

Variable Size Children's Quilt

A lot of people do graphs and such to make their variable size quilts but I just go for it and make it as I go. It really is not difficult to do. You just take it one step, one row, at a time and add fabric as needed to make the rows the size you want. In the following I will explain how I put together a variable size quilt.

Please read through all steps completely before doing them.

Step 1 – Measure the size of item you want to put in the quilt, length and width.

Step 2 – Decide if you will applique the item on the block prior to putting the quilt together, for example t-shirt, dress, bibs, etc., or if you will attach the item after the quilt is quilted, i.e. overalls, tutu, etc.

Step 3 – If you are appliqueing the clothes onto the block before quilting make sure you cut your blocks at least 1" bigger than what you want your finished block to be. (Reminder – this includes your seam allowance.) For example, if you have a onesie that is 8" across and 12" down you would want your finished block to be about 9"-10" by 13"-14". As explained in the course you add the inch when cutting the block to allow for the pulling in of the fabric when you applique the item onto it. When finished with the applique process you would then cut the block down to size so it is even.

If you are going to hand stitch the items on after quilting you do not have to add the extra inch to the block as this does not pull things in because it is already quilted.

Step 4 – Sewing blocks together.

After making all the blocks using the techniques you learned in the class you would lay them out so they are balanced as much as possible in size and design. You will need to keep in mind how you are going to sew them together.

If you look at my example of a wall hanging you will see how I balanced out the quilt blocks. You will also notice that, with the sashing, there are definite rows for sewing the quilt together. To sew the rows together follow these steps.

1) Measure each row of blocks across and use the largest width as the size you will make all your rows. I make the widest row first and then size every other row to that so they go together evenly.

2) In this example they end up the same width so sew the top three blocks together going across using sashing in the middle of the blocks to make the row the length you want. (Fig. 4.2)

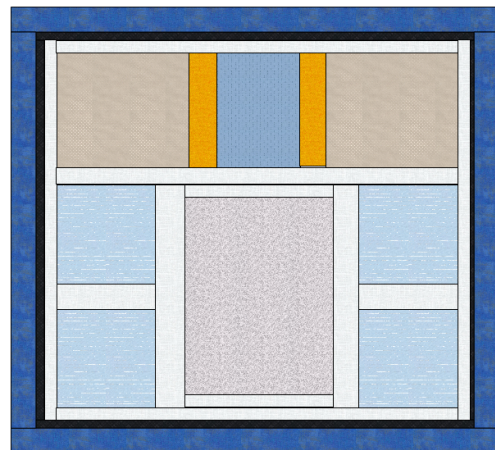


Fig. 4.2. Sew top row together.

3) Next, since they are longer than the center block, I would sew the two blue blocks together on each side of the lower row using a 1" or so piece of sashing in the middle to separate them. (Fig. 4.3)

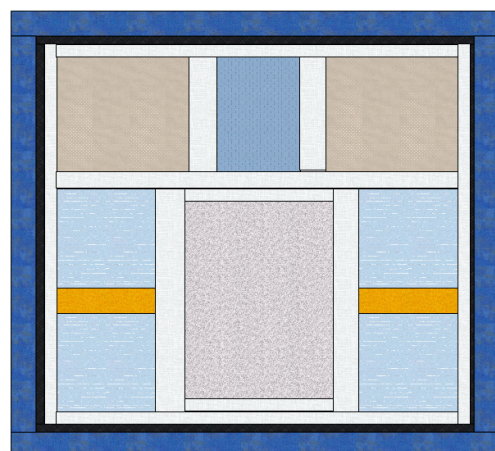


Fig. 4.3. Sew blue blocks together.

4) Add fabric to the top and bottom of the large center block to make it the same length as the two sides constructed in the previous step. Add more than what you need as you will cut it off later and you don't have to fuss with a lot of math figuring out exactly how much you need. (Fig. 4.4)

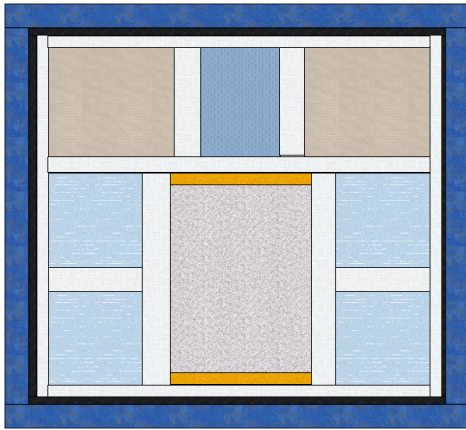


Fig. 4.4. Sew fabric to top and bottom of block.

5) Add the side sashing to this block that is needed between the side blocks to make this row the same width as the top row. After adding the fabric and pressing it you then attach the blue side block sets to each side, centering the large block between them. (Fig. 4.5)

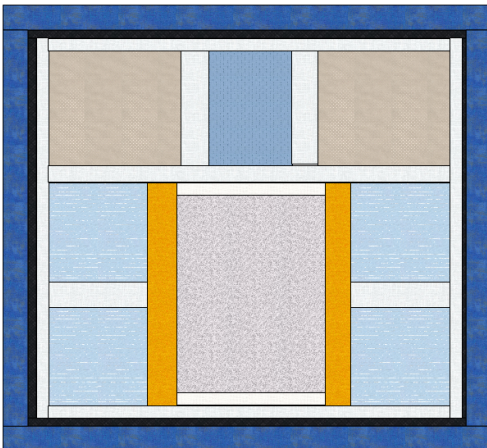


Fig. 4.5. Sew bottom row together.

6) After the blocks are put together you cut off any extra fabric from the center block to make sure the row is nice and even all the way across.

7) Add a 1" or 2" sashing between the rows and sew them together. (Fig. 4.7)

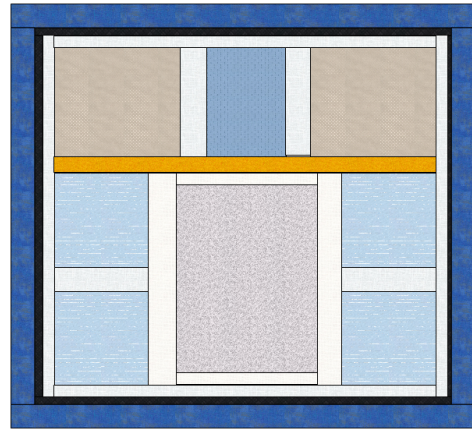


Fig. 4.7. Add sashing between rows.

8) Add a 1" or 2" sashing all the way around the outside of the blocks. Again this is personal preference. (Fig. 4.8 & Fig. 4.9)

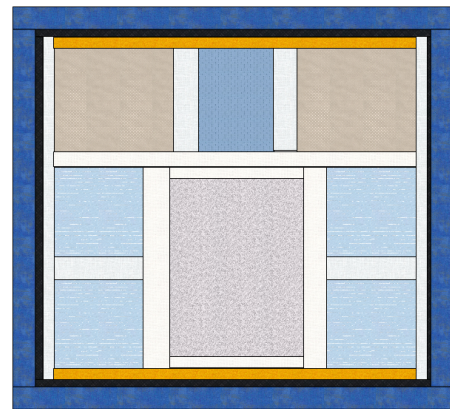


Fig. 4.8. Add sashing to top and bottom.

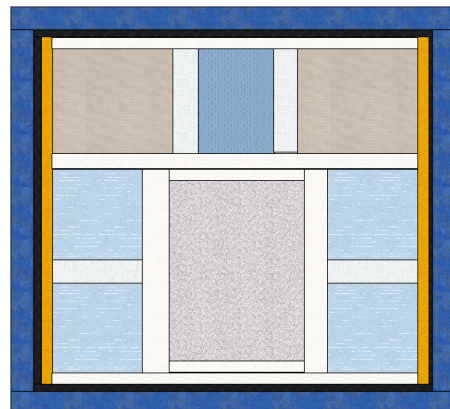


Fig. 4.9. Add sashing to sides.

Step 5 – Add a 1" border. (This is optional)

Step 6 – Add a 3" border. The size of this border is a personal preference depending on your

design and how big you want the finished quilt to be. (Fig. 6.1)

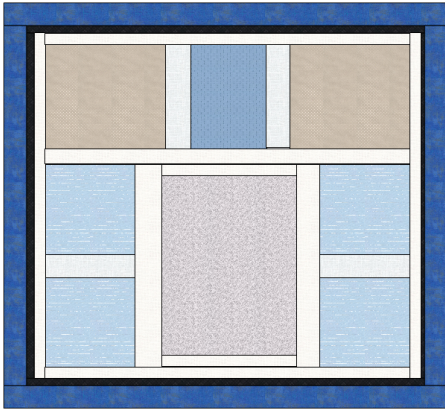
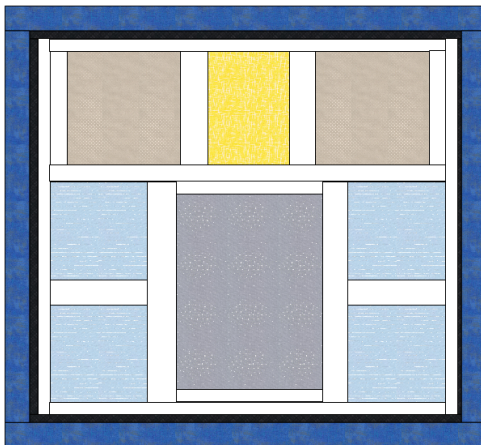


Fig. 6.1. Finished Quilt

Your Quilt is Finished.

If your quilt block layout looks similar to below with one row narrower than the other you would put together the bottom row first as it is the widest row. Then you would put together the top row adding extra fabric to the sides. After centering the top row over the bottom and sewing them together you would cut off the extra fabric on the sides to make the quilt rows even.



If you are making a wall hanging you would add a sleeve to your quilt to hang it from.

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