

2020 Mystery Quilt – Step # 6

Congratulations! You are almost finished with the 2020 Mystery Quilt. Here are the directions for the last step - the borders. Please read through all of the directions before you begin. Make sure to cut your pieces accurately and take your time when sewing together with a scant $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam. Choose a fabric (or fabrics) for the border that will allow the applique to show up nicely.

The scrappy applique border was designed to be worked in several parts. Follow the directions below the note.

NOTE: If you prefer to omit the applique and make a plain border for your quilt, cut 2 strips $3\frac{1}{2}$ " x $22\frac{1}{2}$ " for the sides and 2 strips $3\frac{1}{2}$ " x $28\frac{1}{2}$ " for the top and bottom. Sew these onto the Mystery quilt top and you're done. Read the directions below if you want to add your other 3" blocks from the previous steps to the border while omitting the applique part.

Side borders

Cutting

From a light or medium print (or several different prints), cut

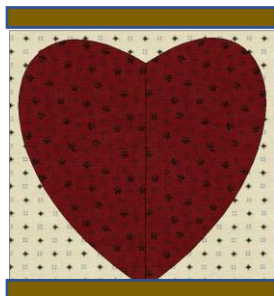
6 squares, $3\frac{1}{2}$ " x $3\frac{1}{2}$ "

From a light, medium or dark print, cut

4 rectangles, 1" x $3\frac{1}{2}$ "

Directions

1. Sew the 1" x $3\frac{1}{2}$ " rectangles to the top and bottom of each of the two 3" heart applique blocks you completed earlier in the Mystery Step # 2. The heart block will measure $3\frac{1}{2}$ " x $4\frac{1}{2}$ " after the strips are sewn on. (3" x 4" finished.)



2. Sew 3 half-square triangles (from Step # 1 of the Mystery quilt) together with one heart block and three plain blocks as shown. Make sure to arrange the half-square triangles as shown below. The placement of the heart blocks and the plain blocks does not matter. The four blocks sewn together need to measure 13 ½" so you are free to move them around to your liking. (Sorry, I am not an expert in EQ and was not able to add the little strips on the heart blocks in this graphic. But they should be there just as you see in the pic above.) Make two pieced border strips and sew these to the sides of the quilt.



Top and Bottom Borders

Cutting

From a light print, cut

2 rectangles, 3 ½" x 13 ½"

Assorted scraps for the applique

The rectangles are for the applique background. You may cut the strip a bit larger and then trim it to **3 ½" x 13 ½"** after your applique is finished. But measure and trim carefully if you do this.

It is your choice as to how you do the applique. There are many different methods and I cannot go into all of them here. Find the one you are the most comfortable using – traditional needle turn, freezer paper, fusible

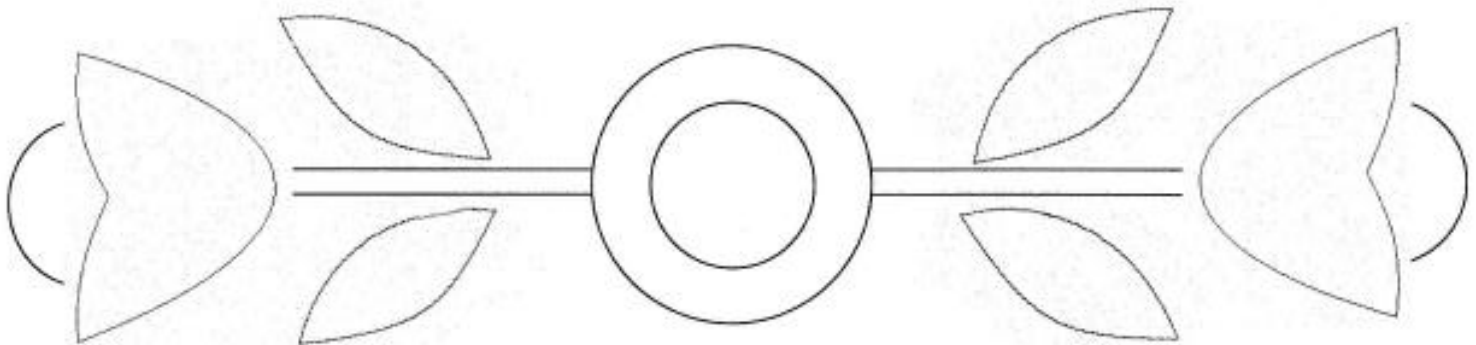
web, wool applique, etc. I prefer to use the starch and heat-resistant plastic template method for mine. You can find directions for this method in my books *A Prairie Journey* or *Small & Scrappy*. Or see the file on applique in the Facebook group files for instructions. You can also find numerous videos on You Tube explaining this technique.

For circles, make a template from the shape. Trace around the circle and cut, adding $\frac{1}{4}$ " all around. Sew a running stitch by hand in the seam allowance all around the circle. Insert the plastic template and pull the thread taut over it. Apply a little bit of starch along the gathered edge. Press and let cool. Remove the template and applique in place.

For stems, I like to use no-melt pressing bars. Cut 2 strips of fabric $1\frac{1}{4}$ " x $8\frac{1}{2}$ ". Fold the strips in half and press, wrong sides together. Stitch $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from edge. Trim seam to $\frac{1}{8}$ ". Then insert a pressing bar and roll the seam to the back of the bar. Press. Remove the bar when it cools. You may prefer to use a $\frac{1}{4}$ " Clover bias tape maker to make the stems. Follow package directions for the tool you are using.

Applique

1. Applique the stems and then the shapes onto the $3\frac{1}{2}$ " x $13\frac{1}{2}$ " light rectangles. Use the diagram below for placement. (This is just for placement - the shapes are not the actual sizes. Use the individual patterns on the page following the directions below.) **Make sure to leave at least $\frac{1}{4}$ " all around the rectangle for the seams.**



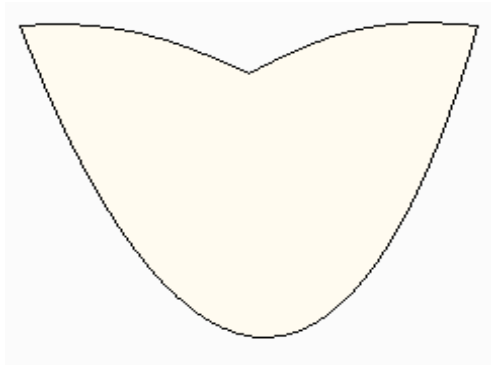
Directions

1. Sew an hourglass block together with the applique strip, three half-squares triangles and the nine-patch block you made in earlier steps. **Make 2 strips.** Sew these to the top and bottom of the quilt.

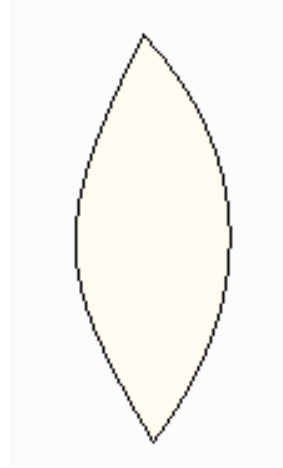
(Ignore the lines between the light squares – these will be the strips with applique.)



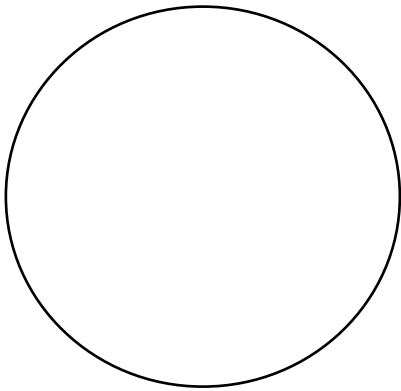
The quilt was designed with an appliqued border and then a simple binding. If you wish to make it larger then you can certainly add another border after this one before you quilt it and add your binding.



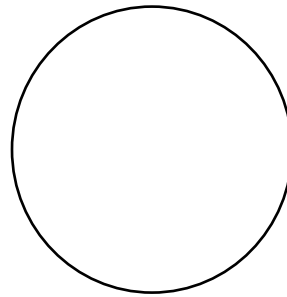
Make 4



Make 8



Make 2



Make 6

