

Creating the Elephant and Flower Baby Quilt

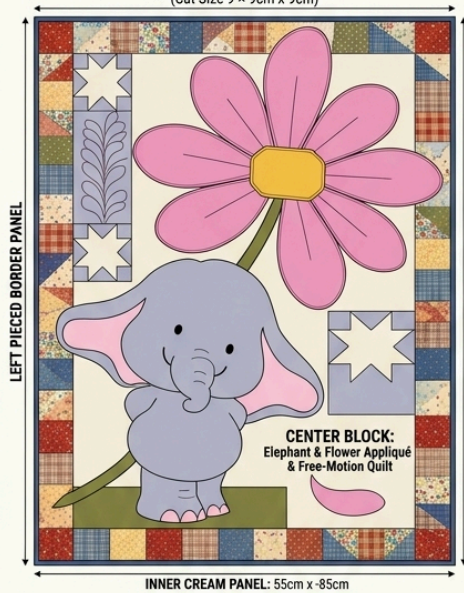
This detailed tutorial will guide you through every stage of making this charming elephant and flower baby quilt, using traditional American quilting and appliqué techniques. Even if you're a beginner, follow closely and you'll be able to complete this project from start to finish.

TUTORIAL: CREATING THE ELEPHANT AND FLOWER BABY QUILT

Based on Traditional American Quilt & Sewing Methods



FINISHED QUILT SIZE: ~70cm x 100cm
 PATCHWORK BORDER SQUARES: 7.5cm x 7.5cm
 (Cut Size 9 x 9cm x 9cm)



LEGEND: MAIN AMERICAN SEWING & QUILT METHODS

APPLIQUÉ (HAND & MACHINE)

Securing fabric pieces onto a base fabric (blanket, satin, or satin, or zigzag stitch).

PIECING / PATCHWORK

Sewing fabric pieces together (e.g., the borders).

FREE-MOTION QUILT

Quilting with the feed dogs down, moving fabric manually (the feather patterns).

HAND QUILTING

Running stitch through all layers by hand.

Mitered Corner BINDING

Neat, clean corner finish for binding.

1 DESIGN & FABRIC SELECTION

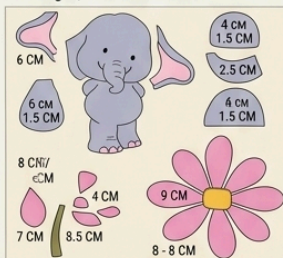
Choose safe, soft cottons.



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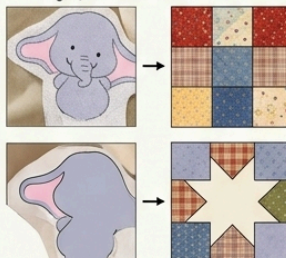
1 DESIGN & FABRIC SELECTION

Add 1.5cm seam allowance if turning edges, otherwise cut raw.

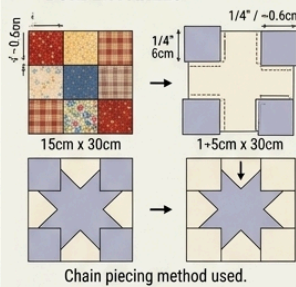


2 PREPARE APPLIQUÉ PIECES

Add 1.5cm seam allowance if turning edges, otherwise cut raw.

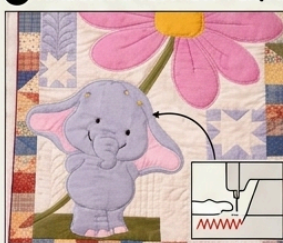


3 PIECE THE STAR & BORDER PANELS



Chain piecing method used.

4 ARRANGE & SECURE APPLIQUÉ



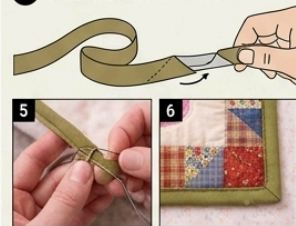
Fusible web recommended for beginners.

5 QUILT THE TOP (HAND or MACHINE)



Free-motion quilting or hand quilting (e.g., 'stitch in the ditch' around shapes).

6 BINDING & FINISHING



Traditional American mitered corners method shown.

Finished Quilt Overview

- Finished size: approximately **70 cm x 100 cm (27.5" x 39")**
 - Inner cream panel: **55 cm x 85 cm**
 - Patchwork border squares: **7.5 cm x 7.5 cm (cut at 9 cm x 9 cm / 3.5")**
 - Techniques used: appliqué, patchwork piecing, quilting (hand or machine), and binding
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1. Design & Fabric Selection


Start by choosing your fabrics carefully. This quilt uses soft cottons, which are ideal for baby quilts.

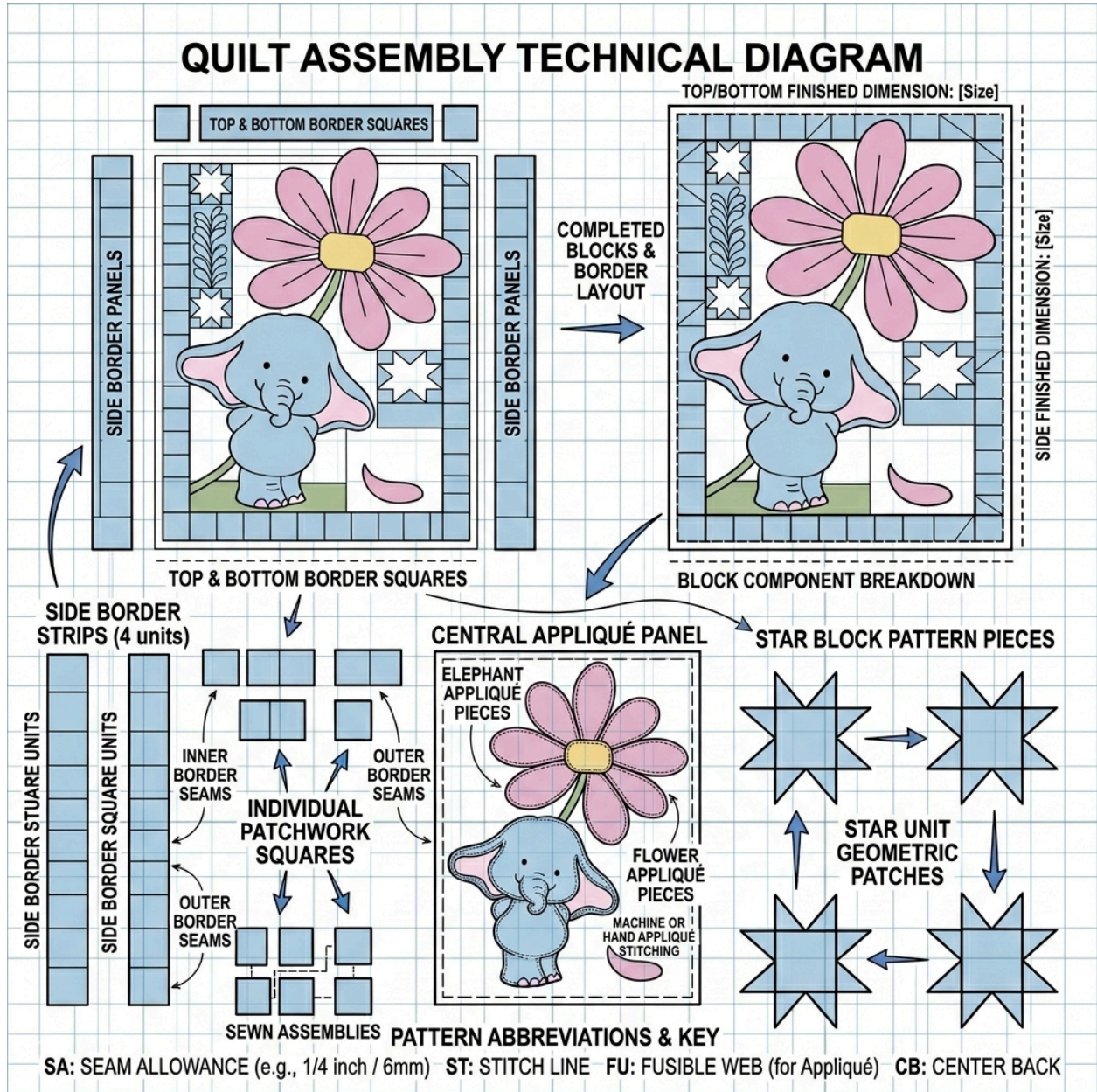
Select:

- Printed cotton fabrics (florals, checks, small patterns)
- Solid fabrics (for contrast)
- A cream or light neutral fabric for the background
- Soft pastel fabrics for the elephant and flower

Make sure all fabrics are:

- Pre-washed to prevent shrinking later
- Soft and baby-friendly
- Color-coordinated (choose a harmonious palette)

 Tip: Mix small prints with solids to avoid visual clutter.



2. Cutting & Preparing Appliqué Pieces

Now you will prepare the elephant and flower shapes.

Add Seam Allowance

- Add **1.5 cm (about 5/8") seam allowance** if you plan to turn edges under
- If using fusible web, you can cut shapes exactly (no seam allowance needed)


Cut the Shapes

From your fabrics, cut:

- Elephant body, ears, trunk, and feet
- Flower petals (multiple), center circle, and stem
- Small decorative elements (like leaves or accents)

Approximate sizes from the diagram:

- Elephant: about 6–8 cm sections
- Flower petals: ~8–9 cm
- Flower center: ~4 cm

 Tip: Use paper templates or trace directly onto fusible web for accuracy.

3. Prepare Appliqué Pieces

Attach your appliqué pieces to the background.

Method Options:

- **Fusible web (recommended for beginners):**
 - Iron fusible web onto the back of each shape
 - Peel backing and place onto the cream panel
- **Turned-edge appliqué:**
 - Fold seam allowance under and press
 - Pin or baste in place

Arrange the design:

- Elephant centered near the bottom
- Flower above and slightly to the side
- Stem connecting the flower downward

Take time to position everything nicely before securing.

4. Arrange & Secure Appliqué

Once placement is finalized, secure the pieces.

Stitching Options:

- Machine zigzag stitch
- Satin stitch (dense zigzag)
- Hand appliqué (invisible stitch)

Start stitching:

- Begin with larger pieces (elephant body)
- Then add details (ears, trunk, flower petals)

 Tip: Use matching thread for a clean look or contrasting thread for a decorative effect.

5. Piece the Star & Border Panels

Now you'll create the patchwork border.

Make Patchwork Squares:


- Sew small fabric squares together into blocks (approx. 15 cm x 30 cm sections)
- Use a **chain piecing method** to save time

Star Blocks:

- Assemble star shapes using contrasting fabrics
- Follow the diagram layout carefully:
 - Light center
 - Dark or patterned corners

Border Assembly:

- Sew patchwork strips around the central appliqué panel
- Add side panels first, then top and bottom

 Tip: Press seams flat after each step for a professional finish.

6. Quilt the Top (Hand or Machine)

Now it's time to quilt your layers together.

Layering:


- Quilt top (your finished design)
- Batting (middle layer)
- Backing fabric

Quilting Methods:

- **Free-motion quilting:**
 - Lower feed dogs
 - Move fabric manually to create patterns (like feathers)
- **Hand quilting:**
 - Use a running stitch through all layers
- **Stitch in the ditch:**
 - Sew along seams for a subtle finish

Focus quilting around:

- Elephant edges
- Flower petals
- Border seams

 Tip: Start quilting from the center and work outward to avoid puckering.

7. Binding & Finishing

Finish your quilt with a clean, professional edge.

Prepare Binding:


- Cut long strips of fabric (about 2.5" wide)
- Join strips end-to-end
- Fold in half lengthwise and press

Attach Binding:

- Sew binding to the front edge of the quilt
- Fold over to the back and hand stitch in place

Mitered Corners:

- Fold corners neatly at 45° angles for a crisp finish

 Tip: Take your time on corners—they make a big visual difference.

Final Touches

- Trim any loose threads
 - Lightly press the finished quilt
 - Optionally add a label on the back with your name/date
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You're Done!

You've just created a beautiful handmade elephant and flower baby quilt using classic quilting techniques. This piece is not only functional but also a meaningful handmade gift.