

How to Make ABC Quilts

(suggested method for the quilts we donate to babies and small children)

The technique described here is sometimes called “pillow-casing.” It is quick and simple and does not require any hand-sewing. Our goal is to donate a number of quilts at least equal to the number of guild members each year.

1. Decide on a size for your quilt- a typical back is 36” x 45” but some are different so measure the backing fabric first to see what your options are. (A typical quilt size is 36” x 36” so you may be able to cut a strip off your backing fabric and incorporate it into your top.)
2. Use the “ABC starters” provided plus fabric from your stash or from ABC donations to design and make your quilt top. It can be as simple or complicated as you like. This is a great time to play with new block designs, try new techniques, or just use up scraps.
3. Lay out the batting (if it’s very wrinkled you can pop it in a clothes dryer for a few minutes) and lay the ironed backing fabric on it, RIGHT SIDE UP.
4. Lay out the top, RIGHT SIDE DOWN, on the backing and pin all around the edges.
5. Sew ¼” to ½” in from the edge of the top, all around, leaving a gap of about 10” unsewn.
6. Trim all layers close to the line of stitching. CHECK THAT ALL PINS ARE REMOVED. Then turn the quilt right side out.
7. Topstitch about ¼” in from the edge, all around the quilt- turn the gap’s open edges in and be sure the edges are caught in the line of stitching. (Some people like to press the raw edges inward first, to make this easier.)
8. Finish with embroidery-thread ties, or simple machine or hand quilting. If tying, be sure to cut the ends quite short- don’t want them to wind around little fingers or toes!

Remember our unofficial slogan: THE BABY WILL LOVE IT! And have fun.

Kate Haller 9/14/18

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