

THE BEGINNER FILLER DESIGN QUILT

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MATERIALS IN YOUR KIT:

35 - 10" top fabric squares (5 extra squares have been included in your kit just in case!)

1 ¼ yard - Sashing and Binding Fabric

MATERIALS NEEDED:

30 - 10" squares of backing fabric in any color

30 - 10" batting squares

Spool of thread

Note: For best results try to use high quality 100% cotton fabric, thin cotton or polyester batting, and polyester thread.

Try to avoid using the high loft, inexpensive polyester battings as these can be really difficult to work with while learning how to free motion quilt. Also cotton thread can often be too thick and too weak for free motion quilting. If you find your thread breaking often or skipping stitches, try switching to a polyester thread.

QUILTING YOUR BLOCKS:

First mark an 8" square into the center of each top fabric 10" square. This will leave 1" around all edges of the block so you have more than enough room to hang on to the edges as you free motion quilt.

Create 30 individual quilt sandwiches by layering a backing fabric square face down, batting square, then top fabric square face up. You really don't need to pin these layers together because the squares are so small and usually do not shift

Now start free motion quilting right on the 8" square line you marked onto your block. This will secure the layers of your block together and give you a clear area to quilt within.

Now using the instructions in the **Beginner Free Motion Quilting Fillers DVD**, fill each block with a different filler design.

Once you have quilted all 30 blocks with a different filler design it will be time to put all the blocks together to create your Beginner Filler Design Quilt!

CONNECTING THE BLOCKS TOGETHER:

First trim each block down to 8." You might notice that your original marked 8" square doesn't fit perfectly within the 8" ruler lines. This is due to the quilt block shrinking slightly after free motion quilting.

Make sure that your finished blocks are trimmed to exactly 8" square.

The 30 quilted blocks are connected together using binding strips. These strips must be cut precisely, so first prewash, starch, and press your binding fabric properly before cutting.

CUT THE FOLLOWING STRIPS:

24 - 1" x 10" strips

24 - 1.5" x 10" strips

5 - 1" full length strips

5 - 1 1/2" full length strips

Take all of the 1.5" strips and fold them in half, wrong sides together. Press with a hot dry iron to completely flatten the folded strips.

Now take a quilted block and place a 1" x 10" strip on one front side. Place a folded strip, raw edges to the outside, along the same side on the back. Pin in place if needed.

Stitch these two binding strips into place to block 1 with a perfect 1/4" seam allowance.

To attach block 2 to block 1, first press the 1" strip over the raw edge of the block. Layer Block 2 right side down on top of the 1" strip, making sure to perfectly line up both blocks. Pin in place and stitch with a perfect 1/4" seam allowance.

Flip the block over and finger press the folded strip over so it fully encases the seam allowances of both blocks. Pin this folded edge down if you plan to hand bind it later or zigzag stitch it down to secure.

Now attach 3 more blocks to Block 2 for a row of 5 blocks.

Repeat connecting five blocks together in a row five more times for a total of six rows.

Now trim the extra binding from along the edges of the blocks and lay a 1" long binding strip along the front edge of one block row. Layer a 1 1/2" folded strip along the back with the raw edges to the seam allowance. Pin and stitch with a perfect 1/4" seam allowance.

Press the 1" strip down over the raw edge of the row and layer a new block row on top, right side down. Pin and stitch with a perfect 1/4" seam allowance.

Flip rows over and press the folded strip on the back down, fully encasing the seam allowances of both rows. Pin or zigzag stitch in place.

Proceed connecting all your rows together, then trim the excess binding from the edges.

Cut 5 - 2" strips from the remaining material to bind your finished quilt. Seam the strips together and attach the binding and finish using your favorite method.