

Flowerpot Quilt

This gorgeous quilt is sure to become a treasured heirloom that will stand the test of time. There are nine flowerpot blocks, all made the same way, except that the pot fabrics vary. The appliqué technique uses paper pieces as patterns. Some of the appliqué motifs are fussy cut to feature specific areas of the fabrics, which creates a charming realism to the quilt. The appearance of a bunting edging is created from simple flying geese units, while a fresh blue and white striped background ties everything together. Red striped sashing adds a pretty contrast. Note that Fabrics 4, 5, 6, 7, 13, 14 and 15 need to be fussy cut, so extra fabric has been allowed for this.

Materials (Updated April 1st 2020)

- Fabric 1: 3½yd (3.2m) Cookie Stripe blue (130062)
- Fabric 2: ³/₄yd (75cm) Apple Cake Stripe red (130068)
- Fabric 3: 3/4yd (75cm) Solid lupine (120013)
- Fabric 4: fat quarter (*not* a long quarter) Hare Tile blue (100241)
- Fabric 5: 3/8 yd (40cm) Flowerleaf blue (100242)
- Fabric 6: 3/8yd (40cm) Ringflower blue (100243)
- Fabric 7: 3/8yd (40cm) Flowerleaf sand (100245)
- Fabric 8: \(\frac{1}{4}yd \) (25cm) Lilit blue (100246)
- Fabric 9: \(\frac{1}{4}\text{yd} \) (25cm) Paperflower blue (100247)
- Fabric 10: \(\frac{1}{8} \text{yd (15cm)} \text{Lilit teal (100248)} \)
- Fabric 11: ¹/₄yd (25cm) Allison blue (100249)
- Fabric 12: \(\frac{1}{8} \)yd (15cm) Elsie blue (100250)
- Fabric 13: 3/8 yd (40cm) Ringflower red (100251)
- Fabric 14: 3/8yd (40cm) Flowerleaf red (100253)
- Fabric 15: fat quarter (*not* a long quarter) Hare Tile red (100255)
- Fabric 16: 5/8 yd (60cm) Allison red (100256)
- Fabric 17: ¼yd (25cm) Lilit red (100258)
- Fabric 18: \(\frac{1}{4}\text{yd} \) (25cm) Elsie red (100259)
- Fabric 19: ¹/₄yd (25cm) Paperflower red (100260)
- Wadding (batting) 69in x 83in (175cm x 211cm)
- Backing fabric: 2yds (1.8m) Luna blue (150002) 108in (274cm) wide fabric
- Binding fabric ½yd (50cm) Lilit blue (100246)
- Thick paper for appliqué patterns (slightly glossy paper is useful)
- Sheet of clear plastic (or template plastic) for fussy cut patterns
- Fabric glue for paper piece appliqué
- Erasable marker
- Spray starch (optional)
- Tweezers
- Piecing and quilting threads, plus sewing threads to match appliqué fabric colours
- Quilter's ruler, rotary cutter and mat

Fabric Note

Where a long eighth or long quarter of a yard is given in the Materials list you could use fat eighths and fat quarters instead (unless otherwise stated). A fat eighth is assumed to be approximately 10½ in x 18in (26.7cm x 45.7cm) and a fat quarter approximately 21in x 18in (53.3cm x 45.7cm).

Finished Size

60½ in x 74½ in (153.7cm x 189.2cm) after binding

Notes

- Fabric quantities given are based on a usable width of 42in (107cm).
- Measurements are in imperial inches with metric conversions in brackets use only *one* system throughout (preferably inches).
- Press all fabrics before cutting.
- Use ¼in (6mm) seams unless otherwise instructed.
- Check all patterns being used have been printed out full size.
- Read all the instructions through before you start.

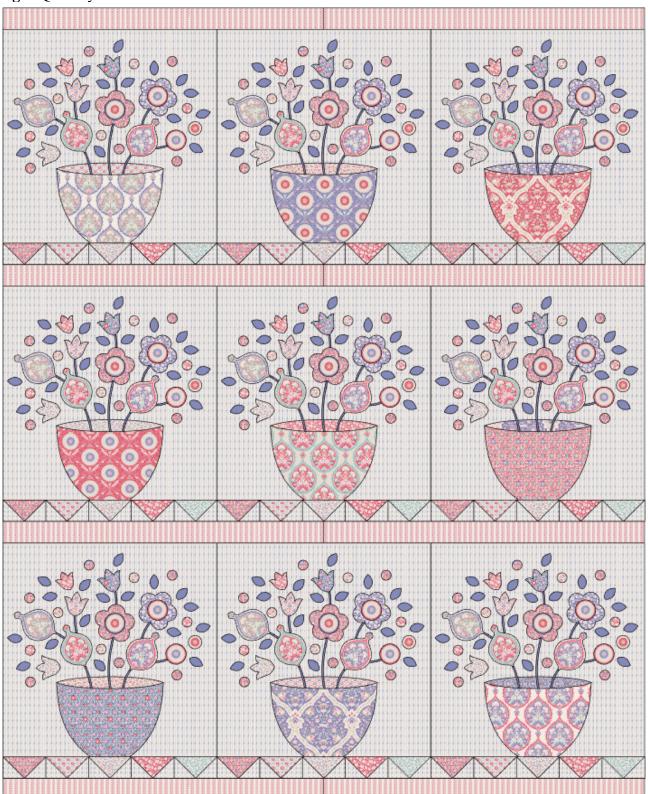
Quilt Layout

1 The quilt is made up of nine appliqué blocks. The appliqué pieces are all the same, except for the flowerpot and the inner pot, where the fabrics vary in each block. The bottom of each block is edged with a flying geese row, to resemble bunting. Horizontal sashing is used between the blocks and at the top and bottom of the quilt. See **Fig A** for the fabrics used and **Fig B** for the quilt layout.

Fig A Fabric swatches (for quilt)



Fig B Quilt layout



Cutting Out

2 The nine blocks are cut out and made the same way. Fig C shows the fabrics needed for a block and Fig D the flowerpot fabrics. Fabrics for the flying geese units are shown in Fig E.

3 For the background of each block cut a 21in (53.3cm) square of Fabric 1 (you need to cut two squares per width of fabric, so take care to measure carefully). Cut nine squares in total. Once cut, on each square turn over the edge of the fabric all round by about ¼in (6mm) and tack (baste) in place. This will protect the edge from fraying as you work the appliqué. The tacking will be removed later, after all the shapes are sewn in place, and the squares trimmed down. Set aside the background squares until later.

4 The cutting for the appliqué shapes is described in Making a Block, below.

5 For the flying geese units cut the following pieces.

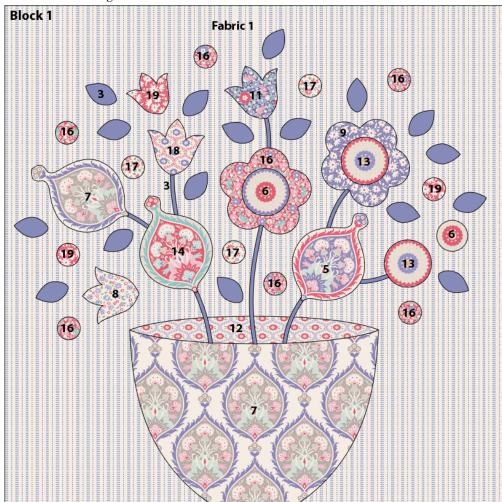
- From Fabric 1 cut ninety 2½in (6.4cm) squares.
- From each of Fabrics 16, 12, 8, 19 and 10 cut nine 4½ in x 2½ in (11.4cm x 6.4cm).

6 From Fabric 2, for the horizontal sashing, cut eight strips each 30½ in x 2½ in (77.5cm x 6.4cm). Join the strips together in pairs, so you have four long strips.

7 Cut the backing fabric into a piece 69in x 83in (175cm x 211cm).

8 Cut the binding fabric into seven strips $2\frac{1}{2}$ in (6.4cm) x width of fabric. Sew them together end to end and press seams open. Press in half along the length, wrong sides together.

Fig C Fabrics used for the appliqué Numbers refer to Fig A



Block 1 Block 2 Block 3 12 17 15 Block 4 Block 5 Block 6 19 8 4 14 16 Block 7 Block 8 Block 9 17 18 11

Fig D Fabrics used for the flowerpot appliqués

Fig E Fabrics used for the flying geese units Nine of each unit will be needed



Making a Block

9 The appliqué is worked using pre-cut paper shapes. The patterns are provided full size and they are also shown at reduced size in **Fig F**. Most of the shapes can be cut from the fabric as normal (with a seam allowance added all round), but other shapes need to be fussy cut, to feature specific motifs. Follow the instructions with the patterns to cut the number of shapes needed from glossy paper. For the fussy cut shapes, also cut the shape once from clear plastic, so you can position this on the fabric to cut the correct motif. **Fig G** shows the shapes needed for the quilt, and the numbers that need to be prepared. Specific advice is given below on cutting out the shapes.

Seedhead

Large Flower

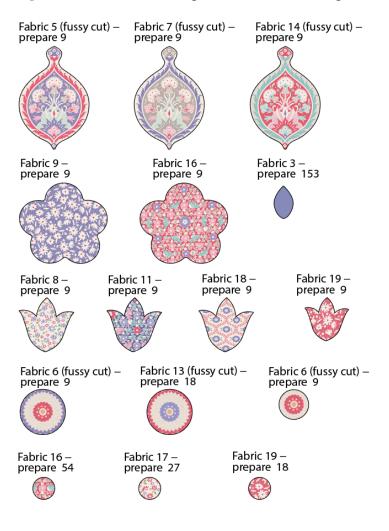
Small Flower

Large Circle Medium Circle Small Circle Leaf

Flowerpot Inner

Fig F The appliqué shapes needed (not to scale)

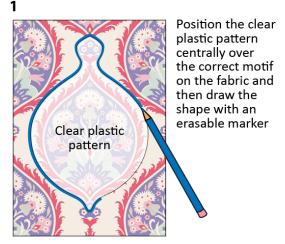
Fig G Total numbers of shapes needed for whole quilt



10 Fussy cutting a shape: The flowerpot base, the seedhead shapes and the large and medium circles need to be fussy cut. Fig H shows in detail how this should be done using an example of a seedhead shape. Place the clear plastic shape over the correct motif on the fabric and mark around the edge with an erasable marker, as in Fig H 1. Now mark the seam allowance with a pencil (you can do this by eye) (Fig H 2). The shape can now be cut out along the outer pencilled line. (You may find it easier to initially cut the pieces out as rectangles, as shown.) Repeat this marking process as needed on the fabric. Fig I shows what the piece of Fabric 5 might look like when all the shapes have been marked on it.

11 Follow Fig G to cut all of the shapes needed. They should all have seam allowances at this stage (not shown in the diagram). Cut the flowerpot and the pot inner pieces as well. The shapes are ready now to be prepared.

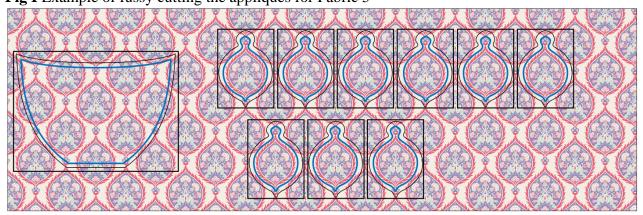
Fig H Fussy cutting a shape





Fabric piece marked and ready for cutting out with seam allowance and then appliqué preparation

Fig I Example of fussy cutting the appliqués for Fabric 5



12 Preparing the appliqués: Take a fabric shape that's been cut out with a seam allowance, turn the shape to the wrong side and use a tiny bit of fabric glue to fix a paper pattern in the centre of the shape (or pin it in place) – see Fig J 1. Cut small snips in the seam allowance around the shape, as shown, but do not cut right up to the marked line. (You can cut more snips if needed as you form the appliqué shape.) Spread a little glue round the edge of the paper pattern and begin to fold the seam allowance over onto the paper (Fig J 2). Repeat all around the shape, following the shape of the paper smoothly (Figs J 3 and J 4). You can trim the seam allowance down to ½ in (3mm) if this is easier. Press the seam firmly into place,

using a little spray starch if desired, to give a crisp, firm edge (**Fig J 5**). The paper is removed later (instructions will be given). The appliqué preparation process is shown again for a fussy cut motif in **Fig K**.

13 Continue in this way to prepare all of the appliqué pieces using this paper method.

Fig J Preparing the shapes with paper piece appliqué

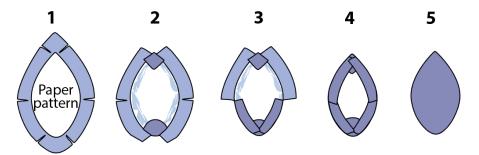
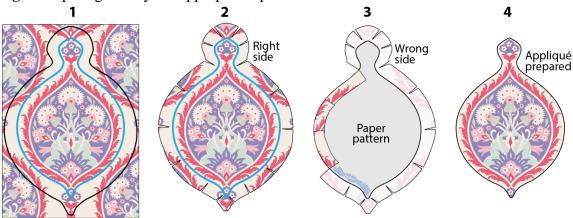


Fig K Preparing a fussy cut appliqué shape



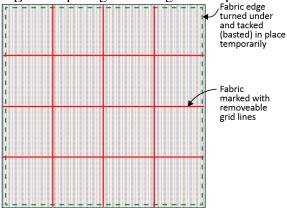
14 Preparing the stems: Cut a strip of Fabric 3 for the stems ½in (1.3cm) wide by about 30in (76.2cm) long – this is long enough for the stems in one block. Fold both long edges in towards the middle, so the stem is just over ½in (4mm) wide, and press, using a little spray starch to give a firm edge (**Fig L**). This long strip will be cut into shorter pieces once you begin placing the appliqués on the background. Make nine strips like this in total.

Fig L Preparing the stems



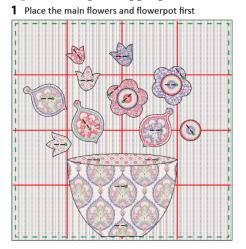
15 Positioning the appliqués: Take a hemmed background square, fold it into quarters, press lightly and use an erasable marker to mark the lines. Add further lines halfway between these lines, as shown in **Fig M**. These grid lines will help you place the appliqués. Remove them when the work is complete.

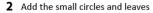
Fig M Preparing the background square

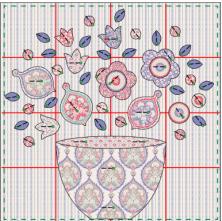


16 Following the stages of **Fig N**, begin to place the appliqués, pinning them into position. Begin with the large shapes, using the grid lines to guide you (**Fig N 1**). Add the large circles in the centre of the large flowers where needed. Move on to the smaller circles and leaves (**Fig N 2**). Finally, add the stems. These need to be cut to size from the long length you have prepared, allowing at least $\frac{1}{4}$ in (6mm) extra at each end (see **Fig N 3**). When placing the stem pieces, curve them slightly and tuck the extra lengths under other appliqués (**Fig N 4**). When happy with all positions, use a little glue to fix the shapes in place, removing the pins, which will make sewing easier.

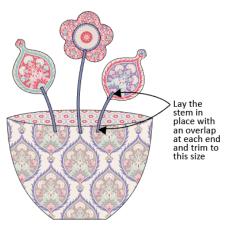
Fig N Placing the appliqués



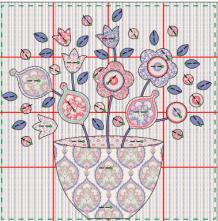




3 Cut the stems longer than needed



4 Add the stems, tucking ends under the appliqués



- 17 Now sew the appliqués to the background fabric with tiny stitches around the edges, matching the sewing thread to the fabric if needed. Try not to sew through the paper shapes within the appliqués.
- **18** When all the shapes are sewn in place remove the paper shapes. To do this, from the *back* of the background fabric cut through the fabric *only* behind each appliqué and then coax out the paper pieces, using tweezers if needed. Press the work. If the cut edges on the back don't sit smoothly, fix them to the middle of the appliqué with a little glue.
- 19 Remove the hem tacking (basting) on the background square, press the whole square flat and then trim it down to 20½ in (52cm) square, making sure you leave a ¼ in (6mm) seam allowance at the bottom of the flowerpot.
- **20** Repeat this whole process to make eight more blocks, changing the flowerpot colours as needed. When finished, remove all marking lines from your work.

Making the Flying Geese Units

- 21 The flying geese units are made in rows of five units. Each unit has corners of Fabric 1, with the middle rectangle using Fabrics 16, 12, 8, 19 and 10. Fig O shows the process. Place a 2½in (6.4cm) square of Fabric 1 right sides together with the left-hand edge of a 4½in x 2½in (11.4cm x 6.4cm) rectangle of print fabric (Fabric 16 is shown in the diagram). Note that the stripes of the fabric need to be *horizontal* at this stage. Mark the diagonal line on the square, as shown, and then sew along the line. Trim excess fabric ¼in (6mm) away from the sewn line and press the triangle outwards. You will see that the fabric stripes are now vertical. Repeat this with a second square on the right-hand side of the rectangle, again, with the stripes horizontal. Sew, trim and press, as before. Check the unit is 4½in x 2½in (11.4cm x 6.4cm).
- **22** Repeat this process to make four more units using Fabrics 12, 8, 19 and 10 respectively. Now sew the five units together, as shown in **Fig P**. Continue in this way to make nine units like this in total.

Fig O Making a flying geese unit

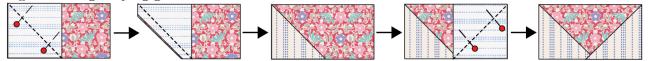


Fig P Sewing flying geese units together

Make 9



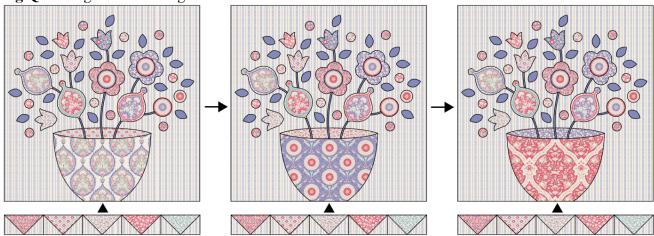
Assembling the Quilt

23 Take your nine appliqué blocks and lay them out in the order shown in the quilt layout Fig B. Take the nine flying geese strips and sew one to the bottom of each block (making sure you place them the correct way round) and then press the seam. Now sew the three blocks

together and press. Fig Q shows the first three blocks of the quilt. Repeat this to sew the other block rows of the quilt.

24 Now position the Fabric 2 sashing strips as shown in **Fig B** – under the flying geese and also at the top of the quilt – and sew these in place to finish the quilt top.

Fig Q Sewing the blocks together



Quilting and Finishing

25 If you are quilting the quilt yourself you now need to make a quilt sandwich – you can do this in various ways, as follows.

- Use large stitches to tack a grid through the layers of the quilt in both directions, with lines about 4in (10cm) apart.
- Use pins or safety pins to fix the layers together.
- Use fabric glue, sprayed onto the wadding to fix the layers together.

If you are sending the quilt off to be commercially long-arm quilted you won't need to make a sandwich, as this is done when the quilt is mounted on the machine. When the layers of the quilt are secured you can quilt as desired.

26 Use the prepared double-fold binding strip to bind your quilt. Sew the binding to the quilt by pinning the raw edge of the folded binding against the raw edge of the quilt. Don't start at a corner. Using a ¼in (6mm) seam, sew the binding in place, starting at least 6in (15.2cm) away from the end of the binding. Sew to within a ¼in (6mm) of a corner and stop. Take the quilt off the machine and fold the binding upwards, creating a mitred corner. Hold this in place, fold the binding back down and pin it in place. Begin sewing the ¼in (6mm) seam again from the top of the folded binding to within ¼in (6mm) of the next corner and then repeat the folding process. Do this on all corners. Leave a 6in (15.2cm) 'tail' of unsewn binding at the end.

27 To join the two ends of the binding, open up the beginning and end of the binding tails, lay them flat and fold the ends back so the two ends touch. Mark these folds by creasing or with pins – this is where your seam needs to be. Open out the binding and sew the pieces together at these creases. Trim off excess fabric and press the seam. Re-fold the binding and finish stitching it in place on the front of the quilt.

28 With the quilt right side up, use a medium-hot iron to press the binding outwards all round. Now begin to turn the binding over to the back of the quilt, pinning it in place. Use

matching sewing thread and tiny stitches to slipstitch the binding in place all round, creating neat mitres at each corner. Press the binding and your beautiful quilt is finished.

Seam allowances not included Flowerpot Appliqué Patterns (full size)

