



Designer: *Malka Dubrawsky*

Take-Along Quilt

When it was posted on the Craft Hope site as part of a drive to provide quilts for homeless children in Grand Rapids, Michigan, this project drew an international response. Stitchers from as far away as Switzerland, The Netherlands, Uruguay, and Turkey answered the call, creating more than 500 quilts. This colorful comforter is designed to be rolled and carried.

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| Basic Sewing Kit | Thread of coordinating color |
| 9 fat quarters of cotton, each in a different print | Masking tape |
| $\frac{3}{4}$ yard (68.5 cm) of cotton fabric, 44 inches (111.8 cm) wide, for the strap and binding | Cotton batting |
| Fusible interfacing | Large safety pins |
| 4 yards (3.6 m) of cotton flannel for the backing | Water-soluble fabric marker |
| | Button, $\frac{3}{4}$ inch (1.9 cm) |
| | Seam Allowance $\frac{1}{4}$ inch (6 mm), unless otherwise noted |

What You Cut

Fat Quarters

9 rectangles, one from each print, each $17\frac{1}{4} \times 20\frac{3}{4}$ inches (43.8 x 52.7 cm)

Cotton for Strap and Binding

2 strips, each 3 x 16 inches (7.6 x 40.6 cm), for the strap

6 strips, each $1\frac{1}{2} \times 44$ inches (3.8 x 111.8 cm), cut across the width of the fabric, for the binding

Fusible Interfacing

1 strip, 3 x 16 inches (7.6 x 40.6 cm)



Charity

Margaret's Hope Chest

www.margaretshopechest.com

The mission of Margaret's Hope Chest is to bring hope, comfort, and warmth to people enduring hopeless situations through the gift of a beautifully crafted quilt. In 2005, 80-year-old Margaret Herrema died from a head injury after being shoved to the ground during a purse snatching in a grocery store parking lot. Her daughter and granddaughter founded Margaret's Hope Chest to honor the full and generous life of the woman who had loved quilting for charity. They gave their first quilt to the mother of one of the women convicted of Margaret's death. In the fall of 2009, Craft Hope helped MHC meet its goal of giving a quilt to each homeless child living in the Grand Rapids, Michigan, school district. Quilters from 37 states, four Canadian provinces, and countries as diverse as England, Uruguay, The Netherlands, Switzerland, Turkey, and Scotland sent in more than 500 quilts.

OTHER APPROPRIATE CHARITIES FOR THE QUILT:

Project Night Night

Local homeless shelters

Local women's shelters



1. Piece the front of the quilt: Pin and then sew two of the rectangles together along one long edge with right sides facing. Press the seam open. Pin and then sew a third rectangle to them to make one strip. Press the seam open. On the right side, topstitch $\frac{1}{8}$ inch (3 mm) on either side of the piecing lines. Repeat this step using the remaining rectangles until you have three pieced and topstitched strips.

2. Pin and then sew two of the strips together along one long edge with right sides facing. Press the seam open. Pin and then sew the third strip to them, and press the seam open. On the right side, topstitch $\frac{1}{8}$ inch (3 mm) on either side of the piecing lines.

3. Following the manufacturer's instructions, apply the strip of fusible interfacing to the wrong side of one of the pieces cut for the strap. With right sides facing, pin the two pieces for the strap together. Sew along three sides, leaving one of the short ends open for turning. Clip the corners, being careful to avoid cutting the stitches. Turn right side out, using a knitting needle to push out the corners if needed. Press flat.

4. Topstitch $\frac{1}{4}$ inch (6 mm) in from the sewn edges of the strap. Make a 1-inch (2.5 cm) vertical buttonhole approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches (3.8 cm) from the finished short end of the strap. Set the strap aside.

5. Cut the flannel for the backing into two 2-yard (1.8 m) lengths. Sew them together, right sides facing and selvages aligned, to make one large piece with a center seam. Press the seam open.

6. Working on a large, flat surface, such as a clean floor or large table, place the flannel right side down, smoothing out the fabric from the center. Note: You may find it helpful to use the masking tape to tape the fabric edges to the surface.



7. Lay the cotton batting on top of the flannel, centering it on the center seam. Then lay the pieced top, right side up, on top of both layers, centering it on the batting.
8. Working from the center out, pin through all layers using the safety pins, placing them approximately 4 inches (10.2 cm) apart. Remove the tape at the edges. Trim all layers flush.
9. Fold the quilt in half widthwise with the front sides facing to locate the midpoint of one short edge. Mark the midpoint using the water-soluble fabric marker.
10. On the back of the quilt, center the short, raw end of the strap on the midpoint. Align the raw edges, and pin. The finished edge of the strap with the buttonhole will be facing away from the edge. Baste the strap in place.
11. Make the binding: Lay the short end of one binding strip on another at a 90° angle with right sides facing. Then sew them together at a 45° angle. Continue in this way until you have one long strip. Trim the angles, being careful to avoid cutting the stitches. Press the seams open. Turn one of the short ends of the long strip under 1/4 inch (6 mm), and press.
12. Bind the edges. With right sides together and raw edges aligned, and starting at the turned end of the binding, sew the binding to the quilt around all edges, mitering the corners as you go (see Binding Edges with Mitered Corners on page 39). When you get back to the starting point, trim off the excess binding, leaving enough for an overlap. Turn the short end under 1/4 inch (6 mm), and finish the stitching to overlap the other end.
13. Fold the binding over the raw edges. Pin the binding to the back of the quilt, turning the raw edge under 1/4 inch (6 mm) as you pin. When you get to the strap, turn the seam allowance under on the binding as you have been doing. Once you pass the strap, flip the strap to lie on top of the binding, and pin in place to keep it out of the way when you stitch.
14. Stitch the binding to the back of the quilt by hand or machine. Remove the safety pins holding the layers together.
15. Roll the quilt to place the button. Fold one long edge of the quilt into the center with front sides facing, then fold the other side of the quilt over it. Begin rolling the quilt at the edge without the strap. When the quilt is all rolled up, lay the strap on the roll. Use the fabric marker to mark the placement for the button, and then sew the button at this point.

Hope Note

As someone who was homeless often as a teenager, I can tell you how important something portable is to keep you warm and in touch with normal life. I'm excited to work on this project!

Claire, South Dakota

