

piecing ^{your own} a community

How to create a quilt with the built-in benefit of friendship!

MATERIALS FOR 12-SQUARE QUILT

Corduroy 2 yards. Wash and dry to preshrink.

Bonded quilt batting 45" x 60"

Yarn scraps or cotton rug warp for tying quilt

Thread to match corduroy 2 spools

Cardboard for 11" x 11" template

WHAT YOU WILL NEED ON QUILTING DAY

Two or three sewing machines

Scissors

Iron and ironing board

Large-eyed needles for tying

Pins and sewing kits

PLANNING

- 1** Contact friends and relatives about a month in advance. They'll procrastinate, so call and remind them. These instructions are for 12 quilt squares. You can do the math (or call the kids to calculate) and make less or more squares from these basics.
- 2** Size of finished square is 10 by 10 inches on a 12-inch square piece of material. Stress these dimensions to avoid problems on quilting day. You will be cutting them all down to a uniform 11 by 11 inches for sewing. Babies will be using the quilt, so material should be washable, with no raveling edges. Avoid loosely woven material or stretchy synthetics.
- 3** Plan a date, time, house, and potluck. Allow five or six hours for the work, including lunch, so that you can still be home for dinner. We always aim to begin around 10:00 a.m.
- 4** If some people think they aren't creative and can't do a square, they usually can. Patchwork (there are free patterns on the Internet), embroidery, batik, and appliqué are all fine. Be encouraging. I've seen people glow with joy at their own efforts. We all used to chip in a dollar or so for materials.

ASSEMBLING YOUR QUILT

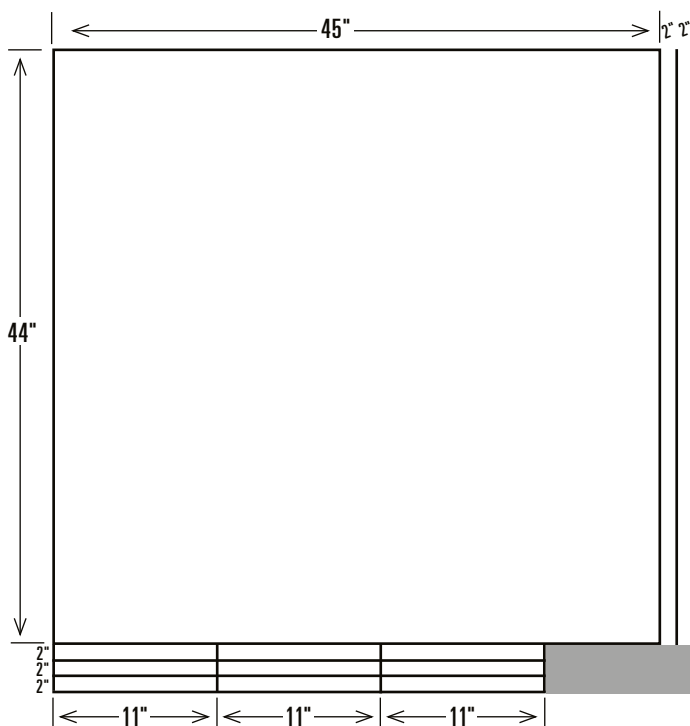
- 1** Lay out squares in rows, three squares across, to give the most pleasing and balanced effect. This can be a time of swapping squares around. Then pin numbers onto the squares from top to bottom to keep them in order. If you are short a square, whip up a nine-patch or add a piece of fabric to fill in later. Maybe the baby's name could go on this piece.
- 2** Take cardboard 11-inch square template to give 10 inches with ½-inch seam allowances. Center on the squares and draw with pen or fabric pencil, being careful to save the best parts of the design. You'll be amazed at how the sizes vary. Sometimes we have to sew on extra border pieces for small squares. Cut every square to 11 inches.

- 3** While people work on step 2, others cut corduroy according to the diagram. Cut 2-inch strips for between squares; these make 1-inch finished strips once they are sewed with a ½-inch allowance. Stop for a moment and be sure remaining corduroy will be several inches larger than quilt top.
- 4** Pin and sew short strips to squares 1-4, 5-8, and 9-12. Iron seams as you go. Then sew these long three rows onto two middle strips. Remember that you don't want corduroy strips on top, bottom, and side edges.
- 5** Eat lunch!
- 6** Lay out the ironed quilt top, batting, and back of quilt as it will look when finished. Trim batting to give 1-inch border around quilt top. Turn and double corduroy back over batting and at least ½-inch of quilt top to create a finished outside border seam. Pin this border down and machine sew through all three layers. Get your best seamstress. We always hand-miter the corners for a nice and tidy look.
- 7** Using large needles and yarn or cotton rug warp, tack layers together at about five places per square. We often tack on the corduroy corners and centers and one in the square itself. Take tiny stitches and tie in the back, a bow, or knot with 1-inch ends. All ages enjoy working on this final step.
- 8** Voila! Be happy and take photos.

CHART FOR CUTTING CORDUROY

size of completed quilt	number of squares	yards corduroy	size of backing	short horizontal strips	long vertical strips
34" x 45"	12	2	38" x 49"	9 2" x 11"	2 2" x 44"

HOW TO CUT CORDUROY FOR 12-SQUARE QUILT



COMPLETED 12-SQUARE QUILT

Note numbers for sewing order.

