

Sashing - How to join your quilted blocks

Choose the fabric for your sashing. It does not need to be the same on the top and the bottom of the quilt. If the fabric is a similar colour to the background it will blend in. A contrasting fabric will stand out.

Decide how you want your blocks laid out in your quilt. Take a photo to remind yourself how your blocks are arranged.

1. Trim your quilted blocks to 12.5 inches square. If you have a 12.5 inch square ruler this will help. Centre the ruler over the block by placing the 6 1/4 inch mark at the centre of the block and trim 2 sides. Then repeat to trim the other 2 sides.



The next step is to join the blocks into rows using a sashing strip. Cut the sashing strips at least 12.5 inches long and a generous 1 inch wide (This is about 1 1/16 wide). If your quilt is made up of 9 blocks you will need 12 strips.

2. Add sashing to first block

Place one of the sashing strips right side up underneath the right hand side of one of the blocks and place a second strip right side down on top of the block. Pin the pieces together carefully along the edge of the block and sew a 1/4 inch seam through the 2 sashing pieces and the block.



You now have one block with a sashing strip applied to both the right side and the backing

3. Joining second block

Place first block face down on top of second block. The front sashing strip should be lined up with the edge of the second block and pinned together carefully ensuring that both the top and bottom edges of the blocks line up. Sew a 1/4 inch seam through the front sashing strip and the second block.



When the blocks are laid out flat they should sit neatly with the edges butted together. A 1/4 inch hem can be folded over on the sashing strip on the back of the blocks and hand stitched into place.

Repeat steps 2 and 3 to join the blocks into rows. If required trim any excess fabric from sashing strips so that rows are even and level.

4. Joining the strips together

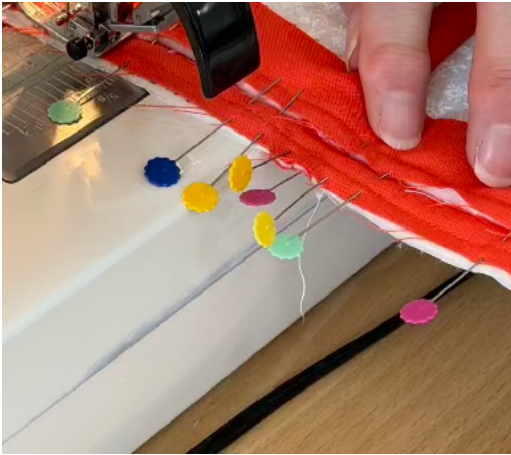
Cut sashing strips. If your quilt is made up of nine 12 inch blocks you will need 4 strips. They will need to be at least 37.5 inches long and a generous 1 inch wide (about 1 1/16 inch). In a similar manner to step 2, place one sashing strip right side up underneath the row and a second strip right side down on top of the row. Pin the pieces together carefully along the edge of the row and sew a 1/4 inch seam through the 2 sashing pieces and the row of 3 blocks.



On the second row of blocks, mark the position of the sashing with long pins. Place the first row of blocks face down on top of the second row of blocks, lining up the sashing of the first row with the pins marking the position of the sashing in the second row. Pin in the centre of the sashing and through the blocks on either side so that nothing will move when the sashing and second row of blocks are sewn together.



Repeat this for the next piece of sashing. Line up the ends of the rows and pin carefully along the row. Sew a 1/4 inch seam along the row in the same way that you sewed the blocks together. When the rows are opened out, the blocks will butt up against each other. A 1/4 inch hem can be folded over and hand stitched into place. The sashing strips should line up on either side of the long joining strip. Any excess sashing can be trimmed off level with the blocks.



The quilt is now ready for binding.