



Bless You

By Sarah Fielke



Bless You!

Here's a simple quilt for the beginner to try, or for experienced quilters to whip up using great prints you want to showcase. Sizes for three beds are given to suit all comers!

Quilt size:

260cm sq (104" sq) King Size

232cm sq (92 ½ " sq) Queen Size (original quilt)

145cm x 232cm (58" x 92 ½ ") Single Bed

Finished Block Size:

12 "



Materials

- Main fabrics King size – 70cm x 14 different fabrics (30")
 Queen size - 70cm x 11 different fabrics (30")
 Single size - 35cm x 14 different fabrics (15")
 - Binding King size - 1m (40")
 Queen size - 85cm (33")
 Single size - 70cm (27")
 - Wadding King size - 3.2m sq (3 ½ yds sq)
 Queen size - 2.6m sq (3 yds)
 Single size - 1.7m x 2.6m (2yds x 3 yds)
 - Backing King size - 9.6m (10 ¾ yds)
 Queen size - 7.8m (8 ¾ yds")
 Single size - 5.2m (5 ¾ yds")
- Cotton thread for piecing
 - Perle 8 cotton for tying
 - Rotary cutter, ruler and mat

Note: It is recommended that all fabric be 100% cotton, and be ironed. Requirements are based on fabric 112cm (44") wide. Unless otherwise stated, all seam allowances are ¼" throughout. Make sure you colour test any dark fabrics you are using, and wash them prior to cutting if they run.

Cutting

From each of the fabrics, cut

- King size Two 8 ½" strips. Cross cut each strip into three 8 ½" squares and three 4 ½" x 8 ½" pieces.
 Two 4 ½" strips. Cross cut each strip into three 12 ½" x 4 ½" pieces.
- Queen size Two 8 ½" strips. Cross cut each strip into three 8 ½" squares and three 4 ½" x 8 ½" pieces.
 Two 4 ½" strips. Cross cut each strip into three 12 ½" x 4 ½" pieces.
- Single size One 8 ½" strip. Cross cut this strip into three 8 ½" squares and three 4 ½" x 8 ½" pieces.
 One 4 ½" strip. Cross cut this strip into three 12 ½" x 4 ½" pieces.

From the binding fabric, cut

- King size thirteen 3" strips
- Queen size eleven 3" strips
- Single size nine 3" strips



Sewing:

Blocks:

Choosing fabrics at random and mixing well, piece together an 8 " square and a 4 " x 8 " piece along the long side. Press the seam towards the square. With the strip at the top of the block, piece a 12 " x 4 " piece to the right hand side of the block. Press the seam towards the square. Repeat until you have –

King size	81 blocks
Queen size	64 blocks
Single size	40 blocks



Assembly

When you have pieced all the blocks, lay them out on the floor until you are pleased with the colour arrangement. Your measurements should be –

King size	9 x 9 blocks
Queen size	8 x 8 blocks
Single size	5 x 8 blocks

Beginning with the top left hand corner of the arrangement, rotate every second block a half turn so that the long pieces lie in a different direction with each block. You don't have to be too exact in how you do this, so long as you are pleased with the end result and the colour placement.

When you are ready, begin to sew the blocks together in rows from left to right in numbers as indicated above.

When you have sewed all the rows, sew the rows together in long strips, taking care to match the seams where necessary until you have sewn them all together.

Your quilt top is now complete.



Quilting or Tying:

Cut your backing fabric into two or three pieces, depending on the size of your quilt. Remove the selvages and stitch together up the middle seam. Iron the seam open and press carefully.

Lay out the backing, wrong side up on a large, flat surface such as a table or the floor. Smooth out to remove any wrinkles, then tape the sides using masking tape. Tape the centre of the edges first, then the corners to ensure the fabric does not pull out of shape.

Centre the batting on the top and smooth it from the centre outwards. Finally, press the quilt top and place it on the batting. Smooth from the centre out.

Keeping the layers smooth, pin baste or thread baste the quilt in a grid pattern, working from the centre out.

Sarah tied Bless You! at the junction of each seam using Perle 8 cotton. Alternatively you can quilt your Bless You! as desired.

Finishing:

Cut your binding fabric into 3" strips, remove the selvages and join on the diagonal. Press the strip in half with the right side out and the raw edges together. Trim the excess batting and backing from the quilt so it is level with the top. Align the raw edges of the binding with the edges of the front of the quilt and sew it in place, mitring the corners as you go.

Turn the binding to the back and slip stitch it in place.



Sarah Fielke is a teacher, designer and author. She is available through her blog at www.thelastpiece.net or www.sarahfielke.com . She is also the Creative Director of craft website, www.sewn.net.au. Her latest books, *Material Obsession Two*, *Shared Inspiration*, and *Quilting, From Little Things* are available for order through most good bookshops.