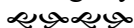


How to Make a QFO Top by the Bargello (Tube) Method

For a **three-color** quilt top:

1. Use three half yards of fabric (besides the backing and binding), which you will designate as **fabrics A, B, and C**. Trim the selvages from these three half-yard pieces. Cut each of these half yards into three six-inch lengths, so that you have nine strips 42/44 inches **wide** by six inches **long**.
2. **Using quarter-inch seams throughout**, sew the strips along the **width**, alternating A, B and C. Press the seams to one side (all the same direction). This pressing is important so that the piece will be as flat as possible when you cut the strips. If this large piece is not even on one side, because the original widths may have differed, that is OK.
- 2(b)** At this point it is a good idea to measure the shortest piece and be sure that you have at least 42" across. If you do not, adjust the size of the strips in #3 (next step) so that you cut seven strips the same size from your width.
3. Now, starting at the **even** side (where you started the sewing of the strips), with **fabric A at the top**, cut three six-inch strips off the large piece.
4. Next, with **right sides together**, sew the rest of the large piece top to bottom (fabric A to fabric C).
5. Next cut this piece, which is now a "tube", into four six-inch strips, again starting at the even side (where you just cut off the first three strips). Make sure you cut carefully, as you have the seam allowances to cut through.
6. With a seam ripper, for two of these strips, remove the stitching between fabric A and fabric B, and for the other two, remove the stitching between fabric B and fabric C.
7. Take one strip with A at the top, one with B at the top, and one with C at the top, and press these the other way. Now, making sure you have your strips lined up properly, with the order of A, B, and C vertically intact, sew the strips together the other way, with the top row being fabric A-B-C-A-B-C-A, and using them in order such that the pressed seams go opposite ways. Press these seams well, then press whole piece lightly on the top.



For an **ADULT two-color** quilt: **NOTE size of squares is different!**

***** For child's size, see over.**

1. Use a yard (or at least 30 inches) of each of two fabrics, which you will designate **fabric A and fabric B**. From each fabric cut four **SEVEN**-inch strips the width of the fabric;
2. Sew the seven-inch "long" strips (full widths of fabrics) together, alternating the colors.
3. Press seams flat, all in one direction.
4. **With fabric A at the top**, cut the whole piece into **SIX** seven-inch strips.
*****See #2 (b) above (for three-color quilts) and follow that directive here.**
5. Turn three of the strips upside down so that fabric B is at the top for three of the strips.
6. Sew the strips back together, so that you have A-B-A-B-A-B at the top.
7. This will yield a top which is 39" wide by 52" long.

8. If you prefer, cut the full widths into two pieces 21/22" wide. Make two strips sets, one with fabric A at top and one with fabric B at top. Cut each into three long pieces and sew tog. alternating top fabric (ABABAB).

Child's Size Two-Color Quilt: (kit has two half-yards of baby or kids' fabrics for top)

Follow the directions for adult two-color quilts, but cut the first strips **six inches** instead of seven inches. After sewing them together across the full widths, alternating the colors, cut the whole piece into vertical strips **six inches** instead of seven inches. Then turn three of them so that you then sew them back together with A-B-A-B-A-B at the top.

Notice that the size of the squares is the same as for three-color quilts above, but by having only six instead of nine rows, it will yield a quilt that is 33" by 38 ½" when turned "sidewise". That is, instead of thinking of it as a quilt seven squares wide by six long, think of it as six wide by seven long! We will provide backing and binding which is adjusted in size accordingly.

FOR KODY'S KIDS (who want quilts approx. 36" square as a minimum):

Follow the directions for child's size two-color quilt above, BUT use two pieces each at least 21" long and full width of fabric. **Cut three strips 6 ½"** from each of the two fabrics and then after they are sewn together across the full width, **cut the second (vertical) strips 6 ½"**. Then turn three of them top to bottom and sew the strips together so that you have A-B-A-B-A-B at the top.

OR if you have smaller pieces, or a variety of pieces that go together, cut 36 six-inch squares, sew them together six by six by the chain method, and then put a two-inch border (border cut 2 ½ ") around the whole thing. The border does not have to be the same as one of the fabrics in the quilt so long as it goes well.

Bargello Top from Fat Quarters

- 1) You will need six fat quarters at least 18" by 21" to make our regular size top.
- 2) Cut each fat quarter into **THREE six inch** strips, yielding 21" by 6".
- 3) **Sew with quarter inch seam allowance throughout.**
- 4) Using three of them, sew them together A-B-C-A-B-C-A-B-C and using the other three, sew them together D-E-F-D-E-F-D-E-F.
- 5) Press each group in one direction, so that the ones starting with A go down and the ones starting with D go up.
- 6) Cut each of the two long sections that you now have into **three** long strips from each section **7" wide**, yielding a total of six strips 7" wide by 49 ½ " long (plus a quarter inch seam allowance on each end).
- 7) Sew the long strips together with A-D-A-D-A-D-A-D at the top. Press the seams. This will yield a top which is 39" wide by 49 ½ " long (plus seam allowances).

Alternate Method of Making Top from our Regular Kits (avoids having to make the tube)

- 1) Press the three pieces for the top, fold each one selvage to selvage, and then press the fold down flat.
- 2) Check to be sure you have at least 21" from fold to edge (without selvage).
- 3) If exactly 21", slit fold carefully with sewing shears. If over 21", you can cut off the fold with your rotary cutter, cutting as close as possible to fold. Cut each double layered piece into three six-inch strips, yielding six pieces 6" by 21/22" of each fabric. **If it is less than 21", that's OK> see step #6 note in bold type.**
- 4) **Using 1/4" seam allowances throughout**, make two strips sets with the three fabrics as follows:
A-B-C-A-B-C-A-B-C and B-C-A-B-C-A-B-C-A
- 5) Press the seams in the two sets in opposite directions.
- 6) Cut each of these two long sections into THREE strips SEVEN inches wide. (or narrower if necessary as per #3 above.) **If you don't have 21" across, reduce size of strips a bit, even if they are not all the same width.**
- 7) Sew these long sections together with A-B-A-B-A-B-A-B at the top.
- 8) The configuration of the "squares" (5 ½ by 6 ½) will be different from the regular one, but that is OK. It will look like this:
ABABAB
BCBCBC
CACACA
ABABAB
BCBCBC
CACACA
ABABAB
BCBCBC
CACACA

Choosing and Cutting Fabric for a Bargello QFO Quilt

Basic Rule: The top should be 38-39" wide (NO MORE THAN 40") so that it fits on one width of backing fabric and batting. Our typical top of squares cut 6", finished 5 ½", sewn seven across yields a 38 ½" width. The length of the top should be 48-50", to fit on a yard and a half of backing and batting. Binding is **cut** 2 ½". Generally five strips (full widths of the fabric) are needed for a binding. (For a regular-size lap quilt, we use one quarter of a queen size batting. The piece is 45" by 54".)

For all quilts, CHOOSE THE BACKING AND BINDING AT THE TIME YOU CHOOSE THE FABRICS FOR THE TOP. Cut the backing 1 ½ yards long, and put aside ½ yard for binding, to be cut at the time the binding is to be put on. (This is for working with our *QFO* stash!)

For a three-fabric quilt top, you need three half yards.

For a two-fabric adult quilt, you need one yard of each of the two fabrics, or at least 30" of each.

For a two color kids' quilt, use two half yards for the top.

Any size strips may be used, and any number of fabrics may be used so long as the top ends up the dimensions listed above. The strips do not have to be the same size on the length of the fabric. The strips do not need to be all the full width of the fabric to begin with. A scrappy look

is OK, with varied lengths and widths, so long as the final top is the size given above. Mix and match! Fabrics cut 3 ½" by 2 ½", yielding rectangles 3" by 2" gives a nice look.

If you are making a quilt with only a few colors, or one with all the same size strips, any fabric left over which can be cut into strips of any size for another quilt should be saved and used in a scrappy, or given back to us if you don't want to deal with them yourself. (Cutting binding out of a half yard will yield a leftover piece which can be used in another quilt.)

See www.quiltville.com . There are many other sites as well that will give you directions and hints if you do a search on Bargello quilt.

Two-color quilt tops for kids

Made from 6 x 22" strip sets

Finishes approx. 33 x 39"

If fabric is full width (44"), you need a 24" length of fabric of each color (A & B)

Fabric A:

1. Put ruler as close to the fold as possible and cut the fold away**; this makes 2 pieces 22x24" (leave layered)
2. cut FOUR 6" strips across the 24" -- this makes EIGHT 6x22" strips

Fabric B:

1. same as step 1 above
2. same as step 2 above (each color will use SEVEN 6x22" strips, leaving 1 unused strip of each color)

If starting with fat quarters (18x22"), you need 3 of each color

Fabric A:

1. From 2 fat quarters, cut THREE 6" strips across the 18" -- this makes SIX 6x22" strips
2. From the third fat quarter, cut ONE 6" strip (6x22")

Fabric B:

1. same as step 1 above
2. same as step 2 above (each color will use SEVEN 6x22" strips)

Make TWO strip sets: (**Using ¼" seams throughout**)

1. Using 7 strips, sew alternating colors: ABABABA
2. Using remaining 7 strips, sew alternating colors: BABABAB

Press seams in each strip set in opposite directions.

Cut each strip set into THREE 6" columns (for a total of SIX columns). Before sewing columns together, swap center columns of the strip sets. This will result in columns 1, 3 & 5 starting with color A, and columns 2, 4 & 6 starting with color B. Sew the SIX columns together.

****NOTE:** Cutting the fabric in half makes it easier to cut the 6" strips (because they lie flat) and it is easier to cut each strip set into 3 columns. I have found this method much easier than using the full width of fabric when working with strip sets.