

Bundled in Ribbon

A pile of presents, pieced and tied



1. Finished size

Finished quilt: 58 in × 72 in (147 cm × 183 cm) — throw size with a generous drape.

Finished block grid: 6 rows × 7 columns of parcel blocks, separated by cream sashings and crossed by ribbon-diagonal bands.

2. Materials and yardage

Fabrics

- **Cranberry red parcel fabric** (novelty cotton prints + small-scale): 1 1/2 yd
- **Pine green parcel fabric** (soft chambray/flannel look): 1 1/2 yd

Backing, batting, notions

- **Backing:** 4 1/4 yd (44–45 in wide). Pieced if needed.
- **Batting:** 1 package throw loft (queen/throw), about 64 in × 78 in.

- **Cream sashings & background:** 2 3/4 yd
- **Brass-gold plaid** (ribbon bands / accent): 1 1/4 yd
- **Additional gold/ivory for folded bow appliqués** (can be from brass-gold plaid or a second cream-gold print): 1/2 yd

- **Binding:** 1 1/8 yd of cream (or gold-cream) for *scalloped hand binding* (see notes). Pre-wash.
- **Thread:** piecing in neutral; quilting thread in cream or gold; matching thread for appliqué.
- **Appliqué supplies:** fusible web (lightweight) or fabric glue; small sharp scissors; optional Roxanne-style glue pen.
- **General:** rotary cutter, cutting mat, 1/4 in foot or edge-stitch foot, pins/clips.

Finished-to-cut yardage notes

Yardage assumes typical 42–44 in usable width and includes a small buffer for trimming. If your plaid has directional layout, add extra yardage or plan strap cut orientation.

3. Cutting

Seam allowance: 1/4 in throughout.

Block method: Each parcel block is an *offset tilted-square* assembled from one square core plus two rectangles. Ribbon bands and sashings provide the “wrapped” look.

Tip: Press seams consistently (snug to one side, then nest at joins). Use starch for precision on the tilted pieces.

Cut chart (for 42–44 in width fabrics)

Piece	Qty	Size (in)	Color/placement
Parcel core squares (tilt centers)	42	8 in square	Alternate cranberry / pine (mix prints + solids)
Parcel side rectangles (top/bottom slants)	84	5 in × 8 3/4 in	Coordinate red/green (lightly varied)

Piece	Qty	Size (in)	Color/placement
Parcel corner rectangles (left/right slants)	84	3 1/2 in × 8 3/4 in	Coordinate red/green (different from side rectangles)
Cream sashings (vertical dividers)	7 × 7 = 49 segments	2 in × 10 1/2 in	Cream background between parcel blocks
Cream sashings (horizontal dividers)	6 × 8 = 48 segments	2 in × 11 in	Cream background between parcel rows
Ribbon band: pale gold/ivory diagonal strips	18	2 3/4 in × 74 in	Brass-gold plaid or ivory-gold print (as desired)
Ribbon band: cream diagonal fillers (if needed)	6	2 3/4 in × 58 in	Cream to complete diagonals
Bow appliqués (folded shapes)	14	Cut from templates: 4 1/2 in × 6 in max	Ivory/gold or brass-gold accent
Outer border / scallop edge binding yardage	—	Binding strips: 2 1/2 in × WOF (wide enough for scallop)	Cream/gold

Cutting caution: The ribbon diagonal strips are easiest to cut after you layout the cream sashings and confirm the diagonal path. The qty/length above provides enough for a continuous wrap pattern. If your diagonal path differs slightly, trim to fit once the top is assembled.

4. Piecing / block construction

Parcel block assembly (1 block)

Goal: A tilted “wrapped box” with a diagonal ribbon impression guided by later sashings and ribbon bands. Each parcel block finishes at **10 1/2 in × 11 in** including sashing allowances in the grid.

1. **Prepare the core:** Take one 8 in parcel core square (cranberry or pine). With the quilt top oriented as a grid, keep this piece as a square for assembly; the “tilt” comes from how the rectangles are sewn to create the wrapped profile.

2. **Attach side rectangles:** Sew two rectangles to opposite sides of the core square.
 - Use one 5 in × 8 3/4 in rectangle and one 3 1/2 in × 8 3/4 in rectangle on opposite edges (mixing widths helps create the folded wrap look).
 - Press seams toward the rectangles.
3. **Add the remaining rectangle pair:** Sew the second width rectangle to the next pair of edges to complete the wrapped parcel shape.
4. **Square to size:** Trim the parcel block to a consistent unfinished size that fits the grid: **10 in × 10 1/2 in** (you will add/fit within the cream sashings). Use a square ruler; trim any slight bow.

Make 42 parcel blocks

- Distribute colors evenly: aim for about **21 cranberry** and **21 pine** blocks.
- Vary novelty prints: no two adjacent parcels should be identical.

Bow appliqué prep

1. Fuse the bow template shapes to the wrong side of gold/ivory fabric (follow fusible web instructions).
2. Cut out bows; use a second pass to remove any stray threads.
3. Place bows where ribbon bands meet along the diagonal crossings (see assembly notes). Do a quick test layout on a spare backing so you can confirm placement before fusing.

5. Quilt top assembly

Layout for a stack of wrapped parcels

The design is a grid of parcels divided by narrow cream sashings. Wide diagonal ribbon bands (pale gold/ivory) cross the entire top and “tie off” with folded-fabric bows at the band intersections, so it reads as bundled gifts.

Step-by-step assembly

1. **Build rows with sashings:**
 - On a large design surface, lay out parcel blocks in **7 columns × 6 rows**.
 - Place **vertical cream sashings** (2 in × 10 1/2 in) between blocks in each row.
 - Place **horizontal cream sashings** (2 in × 11 in) between the rows.
2. **Join row by row:** Sew blocks and sashings to form 6 long quilt rows. Press seams consistently (alternating directions by row helps nesting).

3. **Sew rows together:** Join the rows with the cream sashings. Lightly press the top flat and check overall dimensions.

4. **Plan the diagonal ribbon bands:**

- Find the main diagonal axis by choosing a corner-to-corner line across the quilt top.
- Position a ribbon band strip (2 3/4 in wide) so it crosses each parcel, landing over the seam intersections for the “wrap” effect.
- Mark placement with a Hera marker and/or pins.

5. **Appliqué/heat-set the bows first (recommended) or fuse after stitching:**

- If your bow fabric is stabilized with fusible, you may fuse bows after you stitch the ribbon band pairs.
- Otherwise, tack lightly with a few stitches so you don't misplace them.

6. **Attach ribbon bands:**

- Pin or clip a ribbon strip to one diagonal path.
- Stitch carefully along one edge first, then trim the excess and stitch the second edge to form a continuous band.
- Repeat for the full set of bands so the quilt top reads as wrapped layers: narrow cream sashings remain visible between bands.

7. **Fold-and-tie bows at band intersections:**

- Place bow appliqués where the main diagonal bands meet or cross.
- Pin in place, then fuse (if using fusible web) and finish with a small blanket stitch or tight zigzag for secure edges.

Final top check

- Measure the quilt top: aim for approximately **58 in × 72 in** before backing and batting.
- Correct any slight skew by trimming evenly from edges (avoid trimming off the ribbon width).

6. Basting, quilting and binding

Basting

- Press the quilt top lightly (do not stretch diagonals).
- Layer backing right-side down, batting, quilt top right-side up.
- Baste using pins or a spray baste—ensure ribbons and bow edges are secured.

Quilting plan (stitch-in-the-ditch + ribbon diagonals)

- **Primary lines:** Quilt along the ribbon diagonals—stitch-in-the-ditch where possible, then add 1/8 in side-by-side lines to define band edges.
- **Parcel outlines:** Use stitch-in-the-ditch to outline each parcel seam or add a 3–4 mm meander just outside the seams for a soft bundled feel.
- **Bow finishing:** Stitch around bow edges and add a few short diagonal stitches radiating outward to “anchor” the tied look.
- **Stitch length:** 2.0–2.5 mm standard quilting pace.

Binding: hand-bound scalloped edge

This method creates a gentle scallop frame. You can do it with curved templates or a simple improvised curve.

1. **Make binding strips:** Cut **2 1/2 in** wide strips and join with diagonal seams until you have enough length for perimeter: about **330 in** total.
2. **Prepare scallops:** On the cream binding, mark a dot at regular intervals (about **6 in** apart). Using a flexible curve, lightly mark gentle inward scallops and fold the binding along the marks.
3. **Attach:** Sew binding to the front with a 1/4 in seam allowance. Leave a little slack at scallop curves.
4. **Turn and hand-bind:** Turn to the back and hand stitch invisibly (ladder stitch or whipstitch). Keep scallop depth consistent around corners.

Optional: inner edge topstitch

- If you prefer a crisp ribbon-like frame, add a tiny topstitch line just inside the binding on the quilt front.

7. Finishing notes

Pressing and cleanup

- Press quilt blocks before assembly; press quilt top after ribbon bands with a dry iron and steam only if needed.
- Trim stray threads carefully, especially around bow edges.

Hanging/drape expectations

- This throw is designed to look best slightly soft and drapery. Choose batting with a moderate loft (not too dense).
- After washing, ribbon diagonals and appliqué edges may relax slightly—this enhances the “loosely wrapped” impression.

Troubleshooting

- **Diagonal ribbon not landing evenly:** Re-trim the band edges after one or two bands; do not fight accuracy—trim-to-fit once the band is pinned.
- **Parcel blocks won't align with sashings:** Square blocks to a consistent unfinished size before layout; if needed, add a 1/8 in correction by trimming only one side and keeping the opposite reference edge.
- **Scallops look uneven:** Tweak scallop depth while hand stitching; small adjustments are normal.

Completed quilt photo credits are not included here; your finished “Bundled in Ribbon” top should read as stacked parcels with cream sashings visible between wrapped diagonals and folded bow ties at ribbon intersections.