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double wedding ring quilt pattern by eleanor burns

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Double Wedding Ring Quilt Pattern by Eleanor Burns: A Complete Guide

Quilting is more than just sewing fabric together—it"s an art form that combines creativity, technique, and a deep appreciation for texture and color. Among the countless patterns that quilt makers have crafted over the years, one design has captured the hearts of many: the **double wedding ring quilt pattern by Eleanor Burns**. This iconic pattern, with its elegant symmetry and timeless charm, offers quilters a versatile canvas for both traditional and contemporary projects.

In this comprehensive guide, we'll dive into the origins of the double wedding ring pattern, explore why Eleanor Burns' rendition is so beloved, and walk you through every step of creating your own quilt. Whether you're a seasoned quilter looking for fresh inspiration or a beginner eager to try your hand at a classic design, this article will provide you with the knowledge, techniques, and resources you need to succeed.

Who Is Eleanor Burns?

Eleanor Burns is a celebrated quilting artist whose work has been featured in numerous quilting magazines, exhibitions, and online platforms. Known for her meticulous attention to detail and her ability to blend traditional motifs with modern aesthetics, Burns has become a go-to source for quilters seeking high-quality, ready-to-use patterns.

Burns' quilting journey began in the early 1990s, when she started experimenting with block designs that incorporated geometric shapes and intricate color palettes. Over the decades, she refined her craft, collaborating with fabric manufacturers and sharing her patterns through workshops and digital downloads. Her signature style—characterized by clean lines, balanced composition, and a subtle play of color—has earned her a loyal following worldwide.

One of her most celebrated contributions is the **double wedding ring quilt pattern**, a design that captures the elegance of matrimonial symbolism while offering quilters a flexible framework for creativity.

The Double Wedding Ring Pattern: History & Significance

Origins of the Wedding Ring Motif

The wedding ring has long been a symbol of commitment, unity, and continuity. In quilting, the motif often appears in circular or semi-circular shapes, echoing the ring's roundness. Early American quilts from the 18th and 19th centuries frequently featured simple circles or rings to represent marital bonds and domestic harmony.

Evolution into a Quilt Pattern

Over time, quilters began to expand the wedding ring motif into more complex block arrangements. The "double wedding ring" emerged as a natural progression—two interlocking rings that suggest a deeper level of partnership and shared journey. This concept resonated with quilters looking for a pattern that was both symbolic and visually engaging.

Eleanor Burns' Interpretation

Burns' double wedding ring pattern takes the traditional concept and elevates it with a contemporary twist. Her design features:

- Symmetry—each ring is mirrored, creating a balanced, harmonious composition.
- Layered color palettes—soft neutrals or bold jewel tones can be swapped to match any aesthetic.
- Versatility—the pattern can be scaled to fit quilts of various sizes, from small lap quilts to full-size bed covers.
- Ease of construction—the block structure is straightforward, making it approachable for quilters of all skill levels.

Why the Double Wedding Ring Pattern Stands Out

While many quilting patterns offer visual appeal, the double wedding ring by Eleanor Burns stands out for several reasons:

1. Symbolic Depth—The interlocking rings embody partnership, making the quilt a meaningful gift for couples or a personal reminder of commitment.
2. Design Flexibility—Quilters can adapt the pattern by changing fabrics, adding borders, or incorporating additional motifs.
3. Construction Simplicity—The block structure is modular, allowing for easy adjustments and modifications.
4. Color Harmony—Burns' color suggestions are thoughtfully curated to ensure a cohesive look even when using varied fabrics.
5. Community Support—A thriving online community shares photos, tips, and variations of the pattern, providing inspiration and troubleshooting help.

Materials & Supplies You'll Need

Before you start cutting and stitching, gather the following items. Having everything on hand will streamline the process and help you maintain a smooth workflow.

- Fabric—Choose at least 12-15 yards of two or more contrasting fabrics. Common choices include cotton canvas, linen, or a blend of cotton and polyester for durability.
- Quilting fabric for top layer—Select a high-quality quilting cotton or muslin in a complementary color palette.
- Backing fabric—A lightweight canvas or muslin works well for a balanced quilt weight.
- Batting—Standard cotton batting (1.5-2.5 oz) is ideal for most quilting projects.
- Quilting thread—Choose a thread that matches your top layer color. Polyester or cotton thread is recommended for strength.
- Sewing machine—A standard quilting machine with a walking foot is preferred for even stitching.
- Quilting needles—Use a heavy-duty quilting needle (size 90/14) to handle multiple layers.
- Scissors and rotary cutter—Precision cutting tools ensure clean edges.
- Cutting mat and ruler—A self-healing mat and a reliable ruler help maintain consistent measurements.
- Quilting pins—Use long, sturdy pins to hold layers together.
- Quilting hoop or frame—Optional but useful for keeping the quilt flat while quilting.
- Stitching guide or template—Burns provides a downloadable template; otherwise, you can create your own based on the pattern specifications.

Step-by-Step Guide to Quilting the Double Wedding Ring Pattern

1. Planning & Design

Start by reviewing the pattern dimensions. Burns' double wedding ring pattern typically uses a 12x12 block grid, but you can scale the pattern up or down depending on the quilt size you desire.

Decide on the number of blocks for each ring. A standard approach is to create two concentric rings, each comprising 12 blocks. This will give you a symmetrical and balanced quilt.

2. Fabric Selection & Cutting

Choose fabrics that complement each other. For a classic look, pair a neutral base fabric with a contrasting accent fabric. Burn''s pattern often recommends using a soft, muted tone for the outer ring and a richer hue for the inner ring.

Cut your fabrics into squares that match the block size. For a 12x12 grid with 2-inch blocks, each square should be 2 inches on each side. Use a rotary cutter and a self-healing mat for clean cuts.

3. Constructing the Rings

Assemble the blocks for each ring separately. Follow these steps:

1. Outer Ring—Arrange 12 blocks in a circular pattern. Sew each block edge to edge, leaving a seam allowance of 1/4 inch.
2. Inner Ring—Repeat the process with a different fabric or color set.
3. Use a quilting hoop or a large frame to keep the rings flat during construction.

Once both rings are complete, align them so that the inner ring sits snugly within the outer ring. This alignment is key to achieving the double-ring effect.

4. Layer Assembly

Layer the quilt top (the rings), batting, and backing:

- Place the backing fabric right side down.
- Lay the batting evenly over the backing.
- Position the quilt top on top of the batting, ensuring the rings are centered.

Pin the layers together using quilting pins. Place pins at the corners and at the center of each block to secure the layers and prevent shifting during quilting.

5. Quilting the Design

Set your sewing machine to a straight stitch with a thread color that matches your top layer. Use a walking foot to keep all layers in place.

Quilt along the block edges first, creating a clean outline. Then, quilt across the inner and outer rings, following the pattern’s lines. If you prefer a more textured look, add diagonal stitches or a subtle crosshatch pattern within each block.

6. Finishing Touches

After quilting, trim any excess batting or backing. Fold the edges of the quilt and sew a raw edge using a 1/4-inch seam allowance. This step prevents fraying and gives the quilt a polished appearance.

Optional: Add a decorative border or applique to enhance the design further. Burns’ pattern allows for creative customization, so feel free to experiment.

Tips & Tricks for a Successful Quilt

- Use a Seam Roll—Rolling the seams of each block before assembly reduces bulk and ensures a smoother final product.

- Match Fabric Weight—Keep fabric weights consistent across blocks to avoid unevenness.
- Color Coordination—Plan a color palette ahead of time. Burn's pattern often includes a color chart to help you choose complementary hues.
- Check Alignment—Use a ruler or a quilting guide to verify that each ring is centered and symmetrical.
- Test Stitches—Before quilting the entire quilt, sew a small test patch to confirm stitch length and tension.
- Use a Walking Foot—This foot ensures even pressure across all layers, preventing puckering.
- Keep Layers Flat—If you're quilting by hand, use a quilting hoop or a large frame to maintain a flat surface.

Variations and Creative Adaptations

The double wedding ring pattern is versatile enough to accommodate numerous creative twists. Here are some popular variations you can try:

1. Color Block Variation

Swap the traditional colors for a bold, modern palette. Use neon or metallic fabrics for a contemporary feel.

2. Texture Mix

Incorporate fabrics with different textures—such as denim, silk, or corduroy—to add depth and visual interest.

3. Mixed-Media Quilt

Combine the quilt with other art forms, like embroidery, applique, or even a small patchwork of lace.

4. Seasonal Theme

Adapt the color scheme to match the seasons: pastel tones for spring, warm earth colors for autumn, and cool blues for winter.

5. Multi-Pattern Integration

Merge the double wedding ring with other classic quilt patterns—like the log cabin or the 1001 pattern—to create a unique hybrid design.

Where to Find the Double Wedding Ring Pattern by Eleanor Burns

Eleanor Burns offers her patterns through several platforms, ensuring you can easily access the double wedding ring design:

- Official Website—Burns' own site hosts a downloadable PDF version of the pattern, complete with detailed instructions and color charts.
- Quilting Marketplaces—Sites such as Etsy and Ravelry often feature Burns' patterns for purchase or free download.
- Quilt Shops—Local quilting stores may carry Burns' pattern packs, allowing you to see the fabric swatches in person.
- Workshops & Classes—Burns occasionally conducts quilting workshops where participants receive the pattern and hands-on guidance.

Community & Support

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