

Ribbon Candy Christmas

Old-fashioned sugar swirls stitched into a cozy heirloom



Ribbon Candy Christmas (with Curved Swirl Discs)

Old-fashioned sugar swirls stitched into a cozy heirloom

1. Finished size

Finished quilt size: 58 in × 70 in
(approximately 147 cm × 178 cm)

Design layout: Alternating solid blocks with ribbon-candy swirl discs.

Block count: 6 swirl-disc blocks + 24 solid corner/side blocks = 30 blocks total.

Block size (unfinished): 13 in × 13 in

Block size (finished): 12.5 in × 12.5 in

Quilt top unfinished: 60 in × 72 in

Quilt top finished: 58 in × 70 in

2. Materials and yardage

All seam allowances are 1/4 in unless otherwise noted.

Fabrics (5 prints/solids + binding)

Fabric role	Suggested color name	Yardage (approx.)
A (Swirl base)	Buttery cream (vintage cotton)	1 1/8 yd
B (Swirl candy strip)	Wintergreen green (vintage cotton)	1 1/4 yd
C (Swirl candy strip)	Cranberry red (vintage cotton)	1 1/4 yd
D (Swirl candy accent)	Dusty rose (vintage cotton)	3/4 yd
E (Swirl candy accent)	Soft peppermint pink (vintage cotton)	3/4 yd
F (Solid block fabric)	Wintergreen green or cranberry red (choose one solid)	2 1/4 yd
G (Binding)	Striped bias binding (candy-cane stripe)	3/4 yd

Other supplies

- **Batting:** 60 in × 72 in (or at least 2–3 in larger than top). Choose medium loft.
- **Thread:** neutral all-purpose (cream or light gray) for piecing; matching thread for quilting/binding.
- **Optional:** fabric glue (for holding curved seams), starch for stabilizing bias/candy binding.

Print handling tip: If your swirls are directional or have a strong motif, choose a consistent orientation for each curve set. If not directional, keep “right-to-right” alignment as you join arcs to form the discs.

3. Cutting

Cut pieces according to whether you are making a **swirl-disc block** or a **solid block**.

A. Swirl-disc block components (unfinished 13 in)

Each swirl-disc block contains one ribbon-candy disc centered on a solid 9-patch-style setting inside the block, created with curved strip piecing.

Piece	Quantity per swirl block	Cut size	Fabric
Curved arc units (set of 4 for the disc)	4	2 1/4 in × 7 in strip (then cut into arcs)	A/B/C/D/E (mix as instructed)

Piece	Quantity per swirl block	Cut size	Fabric
Center “candy stripe” wedges (disc center)	4	2 in × 2 in squares, cut on diagonal	Choose 2 colors, alternating
Inner solid ring (background to frame disc)	4	2 in × 5 in rectangles (trim after assembly)	Solid fabric F
Outer solid corners (block border area)	4	5 1/4 in × 5 1/4 in squares	Solid fabric F
Side fill (between disc frame and corners)	4	2 in × 5 1/4 in rectangles	Solid fabric F

How to make the arcs: For each of the 4 arc units, use a 2 1/4 in × 7 in strip. Mark a gentle curve using the included template method below.

Arc template method (no physical template required)

- Use a clear ruler and mark **two points** on each strip: one point 1/2 in from the left edge at 1 in from the top, and a second point 1/2 in from the right edge at 6 in from the top.
- Draw a smooth curve between the points and cut along the curve.
- You should end with an arc segment that will finish as part of the disc when joined to matching arcs (slight variation is okay).

Check-fit note: After cutting the curved arcs, lay them on a 12 1/2 in square background (or a paper mock-up) to ensure the disc reads “round” when four pieces come together. Adjust curve slightly if needed.

B. Solid block components (unfinished 13 in)

Piece	Quantity per solid block	Cut size	Fabric
Solid block	1	13 in × 13 in	Solid fabric F

Total solid blocks: 24 blocks × 13 in × 13 in

C. Totals (based on quilt layout)

Swirl-disc blocks: 6 blocks

- Arc units: 6 × 4 = **24 curved arc segments** (from four 2 1/4 in strips per block)
- Diagonal center wedges: 6 × 4 = **24 diagonal wedges**

Solid blocks: 24 blocks (each is one 13 in square)

D. Binding

This quilt uses a **striped bias binding** to mimic a candy-cane edge.

- **Binding length needed:** Approximately 300 in (enough for 70 in × 58 in quilt with trimming and overlap).
- **Cut:** Cut **7 strips** at **2 1/2 in × 42 in** (bias strips). If your fabric width allows, you may cut longer strips; aim for ~392 in raw total length before join.
- Join strips end-to-end on diagonal seams to make one continuous binding strip.
- Press seams open and press binding in half lengthwise, wrong sides together.

4. Piecing / block construction

A. Make the ribbon-candy disc (repeat for each swirl-disc block)

1. **Prepare arc pairs:** Take two matching arc segments (from opposite sides of the disc). Place right sides together and stitch along the curved edge with 1/4 in seam allowance. Use a shorter stitch length (about 2.0) and keep the seam allowance consistent.
2. **Join into a 4-arc ring:** Press seams toward the darker fabric (or press all in the same direction for easier nesting). Join the remaining arcs to complete the ring. The ring should form a loose “ruffled circle.”
3. **Add the center “candy stripe”:** Arrange the four diagonal wedges into a pinwheel-like center (alternating colors for a candy swirl effect). Stitch wedges into pairs, then join pairs to complete the center.
4. **Attach center to ring:** Pin the center wedge piece to the inside of the arc ring. Stitch carefully around. Trim excess to square up slightly (do not over-trim before framing).
5. **Frame with inner solid ring:** Using the four 2 in × 5 in rectangles of solid fabric F, trim and stitch to form a clean inner ring around the disc. Press seams outward. Trim the disc-framed unit to measure approximately **9 1/2 in** square (as you approach exact size, check frequently).

B. Assemble the swirl-disc block (unfinished 13 in × 13 in)

1. **Set outer corner squares:** Place four solid 5 1/4 in × 5 1/4 in squares at the corners of your block layout.
2. **Add side rectangles:** Stitch the 2 in × 5 1/4 in rectangles between inner framing and outer corners on left and right sides.
3. **Position the disc:** Center the disc-framed unit in the block. Stitch top and bottom, then sides, to complete the block.
4. **Final block trim:** Press flat and trim the completed swirl-disc block to exactly **13 in × 13 in** unfinished.

Curved seam success: If the disc doesn't round out, don't force it. Instead, clip the seam allowance lightly where needed (only if the fabric resists). Keep pinning at regular intervals, and consider basting curves with a glue stick or temporary thread before sewing.

C. Make solid blocks

- Cut 24 squares of solid fabric F: **13 in × 13 in**.
- Press and set aside.

D. Quilt layout (alternating grid)

Arrange blocks into a 5 × 6 grid. Swirl discs appear in a “diagonal ribbon” arrangement: one swirl disc every other position along the top two rows and centered across the middle.

Block layout legend					
S = swirl-disc block, □ = solid block					

Row 1	Row 1	Row 1	Row 1	Row 1	Row 1
S	□	□	S	□	□
□	□	S	□	□	S
□	S	□	□	S	□
S	□	□	S	□	□
□	□	S	□	□	S

Rows shown as 6 blocks across; there are 5 rows total (30 blocks). Adjust if your preferred placement differs, keeping 6 swirl discs total.

5. Quilt top assembly

1. **Join blocks into rows:** Stitch blocks together with 1/4 in seams. For best accuracy, pin at intersections and press seams toward the solids on each row.
2. **Create row units:** Press each completed row flat. Keep row numbering on a paper copy to avoid mix-ups.
3. **Join rows:** Stitch rows together to form the quilt center/top. Press seams open or to one side consistently. Final assembled top should measure about **60 in × 72 in** unfinished.
4. **True up edges:** Measure from corner to corner and trim only if needed to square the top (do not over-trim).

Design note: The solid blocks intentionally let the curved swirl discs look like candy-candy loops. Keep your seam pressing consistent so the grid appears crisp.

6. Basting, quilting and binding

A. Basting

- Layer backing right side down, batting, then quilt top right side up.

- Tape/spray baste or use safety pins.
- Check that swirl disc seams lie flat and no puckers form at curved joins.

B. Quilting ideas (warm heirloom feel)

Choose a quilting style that highlights the ribbons without flattening the curves.

- **Option 1 (recommended):** Light meander in solid blocks; echo the disc curves with narrow stipple “ribbon” lines 1/4 in apart.
- **Option 2:** Stitch-in-the-ditch around inner solid rings; add 3–4 swoops through the arc ring to mimic swirl candy.
- **Option 3:** Overall simple loops (holiday string-light vibe).

Stitching density: 10–12 stitches per inch for a medium loft quilt.

C. Binding with striped bias edge

1. **Attach binding to front:** Align raw edges. Pin or clip around the perimeter with binding on top of the quilt front, right sides together. Sew with 1/4 in seam allowance.
2. **Miter corners:** When you reach a corner, stop with needle down, fold binding up and away to make a miter, then fold back down to continue. Stitch to the corner edge.
3. **Turn and stitch to back:** Press binding to quilt back. Hand-stitch the folded edge, or use a blind machine stitch.
4. **Final press:** Press gently with a dry iron to set stitches without stretching the bias.

7. Finishing notes

- **Pre-wash:** If using cotton prints, pre-wash to reduce shrinkage. If you do not pre-wash, plan to dry low and press carefully.
- **Pressing:** Press seams firmly at each stage. For curved piecing, press with steam and set the seam before moving on.
- **Stability:** If your curved seams want to ripple, lightly starch the curved arc strips before cutting, or baste first and then stitch.
- **Optional label:** Add a small fabric label to the back corner of the quilt before final binding is complete.
- **Care:** Machine wash cold, gentle cycle; tumble dry low or line dry. Avoid high heat on the bias binding.

Make it yours: Swap which fabrics go into the arc rings for each swirl disc so the quilt looks like a dish of mixed ribbon candies. Keep the solid blocks consistent for a clean grid.