

"Flowers and Flutterbies" - Month 3

This month, you will assemble the quilt and finish it off with the corner flower blocks.



You Will Need:

Plain white fabric

Plain royal blue fabric

Couple of fat quarters of hand-dyed orange-yellow fabric for the centre flowers (have a variety of light and dark tones)

Matching orange-yellow thread for the flowers

Royal blue embroidery floss for flower centres (we used DMC 158)

Five, 19mm ($\frac{3}{4}$ inch) self-cover buttons for the large flowers

Five, 15mm ($\frac{5}{8}$ inch) self-cover buttons for the small flowers

Wadding at least 50 inches square

Backing fabric at least 50 inches square

Cut:

From the white fabric, cut - Two strips measuring 6 inches wide x 13 inches long for the second border

Two strips measuring 6 inches wide x 24 inches long for the second border

Four 8 inch x 8 inch squares for the third border

From the Blue fabric, cut - Two strips each 1 inch wide x 12 inches long for the first border sides

Two strips measuring 1 inch wide x 13 inches long for the first border top and bottom

Two strips 2 ½ inches wide for the fourth border sides (Should be about 39 inches long.)

Two strips 2 ½ inches wide for the fourth border top and bottom (Should be about 43 ½ inches long).

Assembly:

Sew the first blue border to the sides of the flower centre block. Sew the two side strips on first and press, then add the top and bottom border strips.

Add the second (white) border next. Again, sew on the side strips first, then the top and bottom. Press well and finish appliqueing the flower petals that extend onto these outer borders.



We also made a partial flower to go on the inner corner of the third border cornerstones.

As shown, two small petals were appliqueed at the top inner corner of each of the four blocks. Make sure to double check which corner is correct on each block first.

Sew two Flutterbye Dancing Girls border strips to the sides of the centre block panel.

Sew a (correctly positioned) cornerstone to each end of the remaining top and bottom Flutterbye border strips before attaching those strips to the top and bottom of the quilt top. Make sure the feet of the girls point outwards, away from the centre of the quilt.

Finally, add the remaining fourth blue border. Sides first, then top and bottom strips.

Quilting:

Place the backing face down on a large flat surface and tape the edges out flat, then lay the wadding and quilt top right side up over it, smoothing out any wrinkles as you go. Pin or thread-baste the layers together in a four inch grid.

Our quilt was machine quilted, with tighter stippling in the centre block, more relaxed stippling over the inner borders and flower shapes on the cornerstones and around the outer border.

Binding:

We used the same royal blue fabric for binding the quilt.

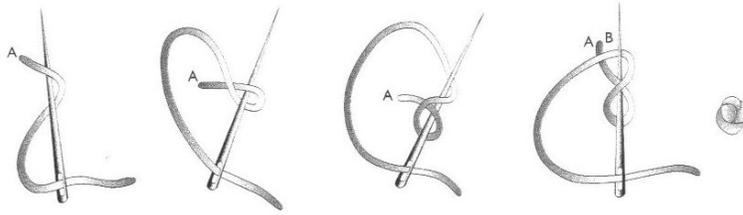
Cut 2 ½ inch wide strips and join them with 45 degree seams. Press the ¼ inch seams open, then fold the strip in half, right sides out and press.

Beginning about halfway along one side of the quilt, join the binding to the edge with a quarter inch seam, mitring each corner as you go. Trim the batting and backing a quarter inch beyond the edge of the quilt top. Turn the folded edge of the binding to the back of the quilt and slip stitch it in place with thread that matches the binding.

Flower Centres:

The last step is to finish the flowers, by adding the button centres. The centres are made of covered buttons in the same shades of fabric as the orange flowers. Each centre has Colonial or French knots stitched in the centre in the royal blue embroidery thread first.

Make a circle of fabric as per the instructions on the self-covered button kits. (We used the larger size buttons for the large flowers, and the smaller size for the smaller flowers.) Cut a circle of batting just the same size as the button top and place it in the centre of the fabric circle. With the batting on the inside, sew through the batting and fabric and work a few colonial knots in two strands of blue thread on each button cover fabric. Then follow the directions on the button kits to finish making the covered buttons.



To make a Colonial Knot, bring the needle up at point A. Tuck the needle under the thread from the right hand side and wrap the thread over, under and cross the thread to wrap it over and under again, to form a figure '8' as illustrated. Put the tip of your needle back into the fabric at point B (as close as possible to point A without going through the same hole), tighten the thread firmly around your needle and hold the knot in place as you push the needle through point B to complete your knot.

Sew the buttons to the flowers in the quilt centre.

The partial flowers on the cornerstones were just covered rounds of batting without the buttons. Make in the same way as you did for the covered buttons, with the stitched blue knots in the centre, and needleturn applique each circle to the corner of the cornerstone blocks to hide the raw edges of the petals.

Label & Hanging Sleeve:

It is important to attach a rod pocket and label to each quilt you make with the date, your name and details like the name of the Quilt and for whom it was made. Labels can be as simple as just writing with a colourfast fabric marker on a square of pale coloured fabric, or you might choose to embroider those details.

Congratulations – You've Finished!

You must be thrilled with your new quilt and we're certain that you will receive many great compliments on your work.

Don't forget to take a photo and email it through to us at info@3dollarquiltbom.com as we'd love to see your finished quilt.

And don't forget, if you haven't already, visit www.3DollarQuiltBom.com again and select your next quilt project so you can get started right away!