



sarah fielke

Big Woods

Block of the Month 2024/25

Introduction Document

Hi there peeps, and welcome to our Block of the Month project for 2024/25! I'm so glad you've all decided to join me, this quilt is such fun to make. The next twelve months are going to be full some machine piecing, some needle turn appliqué and a whole lot of fun with me and Tula.

This document is like the BOM encyclopedia. I know it seems a lot, but boil the kettle, have a cuppa and a nice sit down and **PLEASE READ ALL OF THE FOLLOWING CAREFULLY**. You will find that the answers to most of the questions you have about the BOM already, and also as we go along, are here in the following information. I encourage you to refer back to this document throughout the year if you're wondering about things! It will always be available at the VERY TOP of the pattern page on the website, so that if you're wondering about something, it's right there for you. We get several hundred emails and Facebook posts a month, all asking very similar questions - all the answers are already here waiting for you in the document. Having a look for your question saves you having to wait for an answer, and us a lot of man hours :)

Here's some FAQ's about how the program runs.

What happens now I've joined?

Once you sign up, you will receive an email receipt for payment. Then you will receive an email invitation from the website, www.sarahfielke.com, where all the patterns and videos are hosted to for access. This email is sent to **the email address you used to make payment when you join**. Once this is done, you can log into the website whenever you like. Please look out for the email as it is time sensitive - it will expire after a few weeks, and then you would need to have a new one generated.

To log into the website, go to www.sarahfielke.com and sign in with your password. If you are an existing Sarah Fielke customer, log in as usual with your existing email address and password. The website is available for you to access at any time, you do not have to wait for a new pattern to become available.

Where is the Big Woods BOM content?

The digital patterns and videos are at:

<https://www.sarahfielke.com/big-woods-bom-2024>

You need to log in first to access. You can also access via <https://www.sarahfielke.com/my-content> Log in first then click on “04 Big Woods BOM 2024”

If you need to change the email address your information comes to, or have any other subsection issues, please email bom2017@sarahfielke.com and Damo can get this done for you. Please note that right after the BOM opens replies may take a day or so, we have a lot of people wanting the same thing and there’s only two of us!

What happens if I can’t remember my password?

You can reset your password by going to www.sarahfielke.com, click on LOG IN tab in navigation, then click on “Forgot Password?” on that page. You will receive an email to reset your password. *This may take up to 20 minutes to arrive in your inbox.* Sometimes this email is trapped in your SPAM folder. If you have issues with your password or need to change your subscription details, please email Damo directly, bom2017@sarahfielke.com - Damo handles all the subscriptions, website access, payment issues and video or pattern download questions, and will help you as soon as he is able.

Please don’t send subscription or log in issues to me on Instagram or Facebook as I can’t help you with them, and via social media its very easy for them to go astray. Emailing Damian directly will ensure your query goes straight to where it can be dealt with.

Do I need to have the fabric kit to do the BOM?

No. We will provide material requirements for those who do not purchase the fabric kit on July 1.

How do I get the patterns?

The first pattern, the August pattern, will be available on August 1. This will be Month 1. The patterns for Big Woods come on the FIRST OF EACH MONTH, every month, for 12 months.

When the pattern is released, it will be on the website for everyone to view, all at the same time. We will then email to say it is there. However, the email isn’t the key to getting the pattern, it’s just a heads up that it’s been loaded. You can log in to the BOM website any time you like and access the patterns and videos WITHOUT the email, and check if the new one is there yet. It’s a good idea to bookmark the website so you can find it next time you want it. The website address is www.sarahfielke.com

I will not, under any circumstance and no matter how hard you beg, release forward measurements, templates, bonus patterns etc. in advance of the release date at the beginning of each month. Sorry! :)

When do the patterns start to come?

Here is a table listing when all the patterns, videos and important information will be posted online at www.sarahfielke.com for you.

Information	Content	Date
Welcome Notes	Includes information on BOM and FAQs	Upon signup
Notions on sale	Optional acrylic template set and notions to help make the quilt – for sale at www.sarahfielke.com or your local quilt store	April 1, 2024
Block Book Pattern	A little delivery of an extra free pattern to store your blocks in - just for fun!	May 1, 2024
Colour Planner	A large scale, printable black and white drawing to help you colour design your quilt	June 1, 2024
Material Requirements	Includes complete fabric requirements for quilt design, fabric inspirations and colour ideas.	July 1, 2024
Notions Shipped	Orders are shipped in order by date from first to last. Please note that your order may ship EARLIER than the date given here.	First orders shipped from June 1, 2024
Big Woods Patterns and Videos	Patterns and videos available from website starting from August 1, 2024	Month 1 - August 1 Month 2 - September 1 Month 3 - October 1 Month 4 - November 1 Month 5 - December 1 Month 6 - January 1 Month 7 - February 1 Month 8 - March 1 Month 9 - April 1 Month 10 - May 1 Month 11 - June 1 Month 12 - July 1
BOM 2025 Quilt Competition	Send in photos of your finished quilt tops from ANY of my block of the month quilt designs to go into our competition to win fun prizes. 2025 will be our 9th Online Quilt Hanging!	Email quilt pics to bom2017@sarahfielke.com by Feb 23, 2025 Voting from Feb 26 to 29, 2025 Winners announced Mar 2, 2025

What do I get?

Each month you will be able to access to a digital pattern pdf of a new part of the quilt. You can view online or download and print. Obviously, looking at the sketch, this is not a quilt where you get just one “block” as such each month as there are more than 12 parts. Some of the months involve more work and some less to allow you to catch up.

Each month you will also have access to a video explaining the piece of the quilt we are working on, and any relevant tutoring for a new technique. You will have access to the patterns and videos for the foreseeable future after we actually finish, so don't panic and don't think you've “fallen behind” - everyone works at their own pace with these quilts, and people join up all through the year!

Some months there will also be some extra applique designs to add to your blocks if you choose to do so, depending on your applique level and how much work you want to add to your quilt.

There will also be several Big Woods related **free projects** through the 12 months for you to stitch.

How does the notions kit work?

*****Orders for the notions kit ARE OPEN NOW*****

All of the information about the notions kit and what is contained in it you will find in the kit info document. You will find a lot of information about the products I suggest and their uses in the Notions video on the website. The notions are available separately as well as in the full kit.

There is also a material requirements containing all the fabric measurements etc for the quilt, which will be uploaded to the website on JULY 1.

The notions kit is NOT COMPULSORY, and nor is the template set, you can buy everything, nothing or just a few pieces as you need. The kits are an option for those wanting to use the same notions and templates as I do, and some things to make the process easier for you.

I ship the kits worldwide.

I structure my BOM programs like this on purpose - it's a once only postage charge on notions, instead of a monthly shipped fabric package - which makes it all cheaper for you in the long run.

All prices on the website are in AUSTRALIAN DOLLARS which are worth a lot less than US dollars, UK pounds or Euro, so the prices are cheaper for you in those currencies!

All of the notions and templates are for preorder and will ship from June 1 onwards (although hopefully before that if my template man gets his skates on!) You will receive an email when your package is shipped. Everything will remain available all year for purchase should you change your mind and decide you need something after all.

To see more about the kit please watch the Notions video. Please take note that the template kit DOES NOT include the applique templates - it would be a VERY expensive kit if

it did as there are a lot and they are large! I will be giving you tips to make your own sturdy templates easily and inexpensively.

How big is the quilt?

The Big Woods is a generous single bed size quilt, measuring 70" x 96" (1.78m x 2.44m)

If you choose to alter the size of the templates I cannot be responsible for the rest of the measurements in the quilt. I will not be giving instruction on altering the size of the quilt, or material requirements to do that.

There is a lot of hand applique in this quilt by the looks of things. Can I do it by machine?

Sure thing! It's YOUR quilt; you can do it however you please. All the appliqué templates are able to be used for fusible machine appliqué (or any other method of applique you like) if you would rather do it that way - you just need to remember to flip the templates over when you trace them, or they will be facing backwards.

Like most of my quilts, Big Woods is designed as a project where the piecing is done by machine and the applique by hand. All instruction given will be for machine piecing and hand needle turn applique using my personal method. I do not give instruction for machine applique.

How do I get the Colour Planner, and how do I use it?

The colouring-in sheet will be available to everyone to download on the Big Woods webpage on June 1.

This sheet is able to be printed as many times as you like for your own personal use (or for your kids to colour in!) If you have trouble with your local printer, print and take this page with you and show them this -

I, Sarah Fielke, designer of this quilt and pattern, give permission for this colouring sheet to be printed and copied for personal use.

The sheet is designed to be printed at A4 size.

How do I get the patterns and videos?

Each month you will receive an email from us when the pattern and video is ready to view and download at www.sarahfielke.com/mycontent. The email will NOT HAVE ANY PATTERN OR VIDEO ATTACHED TO IT. The email is just a notification that the new pattern is ready for you to see at the website. You do not have to wait for the notification. You can go to the website any time you like and log in to see if the new pattern is there, or to see previous months patterns or videos.

The patterns and videos will remain available to subscribers at the website, even after the BOM has finished.

The digital patterns and videos are at:

<https://www.sarahfielke.com/big-woods-bom-2024>

You need to log in first to access. You can also access via <https://www.sarahfielke.com/my-content> Log in first then click on "04 Big Woods BOM 2024"

How can the patterns and videos be used?

All the information for the BOM is for your own personal use only. That means you can copy and print out pages for your own personal use to make the quilt, as many times as you like. Please do not share your subscription and password with friends or a group, as this is a breach of my copyright, and also just really not cool :) If you are making this quilt as a group, EACH MEMBER of the group must have their OWN subscription.

Access to the website is trackable and those sharing one subscription among a group will unfortunately have their access revoked.

The videos are NOT able to be downloaded, they are only hosted at the website, are encrypted and are not available for sharing or posting elsewhere.

There are LOT of shops participating this year, and every year (hi everyone!) and I'm so glad to see you all! There are always a lot of questions as to how this BOM may be used by shops.

To clarify - you can run a class or sit and sew group for the Big Woods BOM, in fact please do, I would love you to! However, EVERY member of the class or group MUST be a member of the program in their own right through my website, and therefore downloading their own copies of the patterns and videos. **It is not OK to copy the pattern and print it out for the class, or to print the pattern out to kit it up.** If you want to offer fabric you are very welcome, but the members must bring in their material requirements and pattern and then you can help them out.

All ten of my previous BOM patterns are available as stand-alone books for you to sell, or shop programs for you to run right now. Contact bom2017@sarahfielke.com for more information or to order. The BOM program has been run very successfully by shops since 2017 and we look forward to having you on board!

What if I don't keep up?

Peeps, this is YOUR quilt! There is no pressure whatsoever from me to "keep up". The patterns are there for you to start the next part of the quilt whenever you are ready, and if you want to take two or three years to make it then you just knock yourself out as you won't lose your access when the program finishes! There will be people who complete the current section of the quilt within days, and people who are months "behind" - or rather, making it at their own pace. Either one is just peachy with me. As I say regularly, you aren't behind you're just working at your own pace.

How do I get help?

If you're having trouble with logging into the website, or need to change your subscription email, please contact Damo. His email address is bom2017@sarahfielke.com

If you're having trouble with the pattern, social media, or have questions about an order please contact Sarah. Her email is sarah@sarahfielke.com

Please don't try to contact Tula or Free Spirit about the BOM - the quilt pattern, videos and website are entirely run by Sarah and Damo, and your query will be answered directly by contacting one of the two addresses above.

What about social media?

Please post your quilt in progress, I really encourage it as everyone loves seeing what you're all up to, and so do I! It's lovely to share your progress with other BOM members and with your friends. Please say what the pattern is and where people can find it if they want to - so many times people see what you're making and want to play along with you.

We had such a lovely, positive, fun group of peeps on Facebook and Instagram in 2024 and it's so nice chatting to you all, seeing everyone's fabric choices and quilts evolve.

I am active on social media often and available to answer questions or give you advice here and there. Please post pictures of your quilt's progress and chat to me and the others in the program. However, please DO NOT post block measurements, templates, technique instructions, excerpts from the patterns, your password etc. on social media, your blog or other quilting websites.

The private Facebook group can be found by searching "Sarah Fielke Quilts" in your Facebook search bar. You will then send me a request to join the group and I will approve it. The group is a GENERAL group for all my sew alongs and BOMs, not for just Big Woods, so please make sure to identify which quilt you are making when you post.

Even if you aren't really into Facebook, I do encourage you to join this group and get to know everyone - it's a really lovely, friendly and social way of meeting other quilters from many other countries (and close by too!) and sharing your stitching, and as it's private no one else on the internet can see it or see that you've been there, just us! You won't miss any information if you don't join, it's just a nice extra.

The hashtags for Instagram are #sarahfielkeBOM and #BigWoodsBOM. Please tag your pics and tag me, @sfielke, so we can all see what you're up to! Feel free to check out previous year's groups too and see what amazing quilts everyone produced. #sarahfielkeBOM is the place to find them.

**Unfortunately, it must be said- it's a sad old world sometimes. Let's keep the social media experience positive peeps! It's so easy for people's feathers to get ruffled and comments that are typed often don't translate how they were meant. If you don't like something, think there is a pattern error, think someone is being mean, critical or unfair, or have another issue PLEASE (please?) contact me first before posting about it. So often things are a misunderstanding or are easily cleared up, and posting impulsive comments just makes things upsetting for everybody. I am very available, via Facebook Messenger, Instagram PM or sarah@sarahfielke.com. Please remember that I live in Australia and if you live elsewhere, sometimes I might not respond immediately because I'm asleep - or maybe travelling, teaching, eating my dinner, in the shower..... No one works 24/7, but I do my best to get back to you ASAP.

It must also be said, I have a lot of beginner quilters, and especially beginner hand appliquéers, taking my BOM program, and I LOVE that. If you are NOT a beginner quilter, a lot of my techniques might be different than what you are used to. I have been teaching, writing and designing for over 20 years, and I have my own and sometimes quite unique way of teaching things. Give them a go! You might learn something new.

You are welcome of course to make your quilt in any way and with any technique that you fancy - I just ask PLEASE that you don't post in the BOM social media groups about how you don't use my technique and how to do the technique you are using. All it does is make other students confused and upset that they have done something wrong. It may seem like a little thing but it's actually a really big issue that I've encountered in all the previous years in the BOM, so I'm asking you all nicely please :) Posts along these lines will be removed.

Rude, overtly negative, links to other websites or teachers' videos etc. and ALL political comments of any flavour will be removed, and I reserve the right to do that, or to block anyone from the Facebook group if that very unfortunate need arises. I just want everyone to have fun!

Why can't it hurry up and be August 1?

I know right?? Tula and I can't wait to start either! Not too long to go peeps :) In the meantime, everyone please be safe and healthy and happy, and check out all the bits and pieces as they come, and watch out for the first little bit of excitement - the Block Book pattern on May 1.

Sarah xx