



Quilt as You Go

Quilting individual blocks can be much easier than quilting a whole top. Firstly plan how you want your quilt back to look. It can be fun to use a different backing fabric for each block, this also helps use up pieces of fabric you may have in your stash!

For each block:

1. Cut a piece of wadding and backing fabric about 2" bigger than your block.
2. Make a little quilt sandwich using the block, the wadding and the piece of backing fabric.
3. Tack or pin the three layers together.
4. Quilt your block, either by machine or by hand. If you want to machine quilt a motif on your block, you may wish to trace the motif onto a piece of flimsy paper, pin the paper to the top of the block, then quilt through all layers using a small machine stitch. Once quilted, tear away the paper.

Join your blocks:

There are many ways to join blocks that are already quilted. We will use a ½" (finished) binding all round each block both back and front.

1. Choose binding fabric(s) for the top and for the back of the quilt – these may be different fabrics. If you want to create a co-ordinated look use one complementary fabric for the top and for the bottom. Or, for a more fun look, use a different binding fabric for each block.
2. Trim each quilted block to its exact measurements, eg for a 6" finished square, trim it to 6½".
3. Cut the binding for the top of the quilt 1½" wide and press it in half lengthwise, wrong sides together.
4. Cut the binding for the back of the quilt 1" wide.
5. Take your first block, decide which side you want to join to its adjacent block first. Cut a piece of the top binding and the bottom binding the exact length of this side.
6. Pin the raw edge of the top binding to the chosen side of the top of the block, then pin the raw edge of the bottom binding to the back of the block.
7. Using a ¼" seam stitch through the top binding, quilt sandwich and bottom binding.
8. Take the block that will sit next to the first block in the finished quilt. Pin this block to the bottom binding (wrong sides of the blocks should be together).
9. Sew along this edge using a ¼" seam.
10. Flip the blocks flat so that the edges of the blocks (including the wadding) butt up against each other, hand sew the wadding edges together using a loose ladder stitch or similar.
11. Hand stitch the top binding over the edges using a toning thread and a slip stitch.
12. Continue to join your blocks together, firstly in rows, then join the rows together to complete your quilt top.