

REEL LOVE

A QUILT BLOCK TUTORIAL



BY KRISTI MCDONOUGH | [HTTP://WWW.SCHNITZELANDBOO.COM](http://www.schnitzelandboo.com)

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A little while back, Michael Miller Fabrics generously sent a ½ yard bundle of Valentine's Day fabric to me and asked if I could create a tutorial for you. I have kinda been on a heart kick lately, so this was not a difficult task, especially since the fabric that I got to work with was so deliciously cute and cheerful.

I made an entire almost-twin-sized quilt top using the bundle and 1 ½ yards of white (for sashing). The back of the quilt took 2 yards of fabric plus one of the ½ yard pieces. I cut the backing fabric down the length (off center) and cut the ½ yard piece into 10" x 18" strips. I sewed three strips together, to create one long 10" strip, then stitched it to the backing.

This is a fast, easy, big block. You could easily make the entire quilt in one weekend, from start to absolute finish (quilted and bound.) Sew two to four blocks together for a simple, fast, cute wall hanging or table decoration. Sew just one block for placemats or pillows.

Happy sewing!

-Kristi

P.S. The following instructions are for a single block, not the entire quilt.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED

2 of the same Fat Quarters of Valentine fabric
2 Fat Quarters of background fabric (I made mine scrappy)
1/2 yard white for sashing
rotary cutter
acrylic ruler
cutting mat
coordinating thread
hand-sewing needle
grid ruler
fabric marking pen
scissors

Things to remember

- Remember to read the pattern in full before starting
- Seam allowances are $\frac{1}{4}$ " unless otherwise stated
- Always press your fabrics before starting
- Press all seams as you go



Finished Size of Quilt Block: 18" square

STEP 1-CUTTING FABRICS

From Fabric A (Valentine):

1 10" square
2 9" squares

From Fabric B (background):

1 10" square
4 4 1/2" squares

From Fabric C (sashing):

2 4 1/2" x 18" strips
2 4 1/2" x 22" strips

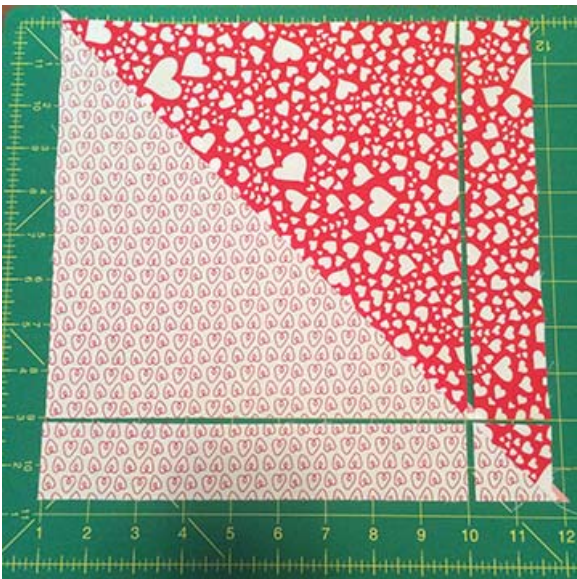
STEP 2-ASSEMBLING THE BLOCK

Place 10" squares right sides together. Using a grid ruler and fabric marking pen, draw a diagonal line from one corner to the other. Stitch $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from this line on both sides; use the rotary cutter to cut on the center line for two half square triangles (HST).



****note:** this photo shows sewing the diagonal AFTER it's been cut

Trim each HST down to 9" square; set aside.



Lay one 9" square right side up; place one $4\frac{1}{2}$ " square in both left and right upper corners. Starting with the square in the left corner, draw a diagonal line starting on the bottom left and finishing in the top right corner. For the square on the right, measure 2" down on the right side and make a mark. Draw a diagonal line from the upper left corner to this mark.



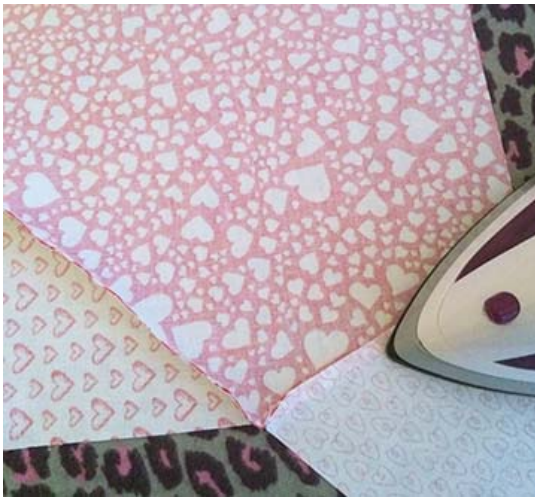
Stitch directly on the lines you have just made.



Trim away excess by placing the 1/4" mark of the ruler on top of the stitching line.



Press seam to one side.



Trim block to 9" square.



Repeat the above for the second half of the heart top. Remember to do it in a mirror image! Stitch one top half to one bottom half with right sides together; press seams to one side.



Stitch second halves together; press seams to opposite side.



That's all there is to it! Wasn't that easy?

Use the following image to help with your heart layout, if you decide to make a quilt. I made half hearts for the end of the rows, making sure to switch sides for interest. It ends up looking like a strip of film, doesn't it?



For my almost-twin-sized quilt, I had six whole hearts and three half hearts. My little girl was so excited to get a new quilt and it's already on her bed, hopefully keeping the bad dreams away. Here is the finished front:



And the finished back:



I'd love to see what you create using this tutorial! If you're on Instagram, tag me (@schnitzelandboo) and use the hashtag #reellovequilt.

Thanks for reading along!