





I SPY WITH MY LITTLE EYE, 22" x 25¼"  
by Sue Hickman

## What will my grandchildren find?

They will learn that their grandmother, born on Flag Day, is patriotic and an artist; that their grandfather's favorite movie was *The Music Man*; and that one of the first things I loved about their grandfather was that he made me smile. The quilt will tell them

that one of my favorite places in the world is the beach—any beach, really, where sun and surf meet the sand. It was my golf- and football-loving dad, their great grandfather, who instilled in me a love for the beach and blue crabs. I want them to know

their grandmother has and delights in chickens, and their great-grandmother loves to sing and taught her children and grandchildren how to ice-skate. I wanted this quilt to also include a four-leaf clover for good luck, autumn leaves, and hearts a-plenty.



within the square, then I hand-stitched each square of fabric around a paper piece. When I had seven fabrics sewn to papers that had a unifying theme (or simply looked good next to each other), I sewed those together, six sewn around a central piece, to create small blocks. I continued until almost all of the 293 hexagons were sewn into small blocks, and then I began to play with the overall arrangement. Those not yet sewn into blocks filled spaces as needed when all the pieces were combined.

The featured pieces, when sewn together, were appliquéd to a background that was also a hexagonal shape. The small black-and-white stripe background fabric seemed to showcase the featured blocks best. The medium-weight fabric helped to keep this quilt from feeling ‘flimsy.’ I used the small stripe for the binding as well. The backing is a black fabric with small, colorful dots that tie into the pops of color making up the pieces on the front.

The quilting is simple. I machine-quilted within enough blocks to adequately secure the center, then free-motion stippled the striped background around the center.

Three antique buttons are purposefully positioned on the back of this fun quilt, each with its own hand-stitched button loop. The first one draws the quilt in half, top point to bottom point. The other two buttons secure the quilt when folded in from the square sides, making it ‘travel ready.’ On the back is a pocket large enough to



hold a list of all the items that can be found on the face of the quilt.

Making the list was challenging. I would think I had listed all the items, and then I’d find one more! When I was sure I’d found them all, I randomly ordered the items to make the search more challenging and printed it on white pima cotton fabric, fusing it to backing fabric wrapped around to finish the edges. A fabric cord stitched to the pocket keeps the list from being separated from the quilt.



I was honored to receive a Viewer’s Choice blue ribbon in the “baby quilt” category in our local quilt show. The quilt decorated my quilting studio until my dear grandson arrived, and soon we will be spying for the treasures of Mimi’s life. Some would say I’ve waited many years to become a grandmother. I’d say the timing is perfect.

If you make it, will they come? Providentially, it worked for me.

When this quilt is used as I envision, it will become a cherished part of this quilter’s legacy. 

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