

Fancy Flower Goes Bollywood Quilt

By Elaine Raahauge

Introduction

Fancy Flowers Goes Bollywood is a multi-layered machine embroidered appliqué quilt made with dupioni silk. The embroidery design consists of 34 blocks from the Molly Mine Fancy Flowers design (sets 1 to 4) and 12 rectangles created from the centres of the square blocks. Embroidery editing software is required to create the designs for the rectangle blocks but if this is not available, make the quilt using only the square designs for a different look. This quilt uses the 8in (200mm) design but designs to fit smaller hoops are available from Molly Mine.

Block sizes

There are 34 square blocks and 12 rectangle blocks. The square blocks are 9in finished. The finished sizes for the rectangle blocks are:

- 6in x 18in (3)
- 6in x 27in (2)
- 6in x 36in (1)
- 4 1/2in x 18in (6)

Fabric and other requirements

Fabric used in the quilt is 54in wide dupioni silk but cotton fabric can be used for a different look.

- Assorted dupioni silk material for the appliqué blocks.
- Material for backing and binding
- Medium weight cutaway or tearaway stabilizer
- Light weight fusible interfacing
- Wadding

Preparation

Iron the fusible interfacing to the silk. This is essential to reduce fraying.

Prepare the rectangle designs.

1. Open the required square design in your embroidery software and do a 'save as' under a different name, e.g. Design 2 wide rectangle.
2. Delete the outer parts of the design keeping the centre design.
3. Resize the centre design to fit comfortably into the rectangle, e.g. reduce design 2 to 130mm wide.
Note: Do not reduce or enlarge designs more than recommended by your software – usually 10%.
4. Duplicate the design to fill the rectangle, e.g. design 2 is duplicated five times giving a total of six.
5. Save the file and download to your embroidery machine.

The quilt uses the following centres.

Fancy Flowers design number	Number of centre designs	Where used (finished size)
2	6	6in x 36in vertical rectangle
10	4	6in x 27in vertical rectangle
11	3	4 1/2in x 18in horizontal rectangle
11	4	6in x 27in vertical rectangle
14	4	4 1/2in x 18in horizontal rectangle
15	3	6in x 18in vertical rectangle
18	3	4 1/2in x 18in horizontal rectangle
20	4	4 1/2in x 18in horizontal rectangle
21	4	4 1/2in x 18in horizontal rectangle
25	3	6in x 18in vertical rectangle
32	4	4 1/2in x 18in horizontal rectangle
34	3	6in x 18in vertical rectangle

For the 34 square blocks:

Cut 34, 11in squares of assorted colours for the background squares.

Cut 38, 9in squares of assorted colours for the first appliqué layers.

Cut squares for the second and third layers in various sizes, ensuring that they are more than 1 1/2in bigger than the placement stitch.

For the 12 rectangle blocks:

Cut three, 10in x 22in strips for the background in assorted colours.

Cut two, 10in x 30in strips for the background in assorted colours.

Cut one, 10in x 40in strip for the background.

Cut six, 7in x 22in for the horizontal blocks in assorted colours.

Method

Making the squares

1. Hoop the stabilizer in the jumbo hoop (260cm square minimum) and place in the machine.
2. Lay the background fabric (11in square) on top of the stabilizer and smooth down.
3. Stitch a basting stitch to secure the fabric to the stabilizer.
4. Embroider the first colour. This is usually the placement line but can be a decorative stitch.
5. Place the first layer appliqué material on top of the background fabric ensuring that it overlaps the placement line on all sides by, at least, 3/4in.
6. Embroider the securing stitch.
7. Remove the hoop from the machine (but not the fabric from the hoop) and trim away excess fabric as close to the securing line without cutting it. See diagram 3.
8. Replace the hoop and complete the design, adding layers and embroidery.
9. Embroider all 34 square blocks.
10. Cut the square blocks, centring the design, to 9 1/2in.
11. Secure the edges of all the blocks using a serger or a fabric edging foot.

Making the rectangles

1. Mark a line down the centre of the fabric for the rectangular blocks with a chalk marker or removal marker.
2. Hoop the stabilizer in the jumbo hoop or (megahoop for horizontal rectangles, if required) and place in the machine. Ensure the marked line that runs down the rectangle is centred and straight.
3. Ensure the grain lines are running in the right direction – this is different for the horizontal and vertical blocks.
4. Stitch a basting stitch to secure the silk to the stabilizer.
5. Embroider the first colour, lining up the centre of the design with the marked line on the fabric.
6. Complete the design. See diagram 4.
7. Embroider all 12 rectangular blocks.
8. Cut the rectangular blocks, centring the design, as follows:
 - 7in x 37in vertical rectangle (1)
 - 7in x 28in vertical rectangle (2)
 - 7in x 19in vertical rectangle (3)
 - 5 1/2in x 19in horizontal rectangle (6)
9. Secure the edges of all the blocks using a serger or a fabric edging foot.

Finishing

1. Sew the blocks together.
2. Layer the backing, batting and quilt top and baste with safety pins or thread.
3. Quilt as required and bind the quilt.

For full instructions on making this quilt, please refer to Creative Expressions Magazine - Issue 32 www.creativelivingmedia.com.au

