



THE MARINER'S COMPASS

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The Mariner's Compass is one of the oldest patterns in patchwork (Brackman, 1989). The principal design challenge was to create an Old World feel that reflected the complex and ornate designs of compasses seen on early maps. The color scheme for the quilt was inspired by a paisley printed fabric (seen in exterior border) reminiscent of 18th-century Indian textiles, which were popular trade goods. Twenty-two additional cotton fabrics reflected the deep rich colors of madder-dyed and over-dyed green textiles that were popular 250 years ago.

Additional motifs taken from original maps include an appliquéd fleur-de-lis marking north and a small cross on the east. The paisley motif is reproduced in the appliquéd leaves and flowers encircling the compass. Quilting designs that compliment the nautical theme include waves, ropes, stars, and an octopus.

Brackman, B. (1989). Clues in the calico. McLean, VA: EPM.