

"A Season of Grace" ... an Advent Quilt by Emilie Richards and Pat Sloan

Hi this is Emilie Richards and Pat Sloan! We have teamed up to bring you a gift of a new Block of the Month (BOM) called 'A Season of Grace'. The ideas and the quilt were designed by us in many emails and lunch dates. Now how fun is THAT? Let me have Emilie, the beautiful writer on our team, tell you the story and idea behind the quilt.

Since 2004 I've been hard at work on a series of novels entitled The Shenandoah Album. Each book has a traditional quilt block title, and quilts feature prominently in each one, but in different ways. Leisure Arts liked the books and asked to do patterns for the quilts in each story, and so the Quilt Along With Emilie Richards books began.

For Sister's Choice, book five of the series, I needed a quilt to spark a rivalry between two senior quilters, Helen and Grace, and so I designed—in my head, where it's easiest to make perfect quilts—a stocking Advent quilt, five blocks long by five blocks wide. Each stocking was different and little treats could be hidden inside. I wanted to make one myself! When I mentioned the quilt to Pat, we decided this would be such fun to do as a block of the month on both our websites. And so 'A Season of Grace' (because Grace designs this one in the novel) was born.

Because many of MY readers aren't necessarily quilters, this is a great way to get started. If you can sew, either machine or by hand, you can make the stockings and the very simple background. We'll give tips along the way. And this is a perfect quilt to use up your scraps, so it's not an expensive quilt to make. In fact we both found gorgeous Christmas fabric online for very little, and you will, too, if you start looking right away. Or be creative and use some of Pat's gorgeous new fabrics. Who says Christmas has to be all about red and green?

Here is how the block of the month will work....

- **FIRST** – Although it's not required, we'd love you to read Emilie's book "**Sisters Choice**," first, to see where the quilt gets its start. If you would like a signed copy of Emilie's book, then Pat is taking pre-orders. Email Pat and she will order your book, Emilie will sign it and when it's ready Pat will email you a link to her store to purchase it. The book will make a wonderful gift to go with your finished quilt!
- **SECOND** - Sign up for Emilie's newsletter (www.emilierichards.com/richards-signup.htm) and Pat's newsletter (www.patsloan.biz) so you don't miss a thing.
- **THIRD** - Each month there will be a new stocking design, but the background size and shape of the stocking remain the same. We will alternate websites so February 2009 the pattern will be on Pat's website and March it will be at Emilie's... etc. And with each block we'll include some tips, thoughts and such, it will be a surprise!
- **FOURTH** -The designs won't stay up forever, so join in ASAP.

A Season of Grace

by Pat Sloan and Emilie Richards

www.PatSloan.com and www.emilierichards.com
Based on Emilie's book 'Sisters Choice'

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- We have 2 options for this quilt. Emilie is making the Advent version and Pat is making the 12 days version.

We are SO excited to be sharing this gift of a free BOM with you. We hope you bring your creative spirit to the making of each block. If you'd like your block to be shown in our online gallery, send us the photos as you go along, we can't wait to share your work with everyone!

PS – Pat has also designed a bonus block for the 25th to be used on the Advent version or you can use it as the label for the 12 days version.

Advent version - 25 blocks will be a 47" x 57" quilt.

You will make TWO stocking blocks each month, make the same or use different fabrics so all the blocks are unique.

THE ADVENT SUPPLY LIST

- Background fabric – 1.5 yds of background fabric for the blocks
- Sashing fabric – 1/2 yd
- Border Fabric for borders cut 4.5" – 1 yd - buy more if you want a wider border.

Scraps for stocking fronts – I suggest you pull a group of fabrics to work with.

- Fabric for the back of the stockings
- Big Buttons to fit the loop size you plan to use.
- Twine, thin ribbon, or elastic for the stocking loops

Each month you will be given the Directions for making the stocking of the month.

If we make a block for the stocking, it will be a 9.5" square before you cut the stocking from it. When using a square for the stocking follow these directions.

- Place the stocking on the your block tilting it so that you have a nice layout of the block.
- Cut out the stocking shape from the block, the seam allowance is included
- Cut out a stocking from your background fabric.
- Hem the top of the stocking, front and back separately. You can do this by machine or hand stitch. Just turn under 1/4" so the top edge is finished nicely.
- Layer the stocking front and stocking back right sides together
- sew all around leaving the top open
- turn right side out.
- Attach a loop of trim to the back of the stocking. Buttons will be added to the block after the quilt is quilted.

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12 DAYS VERSION - 12 blocks will be 47" x 31" quilt

For the 12 Days version you will make 1 block each month.

THE 12 DAYS SUPPLY LIST

- Background fabric – 3/4 yd of background fabric for the
- Sashing fabric – 1/3 yd
- Border Fabric for borders cut 4.5" – 3/4 yd - buy more if you want a wider border.
- Fusible Web, I prefer Heat n Bond LITE

Scraps for stocking fronts – I suggest you pull a group of fabrics to work with.

- Big Buttons to fit the loop size you plan to use.
- Twine, thin ribbon, or elastic for the stocking loops

Each month you will be given the Directions for making the stocking of the month.

If we make a block for the stocking, it will be a 9.5" square before you cut the stocking from it. When using a square for the stocking follow these directions.

- Place the stocking on the your block tilting it so that you have a nice layout of the block.
- Cut out the stocking shape from the block, the seam allowance is included
- Cut out a stocking from your background fabric.
- Cut the stocking front, reversed if doing fusible applique.
- Position the block on the background
- Position a 'loop' underneath the top right side of the block
- Applique the stocking to the block.

NOTE – If you want the applied stocking to be open on the top, then do a hem on the top edge. Cut your fusible so there is NO FUSIBLE on the top edge, Applique all around leaving the top open. Tuck the loop inside the stocking.

Want to learn about fusible applique? Visit Pat's webstore and purchase her Learn to Applique book, it has all the tips and tricks you need to know!

<http://patsloan.biz/learntoappliquewithpatsloan.aspx>

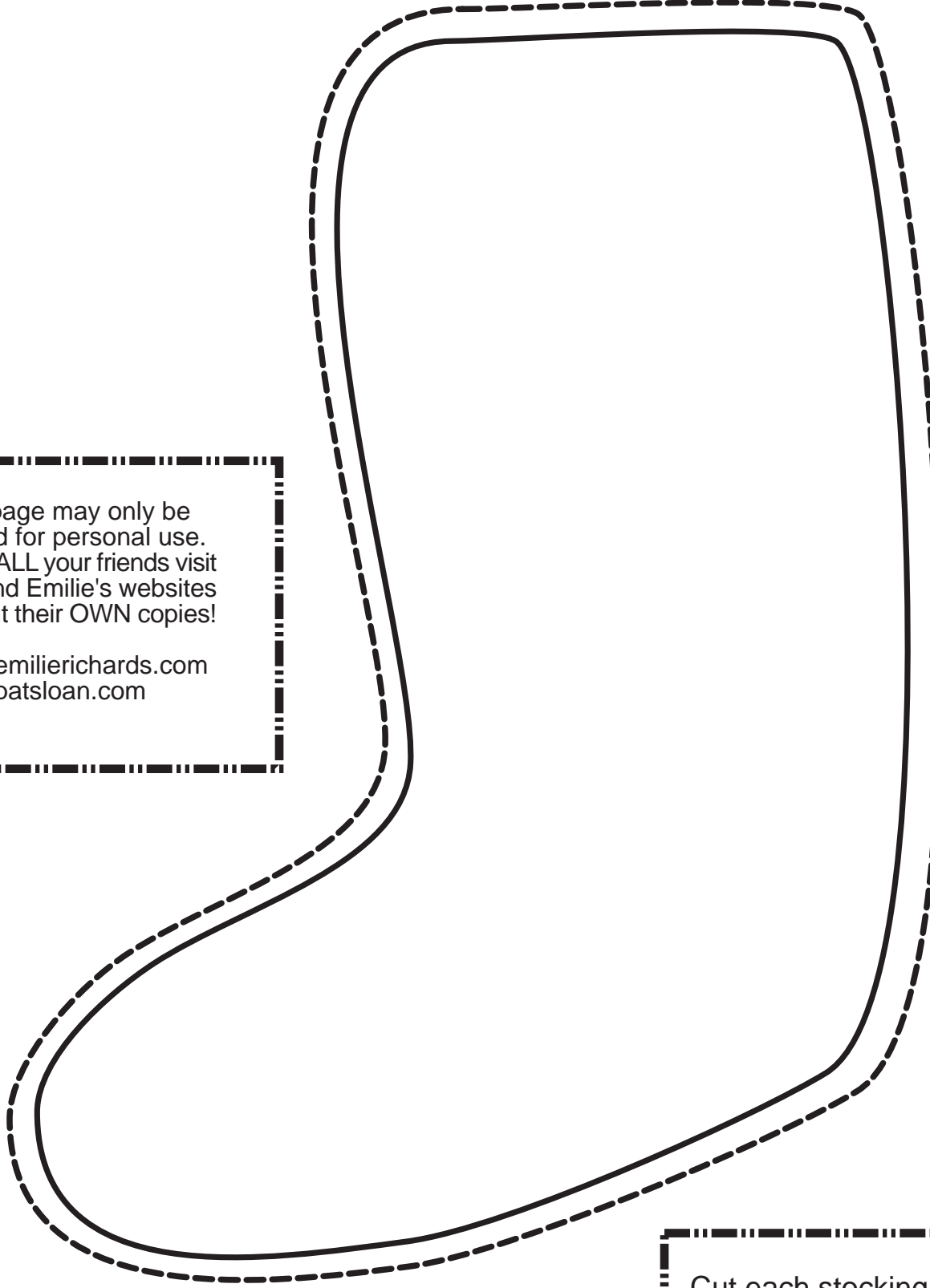
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Pat and Emilie's websites
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Cut each stocking
Background 7½" x 9½"

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