



BLACK CAT QUILT TUTORIAL



Step-by-Step Instructions



1. MATERIALS

- Cotton fabrics (various colors)
- Black fabric (cat)
- Fusible web
- Batting
- Backing fabric
- Thread
- Rotary cutter, mat & ruler
- Sewing machine
- Iron

2. FINISHED SIZE

95 cm x 110 cm

BLACK CAT APPLIQUÉ PIECES



Head
43 x 33 cm



Ear (inner)
7 x 8 cm
(cut 2)



Ear (outer)
10 x 11 cm
(cut 2)



Eyes (yellow)
8 x 8 cm
(cut 2)



Pupil (black)
3 x 5 cm
(cut 2)



Nose
3 x 3 cm
(cut 1)



Tongue
2 x 3 cm
(cut 1)



Paws
12 x 10 cm
(cut 2)



Whiskers
(use embroidery or thin cord)

3. CUTTING CHART (all measurements include 0.7 cm seam allowance)

Orange floral	16 x 110 cm (2 strips)
Green daisy	16 x 110 cm (2 strips)
Yellow texture	16 x 110 cm (2 strips)
Red dots	16 x 110 cm (2 strips)
Purple circles	16 x 110 cm (2 strips)
Navy floral	16 x 110 cm (2 strips)
Cream floral	16 x 110 cm (2 strips)
Light blue	16 x 110 cm (2 strips)
Purple floral	16 x 110 cm (2 strips)
Gold floral	16 x 110 cm (2 strips)
Red floral	16 x 110 cm (2 strips)
Green floral	16 x 110 cm (2 strips)
Black star	16 x 110 cm (2 strips)

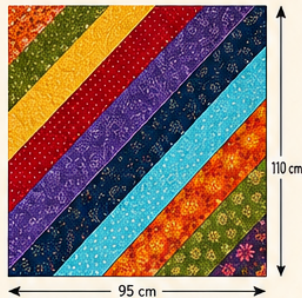
4. HOW TO MAKE

1. PREPARE THE STRIPS

- Cut all fabric strips as listed.
- Sew the strips together diagonally (45°) in the order you like.
- Press seams open.

2. MAKE THE BACKGROUND PANEL

- Continue adding strips until the panel measures at least 95 cm x 110 cm.
- Trim the panel to exact size.



3. PREPARE THE CAT APPLIQUÉ

- Cut all cat pieces using the measurements.
- Fuse the pieces to fusible web and cut again.
- Arrange on the background before fusing.
- Fuse in place and appliqué with a zigzag or blanket stitch.



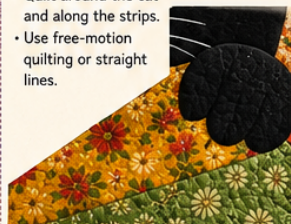
4. LAYER THE QUILT

- Place backing fabric wrong side up.
- Add batting.
- Place quilt top right side up.
- Baste all layers.



5. QUILTING

- Quilt around the cat and along the strips.
- Use free-motion quilting or straight lines.



6. BINDING

- Cut binding strips 6.5 cm wide.
- Sew strips together and fold in half.
- Sew binding to the quilt with a 0.7 cm seam allowance.
- Fold to the back and hand stitch in place.



7. FINISHED!

- Your Black Cat Quilt is ready!



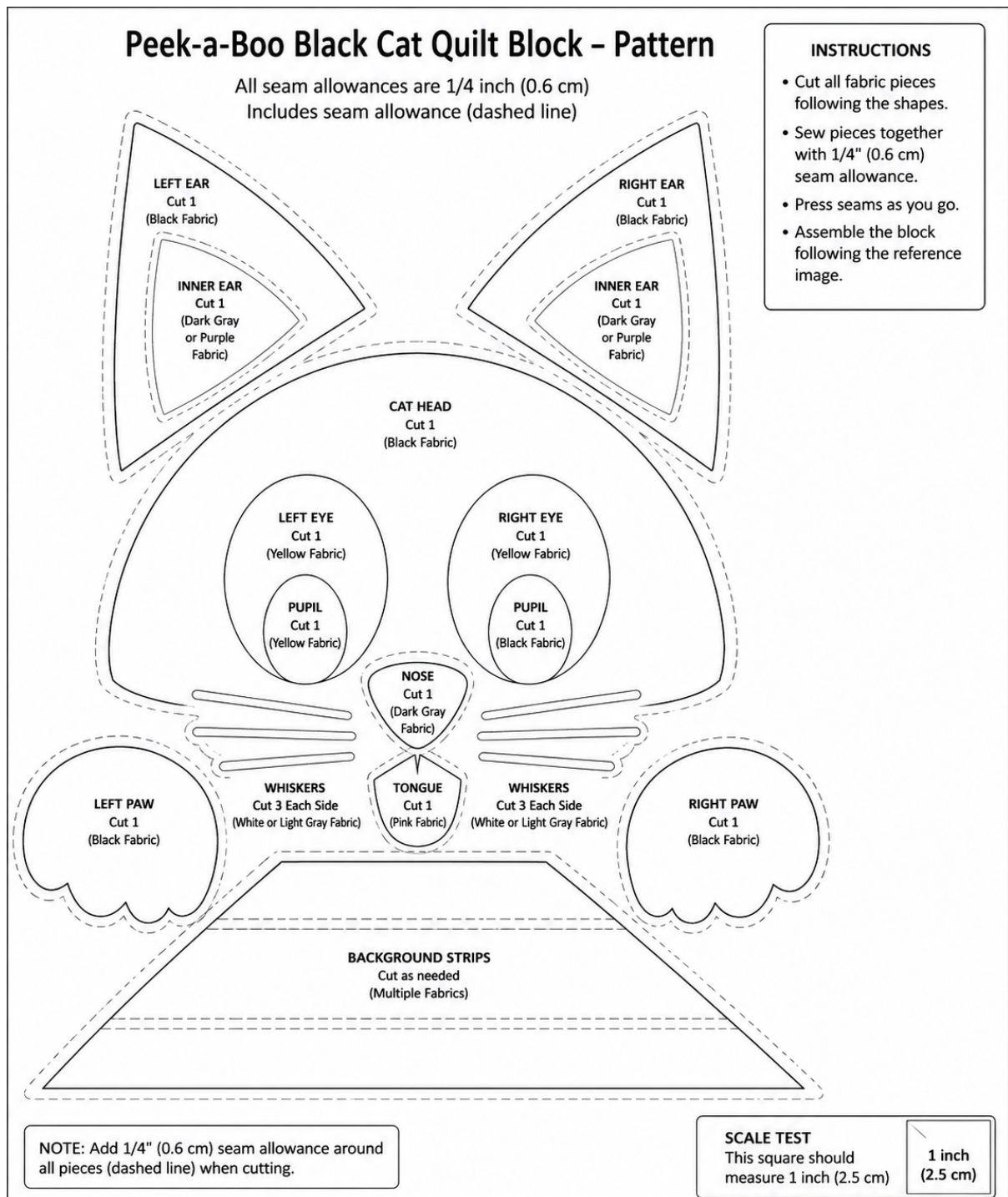
MAIN SEWING & QUILTING METHODS USED

- 1/4" Seam (0.7 cm) ———
- Pressing
- Appliqué (Zigzag Stitch)
- Straight Line Quilting ———
- Free-Motion Quilting
- Binding

TIPS

- Use a 1/4" foot for accurate seams.
- Press seams as you go.
- Take your time with appliqué.
- Have fun and be creative!

Measurements in CM • Seam Allowance: 0.7 cm • Finished Size: 95 cm x 110 cm



Black Cat Quilt Tutorial: Step-by-Step Instructions

This cheerful Black Cat Quilt combines colorful diagonal fabric strips with a playful appliqué cat peeking over the quilt. The finished project measures approximately 95 × 110 cm (37 ½ × 43 ¼ inches), making it suitable for a wall hanging, child's quilt, lap quilt, or decorative throw.

The instructions below follow the measurements and construction order shown in the original tutorial. All pattern measurements are given in centimeters, followed by approximate imperial measurements for makers in the United States.

The project uses a 0.7 cm seam allowance, which is approximately ¼ inch. Use the same seam allowance throughout the piecing, appliqué, and binding unless another measurement is specified.

Materials and Supplies

You will need:

- Cotton quilting fabrics in several colors and prints
- Black cotton fabric for the cat
- Dark purple or charcoal fabric for the inner ears
- Yellow fabric for the eyes
- Black fabric for the pupils
- Gray or muted purple fabric for the nose
- Pink fabric for the tongue
- Paper-backed fusible web
- Quilt batting
- Backing fabric
- Binding fabric, preferably black
- Coordinating sewing thread

- Black thread for the cat appliqué
- Embroidery thread, thin cord, or narrow yarn for the whiskers
- Rotary cutter
- Self-healing cutting mat
- Acrylic quilting ruler
- Fabric scissors
- Small sharp scissors for appliqué pieces
- Sewing machine
- Iron and ironing board
- Straight pins or quilting clips
- Safety pins, basting spray, or basting thread
- Removable fabric-marking pen
- Optional free-motion quilting foot
- Optional walking foot
- Optional 1/4-inch presser foot

Wash, dry, and press the cotton fabrics before cutting when possible. Prewashing helps reduce the chance of uneven shrinkage or color bleeding after the quilt is finished.

Finished Quilt Size

The finished quilt should measure:

- 95 cm wide × 110 cm long
- Approximately 37 1/2 inches wide × 43 1/4 inches long

The strip-pieced background should initially be made slightly larger than the required finished dimensions. After all the strips are joined and pressed, trim the panel to exactly 95 × 110 cm.

Cutting the Colorful Background Strips

Cut the following strips. Each strip is:

- 16 × 110 cm
- Approximately 6 ¼ × 43 ¼ inches

Cut two strips from each listed fabric:

- Orange floral
- Green daisy
- Yellow texture
- Red dots
- Purple circles
- Navy floral
- Cream floral
- Light blue
- Purple floral
- Gold floral
- Red floral
- Green floral
- Black star

This produces a generous selection of strips for building the diagonal background.

You may arrange the fabrics in the same general color sequence shown in the tutorial, or adjust the order slightly to balance the prints. Try to alternate light, medium, and dark fabrics so neighboring strips remain visually distinct.

The quilt in the illustration includes warm orange and yellow prints, rich reds, greens, purples, dark navy, turquoise blue, cream, and black. Repeating some colors in different areas helps create a lively but coordinated background.

Preparing the Black Cat Appliqué Pattern

The cat is assembled from several separate appliqué pieces. Draw the pieces on paper using the following maximum

dimensions, or create printable templates that fit within these measurements.

The measurements indicate the approximate size of each finished appliqué piece before it is stitched to the quilt.

Cat Head

Cut one:

- **43 × 33 cm**
- **Approximately 17 × 13 inches**

The head is a wide rounded shape with a gently curved lower edge. The upper part of the head extends behind the ears.

Outer Ears

Cut two from black fabric:

- **10 × 11 cm each**
- **Approximately 4 × 4 ³/₈ inches each**

The outer ears are pointed triangular shapes. They may be slightly curved along the outside edges to give the cat a softer appearance.

Inner Ears

Cut two from dark purple, charcoal, or patterned fabric:

- **7 × 8 cm each**
- **Approximately 2 ³/₄ × 3 ¹/₈ inches each**

The inner ears should be smaller than the outer ears so that a black border remains visible around them.

Yellow Eyes

Cut two:

- 8 cm diameter
- Approximately 3 $\frac{1}{8}$ inches in diameter

The tutorial shows large round yellow eyes. You may make them slightly oval if desired, but keep both eyes symmetrical.

Black Pupils

Cut two:

- 3 × 5 cm each
- Approximately 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ × 2 inches each

The pupils are narrow vertical ovals. Positioning them slightly toward the center gives the cat an expressive, curious look.

For added expression, small white highlights can be appliquéd or embroidered near the top of each pupil, as shown in the finished illustration.

Nose

Cut one:

- 3 × 3 cm
- Approximately 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ × 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches

The nose is a small rounded triangle. Use gray, dusty purple, or another muted color that contrasts with the black face.

Tongue

Cut one:

- 2 × 3 cm
- Approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ × 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches

The tongue is a small rounded shape made from pink fabric. A short stitched line down its center adds definition.

Paws

Cut two:

- 12 × 10 cm each
- Approximately 4 ¾ × 4 inches each

Each paw should have a rounded upper section and several rounded toes along the bottom edge. The paws overlap the diagonal strip background so the cat appears to be holding onto the quilt.

Whiskers

The whiskers are not fabric appliqué pieces. Add them with:

- Embroidery thread
- Thin decorative cord
- Narrow yarn
- Dense machine stitching

Create three gently curved whiskers on each side of the nose.

Making the Appliqué Templates

Draw every cat component on plain paper or template plastic. Remember that the left and right pieces should be mirror images when necessary.

Label each template clearly:

- Head
- Outer Ear – Cut 2
- Inner Ear – Cut 2
- Eye – Cut 2
- Pupil – Cut 2
- Nose – Cut 1
- Tongue – Cut 1
- Paw – Cut 2

Check that all the pieces fit together before cutting the fabric. Arrange the paper templates on a large table in the approximate shape of the completed cat.

The head should sit behind the ears, eyes, nose, and tongue. The paws will be positioned separately near the lower edge of the head.

Applying Fusible Web to the Cat Pieces

Read the manufacturer's instructions for your fusible web before beginning. Heat and pressing times vary by brand.

Place the paper side of the fusible web facing up. Trace each appliqué template onto the paper side.

For pieces that need to face a specific direction, such as the paws or ears, trace the templates in reverse. This ensures they face the correct direction after the fusible web is attached and the pieces are turned right side up.

Leave approximately 1 cm or $\frac{3}{8}$ inch of space between traced shapes.

Roughly cut around each traced piece, leaving a small margin outside the drawn line.

Place the adhesive side of the fusible web against the wrong side of the appropriate fabric.

Fuse according to the manufacturer's directions. Press rather than sliding the iron, because sliding can distort the shapes.

Allow the fabric to cool completely.

Cut each piece precisely on the traced line using small, sharp fabric scissors.

Leave the paper backing attached until you are ready to arrange the appliqué.

Preparing the Diagonal Fabric Strips

Lay the background strips on a large work surface before sewing.

Arrange the strips in a pleasing color order. The original design uses repeated diagonal bands of warm and cool colors. Avoid placing two very similar fabrics directly beside one another.

Place the first two strips right sides together along one long edge.

Pin or clip the edge if needed.

Sew with a 0.7 cm or ¼-inch seam allowance.

Add the next strip to the free edge of the second strip. Continue joining strips in this manner until you have created a large striped panel.

Because the finished strips run diagonally across the quilt, you may find it easier to create several strip units first and then arrange or trim them to form the diagonal layout. The essential goal is to produce a continuous background with the strips traveling from the upper left toward the lower right.

Pressing the Strip Seams

Press every seam as the panel is assembled.

First, place the sewn section flat and press the seam to set the stitches.

Open the strips and press the seam allowance toward the darker fabric whenever possible. This prevents darker seam allowances from showing through pale fabrics.

Continue sewing and pressing until the background panel is larger than 95 × 110 cm.

Check the panel frequently to make sure the strips remain straight and the seams do not curve.

If the panel begins to distort, square the edges carefully before adding more strips.

Trimming the Background Panel

Place the completed strip panel on a large cutting mat.

Use an acrylic ruler and removable marking tool to identify a rectangle measuring:

- 95 × 110 cm
- Approximately 37 ½ × 43 ¼ inches

Check that the diagonal strip arrangement looks balanced inside the rectangle.

Avoid positioning a very narrow strip fragment along the outer edge, because it may become difficult to sew and bind. Shift the trimming area slightly when necessary.

Trim the panel to the exact measurement.

Confirm that all four corners are square and that opposite sides are equal.

The trimmed panel is now the quilt top background.

Arranging the Cat on the Quilt Top

Place the background panel right side up on a clean, flat surface.

Remove the paper backing from the large black head piece.

Position the head in the upper half of the quilt. In the original design, the cat is centered slightly toward the top, leaving a generous amount of colorful background visible below.

Place the outer ears behind the upper edge of the head. The ears should angle slightly outward.

Position the inner ear pieces inside the black ears, leaving a visible black outline around each inner ear.

Arrange the yellow eyes across the center of the face.

Place the black pupils vertically inside the yellow eyes.

Position the nose below and between the eyes.

Place the pink tongue below the nose.

Arrange one paw on each side of the lower head area. The paws should overlap the colorful background, giving the impression that the cat is peeking over or gripping the quilt.

Stand back and check the arrangement from a distance before fusing.

Fusing the Cat Appliqué

Fuse the pieces in layers so that the design remains neat.

Begin with the pieces that sit farthest behind:

- 1. Outer ears**
- 2. Head**
- 3. Inner ears**
- 4. Yellow eyes**

- 5. Black pupils**
- 6. Nose**
- 7. Tongue**
- 8. Paws**

Follow the fusible web manufacturer's pressing instructions.

Cover the appliqué with a pressing cloth to protect the fabric and prevent adhesive from transferring to the iron.

Press each section without moving the iron back and forth.

Allow the pieces to cool before checking the edges.

Make sure every edge is securely attached. Repress loose areas using a pressing cloth.

Stitching Around the Appliqué

Although fusible web holds the pieces temporarily, the edges should be stitched for durability.

Thread the sewing machine with black thread for the outer cat pieces.

Use a narrow zigzag stitch, blanket stitch, or appliqué stitch.

A typical zigzag setting is:

- Width: approximately 2 to 3 mm**
- Length: approximately 1 to 1.5 mm**

Test the stitch on a fabric scrap before sewing on the quilt.

Sew slowly around the head, ears, and paws. Keep the outer swing of the zigzag just beyond the fabric edge and the inner swing inside the appliqué.

Stop with the needle down when turning around curves or corners.

Use coordinating thread around the yellow eyes, purple inner ears, gray nose, and pink tongue, or use black thread around all the pieces for a bold outlined appearance.

Secure the thread ends neatly on the back of the quilt top.

Adding the Facial Details

Add a small white highlight to each black pupil. These highlights can be made with:

- **Small white fabric circles**
- **White embroidery stitches**
- **White fabric paint suitable for washable textiles**

The highlights should be positioned near the same upper corner of both pupils.

Stitch a short vertical line down the center of the tongue using pink or dark red thread.

Add a small mouth line beneath the nose if desired.

For the whiskers, mark three curved lines on each side of the nose with a removable fabric pen.

Stitch over the marked lines using white, cream, gray, or pale blue thread.

You can use a narrow machine satin stitch, several passes of straight stitching, hand embroidery, or thin cord couched onto the fabric.

Keep the whiskers smooth and gently curved.

Preparing the Quilt Backing

Cut the backing fabric larger than the quilt top.

The backing should extend at least 8 to 10 cm or 3 to 4 inches beyond the quilt top on every side.

For this quilt, a suitable backing size is approximately:

- **115 × 130 cm**
- **Approximately 45 × 51 inches**

If your backing fabric is not wide enough, piece it using a straight seam. Press the backing seam open to reduce bulk.

Press the entire backing carefully.

Lay the backing fabric on a clean floor or large table with the wrong side facing up.

Smooth it flat and secure the edges temporarily with painter's tape or clamps.

Cutting the Batting

Cut the batting slightly smaller than the backing but larger than the quilt top.

A suitable batting size is approximately:

- **105 × 120 cm**
- **Approximately 41 × 47 inches**

Place the batting over the wrong side of the backing.

Smooth it from the center outward, removing all wrinkles and folds.

Do not stretch the batting.

Layering the Quilt Sandwich

Place the completed quilt top over the batting with the right side facing up.

The three layers should be arranged as follows:

- 1. Backing fabric, wrong side facing up**
- 2. Batting**
- 3. Quilt top, right side facing up**

Center the quilt top so that the backing and batting extend evenly around all four sides.

Smooth the layers carefully from the center toward the edges.

Make sure the backing remains flat beneath the batting.

Basting the Layers

Secure all three layers before quilting.

You may use:

- Curved safety pins**
- Thread basting**
- Temporary fabric basting spray**

When using safety pins, begin in the center and work outward.

Place pins approximately 10 to 15 cm or 4 to 6 inches apart.

Add extra pins around the cat appliqué and along the strip seams, because these areas may shift while quilting.

Inspect the back after basting to make sure no pleats or folds have formed.

Quilting Around the Cat

Begin quilting near the center of the project.

Quilt around the outline of the cat's head, ears, paws, eyes, nose, and tongue. Stitching close to the appliqué edges helps define the design and secures the quilt layers.

You may stitch directly beside the appliqué with a straight stitch or echo the shape approximately 0.5 to 1 cm or ¼ to ⅜ inch away.

Move slowly around the rounded areas.

Use a walking foot when quilting straight or gently curved lines.

A free-motion quilting foot may be used for tighter curves and decorative details.

Quilting the Colorful Background

The graphic suggests quilting along the fabric strips.

One simple method is to stitch in the ditch along each strip seam.

To stitch in the ditch, sew directly beside the seam on the lower side of the seam allowance. This makes the quilting line less visible from the front.

Another option is to quilt a straight line through the center of every strip.

You may also add free-motion quilting inside the individual strips. Loops, waves, flowers, leaves, or gentle meandering lines complement the colorful background.

Do not quilt too densely unless you want the finished quilt to feel firm.

Try to keep the quilting density reasonably even across the entire project.

Checking the Quilt After Quilting

Lay the quilt flat and inspect both sides.

Look for:

- Missed areas
- Loose stitches
- Thread nests
- Puckers
- Unsecured appliqué edges
- Folds in the backing

Repair any problems before trimming.

Remove all safety pins and temporary basting threads.

Press the quilt lightly if necessary, using a low temperature appropriate for the batting.

Squaring and Trimming the Quilt

Place the quilt on a cutting mat.

Use a long acrylic ruler to trim away the excess batting and backing.

Trim all layers even with the edges of the quilt top.

Check that each corner forms a true 90-degree angle.

Measure the quilt again. Small changes in size may occur during quilting, but the opposite sides should remain equal.

Do not remove more fabric than necessary.

Cutting the Binding Strips

Cut binding strips 6.5 cm wide, approximately 2 ½ inches wide.

Cut enough strips to go around the full perimeter of the quilt, plus at least 25 cm or 10 inches for joining.

The quilt perimeter is approximately:

- $95 + 110 + 95 + 110 = 410$ cm
- Approximately 161 ½ inches

Prepare at least 435 to 450 cm, or approximately 172 to 177 inches, of continuous binding.

For standard quilting cotton that is about 42 inches wide, you will usually need approximately five binding strips. Cutting six strips provides a safer amount.

Joining the Binding Strips

Place the ends of two binding strips right sides together at a 90-degree angle.

Draw a diagonal line across the overlapping square.

Sew along the diagonal line.

Trim the excess fabric, leaving a 0.7 cm or ¼-inch seam allowance.

Open the joined strip and press the seam open.

Repeat until all the strips form one continuous length.

Joining the strips diagonally distributes the seam bulk and gives the binding a smoother appearance.

Pressing the Binding

Fold the continuous binding strip in half lengthwise with wrong sides together.

Match the long raw edges.

Press the fold firmly along the entire strip.

The prepared double-fold binding should measure approximately:

- 3.25 cm wide
- Approximately 1 ¼ inches wide

Roll or loosely coil the binding after pressing so it remains neat.

Sewing the Binding to the Quilt

Begin along one straight side of the quilt, not at a corner.

Leave an unsewn binding tail approximately 15 to 20 cm or 6 to 8 inches long.

Align the raw edges of the folded binding with the raw edge of the quilt top.

The folded edge should point toward the center of the quilt.

Sew through all layers using a 0.7 cm or ¼-inch seam allowance.

Stop approximately 0.7 cm or ¼ inch before the first corner.

Backstitch and cut the thread.

Making Mitered Corners

Fold the binding upward and away from the quilt, creating a 45-degree diagonal fold.

Then fold the binding downward so that its raw edges align with the next side of the quilt.

The upper fold should align with the previous quilt edge.

Begin sewing at the top edge of the next side.

Continue around the quilt, repeating the same folding process at each corner.

Take care to keep the binding smooth without stretching it.

Joining the Binding Ends

Stop sewing approximately 20 cm or 8 inches before reaching the starting point.

Lay the two loose binding ends flat along the quilt edge.

Trim and join them with a diagonal seam, using the same method used to connect the original binding strips.

Before cutting, verify that the binding will fit the remaining space without being stretched or left too loose.

Press the joining seam open.

Refold the binding and finish sewing it to the quilt.

Finishing the Back of the Binding

Fold the binding over the quilt edge toward the back.

The folded edge should cover the machine-stitching line.

Form neat mitered folds at each corner.

Secure the binding with clips.

Hand stitch the folded binding edge to the backing using a ladder stitch or blind stitch.

Use small, evenly spaced stitches that do not show on the quilt front.

Alternatively, the binding may be machine stitched from the front. Stitch close to the inner folded edge while making sure the stitching catches the binding on the back.

Final Pressing and Inspection

Press the completed binding gently.

Do not press heavily over thick appliqué areas.

Check that:

- **Every appliqué edge is secure**
- **The whiskers are firmly attached**
- **All quilting threads are tied off**
- **The binding is completely stitched**
- **The corners are square**
- **No pins remain inside the quilt**

Remove any visible fabric-marking lines according to the marker manufacturer's directions.

Trim loose threads.

Main Sewing and Quilting Methods Used

1/4-Inch Seam

A 0.7 cm or 1/4-inch seam is used to join the background strips and attach the binding. A 1/4-inch presser foot can help maintain consistent seam widths.

Pressing

Press the strip seams after each addition. Lift and lower the iron rather than moving it aggressively across the fabric. This prevents stretching and distortion.

Fusible Appliqué

Fusible web attaches each cat shape to the background before stitching. The fused shapes must still be stitched around the edges for long-term durability.

Zigzag Appliqué Stitch

A narrow zigzag stitch secures the raw edges of the cat pieces. Keep the stitch narrow enough to preserve the shape but wide enough to cover the fabric edge.

Straight-Line Quilting

Straight quilting lines may follow the seams or centers of the diagonal strips. Use a walking foot to help feed the quilt layers evenly.

Free-Motion Quilting

Free-motion quilting can be used around the cat or inside the colorful strips. Lower the feed dogs and use a free-motion foot if your machine requires it.

Binding

Double-fold binding encloses the raw edges of the quilt. Diagonal joining seams and mitered corners create a clean, professional finish.

Helpful Tips

Use a 1/4-inch presser foot to maintain accurate seams throughout the project.

Press every seam as you work instead of waiting until the entire panel is assembled.

Arrange all appliqué pieces before fusing. Once the fusible adhesive has been pressed permanently, repositioning may be difficult.

Use a pressing cloth over the cat pieces to protect the fabric and your iron.

Stitch slowly around the cat's curved edges. Stop with the needle down whenever you need to reposition the quilt.

Begin quilting in the center and move outward to reduce puckering.

Support the weight of the quilt on a large table while machine quilting. Avoid allowing the quilt to pull against the needle.

Take your time with the eyes, tongue, nose, and whiskers. These small details create the cat's personality.

Most importantly, enjoy mixing fabrics and making the quilt your own. The colorful diagonal background is ideal for using coordinated scraps, leftover precut strips, or favorite floral prints.

Caring for the Finished Black Cat Quilt

After completing the quilt, wash it only when necessary.

Use cold or lukewarm water, a gentle cycle, and mild detergent.

A color-catching sheet is helpful during the first wash, particularly when the project contains strong reds, purples, blacks, and yellows.

Air-dry the quilt flat or tumble-dry on low heat.

The first wash may create a soft, lightly crinkled texture around the quilting stitches. This is normal and gives handmade quilts their characteristic appearance.

Your Black Cat Quilt is now complete and ready to display, gift, or enjoy! 🐱 🧵