



Halloween Redwork with a Twist

October Block of the Month

When we did a Redwork block last February-2008, it seemed to go over very well. I got the idea of the October block from *American Patchwork & Quilting* magazine October 2003, issue 64, when I was searching for this year's ideas. It is the Pumpkin Queen project done by Janet Carja Brandt's embroidered wool wall hanging.

The traditional redwork block is done with red embroidery thread design on a white background fabric. I've changed the rules for this. To keep in the spirit with Halloween the background fabric can be in colors of black, orange or purple in a solid quilter's cotton. Or it can be a textured or batik fabric.

You need to start with a 12" x 12" square of the colored desired background color you choose. This is a good size if you use a hoop.

Select a design. I have included four designs in this book, but there are more options on the NBQA website to be downloaded. Or you may choose your own design from your favorite book or magazine. I found most of my designs from my boys' old coloring books. The design should be 7 1/2" in either direction.

Trace the design lightly in the center of the fabric. I found for the dark colors a white or yellow quilting or colored pencil works well. Use 2 or 3 strands of floss. You can use all black or orange floss. Or you can make the design more interesting by using any colored floss to enhance your design.

There are 3 basic stitches used in these designs. The lines are done with the outline stitch, dots with french knots, and small circles with the daisy stitch. Directions for these stitches are included on the following page that is copied from Alex Anderson's *Shadow Redwork* book.