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atozamy

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Super easy quilt top- brick wall

Sew you never made a quilt before, and you have some pre-cut squares... here's a nice and easy project for you.



picture is shown with rows going up and down rather than side to side

Mine was made with 5" squares (cause that's what I had) you can do the same with any size square block, so a good use for those 6.5" squares from a swap.

I got this fabric free with a quilt book, fabric companies sell these 5" squares of their collections, sometimes they are called "Nickel Squares"



lay out 16 sqs, 4x4

alternating busy and plain, if you have both, if not just trying to spread the wealth, if you have a few that are very colorful, separate them out.

The word is called "movement" you want you eye to dance around the pattern and not get "stuck" in one spot.

Think of these as rows now. 1,2,3,&4 1 is at top etc, take rows 2 and 4 and shift the sqs over 1/2 of a square, you are making a "brick wall" so there are no intersections together. Take the sq. that hangs over and cut it in half, now place back down (I separate my halves so they are on different rows)



When you sew the rows together try to keep the order you set up, if you mess up, just consider it a serendipity an update to the design that you didn't expect.

I start with the bottom row and sew the 1/2 sqs to the one next to it, then sew the center block to each of the 2 full blocks.

when you quilt piece you want a 1/4" seam, 2 reasons - you need a consistent seam allowance, and you want less bulk in the back.

I usually "chain piece" which means that I sew one,(I don't cut) then I sew the next one.



You don't need a lot of space between piecings.

I do one row then lay it in back on my table, then start on the next row. Here are all the rows sewn, but not pressed.



Press each row (since no seams need to match you can press to one side or the other) Press as you sew (this sets the seam) then press to one side, I usually turn the fabric upside down and do all the press as you sew, then flip to the right side and press seams in one direction.

The rows 2 and 4 that have the 1/2 sqs are going to be smaller, since they have an extra seam, so when you sew the rows together - either trim all rows to be the same length or sew lining up the left side so that the variations all occur on the right hand side.

Here's a picture of lining up the rows to sew them, flipped up the fabric to show it's rightsides together.



Press the seams, same as before, as you sew, then as you go (to one side or the other)

Go to the cutting table and trim off the un-even side. (see that pink and green extend, cut them even with the others)



Almost done! You made the body of the quilt, you could end here, but to unify the look (and to have less seams along edge) let's put a border on it.

Take strips of fabric (I used 2 colors so you can see it, but you probably want to use all one color) I added 2" strips to my quilt top, you may want to add larger to get the size you want. Smaller than 2" is harder to do, so I don't recommend it, let's keep this easy.

When sewing any 2 pieces together it is always easier to have the one that has more piecing on top... that keeps the bottom smooth and then you can watch the seam allowances and make sure they are still going the direction you pressed them.

So put your strip under the Body of the Quilt, and stitch down.



Once you do one side, do the opposite side, I did my first 2 sides in peach and the last 2 in purple so you can see how they overlap. You want to press and trim before you do any intersecting seams so after the first 2 (the peach ones) I pressed it as I sewed, then as I go, and it's easier to press toward the side with less seams, so I pressed to the border, then take to cutting table and trim excess off. When you add the second set of strips (purple ones) they will need to be longer than the first 2 since they have to go over the peach border, the quilt body and the peach border again.

here is the quilt top, pretty snazzy, and super easy.



Sit back and enjoy your quilt top! To a quilter that is not really a UFO, making the top and quilting it are 2 separate things, so you get credit for accomplishing this first part.

Quilt as you would normally, or stay tuned for a super easy sew along on quilting (coming soon to a thread near you!)

Hope you give it a try! I think that doll babies, teddy bears and other loved ones of your little loved ones will stay nice and cozy in this little sized quilt.

happy sewing!
Amy/ atoamy

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