

Schoolgirl Sampler Sew Along

Week 15

Congratulations! If you've made it this far, you're almost there

Adding borders

Choose a coordinating medium or dark fabric for the first inner border and attach it to the quilt top following directions on page 16 of the Schoolgirl Sampler book. Add a light fabric border strip after this (See pp. 16-17).

If you're making the sawtooth border for your quilt, you should have finished 92 scrappy half-square triangles (2 ½"). These will be sewn into four strips of 23 triangle squares each.

The diagram on page 17 of the book is very small so take a look at the larger photo on page 16 and follow the HST placement. Notice that the triangle strips are placed in different directions.

Make two strips that have the points arranged this way -



Sew these to the sides of the quilt.

Make two strips sewn with the points facing to the right -



Add 2 ½" light squares to each end of these two strips and sew these strips to the top and bottom of the quilt following the picture on page 17.

Choose a fabric for the outer border and sew it to the quilt following the directions in the book. If you're having trouble picking a fabric and want to have something similar to the fabric I used in my quilt, shop for a floral border. If you can't get to a quilt shop, search the shops listed in the group files or try calling. I know some of them would be happy to help you select just the right print for your quilt. Or, search online for "reproduction floral fabric" or "Civil War floral fabric." There are all sorts of beautiful prints out there.

For something with an old-fashioned or 19th century appeal, see reproduction fabrics designed by Di Ford (Andover), Betsy Chutchian (Moda), French General (Moda), Collection for a Cause (Howard Marcus, Moda) Christopher Wilson-Tate (Moda), Karen Styles (Marcus) and many others. Take your time and browse through shops in person or online.



I chose a light floral print (Susanna's Scraps, designed by Betsy Chutchian) that I thought would not compete too much with the scrappy blocks. But almost any other color will work too. As long as you pick a fabric you love, your quilt will sparkle. I really love my sampler quilt and I hope all of you love yours too. You should be proud of what you have accomplished in such a short time. And now you and your family will have a quilted "heirloom" to treasure for years.

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