

Baby Blocks

Prepared by Joanna Armour (www.stardustshoes.blogspot.com) For personal use only.

Gather your materials:

- Coordinating cotton prints
- Various ribbons for tags
- Polyester fiberfill stuffing
- Bells, if desired



Use a 1/4" seam allowance unless otherwise noted.

1) Prepare your pieces:

These blocks can be made in various sizes. The ones shown here use six squares of fabric 4" x 4". You will need at least four pieces of ribbon 2-1/2" long.



2) Mark the corners:

Use a fabric pen and straight edge to mark the four corners of each square (1/4" down from the top and side). These marks will be the starting and stopping point for your sewing.



3) Prepare the sides:

Fold the ribbon pieces in half and baste, using a 1/8" seam allowance, the raw edges to the outside edge of each side piece.



Sew the side pieces together in a row. Make sure to start and stop (and backstitch!) at the marks you made.



4) Attach the top:

Place the top piece directly on top of the side piece on the leftmost side. (Sounds complicated! In plain English, see the piece with the circles on it? Put your top piece—the one with the polka dots—on that!)

Sew them together along one side. When you get to the mark that you made, put your needle in the down position, raise the presser foot, line up the second side of the top piece with the edge of the next side, lower your presser foot and sew some more. Continue this way until you get to the end.

Your block will look like this, with one side open.



5) Attach the bottom:

Attach the bottom piece the same way as in step four. You will have one open side for turning the block right side out and for stuffing.



6) Prepare for hand stitching:

You'll want to hand stitch as little as possible, so by machine, sew the left and right side of the opening about 1". Reinforce by backstitching, since you don't want these to rip out when you turn the block right side out. Now your opening is about 2" long. Iron down either edge of the opening, as pictured.



7) Finish it off:

Turn the block right side out. Stuff with polyester fiberfill, insert a bell somewhere in the middle, stuff some more. Hand stitch the opening closed.