

ST. PATRICK'S SURPRISE!

DESIGNED AND WRITTEN BY BETH LANCASTER

I am of Irish decent and for years on Saint Patrick's Day we all would wear a little green with white and orange. My father would always say the green is for the Catholics, the orange is for the Protestants and the white is for the hope of peace between. So I have a little quilt just for this day!

Please read the entire pattern before cutting. ☺

FABRIC REQUIREMENTS

$\frac{3}{4}$ yard for background

$\frac{1}{4}$ yard orange

$\frac{1}{4}$ yard for Kelly green

Craft size batting

Thread to blend with quilt top

$1 \frac{1}{8}$ yard for backing

$\frac{1}{4}$ yard for binding

(more if you do 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ inch binding)

$\frac{1}{8}$ yard medium green or piglet

$\frac{1}{3}$ yard for border

EMBROIDERY

The embroidery is not included in the pattern, when down loaded. To make the words for the pattern I used a small embroidery machine with a 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ inch area to embroider. I took a 5 by 10 inch piece of fabric and following the instructions of the machine stabilized the fabric and chose my lettering design. I chose cross stitch letters in large. I set the first word at the top of the field and the second word at the bottom of the field. When the words are complete you cut apart the words and center them in a 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ inch by 9 inch piece to be added as a border to your quilt.

COLOR CHOICES

Your color selection for this quilt will vary in backgrounds. This is how I begin my selections:

I pick the centers of my shamrocks first; this requires a medium and dark green. Then the white with shamrocks and a dark contrast or darker print for the cornerstones and final border, add an orange and you have the quilt top. And then the backing and binding.

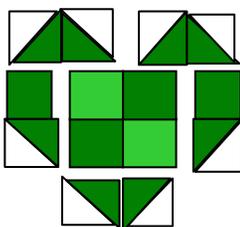
CUTTING

1. Cut 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ inch strips from each of the greens you have chosen for the centers of the hearts.

2. Cut four 2 inch strips of your green and white colors and cut these into 2 inch squares. Mark these diagonally with a pencil and sew a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch seam on each side of the line.
3. Cut the sewn squares apart and press to the dark side. Then square to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches. You will need 8 half square triangle blocks for each heart center. There are four centers to each block. Otherwise use your favorite method of making $\frac{1}{2}$ square triangles.
4. Cut a $2\frac{5}{8}$ inch strip from the white background color, and cut this into $3\frac{3}{4}$ inch pieces. You will need 16 of these.
5. Cut 2 strips of white background at $1\frac{5}{8}$ inches.
6. Cut 3 strips of white background at $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches.
7. Cut the orange for lattice strips at 2 inches.
8. Cut a 2 inch strip of the darkest fabric and cut it into nine 2 inch squares.
9. Cut four $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch squares of orange.
10. Cut a $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch strip of background white and set it aside for now.
11. Cut the embroidered words apart in the strip at center of each word to 9 inch pieces.
12. Cut the darkest contrast for the border in 3 inch strips selvage to selvage.

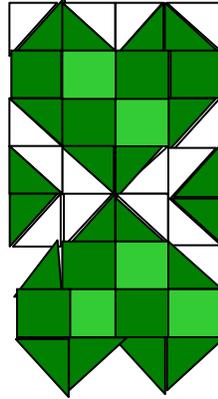
ASSEMBLY

1. Bring to the machine the $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch strips of medium green and Kelly green and right sides together sew $\frac{1}{4}$ inch down one side. Press to the dark side and cut the strips into $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch pieces.
2. Sew the $2\frac{5}{8}$ inch pieces together putting right sides together and medium greens opposite each other. This is the center 4 patch.
3. At this point we put our hearts together. Find your half square triangle blocks and lay them out; putting your 4 patch in the middle. Sew all blocks together according to diagram, leaving the bottom two pieces sewn but separate. This is the center of each section. This diagram shows each section of the heart.

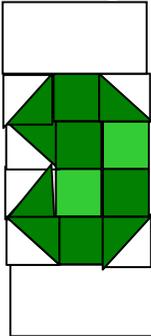


4. We will now need to layout each section of the top so you can sew it together. You can see from the second diagram that two of the heart shapes will touch in the center of the block. But that the side two hearts

do not touch points, there is a white space between. Lay out the blocks so that it looks like the diagram below. Sew the top and bottom hearts together as shown.

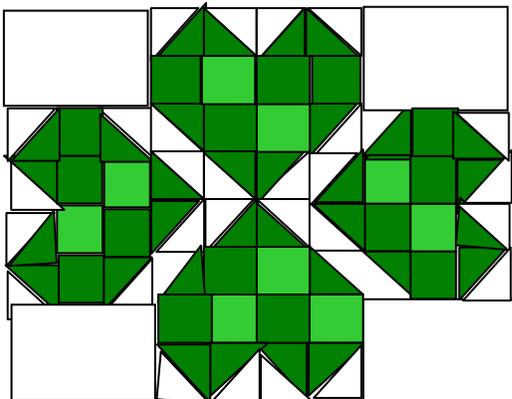


5. Sew the 2 center points at the bottom of each heart first. Then sew a side point to each end of the center. It should have 4 bottom points of the hearts sewn together.
6. Sew the top heart and the bottom heart to each side of the center piece.



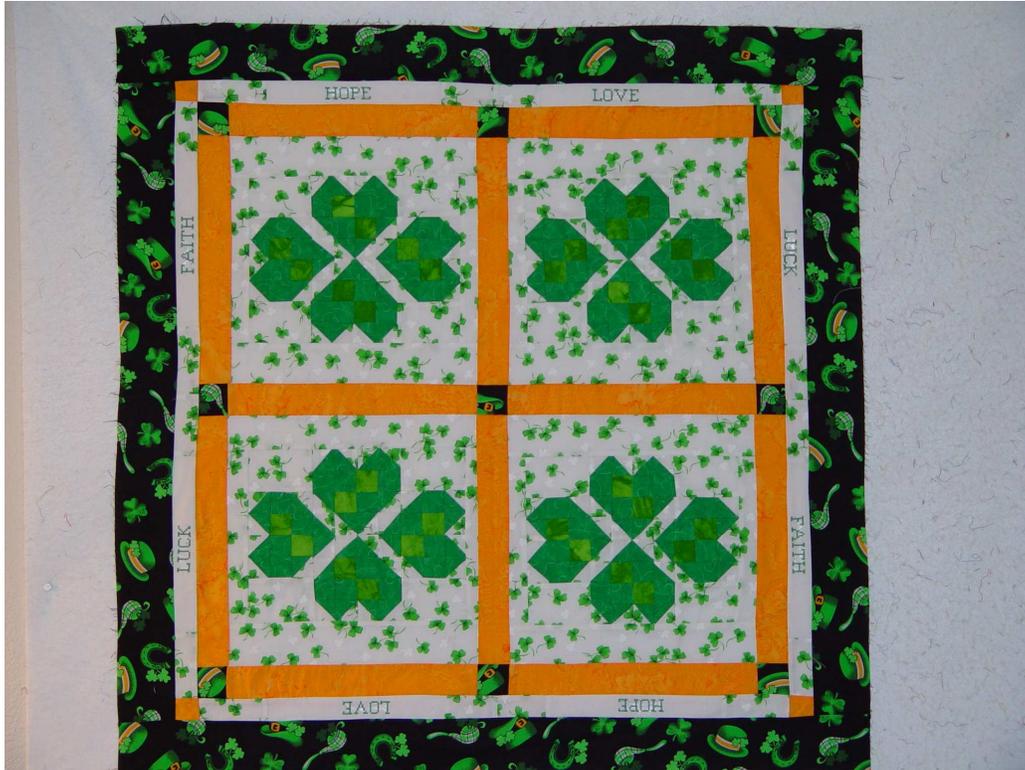
Join the sides to the center after attaching the rectangles.

7. Next sew the $2 \frac{5}{8}$ by $3 \frac{3}{4}$ inch piece of background fabric to the sides of each of the remaining parts of hearts. This should be the same size as the side of the two top and bottom hearts sewn together. Attach these to each side of the center two hearts. Finish size should be $10 \frac{1}{2}$ by $8 \frac{1}{2}$ inch rectangle. *See Diagram*



8. Next sew the $1 \frac{5}{8}$ strips of background fabric to each side of the $8 \frac{1}{2}$ inch side of the rectangle.
9. Sew the $2 \frac{1}{2}$ inch strip of background fabric to the top and bottom of the center rectangle. Square each block to $12 \frac{1}{2}$ inches.
10. Cut four of the 2 inch orange strips at $12 \frac{1}{2}$ inches long. Sew 2 of these in between two of the finished blocks.
11. Cut a 2 inch square of corner stone fabric and sew it to the 2 inch side of two of the orange $12 \frac{1}{2}$ inch strips. This is the center of the top.
12. Sew this set of strips to the block sets. Now you have the center of the quilt, joining all 4 blocks with lattice and cornerstone.
13. Sew the remaining orange $12 \frac{1}{2}$ inch strips to 2 inch cornerstone squares and attach to the sides first and top and bottom of the center last.
14. Sew the words around the outside of this center top and bottom first and sides last. In the order of Love, Luck, Faith and Hope. Sew the $1 \frac{1}{2}$ inch by $6 \frac{1}{4}$ inch background strips to the $1 \frac{1}{2}$ by 9 inch words, separating the words around the perimeter of the quilt top.
15. Sew on the $1 \frac{1}{2}$ inch squares in the corners of the quilt. To make this easier sew the centers of all 4 sides of the quilt from center to end leaving a one inch unsewn edge. Sew the orange square to the end @ $\frac{1}{4}$ inch seam to match points. Once the corner is sewn on, finish the seam that attaches that border.
16. Finally you can sew on the last border, you may choose to miter the corner or just do a straight border. It is your choice.
17. Press your top and cut your batting 2 inches bigger around the top. Cut your backing to fit the batting and make your quilt sandwich, layering the backing then batting and top. Then pin baste, every 4 inches, or the width of the palm. Quilt a meander, shamrocks or stitch in the ditch.
18. Cut two $2 \frac{1}{2}$ strips to make your binding from the border fabric. Sew these together on the diagonal and press the seam open. Press the strips wrong sides together in half. Sew the doubled fabric to edge of your quilt mitering your corners.
19. Trim the fabric from around the quilt. Press the binding to the other side and pin. And hand stitch the binding to the back. Add a Hanging sleeve at this point ($4 \frac{1}{2}$ inches) and your quilt is finished.

MOONLIGHT QUILTS
SAINT PATRICK'S SURPRISE



I hope you like your finished quilt. Happy Saint Patrick's Day to you and Happy Quilting too!

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