

The 6G Quilt
Designed by Sarah Fielke



Finished quilt size: 170cm x 205cm (68" x 82")
King Single

Material Requirements:

15cm (6") each of 8 different red fabrics for the four patches and sashing squares

30cm (12") each of 8 blue fabrics for the four patches and the star backgrounds

15cm (6") each of 30 patterned fabrics for the stars, or scrap

1.1m (44") blue patterned fabric for sashing

70cm (28") striped fabric for binding

3.8m (4 1/2yd) backing fabric

1.9m x 2.25m piece cotton wadding

Cotton thread for piecing

Rotary cutter, mat and 24" patchwork ruler

Sewing machine

General sewing supplies

** Note: If you are making this quilt with children, take a little more time in the preparation. I cut all the shapes myself, and I also drew a 1/4" sewing line around each shape with a 2B pencil on the back of the fabric. This meant that all the children could begin sewing, they all had a guide on which to sew and all of the pieces were exact before we started! It's much harder to fix cutting than it is to fix sewing. If you are working with older children who are able to use a rotary cutter, I would still recommend getting extra meterage of the fabric to combat mistakes.

If you are going to rule the seam allowances on, make sure that you rule the diagonal seams on the triangles BEFORE you cut the squares in half - otherwise ruling along the diagonal cut in the fabric will stretch the bias.

Cutting:

From each of the red fabrics, cut

- 2 strips, 2 1/2". Cross cut these strips into 2 1/2" squares. You should have a total of 280 red 2 1/2" squares.

From each of the blue fabrics, cut

- Two strips, 2 1/2". Cross cut these strips into 2 1/2" squares until you have 240 blue 2 1/2" squares.
- One strip, 4 7/8". Cross cut these strips into 60 squares 4 7/8". Cut each square across one diagonal to yield 120 half square triangles.

From each of the star fabrics, cut

- one square, 4 1/2". You should have a total of 30 squares
- Two squares, 4 7/8". Cross cut these squares across one diagonal to yield 4 squares 4 7/8". You should have a total of 120 half square triangles

From the sashing fabric, cut

- Seventeen strips, 2 1/2". Cross cut these strips into 49 pieces 12 1/2" x 2 1/2".

From the binding fabric, cut

- Nine strips, 3". Set aside for binding.

Sewing:

Stars:

Reserving 20 red squares for the sashing, sew all of the 2 1/2" squares together into pair of one red and one blue square. Press all of the seams towards the red squares.

Sew the pairs together to form a four patch, turning the pairs to alternate the colours like a checkerboard. Make 30 four patches. Press.

To make one star, take the four half square triangles from one of the patterned fabrics and four blue half square triangles. Sew along the diagonal seam and press the seam towards the patterned fabric. Clip the ears from the triangles off to form a neat square. Repeat until you have four squares.

Referring to the picture for placement, sew together a four patch, a half square triangle square and another four patch into a row. Make sure that the red squares and the diagonal on the triangle are pointing the right direction.

Sew the next row on the block together by joining a half square triangle square, the centre square of the star (4 1/2" square) and another half square triangle square. Again check the direction of the triangle diagonal.

Sew the last row in the block together as for the first row, checking positioning. Sew all three rows together, taking care to match the seams as you go. Press.

Repeat these steps to make 30 blocks.

Assembly:

Lay the blocks out in six rows of five blocks and move them around until you are happy with the placement of the colours.

Sew together the blocks for Row 1, separating each block with a sashing strip. The row should read:

block, sash, block, sash, block, sash, block, sash, block

Press the seams towards the sashing strips.

Repeat with the other rows, marking each row with a number so you don't lose track of where they are positioned in the quilt.

Starting with a sashing strip, sew together the alternate sashing rows and the remaining red squares. You should have five rows of five horizontal sashing strips, separated by a red 2 1/2" square. Press.

Now join all the rows together, starting at Row 1 and separating all the rows with a sashing strip. Take care to match the seams.

Press.

Your quilt top is complete.

Finishing:

Cut the backing fabric crosswise in half into two 190cm pieces. Remove the selvages and stitch the pieces together up the middle seam. Press the seam allowance open and press the backing piece carefully.

Using masking tape, tape the backing fabric face down onto the floor or a very large table, smoothing out any creases as you go. Lay the wadding piece onto the backing and the quilt top on the top. Smooth any creases and hand baste the three layers together using large stitches and working from the centre out. The backing and wadding should be larger than the top for ease of quilting, don't be tempted to trim them back.

Sarah had the 6G Quilt machine quilted by Kim Bradley, a professional machine quilter in Sydney who kindly donated her services to help the school.

Join the binding strips you cut using a 45 degree angle into one long strip. Press in half along the width. Sew the raw edges to the top of the quilt with the fold facing towards the centre of the quilt using a walking foot and a half inch seam. Trim the excess backing and wadding level with the edge of the quilt top, turn the binding to the back of the quilt and slip stitch in place using co-ordinating thread.

Sarah Fielke is a quilt and fabric designer, teacher and author. Her latest book, *Material Obsession Two: Shared Inspiration*, is available from her website, www.thelastpiece.net She is the Creative Director of www.sewn.net.au

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