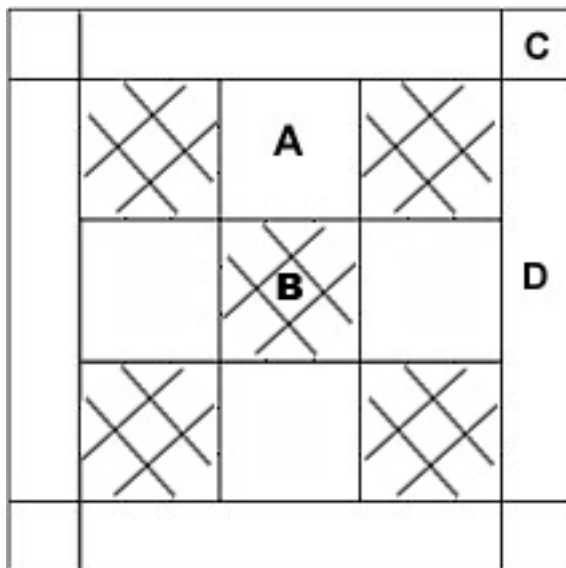


Blocked In: Creating a Basic Quilt Block

The Pattern



Fabric Purchase

As you search for fabrics, pay special attention to the fiber content and care instructions that should be listed on the end of the bolts. If the content or care is not listed, try to find out as much as you can about the fabric, or select another. Also, take note of the width of the fabric.

Pick up any notions, batting, binding or thread needed. Also buy any additional embellishments such as trims, buttons, or anything you want to personalize this quilt.

Fabrics used in the sample are all 100% cotton. 1 floral, 1 check, and two solids were used, but you can mix and match as you like. We purchased about 1 yard of each fabric (and had leftovers) for this crib-sized baby blanket shown in the sample. We also purchased 2 yards of 45" wide flannel to use as our backing.

Fabric Preparation

When you get home with your fabric selections, prepare to pre-wash the fabrics. This is an important step. If the fabric you selected is dry-clean only, then skip this step as your finished quilt will need to go to the cleaners rather than through your washing machine.

Taking note of the content at the fabric store will help you determine how much shrinkage there will be. 100% cotton can shrink in many washings, and can shrink upwards of 30%. Even a simple steam pressing can shrink your fabrics. If you have a fabric that has a high cotton content, wash it in very hot water and tumble dry on high heat. This will ensure maximum shrinkage. Tie the ends of your fabric together to prevent tangling. Do not use fabric softener for pre-washing fabrics. It can leave a film on fabrics that is not good to work with as it can interfere with fusible stabilizers and marking utensils.

After the fabric comes out of the laundry, iron it, making sure there are no creases or wrinkles. Cut off any frayed ends. Also, cut your pattern pieces (according to your size) from the pattern sheets and iron those flat as well.

Cutting Fabric

When cutting, make sure to use a rotary cutter or pair of scissors that are sharp, and designated for cutting fabric. If you use an old pair that have cut other substances, the shears may be dull and won't do the best job.

Make 8 Blocks

(A) Color 1: Cut (32) 3-1/2" squares. (shown as floral in sample)

(B) Color 2: Cut (8) 1-1/2" x 40" strips. (shown as check or gingham in sample)

(C) Color 3: Cut (32) 2" x 2" squares. (shown as forest green in sample)

(D) Color 4: Cut (32) 2" x 9-1/2" rectangles. (shown as gold in sample)

(E) Color 5: Cut (10) 1-1/2" x 40" strips. (shown as forest green in sample)

Sewing It All Together

In order to keep the blocks as straight as possible, sew blocks together in strips. Start with color B, then color A, then color B again for your first row. For the strips start with color C then color D, then C again. Sew together using a 1/4" seam allowance. If you need to use a guide, draw straight lines on the back of the fabric with a fabric pencil or chalk. Finished blocks will be 12" by 12". Sew these together by placing the 40" strips around the blocks: 1 across the top and bottom, then one on the left, center and right.

Pressing

As you sew strips and blocks together, press seams apart for a flat, clean look on the front side. You can also press the seams towards the darker colors so that edges do not show through lighter fabrics.

When you complete a block, press the top side to complete.

Embellish

Once your quilt is put together, you're ready to embellish it. Take care in only putting on embellishments that will survive the laundry or dry cleaners. Make synthetic or plastic/nylon based embellishments do not survive the dry cleaners.

The quilt shown in the sample was embellished with ladybugs, cut out from a larger fabric.

Backing & Binding

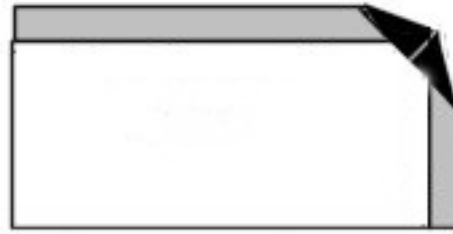
Now, you're ready to finish the quilt. At this stage, you can decide to bind the blanket with bias binding strips, or you can use the backing to create an edge.

If you decide to use bias binding, use double fold extra wide binding made for quilts. Unfold one edge and place it on the right side of the quilt top and backing sandwich. Stitch down the crease of the binding. Fold over the binding to the back of the quilt and whipstitch by hand, or stitch in the ditch if by machine.

If you're using the backing as a quilt edge, cut your backing fabric to size by placing the finished quilt top on the fabric. Leave 3" on all sides for a 1" border.

Fold over the top left hand corners of the backing into a crease. Fold the top edge of the backing down, then the side edge. This will create a mitered corner. Pin, then whip stitch by hand or machine stitch together using a ¼" seam allowance. Do this for all corners, then press to finish.

Diagram shows how to miter an edge; backing folds over the quilt top with batting in between.



Fold down corner
crease on line shown



fold down one side



Fold down other side

Quilting the Layers

If you have a quilt stencil, use tailor's chalk to transfer that design to the front of your quilt. Stitch along those lines to quilt the layers together.

You can also use decorative hand stitching or bar tack the quilt layers together at each corner. Tie off all ends to prevent unraveling.

We hope you are pleased with this instruction handout for this class. If you received materials with this instruction handout, please take a moment and let us know if they worked well for you. Feel free to ask any questions or get clarification on any technique by e-mailing us at classes@sewingcity.com anytime. Your feedback helps us make these classes a more valuable learning experience for other members. © 2005 SewingCity.com. All rights reserved.