

How to Sign Your TOBE Blocks

Select an archival, permanent, acid-free pen. Do NOT use a Sharpie marker as it will bleed a yellow "shadow". Pigma, ZIG, and Micron pens work well. Quilt shops, craft stores (scrap booking or art supply department) and office supply stores carry them.

Black seems to be the best color for permanence, but isn't mandatory. Pen sizes 01 and 05 work well. If you use 08, your signature will probably be a lot darker and bolder than anyone else's and will stand out in the quilt.

Sign in the light sections of the block, or on a separate block if specified in TOBE instructions. Include your name, location, machine used, and TOBE name.

Example:

Olivia Onion Town and State or Country
Ca. 1890 Domestic A HC
Spring TOBE 2014

If you have physical problems signing, just sign your name. The rest of the blocks will have the TOBE information, and while it's fun to know the machine, it's not necessary.

TIPS!

To make signing easier, try one of the following suggestions to keep the fabric from shifting under the pen:

- (a) Iron a piece of freezer paper to the back of the signing area.
- (b) Place a sheet of 400 or 600 grit sandpaper under your block. Clip the sandpaper and block to a clip board.

Allow plenty of time for block signing, don't wait until the night before or morning of the mailing date. It takes longer than you'd think and your hand will need a few breaks.

Trim blocks to size before signing.

Be sure NOT to sign in the 1/4" seam allowance at the edge of the block.

Practice on paper before signing to get the spacing of your lettering figured out before writing on a block.

A new pen makes signing blocks much less of a chore.