



Celtic Plaid by Scarlett Rose

<http://www.ScarlettRose.com>

Visit <http://www.scarlettrose.com/plaid.html> - for more layouts of this block design.

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Supply List for one pillow with the Celtic Plaid block:

½ yd. (46cm) of print fabric for border and pillow back
12" (30.5cm) square of fabric (light color for 8" (20cm) embroidered center block)

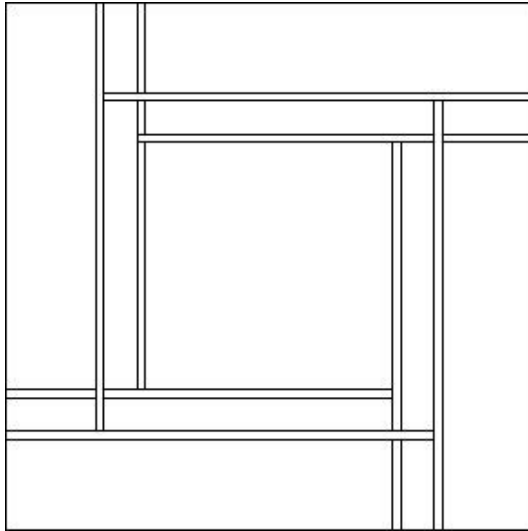
1 yd. (92cm) each of four colors of fusible bias: 1110-Rose, 1134-Yellow, 1178-Green, 1194-Medium Blue were used for samples

matching metallic thread for top stitching the fusible bias - one spool for each color of fusible bias

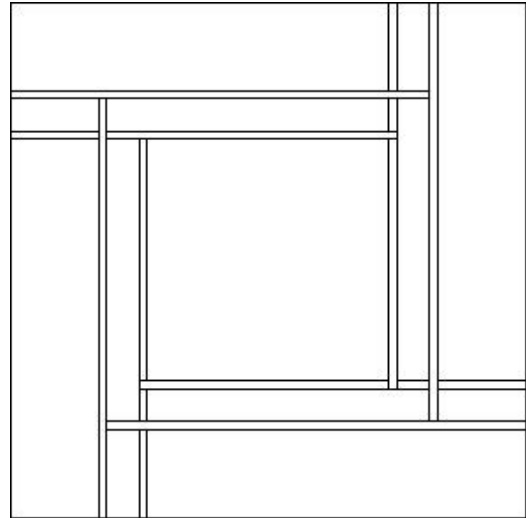
one spool regular sewing thread for piecing and to use in the bobbin with the metallic thread

one 16" zipper
one 16" pillow form
rotary cutter, ruler and mat
marking pen or pencil

sewing machine with regular foot (quarter inch foot and/or topstitching foot optional), zipper foot



Layout for 16"(40.5cm) Boy's Pillow



Layout for 16"(40.5cm) Girl's Pillow

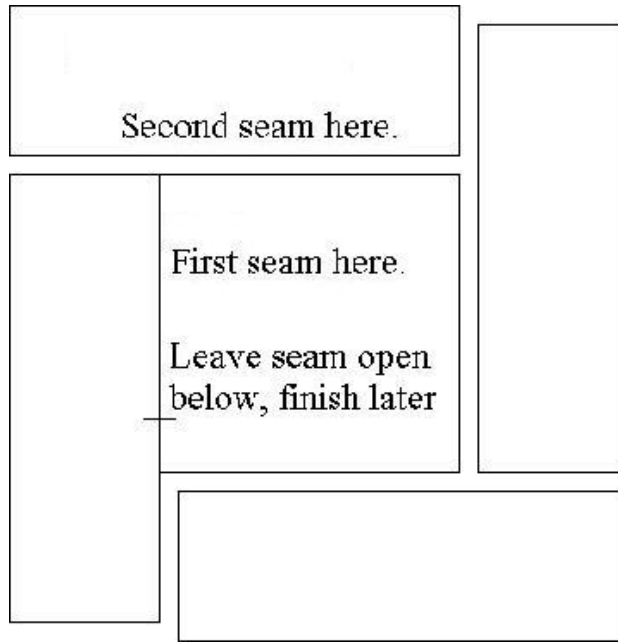
This design is based on a traditional patchwork block pattern called "Bright Hopes". The 8" (20cm) finished center square could have your choice of machine embroidery designs embroidered on a background fabric, but it could also be a pieced patchwork block or a fussy cut square of large print fabric. The sample pillows feature designs from Brother card #54 - Grandmom, and uses a built-in alphabet in the Brother ULT2002D sewing machine.

If doing embroidery, do not put embroidery designs too close to the seam line, make sure to leave at least 3/4"(2cm) of space around the edge of the center block. The border fabrics used in the samples are small prints, suitable for a boy and girl. The fabric you chose could be some other color or print if the pillow is being made for another purpose, rather than as a baby gift. You could also use more than one fabric for the border.

After doing the embroidery, the center block should be trimmed to an 8 1/2" (21.5cm) square, which allows for a 1/4" (6mm) seam for piecing to the border. If you have one, use a quarter inch foot to do this piecing accurately. The border is made up of four pieces, each measuring 5" (13cm) x 13" (33cm). These pieces can be sewn on so that they spiral either to the right or left.

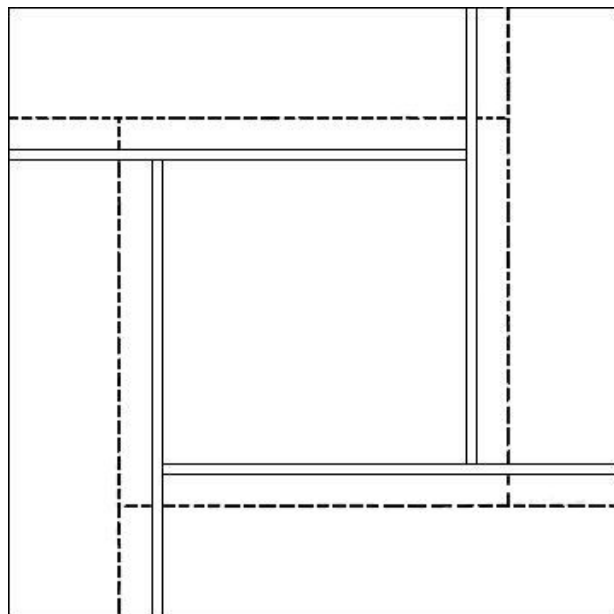
The first piece is sewn to the center block, right sides together and matching the top edges. Stop an inch or so before the end of the block and leave the excess length of the border piece free. The next piece is added along the side with the matching length. This is repeated for the third and fourth pieces. After the fourth piece is added, then finish sewing the seam of the first piece, which now matches in length because of the addition of the fourth piece of the border.

This technique is called partial seaming and is used in patchwork for easier piecing of some patterns. See the diagram on the next page which shows this technique.



Press all the seams towards the print, away from the center block.

The next step is for the fusible bias to be ironed onto the pillow top. Place the strips of bias along the inside edge of the seam (or as quilters would say, "in the ditch"). Iron one strip of each color of fusible bias down in turn, making sure that the top cut edge of each strip is covered by the next strip. The last strip will need to be tucked under the first strip - peel up the bias carefully and re-iron it down over the cut edge of the last strip. Once this first row of bias is ironed down, then topstitch each strip with the matching color of metallic thread.

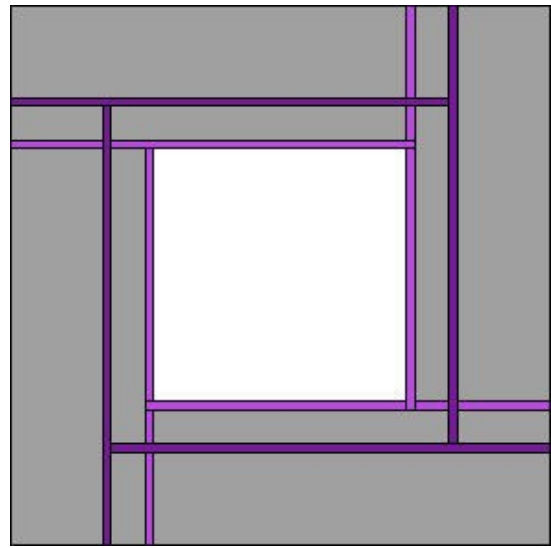
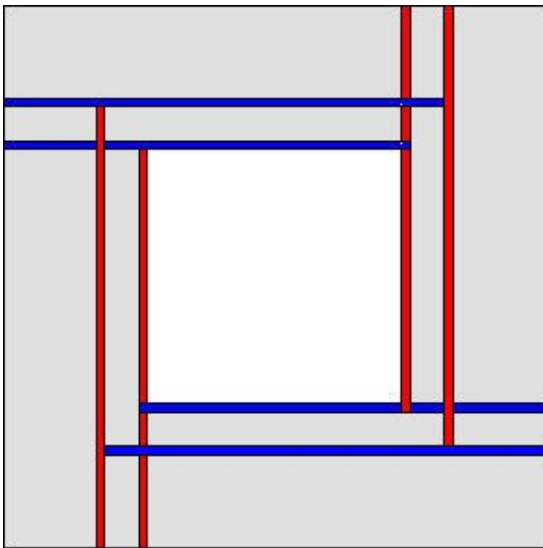


Using a ruler and marking pen or pencil, mark a line one inch away from the first row of bias. This will be your guide for placing the second row of bias.

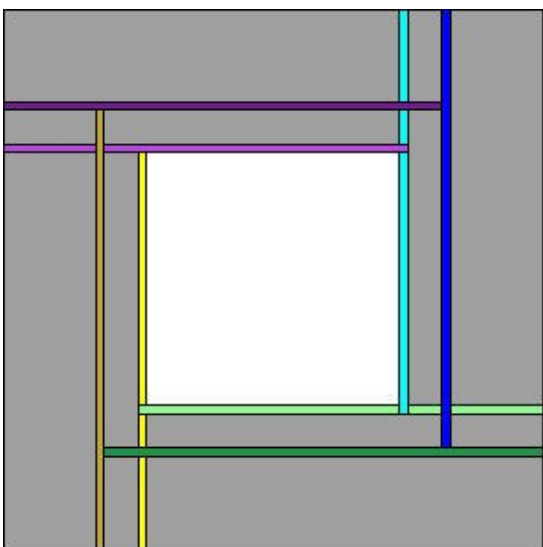
Iron down the fusible bias along the marked line, matching the colors yellow next to yellow, pink next to pink, etc. Make sure that the top cut edge of the bias is covered by the next strip. Again, the last strip will need to be tucked under the first strip. Then topstitch, changing thread colors as needed. This completes the pillow design!

Cut two pieces of the print for the back of the pillow, allowing for a half inch seam around the outside edge of the pillow. Using a zipper foot, sew the zipper with a lapped closure and place it near one side of the pillow back. Then place the two parts of the pillow right sides together and sew around the outside edge, using a half inch seam and the regular foot. If you wish, a ruffle, piping or other decorative edging could be added to this seam before sewing the pillow together.

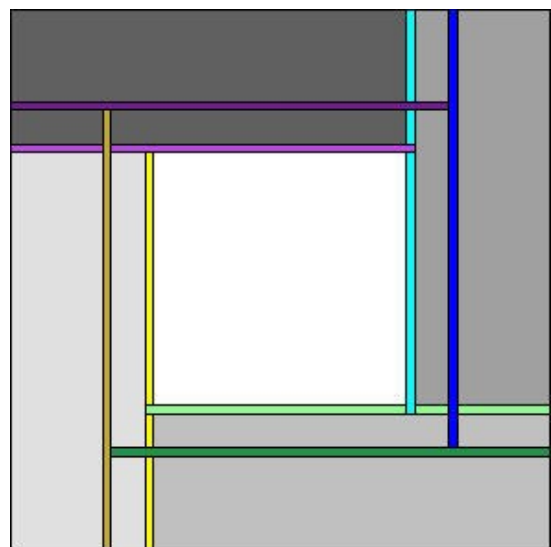
Here are some coloring variations of the Celtic plaid block design:



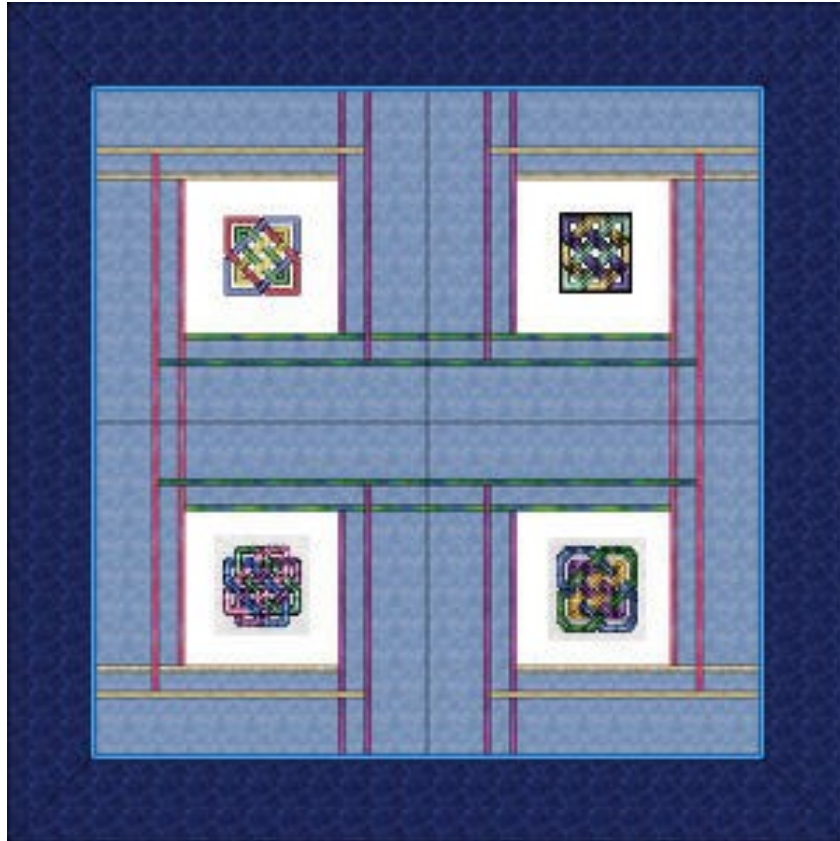
Use only two colors of bias, then change where you put each color.



Use eight colors of bias for a rainbow effect.



Use more than one fabric for the border, as well as multiple colors of bias.



Here are four of the 16" (40.5cm) Celtic Plaid blocks set together with a 4" (10cm) border, which will make a 40" (101.5cm) wallhanging. Notice that there are two of each of the Celtic Plaid blocks. Set them together so that they alternate spiraling to the right, as in the girl's pillow and spiraling to the left, as in the boy's pillow.

In this layout, a line of bias tape was placed against the seam of the border where it joins the center panel. Four colors of bias were used in the blocks, with a fifth color on the border. The blocks were pieced with two colors of fabric; one light fabric for the background square and a medium blue print surrounding the square. A dark blue fabric was used for the border. The machine embroidery is from the [Large Multicolor Knot Collection 1](#).