

TreadleOn Block Exchange (TOBE) FAQs

What is a TOBE?

TOBE is an acronym for TreadleOn Block Exchange. Its purpose is to encourage you to use your people powered (PP) machines, therefore all TOBE blocks must be made on either a handcrank or treadle sewing machine. You make a set of blocks according to the TOBE specifications and send them to the hostess, who swaps all the blocks to other quilters. You get the same number of blocks back that you sent in, from lots of different people. Occasionally we do individual swaps that are not related to quilting, such as pin cushions, pot holders, aprons, and totebags.

You do not have to be a member of TreadleOn to participate, so if you have friends who are interested, invite them to join us.

How do I find the current TOBE list?

A link to the current TOBE schedule can be found in the TreadleOn Flea Market.

Where do I find TOBE instructions?

The TOBE schedule includes links to

- Instructions for each exchange

- Instructions for signing blocks

- Instructions for mailing blocks.

- Information for TOBE hostesses.

Do I have to pre-register to participate?

Pre-registration is not required, but for planning purposes the hostess would appreciate knowing how many people plan to participate and roughly how many sets they are likely to send. Participants may ask the hostess how many people have joined so they can decide how many sets to make.

Is it too late to sign up?

It is never too late until the mailing date!

What if I signed up and didn't get my blocks done?

No worries! This is supposed to be fun and we all know that life happens. Please

let the hostess know that your plans have changed.

Who do I contact for more information?

Kelly Pakes (kndpakes@epix.net) is the TOBE coordinator. She helps to organize each TOBE and makes sure it doesn't conflict with other previously scheduled TOBE's.

Each individual TOBE instruction file has a link to the hostess's email. Contact the hostess with specific questions about an exchange.

What if I have a great idea for a future TOBE?

Contact the TOBE coordinator. The TOBE coordinator periodically asks for suggestions when there are openings in the TOBE schedule. Votes are tallied to see which ideas generate the most enthusiasm. Sometimes an Onion suggests an idea on the forum and if there is a lot of interest, it gets scheduled when there is an opening.

We do not schedule due dates in December or January because past experience has shown it is a busy time of year and participation is low. July and August due dates are discouraged for the same reason.

What is a squishie?

A squishie is the envelope that contains your TOBE blocks. The return of your squishie from the hostess is a much anticipated event!

Is a hostess gift required?

No, a hostess gift is not required. It is customary, on a volunteer basis and if you feel so inclined, to thank the hostess for her time and effort by including a small hostess gift in your squishie. Things like an extra TOBE block, a FQ of fabric, or a small sewing theme item are much appreciated by hostesses.