

Luna at the Porch Light

Flying geese drift toward a glowing pale-green wing



Quilt name: Luna at the Porch Light

English subtitle: Flying geese drift toward a glowing pale-green wing

1. Finished size

Finished quilt measures **64 in × 76 in** (approximately **162.5 cm × 193 cm**)

Design layout: 4 corner moth-wing appliqués (oversized) framed by a field of flying geese that point inward toward a warm cream center square.

2. Materials and yardage

Quantities assume quilting cottons and standard 42–44 in usable fabric width, plus a little extra for trimming and safety.

Fabric role	Color (from description)	Recommended use	Yardage
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Background / flying-geese base	Deep indigo	Diagonal geese background triangles	2 3/4 yd
Background / flying-geese contrast	Charcoal-navy	Geese “wings” and corner directional triangles	2 1/4 yd
Sashing	Skinny cream	Between goose blocks and around center	1 1/2 yd
Center glow square	Warm cream	Center square	1/2 yd
Appliqué wings base	Pale seafoam	Appliqué pieces (wings)	1 yd
Appliqué wing highlights	Mint	Appliqué pieces (inner wing areas)	3/4 yd
Appliqué accents	Cream	Appliqué pieces (vein/outer edges)	1/2 yd
Binding	Charcoal-navy	Bias binding	5/8 yd

- **Backing:** 2 3/4 yd (42–44 in wide). For more stability, consider a lightly starched or wide-back (e.g., 3 yd if piecing is required).
- **Batting:** 64 in × 76 in (or larger). Select a low-shrink cotton batting: *queen* size recommended.
- **Thread:** Piecing thread (neutral dark). Appliqué thread: matching wing colors (greenish and cream). Quilting thread: charcoal/indigo or a fine matching thread.
- **Appliqué tools:** Size 7–9 applique needle; pencil/chalk; paper-backed fusible (optional for placement only).
- **Embellishment:** Embroidery floss for veins (thin line) and French knots (3–6 strands as desired).
- **Marking:** Washable fabric marker or chalk; quilting safe pencil.

- General: Rotary cutter, ruler, 1/4 in foot, seam ripper, pins/clips.

3. Cutting

This quilt uses a repeating flying-geese field with cream sashing. Work method: cut and sew geese rows into strips, then assemble the top with sashing and the center square.

Each flying-geese unit finishes at approximately 2 in × 3 1/2 in (including seam allowance effects when set in the layout). The construction below uses standard triangle-piecing math: you will cut goose components so the final “goose” height and width are consistent across the rows.

Make enough to build the field around the center.

- Total geese units: 96
- Goose unit components (per goose):
 - 1 center triangle: 2 1/2 in × 3 1/2 in (cut as a right triangle from a rectangle, OR cut from a prepared template).
 - 2 side triangles: 2 1/2 in × 2 1/2 in squares trimmed to triangles.

Tip: Cut a batch of squares for the side triangles; slice each square diagonally to create two triangles. Cut center rectangles, then cut to the needed right-triangle orientation.

- Center square: 10 in × 10 in warm cream.
- Skinny cream sashing strips: 1 in × 63 in total sewn length broken into manageable pieces.

Cut sashing into the following lengths (confirm against your layout if adjusting):

- Long sashing pieces: 8 pieces at 12 in
- Short sashing pieces: 24 pieces at 4 in
- Border framing strips: 4 pieces at 64 in and 4 pieces at 76 in (or use pieced strips if needed).

Cut 4 wing pairs (one at each corner). Wings are turned-edge appliqué with blanket stitch, plus thin embroidered veins and French-knot pollen.

- Moth wing templates: Create paper patterns sized so each corner wing set covers approximately 14 in × 16 in overall (including overlap).
 - Wing base layers: seafoam (outer wing shape)
 - Highlight/inner wing layers: mint and cream

- Vein layer: optional cream for contrast (if not using embroidery only)
- Cutting guidance: You will need roughly 4 seafoam wing bases, 4 mint inner wing sections, and 4 cream accent pieces (total), plus small scraps for French-knot dots if you prefer thread-only (typically you will stitch dots with floss).
- Backing: Cut to at least 70 in × 82 in to allow for basting and trimming.
- Batting: Cut to 64 in × 76 in (or match quilt top size and trim after quilting).

4. Piecing / block construction

Use the “stitch-and-fold” method or traditional square-to-triangle piecing. The layout depends on pointing geese toward the center square.

1. Prepare side triangles: Take side squares (2 1/2 in) and cut diagonally once to create triangles.
2. Attach one side: Place a side triangle right sides together on one side of the center rectangle/triangle, matching edges. Stitch along the seam line implied by the triangle placement (use a consistent 1/4 in seam allowance from your chosen method).
3. Press: Press seam allowance outward (or toward the triangle—be consistent).
4. Attach the second side: Repeat on the other side.
5. Square up: Trim to ensure your goose unit meets the expected finished unit size for your sashing grid.

Create directional strips so all geese “point inward” toward the 10 in center square.

- Layout approach: Working from the outer edge toward the center, alternate goose orientations to create diagonal movement (moth travel direction).
 - Row count: Assemble 8 main geese strips around the center square (4 on each diagonal direction), then interleave with sashing.
 - Row seam consistency: Keep seam pressing consistent across the entire field to reduce shifting.
1. Cut sashing to match the gaps between geese units in your row grid.

2. Sew geese units together into strip sections, then join strips using sashing as separators.
3. Center the 10 in × 10 in warm cream square at the quilt's middle and frame it with cream sashing pieces (short and long lengths from the cutting list).

Finished wings are layered and turned-edge appliqué with hand blanket stitching. Veins are thin embroidery lines; French knots are scattered like pollen.

1. Positioning: Place each wing set in a corner over the background. Keep orientation consistent (imagined wing “facing” inward toward the center).
2. Layering: Baste or temporarily fuse (only for placement) seafoam outer wing shape. Add mint inner wing shape on top, then add cream accent pieces where needed.
3. Turned edges: For each appliqué piece, trim the seam allowance close (about 1/4 in), then turn under raw edges using a small iron.
4. Hand blanket stitch: Stitch around the perimeter using matching floss/thread. Keep stitches small and evenly spaced.
5. Veins: Stitch thin embroidered vein lines across each wing using a single strand (or 2 strands) in a darker mint/cream blend.
6. French knots: Add scattered knots (small clusters) near veins and along outer edges using 3–5 strands. Space them so they read like pollen in dim light.

Placement help: After stitching each corner wing, re-check the overall quilt dimensions by measuring corners and center—small shifts are easier to correct before quilting.

5. Quilt top assembly

1. Lay out the completed flying-geese field sections with cream sashing and confirm the diagonal motion toward the center glow square.
2. Sew row-to-row using sashing seams. Press toward the sashing or consistently toward one side (whichever reduces bulk at intersections).
3. Apply border framing strips (charcoal-navy background strips) around the edge to reach the final footprint (64 × 76 in).
 - Square the quilt top to the target size: 64 in × 76 in.

- Check seam intersections around the center glow square.
- If you find small overhangs, trim only at the outer edges; avoid trimming pieced internal blocks unless absolutely necessary.

6. Basting, quilting and binding

1. Press the top lightly (appliqué edges should lie flat).
2. Layer: backing (wrong side up) → batting → quilt top (right side up).
3. Baste securely. For dimensional applique, pin or baste more frequently near wing edges.

Quilt an all-over wavy-line pattern that mimics moth flight paths. Keep lines fluid but not too dense near appliqué; prioritize even stitching.

- Thread: fine charcoal or deep indigo thread.
- Stitch length: 2.0–2.5 mm (adjust for your machine).
- Guidelines: Draw light pencil marks curving diagonally across the field, looping around the center square and sweeping toward corner wings.
- Near appliqué: Quilt up to the appliqué stitching, then pivot and continue without cutting into hand-stitches.

Use bias binding for best drape around curves of wavy quilting.

1. Cut binding strips: From charcoal-navy, cut 5 or 6 continuous bias strips at 2 1/4 in wide to yield enough length for 64 × 76 quilt perimeter.
2. Join ends: Join on the diagonal and press seams open.
3. Attach to front: Stitch to the front edge with a 1/4 in seam allowance.
4. Turn and hand-finish: Turn to the back and hand stitch with matching thread.

7. Finishing notes

- Pressing: Press quilt seams flat during construction. After quilting, press from the back to preserve appliqué stitching.
- Appliqué stability: If you notice fluttering edges, add a few extra hand stitches or a small tack at the vein ends.
- Embellishment durability: French knots should be secure; consider finishing with a tiny backstitch at the base of each knot.
- Color match: Use slightly different shades of cream/green for veins so they read “glowing” under quilting shadows.

- **Final dimensions:** Expect slight variation. If your top is slightly smaller before quilting, batting and backing should be trimmed to the quilted size after quilting.

Checklist before quilting:

- Flying-geese field points toward the center on every diagonal segment.
- All four wing appliqués are stitched around with clean turned edges.
- Veins and French-knot dots are placed and secured.
- Quilting plan mapped so wavy lines flow around the 10 in center glow square.
- Backing is pinned/basted without wrinkles (especially at the corners with appliqué bulk).