



AQS Countdown to Christmas Quilt

Fabric Requirements & Template Instructions

Fabric Requirements:

Christmas Countdown Quilt

66 x 66



Fabric Requirements:

Blocks:

1 yard red fabric

1 yard white fabric

Setting Blocks:

2 yards red fabric

2 ¼ yard white fabric

Sashing:

1 yard red fabric

¼ yard accent squares fabric

Binding:

¾ yard

Backing

4 yards

Cutting Instructions

Setting Blocks:

Use templates provided or rotary cut the following:

Red –

50 – 2 ½ x 10 ½ rectangles

50 – 2 ½ x 6 ½ rectangles

White –

50 – 1 ½ x 12 ½ rectangles

50 – 1 ½ x 10 ½ rectangles

50 – 1 ½ x 6 ½ rectangles

50 – 1 ½ x 4 ½ rectangles

Sashing Strips:

Red –

60 – 1 ½ x 12 ½ rectangles

Accent –

36 – 1 ½ x 1 ½ squares

To make the templates:

- Trace the templates onto heavy cardboard or plastic.
- Cut along the line so the template matches the measurement. Verify with a ruler.

The templates have NO seam allowance added. This allows the sewing line to be transferred to the wrong side of the fabric as the template is traced around.

To use the templates:

- On the wrong side of the fabric, lay a template, leaving at least a ¼” around each of the edges.
- Trace the template with a marking pencil or pen. Chalk can also be used, but it is important the drawn line remain for use later. Disappearing ink is NOT recommended.
- Continue tracing the template on the wrong side of the fabric leaving room for the seam allowance between pieces until the desired number of pieces are traced.
- Cut around the drawn pieces leaving the ¼” seam allowance. Because the drawn lines are the sewing lines, it is not critical that all seam allowances be completely accurate.
- Store marked pieces in a plastic bag or a box for safekeeping.

To counter the rushed pace of the holiday, we invite you to take a couple minutes each day and sit down for a few stitches with us. If handwork is new to you, here are a few guidelines for hand piecing:

- Pin two pieces together marking the beginning and end of the seams lines with pins.
- Using a sharp or milliner needle and waxed hand piecing-weight thread, thread the needle and knot the end of the thread in a quilter’s knot.
- Hold the two pieces at each end creating an even tension on the fabric.
- Sew along the drawn line with a locked running stitch. Take four or five bites of fabric with your needle, no farther than 1/8” apart, loading it up for a running stitch and pull the thread through. As you place your needle back in the fabric for the next stitch, begin before the last stitch of the previous running stitch. This includes the last stitch in the next and locks the stitch.
- When pulling the stitches secure, do not pull too much nor leave the stitches too loose. It is important to pay attention to maintaining even tension.
- Stop when you reach the end of the line where it connects to the next corner. Take a tiny backstitch, a single stitch that goes back over the sewing line, and pass the needle through the loop made taking the stitch. Repeat to secure the knot.
- When sewing units or rows together, take a lock stitch on one side where the seams meet, then pass the needle through the seam allowance and take a lock stitch on the other side of the juncture.