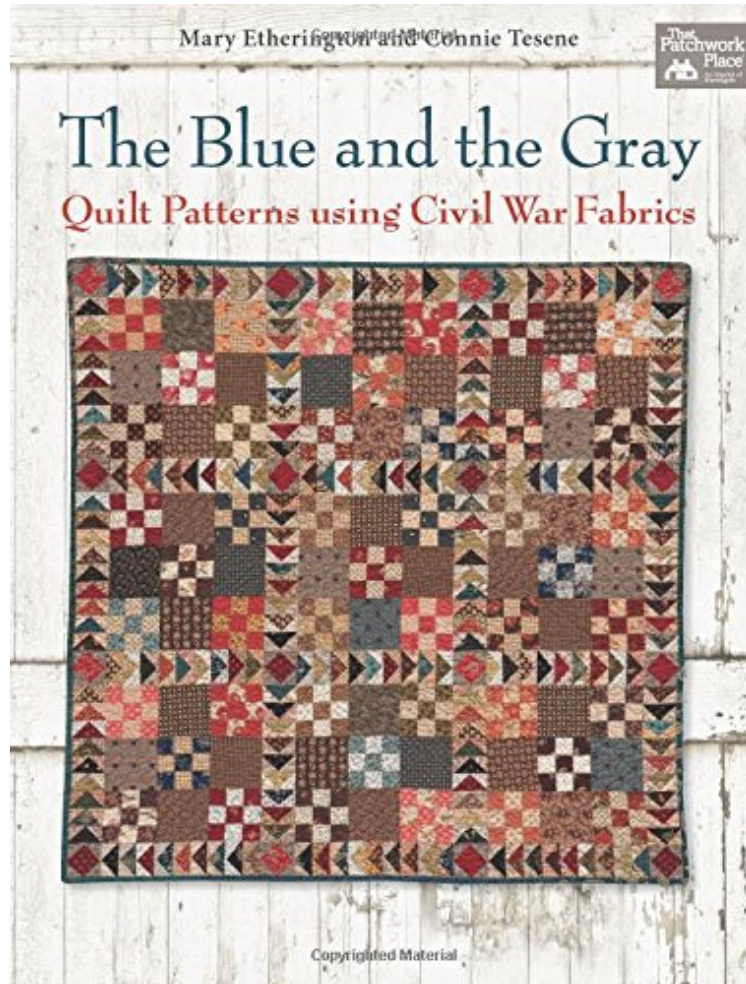


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The Blue and the Gray: Quilt Patterns using Civil War Fabrics

Mary Etherington, Connie Tesene

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Mary Etherington, Connie Tesene : The Blue and the Gray: Quilt Patterns using Civil War Fabrics before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Blue and the Gray: Quilt Patterns using Civil War Fabrics:

15 of 16 people found the following review helpful. Traditional Patterns + Civil War Repros = Classic Country ThreadsBy SLSCountry Threads "Charm School" mavens Mary Etherington and Connie Tesene are at it again, this time with slightly larger projects. The Blue and The Gray is an easy 5-stars for me. (Although I preferred the earlier Charm School books a little more for their colors and modern blocks.)Lovely Civil War repro fabrics coexist alongside classic patterns such as Delectable Mountain, Log Cabin, Baskets, Ohio and Variable Star, and Pinwheels. There is just one project - "The Four Patch Star" - that employs applique. The overall coloration schemes are red, white, and blue, with the occasional insertion of cheddars and the exception of two small projects that use pinks and browns. Only one project - the autograph/signature pattern "Remember Me" - uses greens. The Country Threads allure extends

all the way to the edges of these projects; some quilts have rounded corners and many have nicely coordinating pieced borders. All of the projects incorporate repetitive blocks, some much more than others. But the layouts are nice, and the finished dimensions can be reduced easily if your attention span is at all like mine. The smallest quilt is "Checkerboard Strippy Quilt" at 16.5 by 24.5 inches. It is one of two smaller strippy quilts, featured in my favorite pinks and browns. The largest quilt is "Battlefield" at 55.5 by 65.5 inches. It is also noteworthy for its daunting number of 143 blocks in 11 rows by 13 columns. (Make sure to use 's Look Inside feature and click on the list of images to see all the projects.) I am learning a lot from this book. For instance, the use of Civil War repros can result in a rather muddy quilt top, due to the abundance of browns, grays, and tinted background fabrics. But the photos of the samples show perfect placement of the darks and mediums, achieving a scrappy look that is clear and colorful. My favorite use of color tone is the 30.5-inch square "Fruit Pie"; it is unusually vivid for a Civil war repro quilt with its blueberry and strawberry colors. And thanks to the brief intro to each design, I finally learned what the "dash" in Churn Dash means. Beginners, please note that there is NO methods section in this book, so you will want to have a good techniques book handy. Also, these 18 projects are not rated according to level of difficulty; my opinion is The Blue and The Gray is appropriate for any level. There's nothing too difficult here, just a few triangles and copious Flying Geese units. And as I mentioned earlier, this book is a great study in color placement and tone/value appreciation, which all levels of quilter can benefit from. My only wish is that the actual quilting was highlighted better. I need some ideas for adding life and sparkle to scrappy quilts. Log Cabins in particular and scrappy quilts in general are difficult for me to quilt. (And I sure could use some suggestions for how to use my growing stash of poison greens.) But I am so happy to have The Blue and The Gray at last, after waiting months for it to be released. Worth the wait, for sure. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The Blue and the Gray By Up North Girl One of the very best quilting books I have found in a long time. Want to make nearly ALL the quilts in it! Since I love reproduction fabrics, this book is perfect! Great photos, concise directions, just plain fun---inspired me to GET QUILTING! 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great instructions and photography. By Amx Gold Card Having been drawn to antique quilts at museums for the last 25 years, I enjoy books in this category. Reading about their history and the artistic value means a great deal to me. This is a visual book that also has good instructions.

The authors of the best-selling Country Threads Goes to Charm School present a remarkable collection of designs inspired by the Civil War and ideal for reproduction fabrics. Choose from 18 traditional quilt patterns, including wall hangings, table toppers, and two beautiful doll quilts. Make excellent use of scraps, fat quarters, and even fat eighths. Enjoy striking projects with names that conjure images of the era, such as "Gettysburg," "Civil War Journal," and "Troops in Formation"

From the Inside Flap Showcase Civil War reproduction fabrics! Choose from 18 beautiful, traditional quilt patterns ideal for scraps, fat quarters, and even fat eighths. About the Author Mary Tendall Etherington and Connie Tesene have been business partners at Country Threads since 1983, shortly after both moved to Garner, Iowa. The business started as a wholesale quilt-pattern company that soon expanded into a retail quilt shop on Mary's small farm in north central Iowa. Together they have published more than 20 quilt-pattern books and over 800 individual patterns. Their designs have appeared in American Patchwork and Quilting, Quilt Sampler, and several other national craft magazines. Connie Tesene and Mary Tendall Etherington have been business partners at Country Threads since 1983. The business started as a wholesale quilt-pattern company that soon expanded into a retail quilt shop on Mary's small farm in north central Iowa. Together they have published more than 20 quilt-pattern books and over 800 individual patterns. Their designs have appeared in American Patchwork and Quilting, Quilt Sampler, and several other national craft magazines.