



MODERN ART QUILTERS Sew-A-Long

RATTLE LAP QUILT

Approximate finished size: 48 x 60 inches

Have fun making and arranging these simple, improvised blocks to create a lap quilt with lots of movement!

Left I used a selection of plain fabrics in eleven shades ranging from white through yellow and orange to hot pink and purple with a metre of vivid green batik as a contrast



YOU WILL NEED (use 100% Cotton quilting fabrics for best results)

Eleven fat quarters

With reference to the diagram right, cut the following pieces from each fat quarter:

Four pieces; 8 x 7 inches

Ten pieces; 8 x 1 3/4 inches

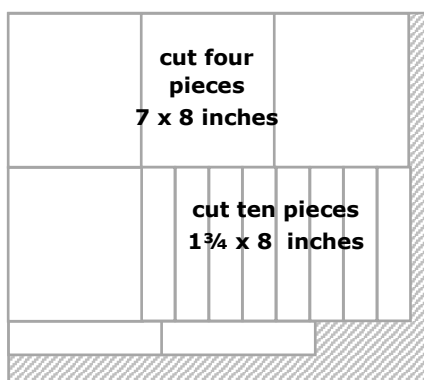
1 metre contrasting fabric

Cut the following pieces

Eight pieces; 8 x 7 inches

Twenty pieces; 8 x 1 3/4 in.

Two pieces; 7 x 7 inches



Please read through all the instructions before starting.

SEAMS: unless otherwise stated, all seams are made by placing the fabrics Right Sides Together (RST) and stitching 1/4 inch from the edge

Wadding

approx. 50 x 62 inches

Backing

approx. 52 x 64 inches

Check your finished quilt top before cutting to size

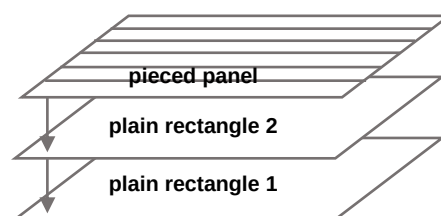
MAKING BLOCKS

Following the directions above, cut one hundred and thirty (130) strips 8 x 1 3/4 inches and fifty-two (52) plain rectangles 8 x 7 inches.

1. Take five different narrow strips at random and sew them together to form a panel. Press the seams away from the light colours wherever possible.

2. Take two different plain rectangles and place in a pile, all right sides up, with the pieced panel on top, line up the sides as closely as possible.

3. With a rotary cutter and ruler, make two angled cuts across the pile, as shown right; push down firmly to ensure all layers are cut together.



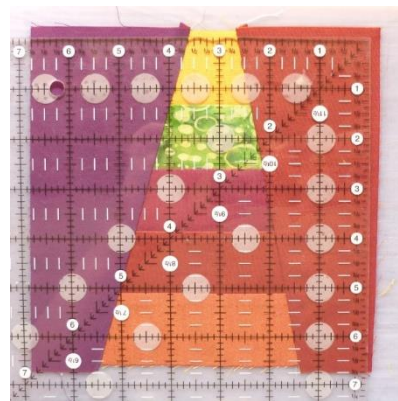
4. Separate the three piles and lay out the pieces to form three separate blocks, each containing one striped piece, and one piece of each of the two other fabrics – see below

5. Working on one block at a time, stitch the three pieces back together. Press the seams away from the section of pieced panel each time. Stitch the other two blocks together in turn.



6. Repeat steps **1** to **5** another twenty-five times to make a total of seventy-eight (78) blocks.

7. When all the blocks are made, check the size of every one before you decide what size to trim them to. You should be able to get at least a 6½ inch square from each block. If you have been particularly accurate with your cutting and piecing you might get 6¾ inches square. As long as you trim all seventy-eight blocks to the same size, they will fit together perfectly.



8. Trim the two 7 inch squares of batik fabric to the same size as your trimmed blocks. These will make your total number of blocks up to eighty.

9. Lay out your blocks in ten rows of eight alternating the direction of the blocks next to each other as shown on the front cover, or arrange as you wish. Stitch the rows together and press the seams in each row in opposite directions

10. Pin rows together, matching each intersecting seam carefully, and stitch. Press these long seams – you might find it useful to snip the seams every so often to let the blocks with lots of cross-seams lie flat.

11. Press your completed quilt top and layer with a piece of batting (2 inch bigger all round than the top) and backing (2 inch bigger all round than the batting); pin thoroughly and quilt as desired. I kept the quilting very simple by stitching a grid following the edges of the blocks to hold everything together, then with a series of wobbly lines from top to bottom – approximately 1 inch apart.



13. Trim the finished quilt to the edge of blocks

12. Use the remaining batik and other fabrics to make a long strip for binding – 2½ inches wide and at least 220 inches long. Press the joining seams open and then press the strip in half along its length, wrong sides together. Visit HB's website for instructions on binding a quilt:

www.littlepatchpockets.co.uk/patterns/handyhints.html

Variations: with seventy-eight 6-inch square blocks the possibilities are endless!

Six blocks make an excellent-sized table mat – you can make six or eight placemats and still have enough blocks for a good sized runner or table centre – perhaps in Christmas fabrics? If you use a heat-proof wadding they will be washable and heat resistant.

