



R O W A N

FREE QUILT PATTERN

THEA'S PUZZLE QUILT

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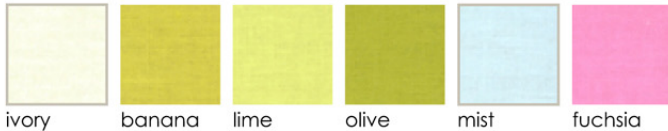
Fabric designed by Amy Butler for Rowan
All fabrics are from Amy's Solids Collection

Quilt design by Amy Butler
Quilt construction and machine quilting by Thea Lewis
Instructions by Joy Jung and Kim Ventura

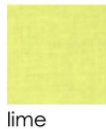
Finished Size: 64" wide x 64" long

Amy's fabrics used in this Quilt

Fabrics used for the Center Blocks
ab-45



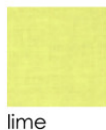
Fabrics used for
the Inner Border
ab-45



Fabrics used for
the Outer Border
ab-45



Fabrics used for the Quilt Back
ab-45



NOTES: All seam allowances are 1/4" unless otherwise stated.

Before getting started, please read through all of the instructions. Then preshrink your fabric by washing, drying and ironing it.

TIP: Making a small diagonal clip in the corner of each of the fabrics before washing will prevent fraying and tangling.

Materials List

- 8 fat quarters of your choice for the Center Blocks
- 2 1/8 yards of the first coordinating fabric for the Inner Borders, 3 Backing Strips and for Center Blocks
- 4 1/4 yards of a second coordinating fabric for the Outer Borders, 2 Backing Strips and for Center Blocks
- 3/4 yard of a third coordinating fabric for the bias Binding
- Batting (70" x 70") (we use bamboo batting from Fairfield)
- 1 spool of coordinating all-purpose thread (we use Coats Dual Duty XP®)

Tools Needed

- Ruler/rotary ruler and/or yardstick
- Straight pins
- Turning tool (such as a closed pair of scissors)
- Scissors and/or rotary cutter and mat
- Fabric marker
- 12 1/2" x 12 1/2" square quilting ruler
- Hand sewing needle (optional)

Cut the fabric

From the fat quarters:

- Cut strips for the center "9 patch" at least 13" in length and of varying widths. Each strip should be cut in an irregular shape (one wide short end, one narrower short end). The exact width of each strip is not important. The strips used in the sample were cut with the wide ends varying from 2 1/4" to 3 1/4" wide and the narrow ends varying from 1 1/4" to 2 1/4" wide. The number of strips needed will depend on the width of the strips. Approximately 70 strips were used in our sample. This number can be used as a starting point and additional strips can be cut as needed.

From the first coordinating fabric:

- Cut 2 Inner Borders (B) - 2 1/2" wide x 36 1/2" long
- Cut 2 Inner Borders (C) - 2 1/2" wide x 40 1/2" long
- Cut 3 Backing Strips (F) - 14" wide x 70" long
- Use the remaining fabric to cut strips for the "9 patch", as described in the cutting instructions for the fat quarters.

From the second coordinating fabric:

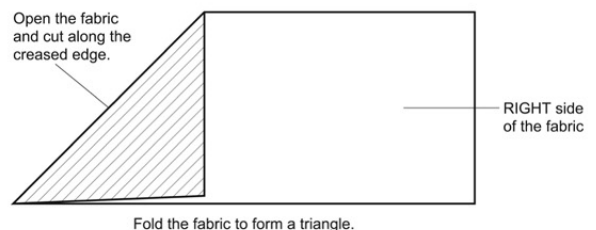
- Cut 2 Outer Borders (D) - 12 1/2" wide x 40 1/2" long
- Cut 2 Outer Borders (E) - 12 1/2" wide x 64 1/2" long
- Cut 2 Backing Strips (G) - 15" wide x 70" long
- Use the remaining fabric to cut strips for the "9 patch", as described in the cutting instructions for the fat quarters.

From the third coordinating fabric:

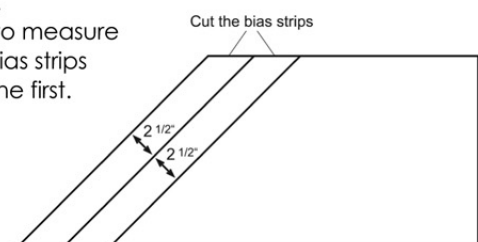
- Cut approximately 8 - 2 1/2" wide bias strips, enough to make 280" of bias binding (See instructions below)
- Use the remaining fabric to cut out strips for the "9 patch", as described in the cutting instructions for the fat quarters.

How to cut the bias strips

- Open your fabric. Lay it **RIGHT** side up on a flat surface.
- Fold one corner **RIGHT** sides together, matching one selvedge edge with one cut edge to make a triangle.
- Press along the folded edge.
- Open the fabric and cut along the creased edge.



- Measure and mark 2 1/2" in from each end of the cut edge.
- Using your ruler and fabric marker, match the 2 marks and draw a line.
- Continue to measure and mark bias strips parallel to the first.



Assemble the Center Blocks

NOTE: Do not place 2 of the same color strips next to each other while assembling the Blocks. Always stitch so that the wide and narrow ends are alternated to insure a straight edge on the sides of the Blocks.

- Place 2 different color strips **RIGHT** sides together matching one long raw edge. Pin in place. Be careful to place the shorter end of one strip to the wider end of the second. Stitch a 1/4" seam along the matched edge.

- Then place a third strip **RIGHT** sides together with the second strip and pin in place. Be careful to alternate wide and narrow ends. Stitch using a 1/4" seam.

- Continue to add strips to the Block, **RIGHT** sides together using varying colors and always placing the short end of the current strip to the wide end of the previous strip. Pin and then stitch along the matched long raw edges.

NOTE: The Block may look quite a bit "off-kilter" at this point. Don't worry. The strips are all 13" long so the width should look fine. The Block will be trimmed to make it square once it has reached a length of at least 13".

- When the Block measures at least 13" long turn it **WRONG** side up and press all the seam allowances to one side.

- Place the first Block **WRONG** side up on a flat surface or cutting mat and using either the 12 1/2" x 12 1/2" quilting ruler and rotary cutter, or a ruler, fabric marker and scissors, square the Block by trimming it to a true 12 1/2" x 12 1/2" square.

- Repeat this stitching and squaring process to make an additional 8 Blocks.

Assemble the Quilt Top

- Using the Quilt diagram as a guide, place the Blocks in three rows with three Blocks per row.

- The Blocks in rows one and three will be placed with the strips being placed horizontal/vertical/horizontal.

- The Blocks in row two will be placed with the strips being placed vertical/horizontal/vertical.

- Place the Blocks in each row **RIGHT** sides together matching the side raw edges, pin and stitch a 1/4" seam. Press the seam allowances to one side.

- Place the rows **RIGHT** sides together matching the seams between the Blocks, pin and stitch together with a 1/4" seam. Press the seam allowances toward the bottom of the Quilt. This is the "9 patch" center of the Quilt.

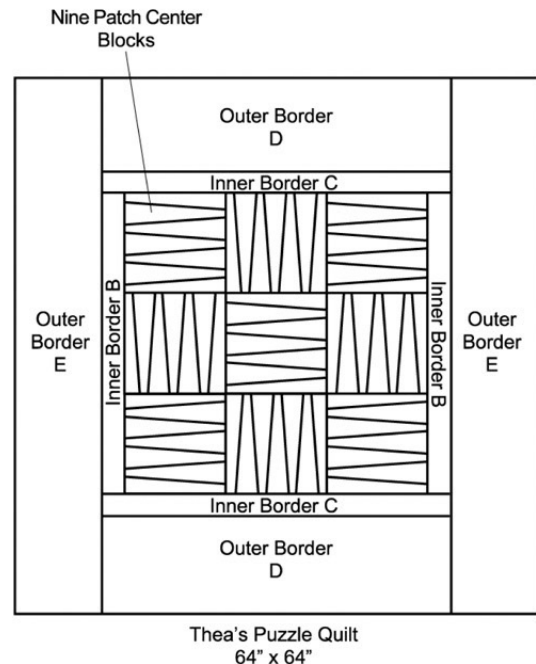
- Trim the edges of the 9 patch to square if necessary.

- Place one Inner Border B on each side edge of the 9 patch with **RIGHT** sides together matching the raw edges and pin in place. Stitch using a 1/4" seam. Press the seam allowances toward the Border. Trim the short raw ends if necessary.

- Place one Inner Border C on the top edge and one on the bottom edge of the 9 patch with **RIGHT** sides together, matching the raw edges and pin in place. Stitch using a 1/4" seam. Press the seam allowances toward the Border. Trim the short raw ends if necessary.

- Place one Outer Border D on the top edge and one on the bottom edge of the Quilt center with **RIGHT** sides together matching the raw edges. Pin in place. Stitch using a 1/4" seam. Press the seam allowances toward the Border. Trim the short raw ends if necessary.

- Place one Outer Border E to each side of the Quilt center with **RIGHT** sides together, matching the raw edges. Pin in place. Stitch using a 1/4" seam. Press the seam allowances toward the Border. Trim the short raw ends if necessary.



Your Quilt top is finished! You can set it aside for now.

Make the Quilt Backing

- Using pieces F and G, place the pieces in the following order with **RIGHT** sides together matching the long edges and pin in place. Stitch the first two strips using a 1/4" seam and then add the third, fourth and fifth.

F - G - F - G - F

- Turn the panel **WRONG** side up and press all the seam allowances toward the darker fabric.

Assemble the Quilt

- Place the Backing on a large flat surface with the **WRONG** side facing up. Smooth out any wrinkles.

- Place the Batting on the **WRONG** side of the Backing. Smooth out any wrinkles.

- Place the completed Quilt Top on top of the Batting with the **RIGHT** side facing up creating a sandwich of the Backing, Batting and Top and smoothing out any wrinkles.

- Pin the layers together and hand baste using long basting stitches.

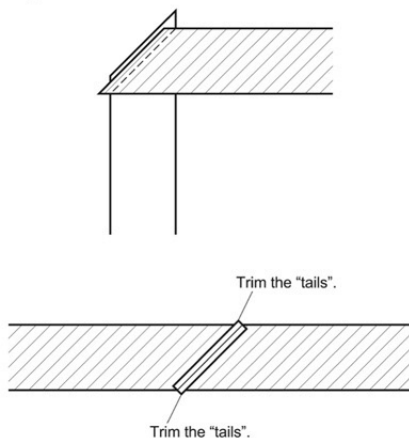
To hand baste, make a series of long, running stitches through all the pinned layers.

- Machine or hand quilt as desired, starting in the center of the Quilt and working your way to the outside edges. When the quilting is complete, trim the Backing, Batting and Top evenly. Hand or machine baste the raw edges together to secure them, stitching very close to the raw edges.

To machine baste, use the longest stitch on your machine, so you can easily remove the basting stitches later. Do not backstitch at the end of your stitching.

Make and attach the Binding

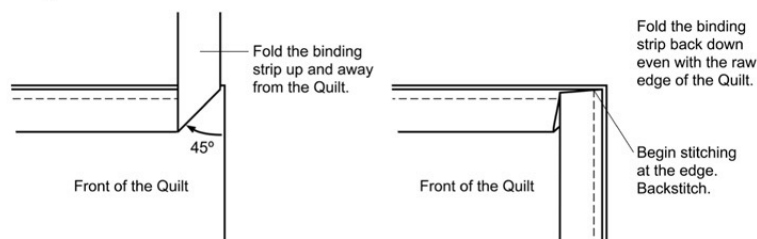
- Join the bias strips into one continuous piece by placing the ends of the strips perpendicular to each other with the **RIGHT** sides together. Stitch across the diagonal edges, backstitching at each end, and trim the seam to 1/4". Press the seam allowance open and trim any "tails" of fabric along the edges of the seam. Continue to join strips until you have a piece measuring 280" long.



- Fold the bias strip in half lengthwise with the **WRONG** sides together. Press a crease along the fold.

- With the **RIGHT** side of the Quilt Top facing up and beginning in the center of one side edge, align the raw edges of the Binding with the raw edge of the Quilt leaving 5" unattached. Pin in place. Stitch the Binding using a 1/4" seam. Stop 1/4" from the first corner and backstitch. Clip the thread and remove the Quilt from the sewing machine.

- To form a neat mitered corner, fold the Binding strip away from the Quilt at a 45° angle, and then fold it back onto itself, even with the next raw edge of the Quilt. Pin in place. There will be a folded edge of Binding even with the first edge of the Quilt.



- Begin stitching again at the upper edge of the Quilt, backstitching as you begin. Continue to pin and sew 1/4" from the next corner, backstitch and repeat the mitering process.

- Continue to attach the Binding and miter all four corners. Stop stitching 10" from where you first began. Backstitch.

- Cut the Binding so that it overlaps its beginning edge by 6". Open the unattached beginning end of the Binding and cut it at a 45° angle. Fold under 1/2" toward the **WRONG** side. Press and refold.

- Insert the end of the Binding within the folded beginning edge. Adjust so that they lay flat within each other, tucked inside the fold. Pin and stitch the Binding in place.

- Turn the Quilt over so the Backing is facing up and flip the Binding over the edge from the front to the back. Line up the folded edge of the Binding so that it just covers the stitching line that attached it to the front. Adjust the mitered corners using a turning tool and pin them in place.

- Hand stitch the Binding in place or machine stitch close to the folded edge of the Binding.

Nice job! Your Quilt is complete!! You've made a beautiful keepsake!

Be sure and add a fabric label to the Quilt back, hand stitching it in place to document your name, address, date and any information you may want to include (perhaps a dedication or a name for the Quilt). Future generations will thank you for this.



Thea's Puzzle Quilt Front

Be sure to check out my other fun, free pattern downloads!
Happy Sewing - XO Amy

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SOLIDS
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