

Celtic Plaid - a free pattern

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Celtic Plaid - a free pattern by Scarlett Rose
http://www.ScarlettRose.com
Supply List for a four block 40" Celtic Plaid wallhanging, as shown:
1 yd of print fabric for background strips around center squares
$1 / 2$ yd or more of a large scale print for center squares of blocks (depending on motifs)
$1 / 2$ yd of fabric each of two prints (for bias, if making your own) or two rolls of readymade bias 1 yd of print for border and binding
Backing and batting of your choice

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This $16 "$ block design is based on a traditional patchwork pattern called "Bright Hopes".

The $81 / 2$ " center square is fussy cut from a large print. The border is made up of four pieces, each measuring $41 / 2^{\prime \prime} \times 121 / 2^{\prime \prime}$. 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. The diagram above shows this technique.

Besides using large scale prints, the 8 " finished center square could feature your choice of machine or hand embroidery designs, a pieced patchwork block, an appliqué block or inkjet printed fabric.

Press all the seams towards the rectangles, away from the center square.
Make two blocks spiraling to the right and two blocks that spiral to the left, see diagrams below.

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Make $1 / 4$ " bias tape by your favorite method, either by cutting and sewing bias for hand appliqué or by making fusible bias for machine appliqué. You can also purchase readymade bias, if you prefer. If needed, please refer to the instructions included with the bias bars or fusible tape makers.

Place the strips of bias along the inside edge of the seams on the block (or as quilters would say, "in the ditch").

Hand appliqué the strips with matching thread or if using fusible, iron the strips 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. For the
 fusible, 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 a matching color of metallic thread, matching cotton thread or contrast thread. Use clear thread with a reduced length blind hem stitch, zigzag stitch or machine appliqué stitch for invisible machine appliqué.

Using a ruler and a 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.

Hand appliqué this next row of bias or if using fusible bias, iron down the fusible bias. 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 sew, with appropriate thread color.

Sew the four 16 1/2" Celtic Plaid blocks together. Please double check that there are two of each of the Celtic Plaid blocks and that they are set together so that they alternate, one spiraling to the right and one spiraling to
 the left. Refer to the pattern picture or the layout diagram if needed.

Measure the finished center panel and cut the $41 / 2^{\prime \prime}$ wide border strips to fit. Miter the corners of the border or set them square, your choice.

Appliqué strips of one of the bias colors to the border, in the ditch, for the accent frame.

Layer and quilt as desired. Make the binding from the border fabric.

The next couple pages show some ideas for coloring and size variations of the Celtic plaid block design for you to consider.

Use any large scale print, batik or other novelty fabric for the center squares.

Change the amount of bias colors. Use up to 8 colors for a rainbow effect, or pair lights and darks of colors for shading.

The more colors used for the bias, the more the interlacing will show up!

Make more blocks for larger size quilts.


The center square could also be used for signatures, making this design a special friendship quilt!

Fabric painting, stenciling or stamping could be done in the squares, too.

In this sample layout, bias tape was also placed between the first and second borders. Four colors of bias, in two shades, were used in the blocks, with a repeat of one color pair on the border. The blocks were pieced with a light fabric for the background square.

The machine embroidery shown in the center squares are cross stitch knot designs from the Large Multicolor Knot Collection 1.

These knots could also be hand cross stitched on even weave fabric or with waste canvas. The e-chart for the knot designs is the Tricolor Knot Collection I.


Simply change the thread colors to match your fabrics and combine them in any way you wish.


The center square could be a simple pieced block, as shown in this batik sample.

Chose your favorite 8 " patchwork block!

Make a sampler by picking out many different blocks. Mix patchwork and appliqué.

Hand or machine quilt a design in the center square.

Use trapunto.

Using photos and fabrics found in Electric Quilt 7, here are two versions of this wallhanging that could be made with inkjet printed images.


Please visit http://www.scarlettrose.com/plaid.html to view the Gallery for this design. If you make a project from this pattern, please email a picture of your finished project to Scarlett@ScarlettRose.com and it will be posted to the Gallery!


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