

A Simple Little Quilt



A lot of beginning sewists find quilting to be a daunting task. This simplified version provides the look of an heirloom quilt with half the time and energy involved!

What you'll need:

- 36 8" square patches of various 100% cotton prints
- 1 yard backing fabric
- 1 yard 100% cotton batting
- You're SewExpecting Toolkit

SEW COOL TIP: You'll be surprised how quickly baby outgrows her little duds! Whatever clothing you don't pass on can be used to create a memory quilt keepsake using this pattern!

1. Lay out the 36 squares in a large square that is 6 squares tall and 6 squares wide. Move them around until you like the look of the pattern. It helps to take a picture of the squares at this point, so that you can remember what order you had them in!
2. Follow the "How to Patchwork Anything" instructions to join the squares, creating your quilt top.
3. Lay the quilt top and the backing piece right sides facing. Lay them both on top of the batting and pin at several places around the edges and throughout the quilt. Cut excess backing fabric and batting to about 1" larger than the cotton quilt top all around.
4. Begin sewing in the middle of one of the sides. Continue sewing around the square, stopping about 10" from where you started, creating a turning space. Trim the batting and the backing fabric to match the seam allowance of the cotton fabric, except at the turning space- leave the seam allowance there larger. Trim the corners diagonally.
5. Reach inside the turning space and gently turn the quilt right side out. Use the closed tip of your scissors to push out the quilt corners and smooth out the inner seams. Press the quilt flat. You'll need to pin the fabric at the turning space closed to insure it stays in place.

6. Place a pin in every other square to make sure that the quilt lays flat. Using a 1/8" seam allowance, topstitch around the quilt, being sure to close the turning space. You can add another row of topstitching 3/8" from the one you just created, if you like.
7. To quilt the fabric, you'll sew directly over the rows of the quilt top seams. This is called "stitch-in-the-ditch" quilting. Begin sewing at the top of the seam, where your topstitching is. Reverse the needle a few stitches to lock in the seam. Gently separate the squares with your hands if necessary to ensure your needle falls directly into the seam. Taking your sewing very slow at this point will help! Sew down to where you've topstitched at the other end. Reverse your needle for a few stitches to lock in the seam. Repeat this for 4 more seams, where the remaining rows join. As you move across the quilt, you'll need to roll up the bulk of the quilt to make it more comfortable to sew.
8. When you've finished the quilting, clip all showing threads and secure the beginning and ending of your quilting seams with seam sealant.





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