

## **Mosaic Lap Quilt**



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## <u>Notes</u>

- Finished quilt size is 54"x54".
- All seams should be a scant <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>".



A scant ¼" seam means the seam is slightly less than ¼". This is very important in order to ensure that your seams line up. It's a good idea to do a little test before you start by sewing together two 1 ¼" strips of fabric together, pressing the seam open and measuring the width of the fabric strips. They should be 1" wide each. If they are more or less, adjust your needle accordingly and do another test.

- This pattern assumes you have a basic knowledge of quilt construction.
- Press all seams open. This will reduce bulk where seams overlap and create a much smoother

quilt top. It is especially necessary when piecing such narrow pieces.

- I like to use spray starch or a starch alternative when working with such narrow pieces. It really makes your seams flat and crisp. When pressing a seam I press open from the back, flip the piece over, spray with the starch then press again from the top.
- Prewashing fabrics is up to your discretion. If you want a quilt that will be less crinkly, prewash your fabrics and your batting (follow package directions). If you don't prewash but are concerned about colors running, throw a dye catching sheet (like Shout brand) into the washing machine the first time you wash the quilt.

#### Fabric Requirements

- 3/8 yard each of 12 colored fabrics
- 1 <sup>3</sup>⁄<sub>4</sub> yard of white fabric
- 1 ¾ yard from one and 1 yard of another coordinating fabrics for the backing
- 60"x60" square of batting (I like to use cotton or a cotton/bamboo blend)

## **Other Supplies**

- iron and ironing board
- spray starch or an alternative such as Best Press (optional)
- rotary cutter
- clear plastic ruler
- cutting mat
- scissors
- white thread
- straight pins
- curved basting safety pins or spray basting
- hand sewing needle
- free-motion or darning foot

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#### <u>Cut Fabric</u>

*Cut selvedges from all fabrics before cutting the pieces.* 

From the colored fabrics:

- Cut 1 strip 1.5"x18" from each of the 12 fabrics
- Cut 1 strip 3"x15" from each of 8 fabrics and 1 strip 3"x18" from each of the remaining 4 fabrics
- Cut 1 strip 6"x24" from each of 4 fabrics and 1 strip 6"x30" from each of the remaining 8 fabrics

From white fabric:

- Cut 39 strips, 1"x width of fabric
- Cut 6 strips, 2.5"x width of fabric (for binding)

## Piece Quilt Top

1. Sew a 1" strip of white fabric to each of the colored strips, long sides together. Press seams open. Trim the white fabric flush with the colored.

2. Cut the pieced strips into smaller units like so:

- Smallest strips into pieces 1.5" wide, 144 total
- Medium strips into pieces 3" wide, 64 total



Largest strips into pieces 6" wide, 56 total
Set aside the 3" and 6" pieces.

3. On a design wall or other flat surface arrange the 1.5" pieces in a 12x12 grid with the white strips oriented to the right.



4. Sew together each of the 12 rows. Press seams open.



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5. From the white strips, cut 11 pieces 18.5" long. Sew a strip to the bottom of the top row being sure to align either end. Press seam open.

6. Lay the second row over the first, right sides together, aligning the bottom edges. Use the vertical white strips to line up the two rows and pin them together. Press seam open.



7. Repeat steps 5 and 6 for the remaining rows. Do not sew a white strip to the very last row.

Normally I would sew all of the white strips to the bottoms of the pieced rows before sewing the rows together to save time, but in this case you can line up your vertical seams more easily if you do each row one at a time. Sew a strip to the bottom, sew on the next row, repeat, etc.

8. On the design wall arrange the 3" pieces in two rounds around the pieced center with the white strips to the right.

9. Sew together each row. Press seams open.

10. Sew the rows on either side of the center grid to each other with white strips in between the same way you did the center. You should have shorter pieces that were trimmed off

earlier that you should use if possible. Do not sew a white strip on the very bottom.

11. Sew each side unit to either side of the center, lining up every other white strip to the rows in the center. Press seams open.



12. Sew the top two rows like you did with the smaller pieces with the addition of a strip of white fabric on the bottom.

13. Sew the bottom two rows together with a white strip in between and sew an additional strip to the top, not the bottom.

14. Sew the top and bottom to the center, being careful to line up the vertical white strips.



15. Arrange the remaining 6" pieces in two rounds around the pieced center.

16. Sew together each row. Press seams open.

17. Use your seam ripper to remove the rightmost white strip from each row. Discard the removed strips.



Sew the rows together and to the pieced center with white strips inbetween in the same way you did the 3" rounds in steps 10-14. You will need to piece together the white strips in order for them to be long enough for the top and bottom rows.

#### Piece the Back

Trim the selvedges from both pieces of backing fabric. Cut the shorter piece in half lengthwise then sew the ends together. Press seam open. Sew this piece to the larger backing fabric, lengthwise. Trim the whole thing down to 60"x60"

Alternately, you can make the back using leftover fabric from the front of your quilt and supplement with additional fabric if necessary. This is what I usually do. I lay the pieces out to get a rough idea of how they will best fit together then trim, sew, trim, etc. until the back is large enough.



## **Quilting**

Make your quilt sandwich and baste in whichever way you prefer.

For my quilt I used a free-motion foot to create a boxy all-over pattern. You could do the same thing with a walking foot but it would mean a lot of turning and manhandling your quilt. Start off the edge of your quilt top and sew right-angles as in the diagram below. You will get neater, sharper corners if you keep the needle going but briefly pause the quilt before you move it in a different direction.



It's important to note that I was careful not to have any of my quilting lines cross over each other. If your top isn't perfectly flat, this will help even things out through the quilting. It will also prevent any puckering. When you're done quilting, square up your quilt, trimming to the edge of the quilt top.

#### **Bind Your Quilt**

Sew your binding strips together, end to end, press seams open then press binding in half lengthwise. Apply the binding to the front of your quilt with a <sup>3</sup>/<sub>8</sub>" seam. Fold binding to the back and hand stitch with an invisible stitch.

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