



By Cindy West

Electric Quilt version 5

Since 1992 quilters have learned to use their home computers and printers to print patterns using EQ design software. Now in Electric Quilt version 5, you can select from over 3100 block patterns and print them in any size. Print templates, foundation patterns, rotary cutting chart and more.

Operating System

Windows 98, Windows NT 4.0, Windows 2000, Windows Millennium Edition, or Windows XP, 32 MB of available RAM, 90 MB of available hard-drive space, 16-bit/high color monitor capable of 800 x 600 resolution, CD-Rom drive.

EQ5 offered two choices of installation; A “Compact” Installation = 90 MB or A “Typical” Installation = 244 MB. Included are instructions to read before installing it suggests printing the Read-me File to use for reference, which I did. I chose the “Typical” Installation and had no problems. The Control Panel Install/Uninstall feature provides for uninstalling the product.

Approximate cost \$110 at ElectricQuilt.com

EQ5 includes 1 CD and 2 Books

- The CD has over 15,000 fabrics, quilt blocks, ready-made layouts and fabric palettes.
- EQ5 Getting Started Book
Easy Lessons to Help You Learn Electric quilt 5
- EQ5 Design Cookbook
Step-by-Step Recipes for Cooking Up Exciting Quilts

The EQ5 Getting Started Book has six lessons designed to guide the user through the main features of the program. I am a first-time EQ user so these step-by-step lessons are a great tool. It is suggested to repeat any lesson as many times as necessary as this Software is loaded with features.

My intention was to complete all six lessons before beginning this review but I have only finished three and see that I need much more time to feel acquainted and comfortable. EQ5 is so much more than I could have imagined. The note for first time users like myself to not get frustrated but to keep practicing, just what I needed!

Help is available in many ways – the user manuals, the online help, the web site (www.electricquilt.com), and the tech support staff.

EQ5 On-Screen Help

By clicking HELP on EQ5’s main menu bar and choosing EQ5 Help, you have access to a complete, easy-to-understand, illustrated help system in a separate window right on

your computer screen. Browse the Table of Contents or use Search to find whatever you have questions about. Create a list of your favorite topics, for quick reference. Or print out any information you'd like. By highlighting any part of the text and Choosing Print Selected Topic you can print just the part you want!

Electric quilt Company Web Site

Click "Support" to find technical support and an EQ Forum allowing you to leave questions and get answers. Click "Users" to find "Fun Stuff" offering free lessons, monthly design challenges and more fun stuff to help you learn our software.

E-Mail

E-mail is answered promptly. The address is: techsupport@electricquilt.com

Phone – Fax – Mail

Telephone 419-352-1134 **Fax** 419-352-4332

Mailing Address

The Electric Quilt Company
419 Gould Street, Suite 2
Bowling Green, OH 43402-3047

It seems like they have thought of everything. I haven't needed help at this point because I'm still learning but to know it's there is comforting. My impression EQ 5 is I'm in awe of what it can do. They seem to make every effort to make it understandable. Such as, printing instructions (which being a computer user one would think, "click print"). Not so, Second lesson, Print the Quilt, Click the Layer 1 tab, Click the Print button – click Quilt, Under Printing Style, be sure there is a dot beside "Showing fabrics". Under Options, a check means the option is selected. Click to check or uncheck. Check Print name to print the name you've typed onto the quilt note-card. Check Print overall size to print the quilt size. Check both Print block outline and Print patch outline if you want your patches and blocks outlined in black, as they are on-screen. Click the Preview button. Click the Print button. Your quilt will print! Included are Tips along the way also pictures along side the instructions to make it as easy as possible. This example is long I know, but it gives you an idea of the understandable lessons.

Discovering the libraries of pre-designed blocks, fabrics, embroideries and layouts is so much fun, learning to rotate, flip, color, add appliqué motifs and quilting stencils is also an option. You can create from scratch or choose a design layout for blocks of any size and number.

New features in Electric Quilt Version 5:

- Library of ready-made quilt layouts
- Embroidery library
- Fabric Palette library
- Import photographs for memory quilts
- Rotate Fabrics
- Strip quilt – 11 styles
- One patch quilts – 14 styles
- New borders – 14 styles
- Rotary cutting charts

- Customizable template printouts
- Enhanced custom quilt tools
- Eyedropper tool
- Symmetry tool
- Tape measure tool
- Block search features
- E-mail project feature