

Quilt as you go

Demonstration by Mary Kokoszka

1. **Make individual blocks:** Following your pattern, piece blocks as desired. Press well and square up pieced block, if necessary, **prior** to quilting. Sandwich the block top, batting, and backing fabric together, hold with pins or basting spray. Quilt as desired using a walking foot or darning foot.
2. **Square up quilted blocks:** Using a 24-inch ruler and rotary cutter, trim all four sides of your quilted block $\frac{1}{4}$ " beyond the fabric's edge. You should see $\frac{1}{4}$ " of batting around the entire quilted block when viewed from the front. Your seam allowance is $\frac{1}{2}$ ".
3. **Attach sashing strips:** With **right sides together**, pin the 2" backing fabric sashing strip to the back of the block and the 2" front sashing strip to the front of the block sandwiching the quilted block in-between aligning edges. Pin well. Sew using a walking foot and a $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance. (Sashing strips are cut 2" wide by the length of the block plus one inch). For a 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ " block which finishes at 12", the strips will be cut 2" x 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". Just ensure the sashing strips are **longer** than the side of the blocks.
4. **Attach adjacent quilted block:** Double check the direction your blocks are turned before attaching them together! Fold over **only** the front sashing strip, leaving the backing sashing strip in place, finger press well. With right sides together, pin adjacent block to the front sashing strip, starting with the ends. Pin the sashing strip matching the edge of the strip with the edge of the adjacent quilted block batting and backing **and** the sides of both quilted blocks. Work in towards the center, pin well. Sew using a $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance. The backing sashing strip should be free.
5. **Sew backing strip:** Fold over the backing sashing strip, press the sewn seam. Fold the long edge under $\frac{1}{2}$ ", pin, and applique stitch covering the seam line (similar to binding). You may machine stitch the seam if you wish - I suggest sewing both sides for a balanced look.
6. **Continue attaching blocks:** Continue attaching the blocks and sashing strips in this manner until the row is complete. **Do not** sew sashing to the ends of the rows! Sew all backing fabric sashing strips either by hand or by machine **prior** to sewing rows together. Trim excess sashing from edges.
7. **Sew rows together:** Use a $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance, attach the rows in the same manner as the blocks, pinning well. Sew all backing fabric sashing strips prior to attaching binding.
8. **Bind quilt:** Cut the required length of binding by 3" width. Press in half lengthwise. Attach to front of quilt aligning raw edges, using a $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance, mitering corners. Fold over finished edge to the back and hand stitch to cover the seam line.
9. **Your quilt is complete!** Enjoy - Mary Kokoszka