

Sitting Cat Quilt

A curved patchwork look, made with fusible raw-edge appliqué.



Finished mini quilt: 24 × 32 cm (about 9½ × 12■ in).

Cat motif: approximately 15 × 22 cm (6 × 8■ in).

Technique: fused fabric sections, machine-secured edges and quilting.

Make a tabby-inspired cat from contrasting scraps on a teal background. The steps explain how to prepare the pattern, place every section, secure the curves and bind the finished panel.

About this version: This is an original appliqué adaptation of the supplied design, not a tested curved-piecing pattern. The new 3D illustrations explain techniques; use the supplied master drawing for the exact silhouette and divisions. Make a small stitch sample first.

Prepare your supplies

Measurements below are cutting sizes unless marked finished. Centimeters govern this project; inch equivalents are rounded. Use lightweight woven quilting cotton and sewable fusible web.

ITEM	CUT / PREPARE
Background cotton	1 piece, 28 × 36 cm (11 × 14¼ in)
Backing cotton	1 piece, 32 × 40 cm (12■ × 15¾ in)
Low-loft batting	1 piece, 32 × 40 cm (12■ × 15¾ in)
Cat fabrics	5–7 contrasting scraps, about 20 × 25 cm each
Sewable fusible web	About 30 × 40 cm; check the product instructions
Double-fold binding	6 cm wide; at least 140 cm usable joined length
Final trimming size	24 × 32 cm before binding

Tools and notions

Sewing machine with zigzag or blanket stitch; all-purpose thread; a fresh 80/12 needle suitable for your fabric; fabric scissors; paper scissors; rotary cutter, ruler and mat; iron; pressing sheet; removable fabric marker; tracing paper; and basting pins or thread.

Plan the colors

Use cream for the muzzle and a chest section, dark charcoal for the ears and back, and medium grays for the lower body and tail. Separate neighboring areas with a change in value. For an orange tabby, substitute rust, caramel, tan and ivory.

Before cutting: Press the fabrics flat. If you prewash the cotton, do so before applying fusible web and avoid fabric softener. Test the web and stitch on scraps of the actual fabrics.



Make a reliable master

1. Print the last page at actual size.

Use A4 paper, portrait, 100% or Actual Size. Turn off Fit to Page. Measure the separate control bar: it must be 5 cm long. The supplied image itself has no original scale reference.

2. Use the assembled cat on the left.

Trace its outer solid silhouette and the solid internal divisions onto tracing paper. Ignore every dashed line. Do not use the detached pieces on the right as ready-to-sew templates: their size and seam allowances are not verified. Deriving every section from one assembled drawing keeps the boundaries consistent.

3. Enlarge the traced cat to 200%.

At the size used on the last page, the assembled cat is approximately 7.5×11 cm. A 200% enlargement produces a cat approximately 15×22 cm. Enlarge only the traced cat on an A4 sheet, or use tiled/poster printing for the full page and tape the sheets together. Do not shrink the enlarged result to fit.

4. Check the silhouette before tracing pieces.

Measure the enlarged cat from the farthest left tail edge to the farthest right body edge, and from highest ear tip to the base. Aim for about 15×22 cm; small differences from tracing are acceptable. The cat must fit comfortably inside a 24×32 cm rectangle.

5. Create your individual templates.

Keep one complete enlarged master. On a second tracing, label each enclosed fabric region with your own letter, including each tail section. Cut the paper apart on the solid internal lines. Transfer the same letters to the master and mark every paper piece FRONT UP.

No seam allowance: This raw-edge method uses the traced lines as finished fabric edges. Do not add $\frac{1}{4}$ in and do not cut on the dashed lines. Keep the original pattern page intact for reference.

Fuse, mark and cut

1. Assign fabrics

Lay the paper templates right side up on your chosen fabrics. Check the direction of any stripes. Label the paper backing for each fabric with the matching template letter.

2. Fuse web to the wrong side

Rough-cut fabric and fusible web slightly larger than each template. Place the adhesive against the wrong side of the fabric. Keep the release paper on top and press according to the product instructions. Let it cool completely.

3. Trace on the right side

With the release paper still attached underneath, put the FRONT UP paper template on the right side of the fabric. Trace lightly with a removable marker, then cut accurately on the traced line.



Why this method keeps the cat facing left

You are marking the fabric face, not tracing onto the reverse of the fusible web. No mirroring is needed. If you choose to trace directly onto the web paper instead, you must reverse every template first or the finished cat will face right.

4. Handle small curves carefully

Use small sharp scissors around the muzzle, ears and tail. Rotate the fabric as you cut. Do not clip into the appliqué edges, add turn-under allowances or stretch the narrow tail. Keep the paper backing on until the dry layout is complete.

Illustration note: The floating shapes show the idea of fabric and adhesive layers. They are not a cutting guide or an exact count of the pieces in your supplied pattern.

Build the cat on the panel

1. Mark the working area.

On the 28 × 36 cm background, mark a centered 24 × 32 cm rectangle with a removable marker. This leaves 2 cm of extra fabric on every side for handling and final trimming. Mark the vertical center lightly.

2. Transfer the enlarged layout.

Center the enlarged cat inside the marked rectangle. A 15 × 22 cm cat leaves roughly 4.5 cm at each side and 5 cm above and below. Use a light box or a bright window to trace the silhouette and a few junctions lightly onto the background.

3. Dry-fit all the fabric sections.

Arrange every piece with the fabric face up and the paper still attached. Begin with the large lower-body pieces, add the back and chest, position the muzzle and ears, then fit the tail from its base to its tip. The master drawing determines placement; this is not a seam-joining order.

4. Match neighboring boundaries.

Butt the cut edges neatly together so no background shows through the cat. Avoid piling edges over one another. Check the overall silhouette from a distance. If a gap remains, correct or recut that section before fusing rather than stretching the fabric.

5. Fuse in place.

Peel the release papers away carefully and return every piece to its marked position. Cover with a pressing sheet. Press and lift the iron; do not slide it. Follow the web manufacturer's heat, steam and timing instructions. Let the whole panel cool flat before moving it.

Check before sewing: All pieces lie flat, every paper backing has been removed, the tail is attached visually at the base, and no cat edge enters the future binding area. Remove any temporary marker as directed for that marker.

Finish every fabric edge

Test the stitch first

Make a sample using two fused scraps with their edges touching on background fabric. Begin with a narrow zigzag about 1.5–2 mm wide and 1–1.5 mm long. Adjust until the stitches lie flat and catch both sides of the join without puckering.

Secure the internal joins

Center the zigzag over each shared line so one swing enters each fabric. Work from the central joins outward. Stitch each shared boundary once. At a junction, finish neatly at the existing stitch line rather than building a thick knot of overlapping stitches.



Sew the outside silhouette

Stitch around the entire cat and both edges of the exposed tail. The inner swing catches the cat fabric; the outer swing lands just beyond it on the background. Sew slowly around the muzzle and narrow curves. Stop with the needle down, raise the presser foot and pivot a little at a time.

Manage tips and thread tails

At an ear tip, shorten the stitch length if needed and turn carefully without pulling the panel. Bring thread tails to the back and tie them, or use a discreet securing stitch. Trim only after checking the stitch line. A temporary tear-away stabilizer beneath the background can help if the fabric tunnels.

Inspect before quilting

Check every edge with your fingertip. Re-stitch any lifted section. Press lightly from the reverse according to the web instructions. The cat should remain flat; visible small zigzag stitches are part of this finish. Optional facial embroidery can be added now, but the silhouette also works without it.

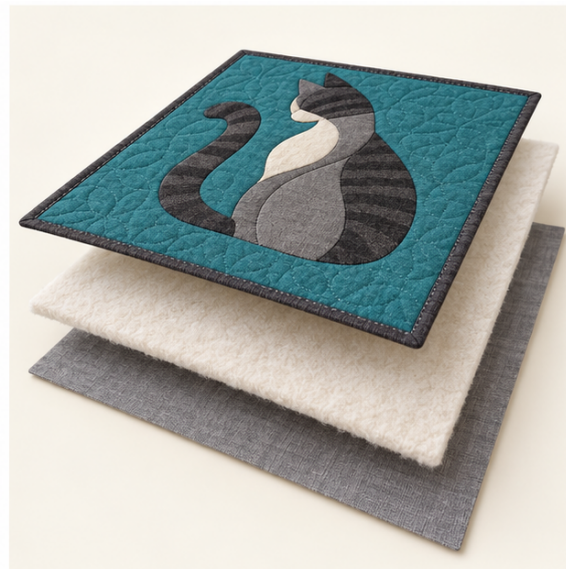
Turn the panel into a quilt

1. Baste the sandwich

Lay the backing wrong side up, batting over it, and the appliquéd top right side up. Center all layers and smooth them without stretching. Baste from the center outward with pins or thread. The illustration shows layer order; add binding only after quilting.

2. Quilt the panel

With a walking foot, begin near the center and work outward. Use a straight stitch around 2.5–3 mm long. Quilt gentle lines in the background and, if needed, selected lines within the cat. Follow the batting maker's maximum quilting-distance guidance.



3. Square and trim.

After quilting, trim the sandwich to 24 × 32 cm, keeping the motif centered. The extra background and batting are removed now. Check right angles and keep the cat clear of the perimeter.

4. Prepare and attach the binding.

Join 6 cm-wide strips diagonally to make at least 140 cm of usable binding. Press the joins open, then fold the strip lengthwise with wrong sides together. Align its two raw edges with the quilt front and sew with a 7 mm seam, leaving starting and ending tails for joining.

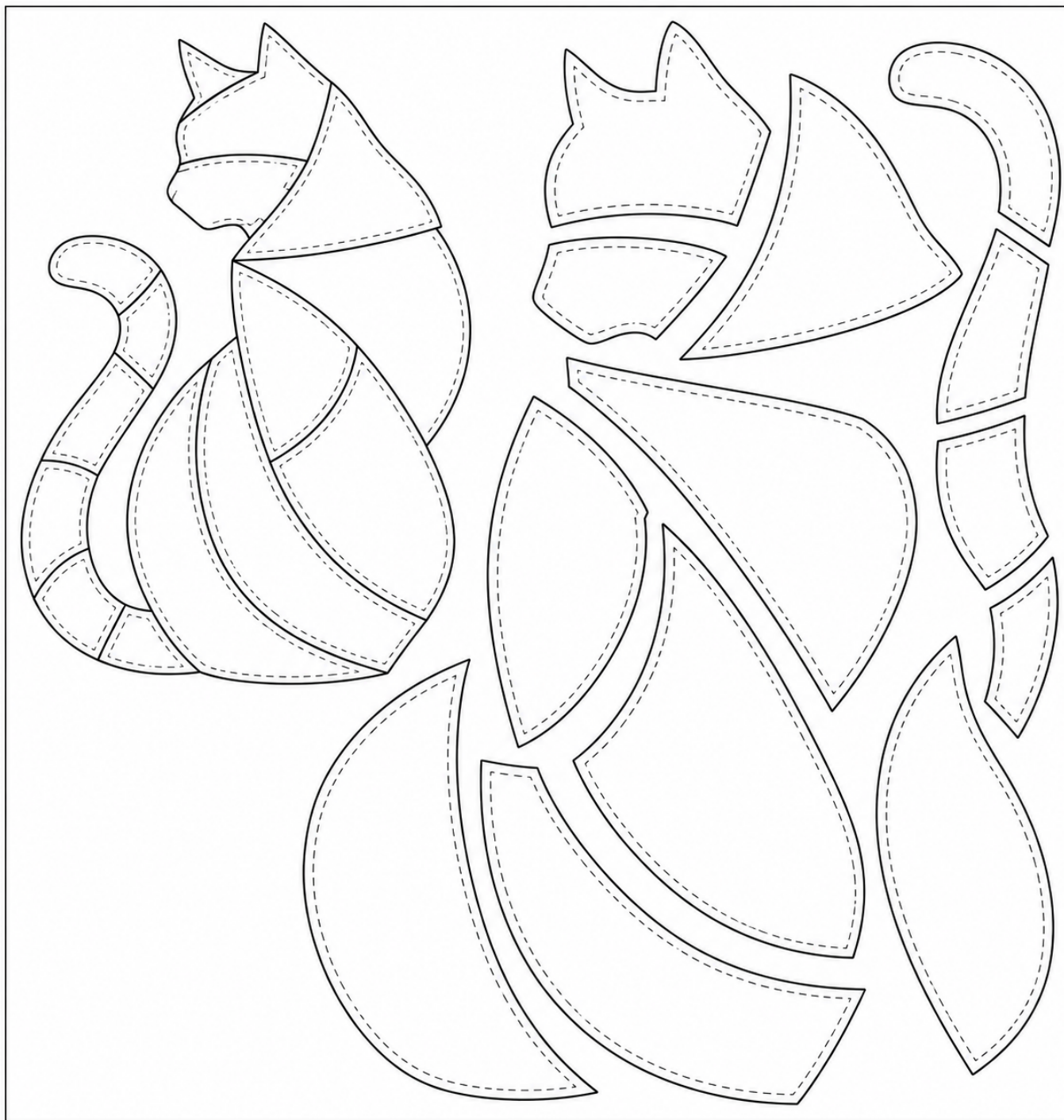
5. Miter the corners and close.

Stop 7 mm before each corner. Fold the binding upward at 45 degrees, then down along the next side and continue. Join the ending tails without twisting. Wrap the folded edge to the back so it covers the seam; hand-stitch it in place. The binding is included in the stated finished size.

Care: Follow the fabric and adhesive care instructions. Wash gently only when the materials permit it, reshape and dry flat. Press from the reverse. Keep the final pattern page clean for future copies.

Professional pattern reference

Trace the assembled cat on the LEFT. Solid lines only. Enlarge that tracing to 200%.



PRINT CHECK: this bar must measure 5 cm at 100% / Actual Size.



Master image width: 18 cm. Do not use Fit to Page.

Dashed lines and detached pieces are not used for this raw-edge appliqué method.