

Notes about our Tombstone Quilt Block:

It may be easy to imagine the center box forming a coffin or casket, with the idea of ‘rambling’ on Heaven-ward. We were hesitant at first to include this block in the quilt because of its name...choosing to add it as a bonus block to be used if you like. In the end we thought it too pretty and important to be ignored, especially after reading Dr. Franklin’s self-written, unused, epitaph (below).

Because of the complication of the bias edges, we felt it best to not tamper too much with the design of this block. The split corners make a lovely diamond design when sewn side-by-side and the **Blue** patches create their own chain that rolls across the block. Instead of making the **D/E** units as Flying Geese, we thought it would be easier (and scrappier!) to make them in two separate half square triangles, thus making it easier to trim the pieces to 2 5/8-inch square and proceeding. The original pattern uses more squares and bias edges along the outer edges. However, by keeping the **A** and **F** pieces in the same color, the original pattern is visible and very easy to identify without the extra cutting or bias frustration! There are few match points making the block an easy sew.

In 1728, at age 22, Benjamin Franklin wrote his own epitaph, in honor of himself:

*“The body of Benjamin Franklin, Printer
Like the cover of an old book
Its contents worn out
And stript of its lettering and gilding
Lies here, food for the worms
Yet the work shall not be lost
For it will (as he believed) appear once more
In a new and more beautiful edition
Corrected and amended By the Author.”*