

Alternating Squares Baby Quilt

Supplies for project:

1. For best results, use 100% cotton fabric washed in warm water and dried in dryer.
2. 5/8 yard of 2 different fabrics; choose fabrics that have good contrast, so they will stand out. Suggestions: bright contrasting colors with a child's theme print; stars, moons, planets, suns for a celestial theme, stripes for a mock Rail Fence pattern (see Variations). You may also use prints, solids, batiks or a combination of these. In the instructions, they will be labeled as A and B
3. ½ yard for borders, and 1 ¼ for backing. The borders can be the same as the alternating blocks, or another coordinating fabric. You can also use the same fabric for the borders and backing, get 1 ½ yards if you choose this method.
4. Batting of your choice: approx. 36.5" x 42". (a little extra is always good) These instructions will make a completed quilt approx 33.5" x 39", which is a good size for a baby.

Making the Quilt:

1. **Assembly:** Cut 15 6" squares of each fabric: first, cut across the width of fabric, then cut the strips into 6" squares. You will now have a total of 30 squares, 15 of each.
2. Sew rows of 5 squares, and as you assemble the pieces, press towards the darker fabric if possible. You will have 3 rows with ABABA, and 3 with BABAB. For best results use accurate ¼" seam allowances.



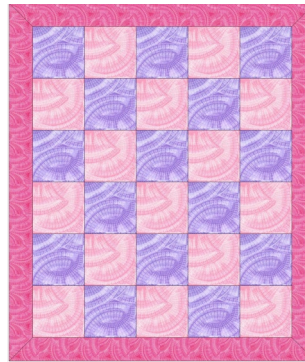
3. Alternate the rows while assembling the quilt top: start by assembling the rows in pairs, matching and pinning at each seam. Then continue by sewing the pairs together.
4. **Borders:** borders are best when cut along the lengthwise grain of the fabric. Once you have all the blocks assembled, press the quilt top, then measure the width across the middle of the quilt. With your chosen border fabric, cut 2 strips 3" wide and the width of the quilt, then pin and sew them on, being careful to not stretch them. Do the same for the top and bottom borders: measure the length, including the borders already sewn on, cut 2 strips 3" wide and the length of the quilt, then pin and sew them on, being careful to not stretch them. Press the entire quilt top again.
5. Measure the width and length including borders, add 2" to each measurement, and cut a piece of backing fabric. For the batting, add 4" to the width and length measurements.
6. **"Pillowcase" style finishing:** make a "quilt sandwich" by laying the front of the quilt face up, then the backing on top of it face down (right sides together), then

the batting on top. As you add each layer, smooth it out so it has no wrinkles. Pin all around the edges with the pinheads toward the outside edge. Gently turn it over, and starting in the center of the lower edge, sew all around the edges of the quilt, using the quilt front as your guide for stitching, leaving an 8" opening for turning.

7. To secure the batting to the quilt, fold the top fabric towards the quilt, and carefully stitch the backing fabric and the batting together, being careful to not stitch into the upper fabric.
8. Carefully trim the corners at a 45° angle, making sure to not clip any threads. After turning it right side out, push the corners out, and flatten the quilt. Press again, if desired. Use a whipstitch or ladder stitch to close the opening.
9. **Quilting:** be sure to carefully pin the entire quilt before starting the quilting with either straight pins or safety pins. There are several ways to quilt the quilt; use any one of them or combine them. Stitch-in-the-ditch along the seams, machine tie with a zigzag stitch and feed dogs down, machine tie with decorative stitches, tie with embroidery floss, do crazy quilt with decorative stitches, or do meandering stitches.

Alternating Squares
(original pattern):

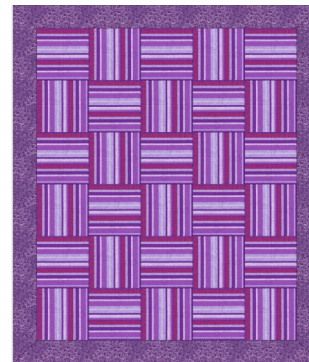
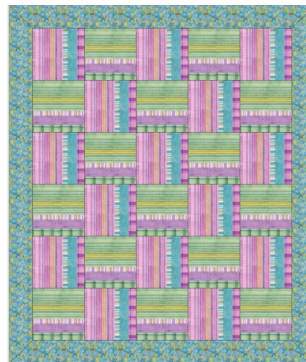
| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | B | A | B | A |
| B | A | B | A | B |
| A | B | A | B | A |
| B | A | B | A | B |
| A | B | A | B | A |
| B | A | B | A | B |



Variations:

1) Mock Rail Fence:
cut 30 6" squares of
striped fabric (shows
direction of the stripes)

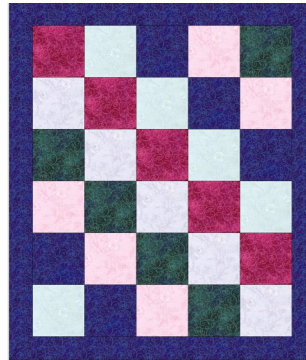
| | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|
| -- | I | -- | I | -- |
| I | - | I | - | I |
| -- | I | -- | I | -- |
| I | -- | I | -- | I |
| -- | I | -- | I | -- |
| I | -- | I | -- | I |



2) Using 6 fabrics, cut 5 6" squares of each one

arrange them diagonally:

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | F | E | D | C |
| B | A | F | E | D |
| C | B | A | F | E |
| D | C | B | A | F |
| E | D | C | B | A |
| F | E | D | C | B |



arrange them in a criss-cross fashion:

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | e | C | f | B |
| e | A | f | C | d |
| B | f | A | d | C |
| f | B | d | A | e |
| C | d | B | e | A |
| d | C | e | B | F |



Arrange your 6 fabrics how ever you want:



3) Using a variety of fabrics, cut 30 6" squares, and make them random:

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | S | X | E | Z |
| T | D | F | G | H |
| J | K | L | O | Y |
| T | E | W | Q | T |
| R | V | C | X | B |
| N | M | Y | U | Z |



4) For a light weight Receiving Blanket, you can use your pieced quilt top, and 1 piece of fabric 34.5" x 40", follow Step 6 & 8, omitting the batting. You can use either the cotton fabric or flannel for the backing.

5) For a very simple light weight Receiving Blanket, use 2 pieces of fabric 34.5" x 40", follow Step 6 & 8, omitting the batting. You can use flannel for one or both fabrics.

6) You can also experiment with color arrangements, and create your own variation! Even with this simple pattern, there will be an abundance of variety between one quilt and the next!