

Crimson Crackers

A festive row of paper crackers, snapped open and sparkling



1. Finished size

- **Finished quilt:** 70 in × 94 in (twin)
- **Approx. block/layout:** 10 cracker blocks across × 7 rows high
- **Block unit finish (cracker rectangle with twisted ends):** 7 in × 10 in
- **Sashing between rows:** 1 in finished height, with ribbon candy four-patch motifs

2. Materials and yardage

Assumes cotton quilting fabric and a 1/4 in seam allowance throughout. Yardages are approximate; buy a little extra for pattern matching and trimming.

Fabrics

Fabric role	Color/print description	Approx. yardage	Notes
Cracker bodies	Crimson (main) or evergreen (secondary)	3.2 yd	Scrappy mix allowed; use 2–3

	solid/low-contrast		values
Metallic gold caps	Metallic gold cotton (small amount)	0.35 yd	Use sparingly for small end triangles
Ivory sashing	Ivory solid	1.6 yd	Includes ribbon-candy four-patch background
Ribbon candy accents	Peppermint pink, white, and small gold accents (scrappy)	0.9 yd	Used for four-patch motifs in sashing
Scrappy binding	Cream berry print + tiny holly-and-plaid (mix)	0.45 yd each (2 fabrics)	Total binding ~1.1 yd combined
Backing	Soft red-and-white gingham (loose)	3.4 yd	For 90 in width after piecing allowance

Notions

- Thread: red/crimson matching for cracker bodies; neutral for sashing; gold thread for caps (optional)
- Quilting thread: blend/neutral
- Rotary cutter, ruler, sewing machine, iron and press cloth for metallic fabric
- Walking foot (recommended) or even-feed for quilting
- Binding clips or pins

Batting

- **70 in × 94 in** quilt batting (or slightly larger)
- Suggested: mid-loft cotton or cotton/poly blend for a cozy festive feel

Finished yardage note

If you prefer fewer fabric changes, you can reduce the variety in the cracker bodies and ribbon candy accents. Your layout will still read as horizontal rows of crackers with sparkling gold caps.

3. Cutting

Cutting is written for **cracker blocks** that finish at **7 in × 10 in**, arranged in horizontal rows separated by **1 in finished sashing** with **ribbon candy four-patches** on the sashing.

A. Cracker block components (per block)

Piece	Fabric	Cut size (in)	Quantity	Finish note
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Cracker body rectangle	Crimson/evergreen	7 1/2 × 10 1/2	1	Will be trimmed to final after end units are added
Twist end left	Cracker body (scrappy allowed)	3 1/2 × 3 1/2 squares, then cut diagonally	2 triangles	Create the pointed twisted look with two triangles
Twist end right	Cracker body (scrappy allowed)	3 1/2 × 3 1/2 squares, then cut diagonally	2 triangles	Mirror of left end
Metallic gold cap	Metallic gold cotton	2 1/2 × 2 1/2 squares	2	Trimmed into end-facing triangles
Cracker end lining triangles	Cracker body or contrast (optional, use scraps)	2 7/8 × 2 7/8 squares, cut diagonally	4 triangles	Add depth to the “twist”

B. Totals for the quilt

- **Cracker blocks:** 10 across × 7 rows = 70 blocks

Item	Per block	Total for 70 blocks
Cracker body rectangles	7 1/2 × 10 1/2 (1)	70 rectangles
Body squares for twist triangles	3 1/2 × 3 1/2 (2 squares → 4 triangles)	140 squares
Metallic gold squares	2 1/2 × 2 1/2 (2)	140 squares
End lining squares	2 7/8 × 2 7/8 (4 triangles = 2 squares)	140 squares

C. Sashing and ribbon candy motifs

- **Sashing rows:** 6 horizontal sashing bands between the 7 rows of cracker blocks
- **Ribbon candy four-patches:** 10 motifs across, in each sashing band
- **Total ribbon motifs:** 10 × 6 = 60 four-patches

D. Cutting for ribbon candy four-patches (per motif)

Piece	Fabric	Cut size (in)	Qty
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Ivory corner	Ivory	2 1/2 × 2 1/2	2
Striped candy color blocks	Peppermint pink / white / gold accent (mix)	2 1/2 × 2 1/2	2

Each finished four-patch reads as two-colored “striped ribbon” when you alternate the candy colors across the quilt.

E. Sashing strips (for each band)

- **Ivory sashing strips:** cut strips **1 1/2 in × 74 in** (enough for 1 band across; you’ll join as needed)
- **Final sashing height:** 1 in after assembly

Make test seams to confirm the sashing height. If your blocks finish slightly differently, adjust the sashing strip width so the sashing finishes at 1 in.

F. Borderless arrangement

- This quilt uses no separate outer border. The layout is rows of cracker blocks separated by sashing bands, with the outermost rows directly meeting the quilt top edge.

4. Piecing / block construction

A. Construct the cracker “twist” block (7 in × 10 in finish)

You will build each cracker from the center body rectangle plus pointed ends and metallic gold caps. Press consistently to keep edges square.

1. **Prepare triangles:** For each cracker block, cut two 3 1/2 in body squares in half diagonally to get 4 half-squares total (left end and right end sets).
2. **Prepare lining triangles:** Cut 2 7/8 in squares diagonally into 4 small triangles per block (use two for each end).
3. **Assemble the left twist end:**
 - Place two body triangles to form a pointed wedge along the left side of the 7 1/2 × 10 1/2 body rectangle.
 - Layer a lining triangle behind one of the body triangles (or replace one wedge with the lining triangle) to suggest a twist.
 - Stitch along the diagonal edges with 1/4 in seam allowances.
 - Press seams toward the body fabric; trim any excess to align with the rectangle height.
4. **Assemble the right twist end:** Repeat step 3 mirrored for the right side.
5. **Add metallic gold caps:**

- Cut each 2 1/2 in metallic gold square into two triangles on a diagonal (4 triangles total available; use 2 per block).
- Position one gold triangle at the tip of each end so the gold edge faces outward.
- Sew and press gently (metallic can mark; use a press cloth and avoid aggressive ironing).

6. Square-up:

- Trim the block to **7 1/2 in × 10 1/2 in** before assembly. (This allows it to finish at 7 in × 10 in after borders/sashing seams.)
- Check corners; all seams should be aligned for an even row.

B. Make the ribbon candy four-patches (for sashing)

1. Pair one ivory 2 1/2 in square with one candy color 2 1/2 in square.
2. Join into pairs, press to one side, then join pairs into a four-patch.
3. Each four-patch should measure **5 in × 5 in** unfinished? Actually with 2 1/2 squares and 1/4 seams, it will finish to **4 1/2 in × 4 1/2 in**.
4. Set aside; you will slice sashing to accommodate these finished motifs.

C. Efficient assembly suggestion

Chain piece the body rectangles to their end units in batches of 10 blocks. Keep a consistent press direction for twist seams, so sashing alignment remains even across rows.

5. Quilt top assembly

A. Layout map (no borders)

- Arrange **7 rows** of cracker blocks horizontally.
- Between each adjacent row of cracker blocks, add a **1 in finished ivory sashing band** containing **10 ribbon candy four-patches**.
- Blocks in each row run **10 across**.

B. Assemble each row of cracker blocks

1. Lay out 10 cracker blocks in a row, left to right.
2. Sew blocks together with a **1/4 in seam** between blocks (align edges). You should end with a row unit measuring approximately **70 1/2 in wide** including seam allowances.
3. Repeat for all 7 cracker rows.

C. Add the sashing bands with ribbon candy motifs

1. **Prepare sashing band length:** Cut and seam-connect ivory sashing strips to reach the quilt width.
2. **Plan motif placement:** Each ribbon candy four-patch occupies a segment of the band between cracker rows. Use a measuring guide: place each motif centered under a “gap” between adjoining crackers where visual rhythm feels even (typically centered relative to each block column).
3. **Sew sashing around motifs:**
 - Sew a four-patch into the band, keeping top/bottom edges square.
 - Press seams toward the four-patch.
4. **Attach band to cracker rows:** Pin and sew the sashing band to the bottom of the upper cracker row first, then repeat for the next seam to close the sandwich.
5. Repeat for all 6 sashing bands.

If your ribbon candy four-patch measures slightly different due to seam variance, trim it to fit the sashing window before sewing.

D. Final quilt top size check

- After assembling top, it should measure approximately **70 in × 94 in**.
- Square the quilt top by trimming excess from the edges if needed (only if necessary).

6. Basting, quilting and binding

A. Basting

- Press quilt top lightly.
- Layer: backing (right side down) → batting → quilt top (right side up).
- Baste using safety pins or spray basting (keep spray minimal to avoid soak-in).

B. Quilting design

Backing is quilted in a loose allover swirl so the cotton texture shows, not dense straight-line quilting.

- Use a neutral thread and a 2.5–3.0 mm stitch length (or the machine’s mid setting).
- Quilt continuous swirl arcs in one direction, then lightly interweave adjacent swirls.
- Keep swirls loose near the block seams so the cracker edges remain crisp.
- Target quilting density: about **6–8 in** swirl spacing overall.

C. Trimming and binding preparation

- Trim batting and backing flush with the quilt top.
- Cut binding strips: **2 1/4 in** wide fabric strips on the width of fabric, pieced end to end.

- Binding length: approximately **400–420 in** total (for 70 × 94 in quilt). Join strips with diagonal seams.

D. Attach binding (standard)

1. Align binding raw edges with quilt raw edges (right sides together). Sew with 1/4 in seam.
2. Stop 6–8 in from starting point, trim excess binding, and overlap ends.
3. Press binding away from quilt. Turn to the back and hand-stitch or machine-stitch in the seam.
4. Press final binding gently.

E. Binding fabric mix (scrappy)

- Alternate cream berry print and tiny holly-and-plaid by strip order to create a festive, farmhouse-friendly border finish.

7. Finishing notes

- **Pressing metallic:** Use a press cloth and press (not iron) to reduce shine changes and handle marks.
- **Row consistency:** If one row drifts, re-check block trimming to 7 1/2 × 10 1/2 and ensure sashing is assembled to a true 1 in finished height.
- **Design variation:** Swap crimson and evergreen blocks row-to-row for a playful “cracker assortment” look while maintaining the same layout math.
- **Washing:** Pre-wash fabrics if you expect shrinkage; otherwise plan for a first wash before long-term display.
- **Label:** Add a fabric label to the back near the lower-left corner with quilt name and year.