



Picnic Basket

One of our favorite family experiences is being out in nature. We prefer being in the mountains, fishing on the river, kayaking on the lake, strolling along a stream, or visiting our wonderful national parks. For years we went on an annual camping and fishing trip in northern California. When the boys went fishing, my daughter and I would go berry picking. I took great pride in the berry pies I baked on top of a camp stove in a cardboard box covered in foil.

Now we're making new nature memories with the next generation. No matter where we go, we always seem to take along an old quilt. I prefer a big square quilt that's just perfect for picnics, wrapping up the little ones, or throwing over the lap of someone sitting by the campfire. You just have to have a quilt along for the fun, and this speedy project really fits the bill. I made it to take along on our outdoor adventures with our new little nature lover, grandson Hunter.

Barbara



Materials

Yardage and strips are based on 42"-wide fabric. Rolls of precut 2½"-wide strips are commonly available in quilt shops. Two rolls will provide you with the required number of strips for this project, although the number of strips needed in each color for this project may not be the same as those in the roll. You can cut your own strips from standard yardage, if desired. Cut the strips 2½" x 42". Also, if the strips from your roll or yardage are narrower than 42", you will need more strips than the amount listed.

- 1¾ yards of off-white fabric for block centers, pieced sashing, and pieced border
- ⅞ yard of black fabric for block centers, pieced sashing, and pieced border
- 12 assorted red precut 2½"-wide strips for blocks and binding
- 12 assorted blue precut 2½"-wide strips for blocks and binding
- 8 assorted green precut 2½"-wide strips for blocks
- 6 assorted light blue precut 2½"-wide strips for blocks
- 2 assorted yellow precut 2½"-wide strips for blocks
- 4 yards of fabric for backing
- 70" x 70" piece of batting

Cutting

From the black fabric, cut:

- 3 strips, 2½" x width of fabric; crosscut into 38 squares, 2½" x 2½"
- 12 strips, 1½" x 26½"

From the off-white fabric, cut:

- 3 strips, 2½" x width of fabric; crosscut into 34 squares, 2½" x 2½"
- 24 strips, 2" x 26½"

Making the Black-and-White Units

1. Sew five black and four off-white 2½" squares together to form a nine-patch unit. Press the seam allowances as indicated. Repeat to make a total of four units for the block centers.



Make 4.

2. Sew two black and two off-white $2\frac{1}{2}$ " squares together to form a four-patch unit. Press the seam allowances as indicated. Repeat to make a total of nine sashing cornerstone units.



Make 9.

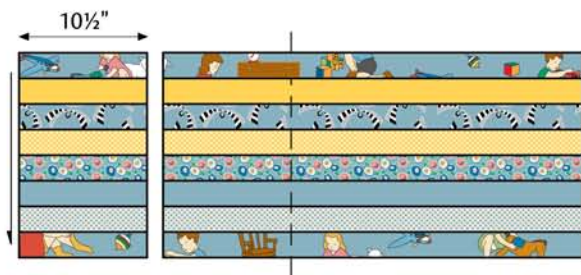
3. Sew a black $1\frac{1}{2}$ " x $26\frac{1}{2}$ " strip between two off-white 2 " x $26\frac{1}{2}$ " strips. Press the seam allowances toward the black strip. Repeat to make a total of 12 sashing/border strip sets.



Make 12.

Making the Blocks

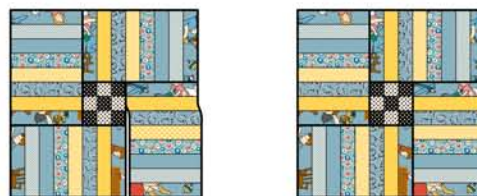
1. Sew together six light blue and two yellow precut $2\frac{1}{2}$ "-wide strips along the long edges to make a strip set. Press the seam allowances open or to one side. Cut the strip set into four segments, $10\frac{1}{2}$ " wide. Repeat with the red, blue, and green precut $2\frac{1}{2}$ "-wide strips. Set aside the remaining blue and red strips for the binding.



2. Sew a light blue segment to the right side of a nine-patch unit, stopping the seam halfway down the unit. You will complete this portion of the seam later. Press this seam allowance and all the remaining block seam allowances toward the strip-set segments as you go.
3. Sew the remaining light blue segments to the top of the nine-patch unit, followed by the left side, and



then the bottom of the unit. Sew the unfinished seam from step 2.



4. Repeat steps 2 and 3 with the red, green, and blue strip-set segments to make one red block, one green block, and one blue block.

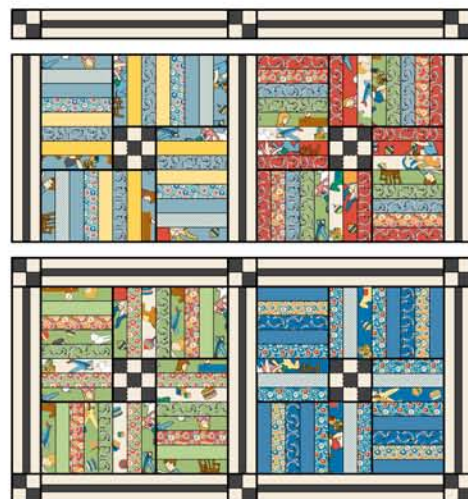
Assembling the Quilt Top

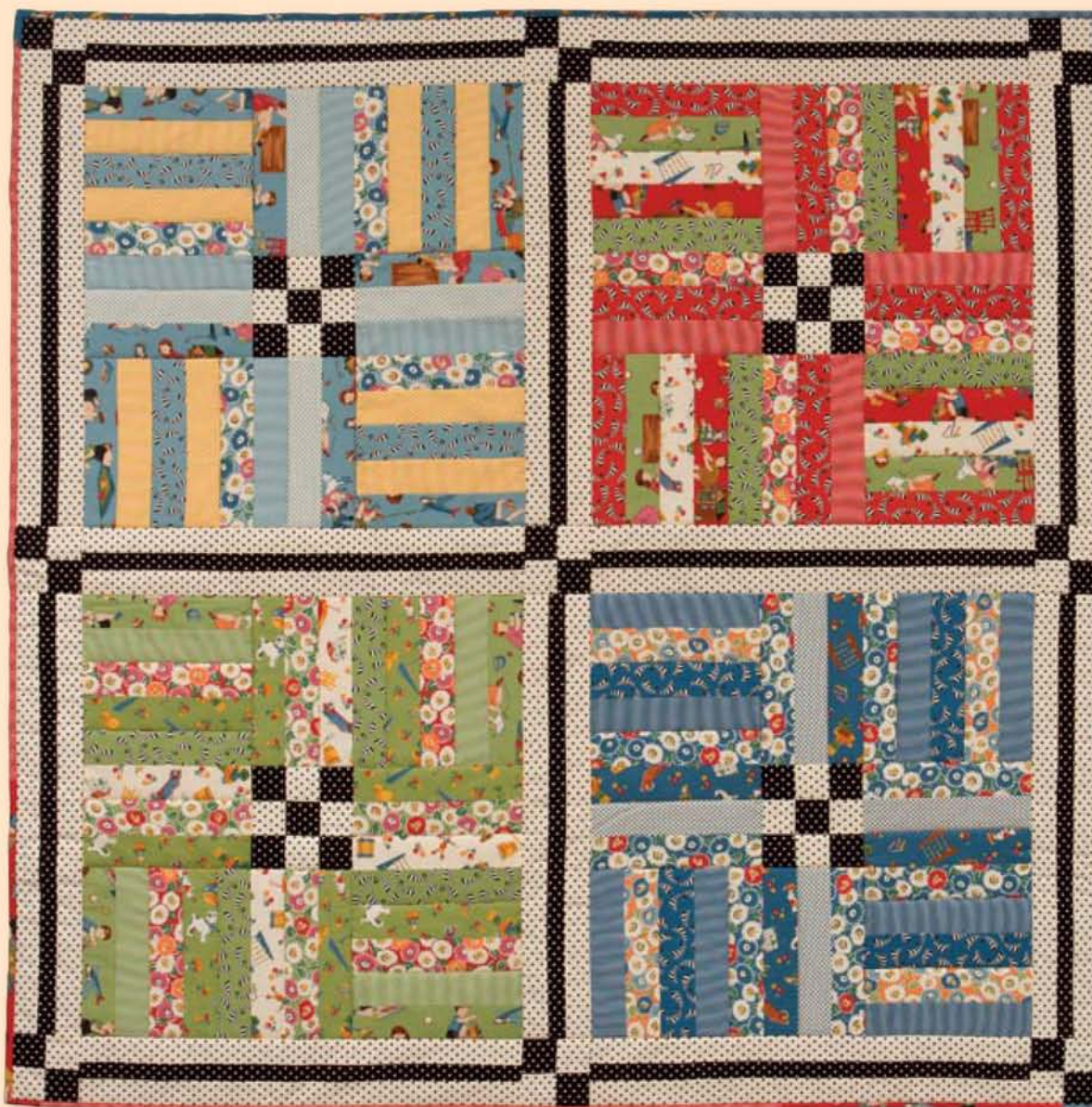
1. Join three four-patch units with two sashing/border strip sets. Repeat to make a total of three pieced sashing/border strips.



Make 3.

2. Join three of the remaining border/sashing strip sets and two blocks to make a block row. Press the seam allowances toward the strip sets. Repeat to make a second block row. Join the block rows and the pieced sashing/border strips.





Finished Quilt Size: 64½" x 64½"

Finished Block Size: 26" x 26"

Finishing

1. Piece the quilt backing so that it is 4" to 6" larger than your quilt top.
2. Layer the quilt top with batting and backing, and baste the layers together.
3. Quilt as desired.
4. Sew the remaining red precut 2½"-wide strips

together end to end. Add the remaining blue precut 2½"-wide strips to the end of the red strips to make a scrappy binding. Attach the binding to your quilt, using your favorite method.

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