

Quick Panel Quilts

Get a jump-start on your next quilting project by using preprinted fabric panels. Or, use a one-yard cut of novelty fabric as a panel. They're both available in a variety of designs or themes and convenient for a quick gift or decorating project.

FABRIC PANEL SIZE OPTIONS: 24" x 44", 30" x 44", and 34" x 44"

SUPPLIES:

- One fabric panel or one-yard cut of novelty fabric
- 2¼ yd. coordinating fabric (borders, backing, binding)
- 1½ yd. batting
- Matching all-purpose thread
- Monofilament thread
- ½" x 20 yd. roll paper-backed fusible web, such as Steam-A-Seam 2®

HELPFUL NOTIONS:

- Rotary cutter, mat, and ruler
- Open Toe Foot
- Sewer's Fix-It Tape
- Optional: Mini Iron
- Optional: Binding and Hem Clips

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Trim and prepare panel.
 - Square panel, trimming as necessary on all four sides.
 - Select coordinating fabric for borders, binding, and backing.

2. Cut borders and binding.
 - Cut four 2½" crosswise strips for borders.
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3. Add borders to the panel.
 - Stitch borders to the longest edges first. If excess border fabric extends, trim even with fabric panel. Press seams flat; press toward borders.
 - Stitch borders to narrow edges.
 - Trim excess border length. Repeat pressing steps.

4. Cut batting and backing fabric 2"–3" larger than the quilt panel on all sides, including borders.

5. Layer the quilt.
 - Tape the backing fabric, wrong side up, to a sturdy clean work surface. Sewer's Fix-It Tape works well for this as it holds securely and leaves no sticky residue.
 - Center the batting layer on top of the backing. Make sure the batting lies smooth and flat.
 - Center the quilt panel, right side up, over the batting.

Sewing With Nancy Hint: Traditionally we would use pins to hold the layers together. In this instance we are going to use a faster approach—fuse basting.

6. Fuse baste quilt layers together.
 - Press small pieces of ½" paper-backed fusible web every 4"–5" on the back of the quilt panel and on the wrong side of the backing, using a regular or mini iron.
 - Remove paper backing from pieces.

- Press layers together with the Mini Iron or a regular iron.
 - Remove Sewer's Fix-It Tape from backing.
- Sewing With Nancy Hint: This fuse basting technique works well on baby quilts, small lap quilts, and wall hangings.*

7. Stitch.
 - Use an Open Toe Foot and monofilament thread to stitch in the ditch on borders, and around framed segments, as desired.
 - Optional: Stitch around various elements of the design.
 - Baste stitch around outer edges of quilt. Trim excess backing and batting.

8. Add a sleeve (rod pocket) if you are making a wall quilt. Eliminate this step if you are making a lap quilt.
 - Cut a 5"–6" wide strip the length of the top measurement of the fabric panel.

Note: To use this technique, the quilt border needs to measure less than half the width of the sleeve (in this case less than 2½"–3").

- Turn under and stitch short ends of sleeve.
- **Do not** fold sleeve in half at this point. Stitch a single layer of the sleeve to the wrong side at the top of wall hanging.
- Stitch in the ditch at the top border seam from the right side of the quilt, catching the single layer of the sleeve. This will eliminate any hand stitching on the edge of the sleeve later.

Sewing With Nancy Hint: Stitching in the border seam to hold the sleeve is a quick and easy binding idea, but you need to make sure that the border isn't wider than half the measurement of the sleeve width, or you won't be able to catch the sleeve with the stitching.

- Fold the sleeve in half lengthwise, meeting long edges and wrong sides.

- Baste top edge of sleeve to the quilt.

9. Prepare the binding.

- Join the binding strips together at the short ends, right sides together, with diagonal seams to reduce bulk. Trim seams to ¼"; press open.
- Cut one end of the strip at a 45° angle using a rotary cutter, mat, and quilting ruler. Fold in ¼" at trimmed end of binding. Optional: Press a ¼" wide strip of paper-backed fusible web to the folded-under edge of the binding.
- Fold binding in half, wrong sides together, meeting length-wise edges. Press.
- Mark the right side of quilted project ¼" from each corner.

10. Bind the outer edges of the quilted project.

- Meet the angle-cut end of the binding (the end with the paper-backed fusible web) to the right side of the project, meeting raw edges and starting in the center of one side. Stitch binding to project with a scant ¼" seam, beginning 4" from the end of the binding and stopping at the marked point at the first corner. Lock stitches.
- Fold the binding up, creating a 45° angle, aligning the cut edge of the binding with the cut edge of the wall hanging.
- Fold binding down, meeting binding fold to top edge of wall hanging and binding cut edge to side edges. Stitch a ¼" seam on the side, starting at folded edge.
- Repeat at remaining corners.

11. Join binding ends.

- Remove paper backing from binding.
- Insert free end of binding inside beginning of binding so binding is smooth and even with edge of project.
- Unfold binding; trim excess.
- Press to fuse binding ends together.
- Refold binding and stitch remainder of the binding seam.

12. Complete binding.

- Fold and press binding away from the quilt.
- Fold binding to the wrong side, covering stitching line and tucking in corners to miter them. Pin, or secure with Binding and Hem Clips.
- Stitch in the ditch, sewing in the well of the binding seam-lines on the front. Use a straight stitch for stitching in the ditch, or use a multiple zigzag stitch to finish the edge. Or, slip stitch the binding in place by hand on the back of the project.