

A free project, compliments of...

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The Gift Quilt by Vicki Welsh & Anne Waleski



My friend and I designed this quilt to be a fast and easy quilt that is perfect for those times when you need a quick gift for someone special. The instructions are written to give you great results with minimal frustration. Fabrics are sorted during the cutting and piecing steps and the block layout is provided. This top can be made in less than four hours for a graphic quick quilt. It's a great snuggle quilt for a teen or child.

This is a simple quilt to construct. The success of this project depends greatly on the fabric selection. The most successful gift quilts have some element of cohesion. Some examples include:

- All fabrics from a specific manufacturer's collection
- Theme-print based—African, tropical fish, Asian, holiday
- Texture theme—Leaves, stripes, stars; with some accent fabrics added for spark
- Color theme—Monochromatic prints (all green), red/white/blue, jewel tones, autumn colors

The sashing fabric provides a frame for the quilt. The safest choice is a solid or tone-on-tone print in a contrast, complimentary or darker value than the quilt.

Materials

Twin Size (68" x 83")

- 20 fat quarters
- 1/3 yard sashing fabric

Queen Size (83" x 98")

- 30 fat quarters
- 1/2 yard sashing fabric

A 20½" square rotary cutting ruler is helpful for cutting the fat quarters.

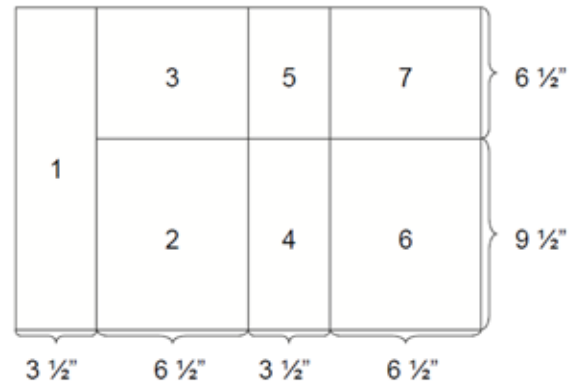


Step 1 - Cutting and Arranging

Sort the fat quarters into two groups of ten fabrics—Group A and Group B. Distribute the fabrics so that the colors, textures, values and/or print sizes are spread evenly between the two groups.

Cut each fat quarter to 16" x 20" and then cut seven pieces according to the diagram at right. Keep the fabrics in the same order within each group—A and B.

Set aside Piece 1 for the border step.



Cut and stack the remaining pieces from each fat quarter. Keep the pieces within each group together and keep the fabrics within a group in the same order.

Label each stack with the piece number. Masking tape will work great for labeling the blocks.

This pattern was developed to provide an easy way to ensure that the fabrics are dispersed throughout the quilt effectively. By using the concept of Group A and Group B blocks, there is no chance that a fabric will be adjacent to itself. The directions provide sort order and block layout order to accomplish this.

Sort the fabrics within each group following the steps below. As you move the fabrics, keep the pieces that you remove from the top in the same order and just stack them under the other pieces, all with right sides facing up. It's just like cutting a deck of cards. In the photos at right, the cut stacks are arranged in their proper position in the block and you can see the pieces that are moved to the bottom of the stack.

- Leave piece 2 stacked as is
- Piece 3—Move the top 2 fabrics to the bottom of the stack
- Piece 4—Move the top 3 fabrics to the bottom of the stack
- Piece 5—Move the top 5 fabrics to the bottom of the stack
- Piece 6—Move the top 6 fabrics to the bottom of the stack
- Piece 7—Move the top 8 fabrics to the bottom of the stack

Arrange the stacks of pieces, by number, according to the photo examples at right. Note that the two groups are arranged a little differently. This is shown again on the next page with the piecing instructions.



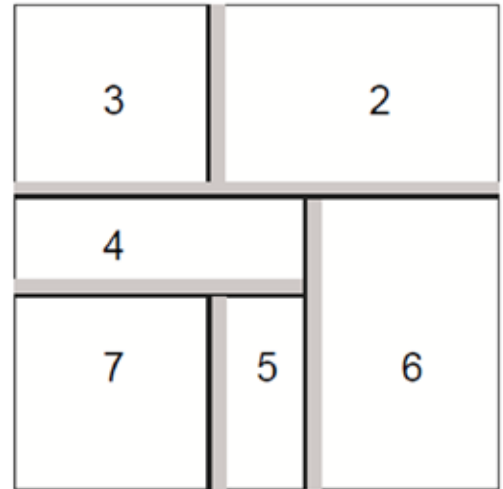
Step 2 - Sewing the Blocks

The sewing and pressing order for these blocks is specified so that the seams that meet between blocks are pressed in opposite directions to avoid bulky seam joins. As you sew each block label them A1, A2, A3...A10 and B1, B2, B3...B10. Place the label in the upper left corner, this will help to position the blocks later when you assemble the quilt top.

Sew Group A blocks starting at the top of the stack using a 1/4" seam allowance. The first block sewn is block A1. Label the blocks in the upper left corner starting with A1 and continue through A10.

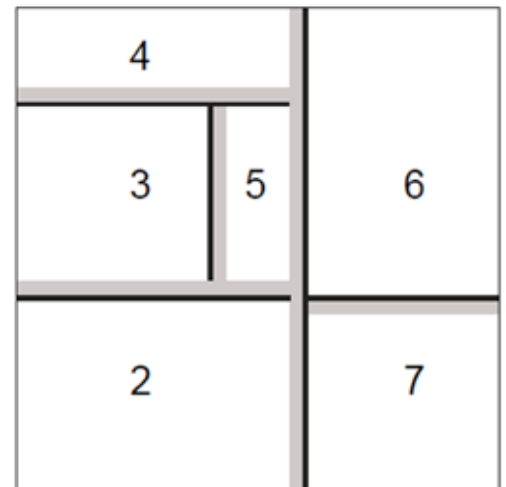
The photo at right shows the pressing directions by shading.

1. Sew piece 7 to 5 and press the seam toward piece 5
2. Sew piece 4 to 7:5 and press the seam toward piece 4
3. Sew piece 6 to 4:7:5 and press the seam toward piece 6
4. Sew piece 3 to 2 and press the seam toward piece 2
5. Sew piece 3:2 to 6:4:7:5 and press the seam toward piece 3:2



Sew Group B Blocks starting at the top of the stack. The first block sewn is block A1. Label the blocks in the upper left corner starting with B1 through B10.

1. Sew piece 3 to 5 and press the seam toward piece 5
2. Sew piece 4 to 3:5 and press the seam toward piece 4
3. Sew piece 2 to 4:3:5 and press the seam toward piece 4:3:5
4. Sew piece 6 to 7 and press the seam toward piece 7
5. Sew piece 6:7 to 2:4:3:5 and press the seam toward piece 2:4:3:5



A3	B3	A1	B1
B6	A10	B4	A4
A5	B5	A8	B2
B7	A2	B9	A7
A9	B8	A6	B10

The blocks can be arranged in any order alternating A and B blocks. The diagram at left provides a recommended layout to be able to achieve good dispersion of the different fabrics throughout the quilt. Start with the recommended layout on the floor or a design wall and rearrange until you are satisfied.

Measure the blocks and make sure they are square and all the same size. If they are not square, cut them down to square. **Note the final cut size of the block—you will need this measurement for the next step.** It's OK if you have to cut the blocks down some. It will not detract from the graphic effect of the quilt. Sew the blocks in rows using 1/4" seam allowances. Where seams meet between blocks, the seam allowances should be opposed so that the seams "lock" together. Sew the rows together pressing the seam allowance in either direction or open, whatever you prefer.

Step 3 - Adding Borders

It's time to add the side, top and bottom borders. There are two border components. The inner border (sashing) is a narrow (1" finished) border of one piece of fabric. The outer border is made of the remaining fat quarter pieces (Piece 1) and finishes to 3 1/4" wide.

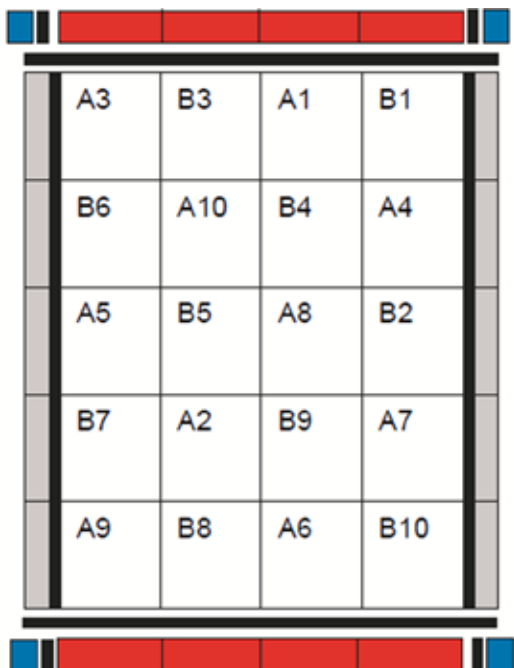
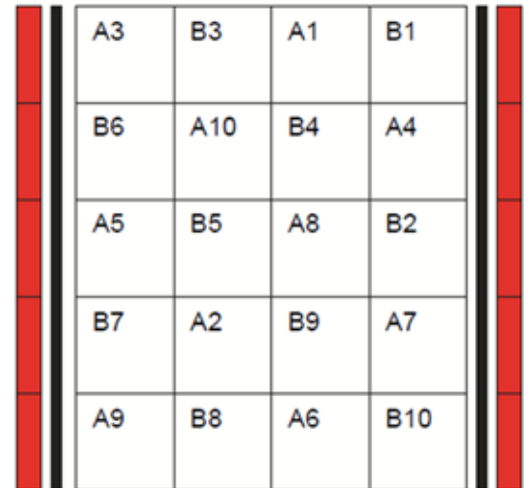
The finished blocks should have been 15 1/2" square (refer to bold text at the top of this page). If yours were 15 1/2", cut all of the Piece 1's to 15 1/2" long. If your blocks were not 15 1/2", cut the Piece 1's to the measurement of your block.

Cut eight strips from the sashing fabric each 1 1/2" wide. Cut the strips the width of the fabric. Square up the ends of each strip and sew them together end-to-end into one long strip.

Cut two long side sashing pieces (black in diagram) each 75 1/2" long and sew these to the long sides of the quilt with a 1/4" seam. Press the seam toward the sashing strip. If your blocks were not 15 1/2" square, calculate the length of the strip as (square size x 5) - 2.

Select ten of the Piece 1 pieces. Sew together five for each side, joining on the short ends, creating one long border for each side. (Red in diagram) Press the seam allowances to the darkest piece.

Pin the border to the side sashing aligning the seam from the border to the seam between the rows of blocks. Sew with a 1/4" seam and press the seam allowance to the narrow sashing.



Cut two top and bottom sashing pieces, each 68 1/2" long and sew these to the top and bottom of the quilt. If your blocks were not 15 1/2" square, calculate the length of the strip as (square size x 4) - 1.5. Sew one sashing strip each to the top and bottom of the quilt just as you did with the side sashing pieces.

Select one of the Piece 1 pieces to use as the cornerstone for the quilt (Blue corner squares in diagram). Cut that piece into four squares, each measures 3 1/2" square.

Make the top and bottom borders. Cut four pieces of the remaining sashing fabric, each 3 1/2" long (Black in the diagram).

Sew four border pieces (Piece 1) end-to-end to create the top and bottom borders (Red in diagram). Sew a 3 1/2" sashing piece to each end of the border strip and then sew a corner square to each end. Make one of these border strips each for the top and bottom of the quilt. Press seams toward the sashing or the darker piece.

Sew the border to the sashing strip aligning the border seams with the blocks seams. Press seam allowances toward the narrow sashing.

Making a Queen Sized Quilt

The queen sized version is sewn using the same process except that it requires 30 fat quarters. This particular quilt was made in a true scrappy palette. The theme was autumn colored and printed fabrics.

Sort the fat quarters into two stacks of 15 each. Cut the fat quarters according to the directions for the main quilt. Sort and sew the blocks as in the instructions above.

Lay out the blocks according the diagram and sew the blocks together for the center of the quilt.

For the narrow sashing cut ten strips of the sashing fabric. Add the sashing and borders following the main instructions.

A11	B13	A6	B3	A15
B7	A12	B12	A1	B4
A8	B5	A7	B10	A14
B11	A3	B6	A13	B9
A2	B15	A9	B1	A4
B8	A5	B2	A10	B14



African Gift



Alanas Gift



Christmas Gift