

Alphabet Soup

by Bonnie Hunter

Alphabet Soup is a baby or toddler quilt that's perfect for using a collection of bright novelty print fabrics. It's a great pattern for a beginning quilter or a project for mothers and/or grandmothers to make with their children. Complete with a flannel backing, it will be a favorite snugly quilt for little ones. Think about making one for Project Linus.



Approx. 37" x 45"

The baby quilt shown here is made using 63 squares set 7 across by 9 down.

Yardage and Cutting Chart

Use pre-washed 100% cotton fabrics—LOTS of different bright, whimsical novelty prints; it's okay to repeat fabrics if you must. This is a great quilt to make with a group of friends and share your novelty-print fabrics. A $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance is included.

SQUARES

Gather a variety of bright, whimsical novelty print fabrics, scraps or fat quarters work well
Cut (63) $4\frac{1}{2}$ " x $4\frac{1}{2}$ " squares from these novelty prints

BORDER

$\frac{3}{4}$ yard (using a lighter-colored, tone-on-tone fabric for the border will better highlight the squares)

Cut (4) $4\frac{1}{2}$ " x width of fabric (WOF) strips

BINDING

$\frac{1}{3}$ yard bright, novelty print of your choice

Cut (4) $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x WOF strips

BACKING

$1\frac{1}{2}$ yard fabric of your choice—flannel is a good choice for a baby quilt

Construction

You might want to lay out all of your $4\frac{1}{2}$ " squares on a table or the floor, rearranging them until they create a pleasing arrangement. Make sure the fabrics are distributed evenly and not too many fabrics of the same color family are clustered in one area.

Using a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance, sew squares together in 9 rows of 7 squares each. Press seam allowances in alternating directions (i.e.: row 1 seams all toward the right; row 2 seams toward the left, etc.). Sew rows together, nesting these seam allowances together for easy matching. Press all long horizontal seams in the same direction (doesn't matter which way—either all up or all down).

Add border, sewing side borders on first then top and bottom. Press toward border strips.

Layer top with backing and batting. This is a good quilt to hand tie (knotting 6 strands of embroidery floss at the corners of each square) or quilt as desired. Bind using $2\frac{1}{2}$ " strips listed above to make French-fold (double) binding.



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