

Rainy Day Satisfaction

Designed by Judy Doenias, NY

Finished quilt before borders: 31 ½" x 42"

Fabric: 1 yard each of two fabrics

Optional border - ½ yard of fabric for borders of 3 ½". If you want borders more than that width, you may need to piece or use longer strips from 1 1/3 yards of fabric.

Optional Piping - four 1" pieces of contrasting fabric (4" WOF)

Backing - 1 ½ yards (and batting)

Prep:

Cut two 8" strips and seven 2" strips from each of the two fabrics.

From the 8" strips, cut six 8" squares.

You can get 4 squares from one strip and 2 from the remaining strip.

Piecing:

To complete each block, take one square from one fabric and a strip from the other fabric. You'll surround the square with the logs made from the strip. DO NOT cut the strip into individual pieces! You will sew the square to the strip and then, using your rotary cutter, trim the strip to the size of the square.

There are TWO ways to do this:

1: Place the strip face up on the bed of the machine; place a square of the border fabric face down on the strip with a small portion of the strip extending beyond the beginning edge of the square. Sew the strip to the square using a ¼" seam allowance. Trim the strip on both ends so that it is the exact size as the square. Press the block with the seam allowance behind the strip. Revolve the block so that the next side is up. Position that side on the strip with a small portion extending over the beginning edge of the block and sew as before. Continue adding and trimming strips until all four sides of the square are surrounded. In this method, you use one strip to surround one square.

2: Judy's preferred quicker method!

Place the strip up face up on the machine and place a square of the other fabric on it as described in (1) above but after you sew the first square on, place the second square on the strip a short distance from the first on end sew that one down. You can place four or five squares on the first strip. After the squares are sewn on, trim the excess off between the strip and press the block as above and continue to sew as many squares to strips as you can, rotating the squares until all the squares are surrounded by strips.

Alternate the blocks and place them into four rows of three blocks each. Sew each row together. Press the seams in each row toward the opposite side of the rows before it. Put two rows together, pinning each intersection before sewing. The finished quilt without borders is 31 ½" x 42".

When fabric is truly 45/46" wide, you can cut borders from selvage to selvage from ½ yard of fabric. Recently, I have discovered that fabric is no longer as wide as it had been and after washing, it does not give you enough fabric in the width to make the side borders. You may need to buy enough fabric to cut the side borders from the length of the fabric (1 1/3 yards) or you can piece the borders. Cut strips of 3 ½" each from border fabric.

Add the side borders first, then the top and bottom. If you want to add piping, you will need to cut four 1" wide pieces from a contrasting fabric. *Fold these strips in half wrong sides together, add to edges as you would borders following with the borders next.

Fussy Cutting:

You may want to isolate motifs and place a different one in each square. Cut the 8" squares out and then cut as many 2" strips from the "swiss cheese" fabric as you can. You will have enough to complete the top.