

Kids Can Quilt
Free Kid Quilt Pattern
58" by 70"
(148 cm x 178 cm)

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Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

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Last year I decided to introduce quilting to my 8 year old grandson and 6 year old granddaughter. I planned ahead and bought everything I needed on sale or used my stash. We worked together on the quilt project off and on for three days. They loved it! And so did I.

Goals for the children:

To make it fun.

To learn how to thread and use the sewing machine.

To design their own top with the squares of their choice.

To sew the squares together.

To choose their own backing from the selection of plush type fabric at the store (Joann's).

(I used the color of their backing for the background color on the top of the quilt.)

Tasks for Grandma:

Cut all squares in advance.

(I did not want them cutting fabric yet.)

Sew on the borders.

Do the quilting. I did “stitch in the ditch” with my domestic machine.

Make a label and sew it on.

Supplies Needed:

1. A variety of 5” squares cut from “kid friendly” fabric in my stash.
I included some solids.
The kids needed 64 squares for his/her part of each quilt top.
Grandma needed another 108 “kid friendly” 3.5” squares for each quilt border.
I cut down the 5” squares that they did not use to 3.5” for the border squares.
I had way more squares of the novelty fabric than they needed so they could pick and choose the squares they liked for their quilt.
2. Thread for piecing and for quilting.
3. A sewing machine. I bought a Janome Sew Mini purchased online at <http://www.hancockfabrics.com/>

This machine sewed beautifully with terrific tension. It was very easy for the children to use. I signed up for the email flyer so that I knew when it was on sale. I was also eligible for free shipping on this order so I had it shipped directly to their house.
4. Moleskin to make a 1/4” sewing edge for them on the sewing machine.
5. Thread snippers. I put one on a ribbon to wear around the neck so that it was hard to lose. The one I purchased came with a cover for the sharp snips when not in use. I bought the Gingher 4” Featherweight Snips on sale. They are available at Joann's.
6. A bag or bin to store fabric and supplies.

7. They already had a kid sized table and chairs at their house.
This was a critical supply because their foot needed to reach the foot pedal on the floor.
8. A timer to give each child a turn at the sewing machine. I had them change every 15 minutes.
9. A desk or craft lamp to make the sewing area brighter. The machine did not come with a light.
10. Pack of small sticky notes.
11. (Optional)Basting spray and T-Pins
12. Fabric Requirements

64 squares (5") of novelty fabric
108 squares (3.5") of novelty fabric

2 ¼ yard plush fabric(Minkie or other similar product) backing.
This fabric is 60" wide so I decided to make the quilts less than 60" wide so I would not have to piece the backing.
The backing made the quilts very warm and snuggly.
(2 meters)

Cotton Batting for a 58" by 70" quilt. (148 cm x 178 cm)

2 yards background fabric. (1.9 meters)

¼ yard of novelty fabric (23 cm)

2/3 binding fabric.(61 cm)

Kids' Quilt Project

1. **Learn the sewing machine**

I spent time teaching the children how to thread the machine.

Had them practice threading at least 5 times.

Had them wind 2 bobbins each.

Had them practice sewing some squares together using the moleskin 1/4" guide.

2. **Practicing**

After I felt confident that they understood the machine and could sew some squares together with confidence we started their quilt making.

We spent about 1.5 hours practicing and threading first.

I supervised them 100% of the time.

3. **Kids Design with Their Squares**

I had each child choose 64 squares and arrange them in an 8 square by 8 square grid.

Then I took photos of each child's arrangement of squares in case the squares got messed up.

4. **Arrange Squares in Pairs**

In each row I had them place the #2 square upside down on top the #1 square.

Line up squares and place a straight pin in the center.

Place a small sticky note on the side of the square to be sewn.

Repeat place the #4 square upside down on top of the #3 square.

Line up squares and place a straight pin in the center.

Place a small sticky note on the side of the square to be sewn.

Repeat place the #6 square upside down on top of the #5 square.

Line up squares and place a straight pin in the center.

Place a small sticky note on the side of the square to be sewn.

Repeat place the #8 square upside down on top of the #7 square.

Line up squares and place a straight pin in the center.

Place a small sticky note on the side of the square to be sewn.

5. **Chain sew pairs together, one row at a time.**

After sewing lay the row back down in the order shown in the photo.

Repeat with the next 7 rows.

6. **Finish sewing each row of 8 squares.**

Starting with Row 1, chain sew your pairs together.

Lay out the two sets of floor in the right order and then sew these together to make a row of 8 squares.

Repeat for the other 7 rows.

7. **Finger press rows in alternating directions.**

8. **Pin and Sew rows together with Grandma's help.**

9. **Give Grandma the quilt top to take home and finish.**

Grandma's Quilt Finishing Project for the Kids

The kids were pretty maxed out from their first sewing project so Grandma took over.

The children can also sew this part but I could not stay and help them.

Quilt Centers made by the kids should measure 36.5" square.

Cutting the Background Fabric

(108) – 3.5" squares

(4) – 2.5" by 36.5" rectangles

(2) – 2" by 51.5" rectangles

Cutting the Novelty Fabric

(108) – 3.5" squares

From the ¼ yard of novelty fabric

(2) 4" by 36.5" rectangles

Sewing Directions

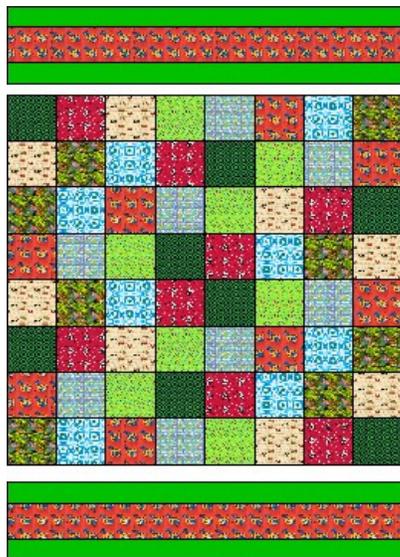
1. Make (2) – Use (2) of the 2.5" by 36.5" rectangles of background fabric and (1) 4" by 36.5" rectangles of novelty fabric.

Press to the background fabric.



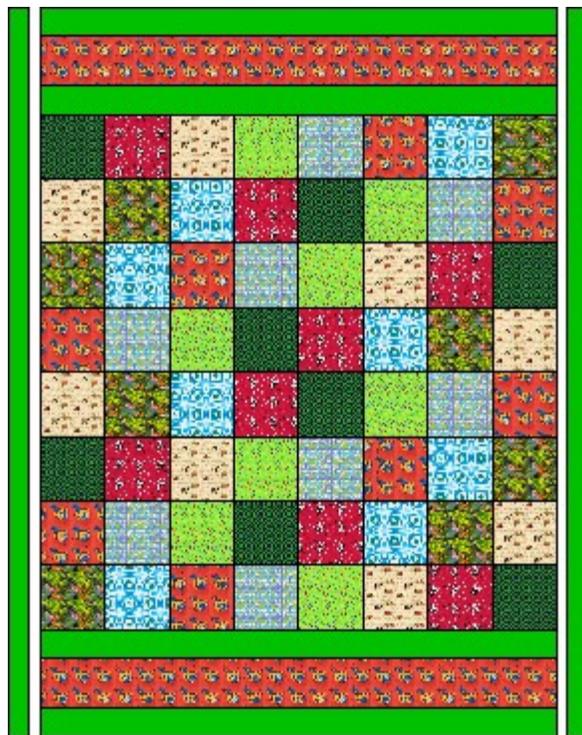
2. Sew the units made in Step one to the top and bottom of the 36.5" square made by the kids.

Press to the background fabric.



3. Sew 2" by 51.5" rectangles of background fabric to the unit you completed in Step #2.

Press to the background fabric.



4. Side Borders – Sew (2)

(3) rows of 3.5” squares – 17 per row.

Alternate the background colored squares and the novelty squares.

Press each row in the alternate direction so the seems will nest when sewing.

The top and bottom rows start and end with background colored squares.

The center row ends with novelty squares.

Sew to either side of the quilt.

Press to the background fabric inner border.



5. Top and Bottom Borders (sew 2).

(3) rows of 3.5” squares – 19 per row.

Alternate the background colored squares and the novelty squares.

Press each row in the alternate direction so the seems will nest when sewing.

The top and bottom rows start and end with novelty fabric squares.

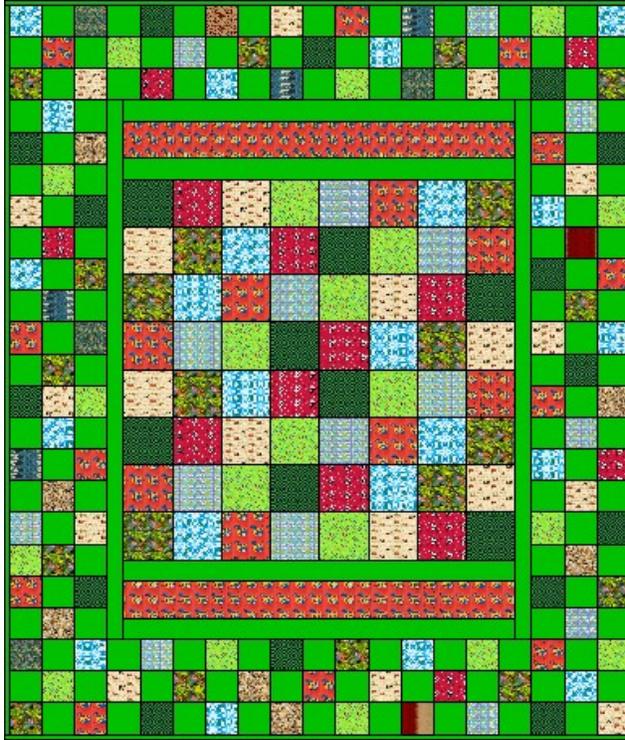
The center row ends with background colored squares

Sew to the top and bottom of the quilt.

Press to the background fabric inner border.



6. Quilting and Binding your quilt.



This method works best on a carpeted floor.

Lay down a sheet on the carpet bigger than the quilt top.

Lay the backing wrong side up on top of the sheet.

Secure the backing to the carpet using T-Pins. Don't make it too taut.

Spray baste the backing on the wrong side.

Lay the batting on top of the backing. Smooth with your hands.

Lay the quilt top WRONG side up on top of the batting.

Spray baste the back side of the quilt top.

Flip the top over and smooth into place on top of the batting.

I quilted mine using a walking foot and stitch in the ditch.

I put the binding on, made and attached the labels.

Mailed them back home to the grandkids.

I am thinking of a new sewing project for them for next summer.

Unfortunately they live 2000 miles away so I cannot stop in anytime I want.