

Staggered Squares Baby Quilt – Part I

Supplies for project:

1. For best results, use 100% cotton fabric, prewashed in warm water and dried in dryer.
2. You will need 6 different fabrics; choose a variety of fabrics, maybe try having a ‘main’ fabric, and choosing others that pull out some of the ‘minor’ colors. Suggestions: assorted colors with a child’s theme print; stars, moons, planets, suns for a celestial theme. You may also use prints, solids, batiks or a combination of these. In the instructions, they will be labeled as A through F.
3. ½ yard for borders, and 1 ¼ for backing. The borders can be the same as one of the fabrics, 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 a 6” wide strip across the width of each fabric, resulting in a total of six 6” x 42” pieces of fabric.
2. Arrange them however you want, then sew them together, so you have 1 piece consisting of 6 strips of fabric; press as you add each piece. Then sew together the first and last piece, so it makes a loop.
3. Next, lay it flat on your cutting board, carefully smoothing it out. Using your 24” ruler, square up the end, making sure to line up the ruler to the seams. Then cut across the fabric, creating a row of 6” squares; repeat until you get 5 strips of six 6” squares.
4. The next part can be tricky: first, cut **through** the seam of one of the strips, lay it out. Pick up another strip, put it next to the first strip, moving it down 1.5 squares. Whichever square is next to the top square, cut it in half, creating a 2.75” piece at both ends of the strip. Move the next strip down 1.5 squares, and whichever square is next to the top square, cut through the seam. Continue this for rest of the strips. Once you start laying them out, the pattern will appear.
5. **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. Press the entire quilt top again.
6. 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.
7. **“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 middle 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.

8. To secure the batting to the quilt, fold the upper fabric towards the quilt, and carefully stitch the lower fabric and the batting together, being careful to not stitch into the upper fabric.
9. 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.
10. **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, do meandering stitches.

Variations:

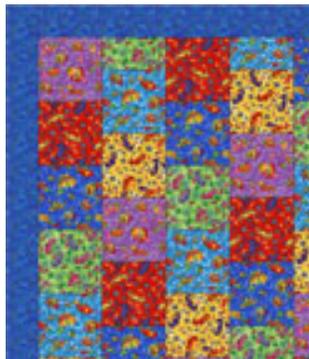
A) For a light weight Receiving Blanket, use your pieced quilt top with another plain piece of fabric 36.5" x 42", follow Steps 6 & 8, omitting the batting. You can use either cotton fabric or flannel for the backing.

B) For a very simple light weight Receiving Blanket, use 2 pieces of fabric 40" x 48", follow Steps 6 & 8, omitting the batting. You can use flannel for one or both fabrics.

C) You can also experiment with color arrangements, and create your own variation! With the different kinds of fabric available, there will be an abundance of variety between one quilt and the next!

D) On step 3, cut the strips 3" wide, creating 10 strips of six 3" x 6" rectangles (see example below).

Here's some examples:



Above:
staggered 6" squares

To the right:
variation D: changing
step #3 to 3", making
them staggered 3" x 6"
rectangles

