

The 2022 JQ Challenge – Embrace your Curves!

by Glenys Davies, JQ Challenge Organiser

As I write, the 2021 JQ Challenge is still in full swing – but there is going to be a new JQ Challenge in 2022 and everyone in Contemporary Quilt is invited to take part.

Please do consider having a go, whether you are a seasoned JQ maker, occasional dabbler, or even an absolute newbie. It's a great opportunity to try out new ideas, materials and techniques in a small, more manageable form before you start a larger project, or to just have fun as you take a break from longer term quilt work. What matters is that you enjoy making your JQs and that they work for you, whatever that entails.

The 2022 Requirements

In 2022, the Challenge is to make 12 JQs, notionally one a month, that are **Curvaceous!** That means each JQ must have at least one curve somewhere. That could be:

- in its overall shape – be a circle, oval or similar, or have a mix of straight and curved sides
- or in the piecing – some at least should be curved
- or the design could feature curves in some other way – possibly circles or ovals etc or just curvy lines

Each JQ must also have at least two layers, be stitched/quilted, and the edges should be finished neatly and appropriately. In most other respects, it's up to you. The JQs can be on any theme, of any material or technique, and of any size, provided they are no bigger than 12 x 12" (30.5 x 30.5cm). There is no minimum size. Also, of any shape, bearing in mind the Curvaceous rule.

You may also like to think about how the JQs fit together: this is not a formal requirement for 2022 but it can be a satisfying way to complete a JQ Challenge.

How to Take Part

There are some changes in the requirements for 2022:

- Please register your interest by emailing the JQ Co-Ordinator, that's me, Glenys Davies (address below). Just give your name; no other details are needed. This gives us an idea of how many are considering the Challenge. Also, some people find 'signing up' makes them feel more committed and so more likely to finish. Ideally, please sign up in January, although there is now no formal time limit. Should the urge to start JQs strike you later in the year, that's fine, just send me an email.
- If you decide to drop out or to take a break for a few months, you do not need to email me again. We realise life gets in the way sometimes and, if so, probably the last thing you need is to feel you have to email to explain this.
- We also realise keeping to a monthly schedule can sometimes be difficult, so are relaxing that requirement. It's now up to you to decide when to make your JQs within the year; all you need to do to meet the Challenge is complete 12 by the end of December (unless you only started part way through). That said, keeping up momentum is usually easier with a regular schedule and we recommend this.
- There will be a monthly Facebook Album as usual. If you would like to, do post a photo of each JQ in the appropriate album, together with a brief comment on why/how you made it.
- If you don't use Facebook, please take a good photo of each of JQ and keep these in your own album until the end of the year. **Please note, you no longer need to email your photos to me on a monthly or four-monthly basis.**
- In December 2022 we will be inviting you all, whether or not you use Facebook, to pick your three favourite JQs and email photos of these to me, together with a short statement. As for the 2021 JQs, this will help with the newsletter review and the website gallery, and give quilters who don't use Facebook the opportunity to share their contributions.

If you have any queries or problems, drop me an email.

The best of luck and good quilting – I look forward to seeing your curves!

jq_contemp@quiltersguild.org.uk