

“Rainbow Hearts” Quilt Pattern

This is a bright and happy quilt if you love the rainbow colours, and the plain background also gives plenty of room for some fun negative space quilting too. The woven hearts are easy to make, and give such a great effect.

Although this is a pretty quilt, we like the symbolism too. The hearts are like two hands with interlaced fingers, and the rainbow shares the inclusive nature of love. In short, what’s not to love about this quilt!



This quilt measures approx. 80 x 80 inches.

You Will Need:



14 fat quarters of fabrics in rainbow colours.

We used one plain, and one print for each colourway.

You will need two of each of the following – red, orange, yellow, green, blue, dark purple and violet (lighter) purple.

4¼ metres / 4½ yards plain white fabric for the background

¾ metre / yard fabric for binding. We pieced a rainbow binding from the remainder of our fat quarters.

Fusible webbing for applique. The width you have will determine how much you need. Ours was quite skinny, and we used about 4-5 yards.

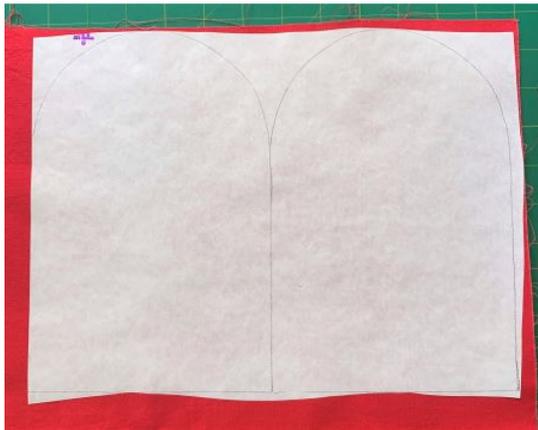
Blue washable fabric marking pen

An applique sheet that you can use to iron your applique pieces on, without them sticking. (We used a Teflon kind of baking sheet for cookie trays.)

Batting measuring at least 90 x 90 inches

Backing Fabric measuring at least 90 x 90 inches

Hearts:



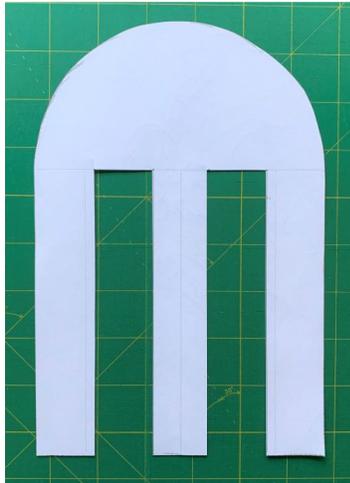
Print the half heart template and cut out shape on the outside lines.

You will need two of these shapes from each of your 14 fabrics.

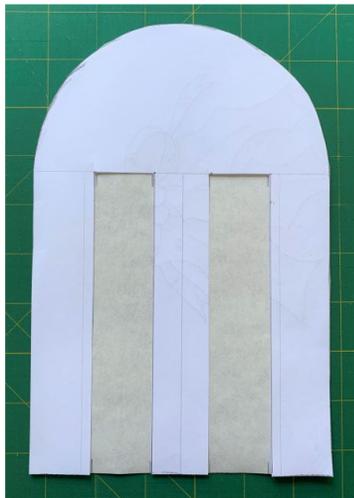
Trace the shape onto the paper backing of your fusible webbing in pairs, and iron each pair onto the wrong side of each different fabric.



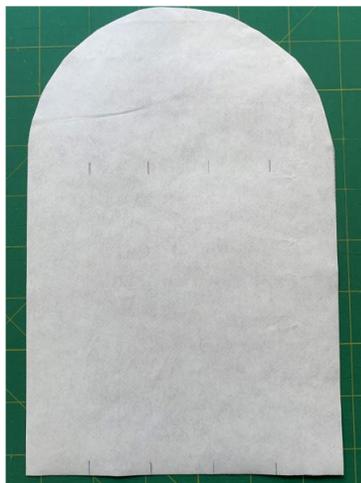
Cut out your shapes.



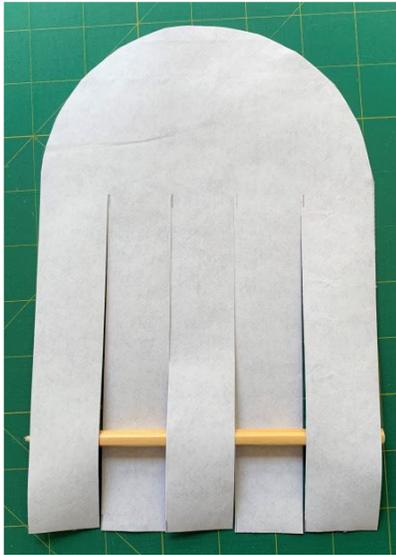
Now cut on the internal lines of your template as shown.



Lay the template over the paper back of each of your shapes to mark the vertical lines.



Just mark the top and bottom of each side with a pencil, as shown.



Use a ruler and your rotary cutter to cut straight lines from the marks, so you have four cuts, and five separate 'fingers' on your half heart shape.

Note – cut just past the top mark of each line by no more than 1/8 inch, as this makes weaving them easier.



Now pair your half hearts up in order.

Refer to the photos for guidance, but the goal is for the colours to blend together well, so you pair up the two reds, then one red and one orange, then both oranges, then one orange and one yellow and so on.

The blending works better if the same fabrics end up 'back to back' with each other, and we paired up one plain with one pattern as well for each heart.



Cross your heart halves as shown.

It doesn't matter which half is on top, but make sure they're all the same, so your woven hearts are consistent.

The two straight edges will line up.



Remove the paper from the back of your heart halves, line them up and start weaving.

Do this on the applique sheet, as you don't want to have to move this when you've finished weaving until it's all stuck together properly.



Keep weaving. Work strip by strip, alternating over and under between rows.



The third row.



Finished weaving.

Note how the green ends don't completely overlap the yellow edge – this needs to be adjusted, so all the edges line up properly. (This is where those little extra cuts help.)

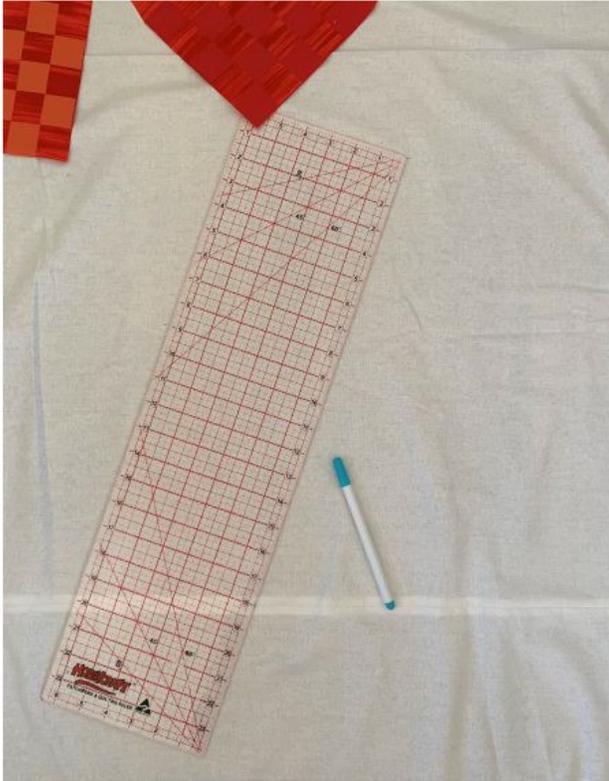
Gently use your finger/nail to ease the woven rows so they sit tightly side by side, and the edges all align.



When you are happy with the weave, use your iron and fuse the woven layers together, to secure them.

When the heart has cooled, carefully peel it off the applique mat and put aside while you make the remainder of the hearts.

Assembly:



As the hearts are applied onto a large pieced plain background, you will need to make this next.

From your white fabric, cut two lengths 80 inches long x the width of fabric.

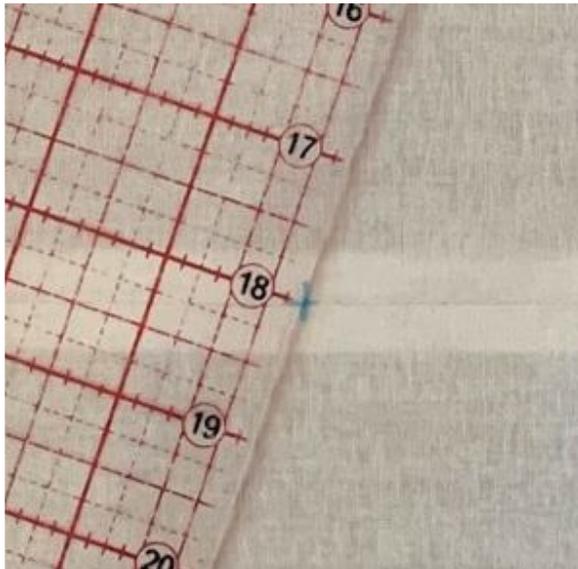
Trim off the selvages, so that each folded length is just over 20 inches wide. This will give you just over a 40 inch width when the fabric is opened out.

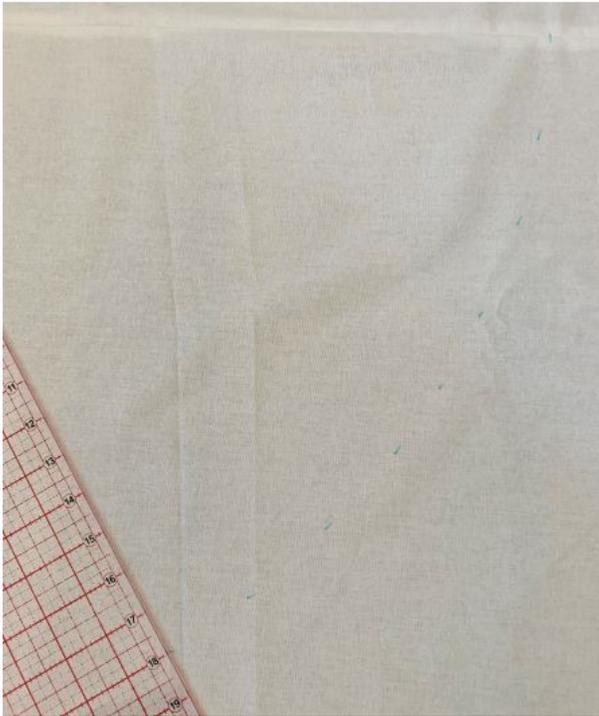
Join the two lengths together lengthways, so you end up with an 8 inch square background.

The 14 hearts are applied in a circle around the centre.

Fold your background into quarters to find the centre of your quilt and mark it with the blue pen.

From this centre point, use your big ruler and mark out 18 inches, making marks as you go, to mark out an accurate circle.





You can just see the marks.

They do not need to be joined in a line, but mark every few inches, so you have a clear idea of where the circle goes.



Now arrange your hearts.

Place the red and red heart at the very top, on the folded vertical 90 degree line. The point of the heart should rest on the dotted circle you marked, and the curve at the top centre of the heart should be on the folded line. Pin in place.

Do the same with the blue/green heart on the bottom vertical line. Again, with the point on the marked circle, and the curved top pointing straight down.

Position and space out three hearts in order in each quarter, between the top/bottom heart and the folded horizontal line.

You will find that once the points are all lined up along your marked circle, that there will be about an inch gap between each heart. Adjust so this gap is even, and pin each heart in place.



Use your iron to fuse each heart in place on the background.

This may take a little while, as there is double webbing where it's woven.

Fuse your hearts in place securely, and you are ready to quilt. (The hearts are quilted and applied at the same time.)

Quilting:

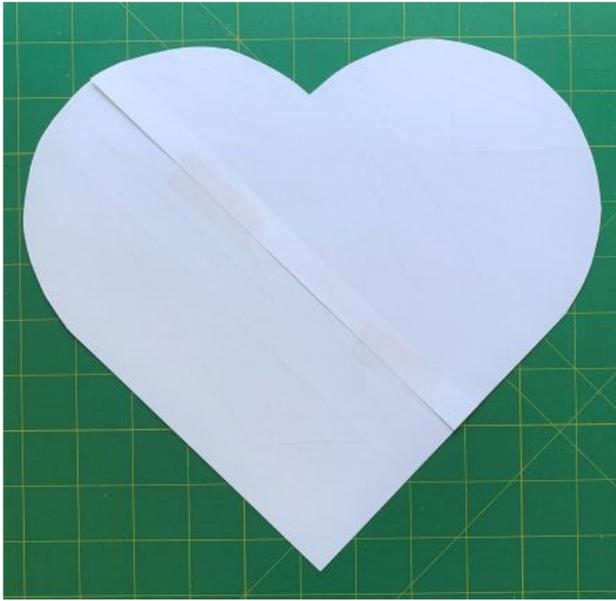
Place your backing fabric face down on a flat surface, then smooth the batting on top.

Put your quilt top on top of that, centred and smoothed flat. Pin the layers together in preparation for quilting.

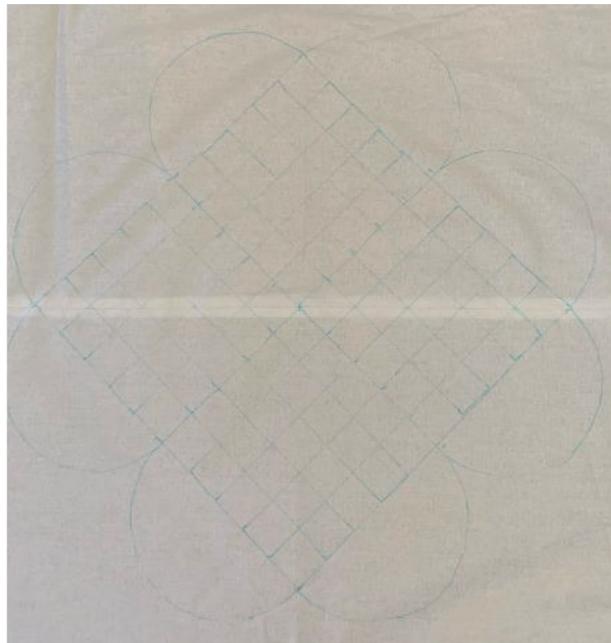


We raw edge quilted our hearts, but you could use a satin stitch or other decorative stitch if you prefer.

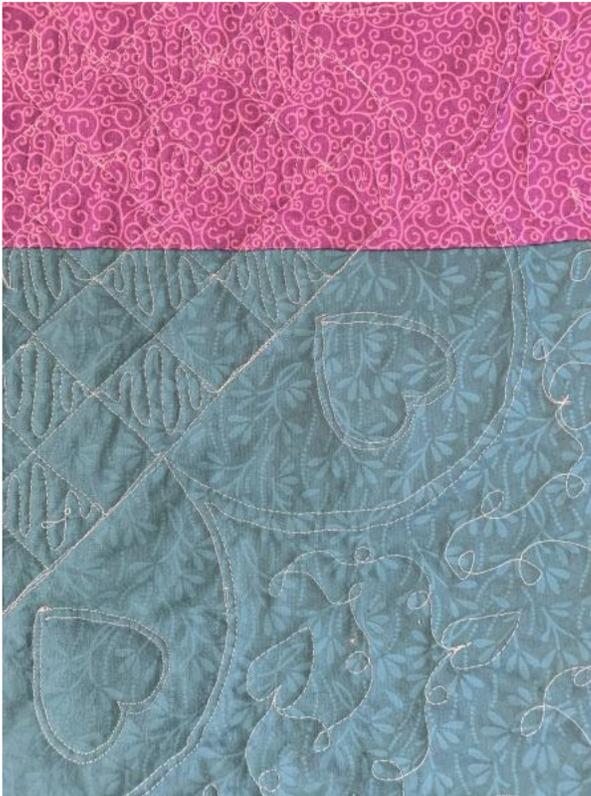
We started at the top centre of the heart and sewed around the outer edge of the heart first, then continued sewing up and down each side of the woven strips, so there was a thin double line of stitching at each horizontal and vertical line of the woven part. We also echo quilted around each heart shape.



We wanted to echo the heart theme in the centre, and use the template to make a heart shape to trace around.



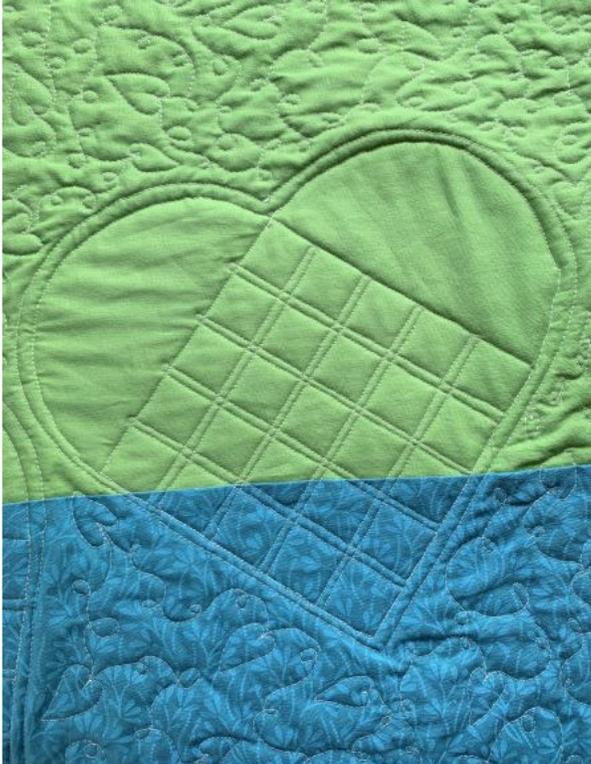
We drew four hearts point to point in the centre, and used the template and our ruler to mark the grid lines as pictured.



We quilted on the marked lines, and filled alternate squares in the centre to make the grid show up more.

We added a quilted small heart in the curve of each of the larger heart shapes.

(This is the back view)



We decided on a simple filler for the background of a meandering loop the loop with small hearts interspersed.

(Image from the back.)

Finishing:

From your binding fabric, cut sufficient 2¼ inch width lengths for your binding and join together with 45 degree seams. We used the left overs from our rainbow fabrics to make a rainbow binding to match the hearts.

Press the ¼ inch seams open, then fold the strip in half, right sides out and press. Join the binding to the right side of the quilt edge with a quarter inch seam, mitring each corner as you go.

Turn the folded edge of the binding to the back and slip stitch it in place with thread that matches the binding to finish.



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[www.OnlineQuiltMagazine.com](http://www.OnlineQuiltMagazine.com) .

There's a Free Monthly Magazine, or upgrade to our Premium Magazine for even more Patterns and Hints and Tips.

And don't forget, if you haven't already, visit [www.3DollarQuiltBOM.com](http://www.3DollarQuiltBOM.com) again and select your next quilt project so you can get started right away!

# Rainbow Hearts Template

