

Quilt as you go demo January 24, 2024

Notes from Serena Mylchreest

Why QAYG?

- Don't like basting, have trouble getting the quilt sandwich thru my sewing machine
- Long arm quilting too expensive for big quilts

Traditional qayg – why not do that?

- Don't like hand sewing down the back strips. Watched craftsy and other videos – for example, Marti Michel—she had system with flaps in the back fused down and then sewn from front. When I tried her technique the back looked sloppy and sometimes my stitches missed the flap.

My idea (and later found out others have done this):

- Sew the squares together from the back then topstitch down the front sashing strips. No hand stitching needed!

Steps:

1 Make your squares and quilt as desired. It's so easy to quilt them individually. Then press and cut to exact size so they will fit together well. Sew around outer edge scant $\frac{1}{4}$ ". Good idea to put on design wall to see if they fit like a jigsaw puzzle.

2 With a paper and pin mark the top left corner 1A 1B 1C etc for each row so that they don't get mixed up while sewing.

3 Make 1" wide sashing strips for the back. Use busy print for back if you don't want the sashing to show.

4 Sew back strips onto each side of the first 2 squares. Right side of strips goes to the back of the squares. $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam makes the strips fit just right together. Do a test piece first with scraps to make sure the 2 squares butt together.

5 Make the front sashing strips. I use iron on interfacing so that I have a nice straight strip. I cut interfacing 1 1/8" wide so that the strips will cover the gap and the stitching from back sashing doesn't show. I cut the sashing 1 3/4" wide and iron to the interfacing strips. I have enough fabric on each side to fold over nicely. I use water soluble glue stick to apply it to the interfacing, then I press for nice sharp edge.

6 Topstitch the front sashing strip to the border of the 2 squares already joined in the back. I used to pin them in place but now I find that I can "eyeball" it so that the strip goes on evenly.

I work in small groups of squares so I don't need to have a lot of the quilt under the machine's neck at any time. For a large quilt the weight of the quilt can be supported by an extra table shoved up to your sewing machine's table.

7 For the borders: same process except each long border can be cut, sandwiched, and quilted separately before being added to the center of the quilt – similar to the process of joining individual squares.

At this point your quilt is complete except for binding!

Pictures in progress on next page...

Pictures:

Squares marked on each row (in this case, rows are diagonal)



Sewing the backs of squares together with red sashing:



Sewing on the first front sashing. Topstitch down each side. Complete the vertical rows and sew on horizontal. For a large quilt can divide into quarters or whatever “chunk” size works best, then sew each chunk together later.



Putting together rows and topstitching the binding:



Borders are done the same way as squares, sandwich and quilt each side border then sew the back of each side with sashing topstitched on the front. The interesting “flags” above came with the RV panel so I will use them in the borders.