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Argyle Pinwheels

By Lynn Kraus for FiberFlies Lecien Color Basic & Quilter's First 42-1/2" x 54-1/2"

A fun, quick quilt for kids and bright-hearted folks of any age. And no need to send it out to the long-armer. Just grab a sharp embroidery needle and do some fast and easy big stitch quilting to create the dynamic argyle design. (And until you try it, no comments about 'hand' being a 4 letter word. This is so fun and easy and relaxing!)



Background			Batting & Backing very lightweight, easy to hand stitch, must	Backing
Quilters First 30297-30	Pinwheels Lecien Color Basics dots, checks, stripes (High contrast with background fabric.)		to hand stitch, must be OK for quilting as much as 6" apart	4524WZ or your choice
2 yd	1-1/2+ total yardage	1/2 yd	46" x 58"	1-3/4yd

Other Supplies

- 15 skeins of Cosmo solid floss coordinating with the dots, checks, stripes: this pattern uses Cosmo colors 145, 147, 2412, 262, 271, 113, 274, 525, 2115, 798, 299, 286, 174, 414A, 301.
- Sharp embroidery needles & thimble
- Water soluble marker
- Painter's tape
- Safety pins

General Instructions

7 columns by 9 rows = (63) 6-1/2" unfinished blocks: 32 pinwheels and 31 solid squares All seam allowances are 1/4". WOF: width of fabric

Cut

(64) 4" squares of Color Basics dots, checks, and stripes.
(7) 4" strips by WOF of background. Cut 4" strips of background into 4" squares. 64 squares needed.
(6) 6-1/2" strips by WOF of background. Cut 6-1/2" strips of background into 6-1/2" squares. 31 squares needed.

Mark

On the wrong side of the 4" background squares, mark one diagonal.



Assemble

With right sides together, match one 4" square of background and one 4" square of dots, checks, or stripes; sew 1/4" from the diagonal line with background on top. At the end of the seam, turn around and sew the other side 1/4" from the diagonal line.



Cut along drawn diagonal line. Press toward dots, checks, or stripes to make half square triangles. Four half square triangles make one pinwheel block. Use different dots, checks, stripes in each pinwheel block.



Lay out the first row, starting with a pinwheel, alternating between the pinwheel and background squares. The second row starts with a background square then a pinwheel. Alternate each row. There are 9 rows and 7 columns. Sew rows together. Press alternating rows in opposite directions. Sew columns together. Press top well and trim stray threads.

Make Quilt Sandwich

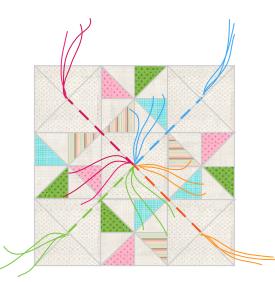
Lay backing right side down on the floor. Using painter's blue tape, tape the backing to the floor so that it is taut but not stretched. Lay the batting on top of it and tape. Lay quilt top right side up and tape. Starting at the center, pin about every 4" until the entire top is pinned to the batting and backing. Remove painter's tape.

Big Stitch No-Hoop Quilting

With the water soluble marker, draw diagonal lines from one corner to the opposite on all background squares. Cut a piece of embroidery floss about 18" long. Separate into 2 lengths of 3 strands each.

Starting at the center of the quilt about 1/8" from the crossing diagonal lines, stitch from the center of one background square to the next. Leave a tail of about 5" at the center of each background square. Randomize the colors you use. Continue stitching all the diagonal lines until the entire top is quilted. At edges of quilt, it is OK to knot the floss in the seam allowance.





Knotting

Knot the floss at the center of each background square. First lay two opposite threads almost as if they were continuing to stitch along the lines they were following. Take the other two threads and make a square knot; the square knot should be on top of the two threads you laid down. Pull up the two threads laying on the quilt top and make a square knot on top the first square knot. Trim to a consistent length.

Bind

Cut binding fabric on bias to create a more interesting binding. Square up top, trimming backing and batting. Be careful not to trim any floss knots in the seam allowances. Bind as usual.





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