

missing people

Registered charity in England and Wales (1020419)
and in Scotland (SC047419)

Missing People Memory Quilt

The Families and Friends of Missing People Quilt hung in the foyer of the Justice Precinct Offices in Parramatta, New South Wales, Australia.



Here in the UK, with Missing People, we are hoping to create our own "memory quilt" similar to the one pictured above. The idea is that anyone with a missing loved one can create a square which will then be joined to others to form the quilt.

The content may reflect the personality or interests of your missing loved one, the experience of being without them or both and is intended to express in a permanent way something of our experience.

I have written some basic instructions below, which I hope will mean that anyone, whether skilled with needle and thread or not feels able to participate.

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Memory Quilt Instructions

What you will need

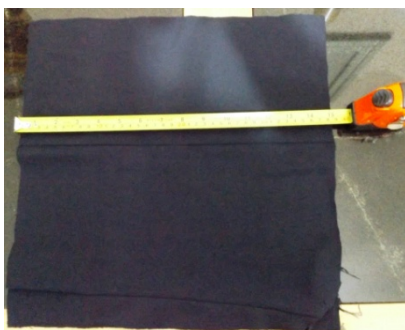
Scissors, tape measure/ruler, pen, needle and thread, hemming web, materials of your choice.



Method

First cut a 15"/38cm square of material. You can use any you wish: I am using a piece of our Son's school blazer, the last thing I ever saw him wearing. Colour and pattern is unimportant but it is best to avoid a fabric which stretches easily as this is difficult to work with.

Secondly, mark out a 12"/30.5cm square in the centre. This is the part you use when applying your design, the 1.5"/3.7cm border will be needed to join the pieces.



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Next, lay out your design. I am here doing a mixture of things which include stitching designs directly onto the fabric and attaching items that have significance to us as they reflect something about our son. If you need to find the centre of your square without marking it, just fold and iron, using the crease as a guideline.



Finally, apply your design. If you are not confident with sewing, hemming web is a great alternative as you can apply it with an iron over a wet tea towel. Most supermarkets stock it. There is no problem with using other materials such as fabric dyes or glues provided you choose something that will survive a washing machine without running.

Final Product

As part of the finished work, we would like to provide explanations that tell others why you have chosen your individual materials and design. If you can write a description of what you have done, we will collect these and create a book so that those who see the quilt can have an insight into the thoughts and feelings that guided your work.