

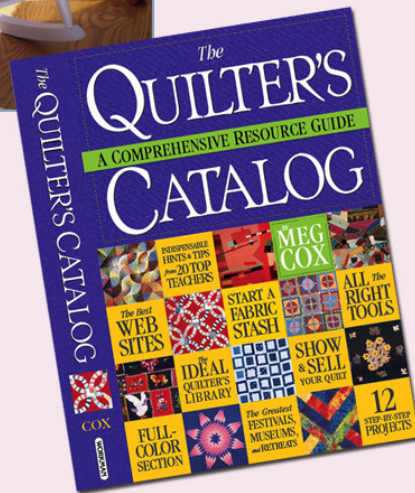


FREE CRIB QUILT PATTERN AND DIRECTIONS

One of 12 projects in *The Quilter's Catalog: A Comprehensive Resource Guide*

By Meg Cox

Skill level of this project: Easy



IMPORTANT NOTE: There is lots of helpful information about every aspect of making a quilt in the book – including a whole chapter for beginning quilters. You can purchase *The Quilter's Catalog* at your local bookstore, quilt shop or Amazon.com. If you are having trouble with the directions below, let me know, meg@megcox.com, or travel to the quilt shop nearest you for hands-on help. Not sure how to find a nearby quilt shop? One helpful website is www.quilterstravelcompanion.com.

FABRIC & CUTTING REQUIREMENTS

Quilt is approximately 33 by 51 inches, with 3 inch blocks

All fabric should be 100% cotton

To make a quilt like the one pictured, you will need to carefully arrange the matching fabrics in a diagonal line, row by row. If you wish to simplify the process, then instead of picking 5 different patterned fabrics, choose just one to contrast with the white squares. Then you will only need to alternate between the white and patterned squares. In that case, you will buy 1 3/4 yards of white fabric and 1 1/2 yards of the second fabric.

Crib Quilt from *The Quilter's Catalog* © 2008 by Meg Cox.

- NOT FOR RESALE -

For the quilt as pictured:

- 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ yards of white fabric
- $\frac{1}{4}$ yard of green print fabric
- $\frac{1}{4}$ yard of yellow print fabric
- $\frac{1}{4}$ yard of lavender print fabric
- $\frac{1}{4}$ yard red print fabric
- $\frac{1}{4}$ yard blue print fabric
- 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ yards multicolor, large-scale print for backing
- one crib sized piece of batting, thin cotton or cotton-poly blend
- off-white cotton thread for piecing the quilt top
- Other tools: sewing machine, if you are using one (I've made this quilt both by hand and by machine), rotary cutter or scissors, pins etc.

CUT OUT THE QUILT BLOCKS

1. Using scissors or a rotary cutter, first cut off the thickly woven edges on the sides of the fabric called selvages. Then cut $\frac{3}{4}$ of a yard crosswise off the white fabric, to set aside for the binding.
2. Cut the fabric for the quilt top into 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ inch squares, cutting on the crosswise grain, meaning you will cut squares in a straight row across the width of the fabric.
3. If you plan to sew by hand, use a ruler to mark a sewing line on the wrong side of the fabric squares, $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from the edges. If you are going to piece the top by machine, you'll use the marks on your machine's faceplate to make a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch seamline.
4. From the white fabric, cut 93 squares.
5. From the green, lavender, red and blue print fabrics cut 19 squares and cut 18 squares from the yellow. (Note: If you are just alternating white and another fabric, you will cut 94 squares of that alternate fabric.)

MAKE THE QUILT TOP

6. Arrange the fabric blocks in 17 rows of 11 blocks, alternating white with colored blocks and creating diagonal rows of each color.
7. Pin and then stitch the blocks together in each horizontal row, then press the seam allowances toward the colored fabrics (so they don't show underneath the white fabric).

ASSEMBLE AND QUILT THE CRIB QUILT

8. Press the quilt top smooth.
9. Measure the completed quilt top then cut both the batting and the backing fabric so that they are about 2 inches larger on all sides than the top.
10. Prepare your "quilt sandwich" by stacking the 3 layers, then pin or baste the sandwich. Experienced quilters will know what to do, and can proceed with the quilting process, either by hand or by machine. My original version of this quilt, which was the first I ever made, was quilted "in the ditch" by hand, while the version for my book was machine-

quilted by a longarm quilter I hired, using long wavy lines both horizontally and vertically. Beginners should read the next section for more detailed directions.

FOR BEGINNING QUILTERS ONLY

To prepare the quilt sandwich and get ready for quilting, place the backing fabric on a clean table (or floor if you don't have a large enough table top) with the right side face down (as it would be if the quilt were complete and the top was facing up).

Use masking tape to stick the four corners to the floor, making sure the backing fabric is taut but not distorted. Then add bits of tape about every foot around each side, so the fabric is securely flat.

Next, smooth out the batting layer and place that directly on top of the backing fabric. Match up the edges, then tape the corners down.

Finally, place the quilt top on the pile, finished side facing up, and smooth it with your hand until the quilt sandwich as a whole is flat. Once again, take masking tape and tape the edges and sides of the quilt top to the floor.

You're going to need to secure these three layers in this position while you quilt and there are several methods of doing this: you can baste the three layers together, using really long stitches, but it's easier to use safety pins to secure the layers. Insert them about every six inches in all directions, making sure you have gone through all 3 layers. (NOTE: quilter's safety pins that come bent at the bottom make this much easier.)

Once the 3 layers are pinned or basted, pull off all the tape.

Now, you're ready to do the actual quilting. Don't know how? There is good information in *The Quilter's Catalog* on how to quilt by hand or machine, in a section called Basic How-Tos. If you are having trouble, I urge you to take the quilt to your local quilt shop and ask for advice.

But here are also a number of FREE video tutorials online that I recommend. At the site ExpertVillage.com there is a series of 13 free videos on quilting that include how to prepare the quilt sandwich, how to attach a binding, and how to quilt by machine. Most of these videos are only a few minutes long.

There are also videos and good advice at the quilting part of About.com, and loads of free patterns. Their excellent handquilting video can be found here:
<http://video.about.com/quilting/Hand-Quilting-Techniques.htm>

Back to the general directions now...

BIND THE QUILT

1. Once the three layers are quilted to your satisfaction, it's time to get rid of all the loose ends by binding the quilt.
2. Trim the edges of the batting and backing so they are exactly even with the edges of the quilt top.
3. Using the remaining white fabric, make a bias binding by cutting 2 ¼ inch strips on the diagonal. (Note: If you don't know how to cut or sew a bias binding, the ExpertVillage free tutorials above include a video on how to do this. There is also an excellent tutorial, with drawings, on how to attach a bias binding in *The Quilter's Catalog*.)
4. Sew binding around edges of quilt, add a label to the back if you wish, and you're done. Find a baby who needs a quilt!

Any questions? Contact author Meg Cox at meg@megcox.com.