check out the [video tutorial](#) from our site. Like any other OLFA cutter, the Rotary Circle Cutter can be used with both fabric and paper. Scrapbookers do need to keep in mind that there will be a small pin-prick in the center of the circle being cut, but with the clean crisp edge used in cutting, the 'frame' the circle is cut from will be great to use!



## Ask OLFA



***My mat is full of fuzz from working with fleece. How can I clean it?***

Fleece fibers are naturally attracted to your self-healing rotary mat. To clean your OLFA mat, use a generous amount of room temperature water and a few drops of mild detergent. Use a soft, mild bristle brush such as a toothbrush or mushroom brush to create a lather and gently clean your mat. Rinse with room temperature water and wipe dry with a cotton towel. Please note that warm or hot water and direct sunlight may damage the mat.

Looking for more "Ask OLFA"? See the FAQ section on our [website](#). If you don't find the answer to your question there, then 'ask OLFA' - the link for questions is available at the top of the FAQ page.

## Featured Project



### Wine Glass Cozy

Wine glass charms can be found everywhere - but these cozys go a step further, not only will they help your guests find their glass, they also eliminate the need for a coaster! Make up a bunch of these, your guests will be asking where they can get some.

## Tips & Techniques



Those of us who first discovered our OLFA rotary cutters for use in quilting, often forget that we can use them for other applications. Small blades can be used by clothing artists to cut along pattern lines - greatly eliminating the 'shifting pattern' problem that can be an issue with small pieces. Crafters, particularly scrapbookers and other paper artists, have found numerous uses for rotary blades - giving a sharp clean cut line every time.

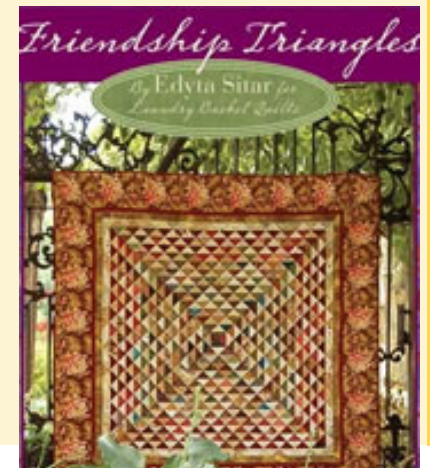
One suggestion, always keep a second rotary cutter on hand if you are going to use it for paper craft - just as you do for scissors. We suggest marking the handle of your fabric shears and rotary cutters, so they don't get used on paper which can dull the edge for fabric cutting.

For even more tips - visit the new "[Pearls of Wisdom](http://www.olfa.com/)" section on <http://www.olfa.com/> to read through already submitted tips by our OLFanatics, or even submit your own for others to enjoy!

## Trade & Trends

[Creating triangle squares](#), is not a difficult thing to do, but getting enough different colors to make something like the spectacular quilt shown here can be tricky. But Edyta Sitra of "[Laundry Basket Quilts](#)" and the other [Moda Designers](#) have solved that problem in a fun new way.

The exchange is being started in quilt shops and by quilt groups around the county, and here's how it works. Using two strips of fabric (6.5" x 21"), one light and one dark (Edyta calls them 'Cinamon Sticks') - quilters create triangle squares with a product known as 'triangle square paper'. If you use the triangle square paper for 2" squares, each pair of sticks produces 28 triangles. The quilters take these triangles back to the exchange location (store, guild or club) and turn in their squares - after everyone has turned in their different squares - quilters are invited back to collect an equal number of squares to what they turned in - giving a wide variety of squares for the next quilt! In Edyta's new book "Friendship Triangles", patterns are



given as well as some tips for starting up an exchange in your area.



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