

CLOWN QUILT – STEP BY STEP TUTORIAL

Finished Size: 70 cm x 74 cm (27½" x 29")



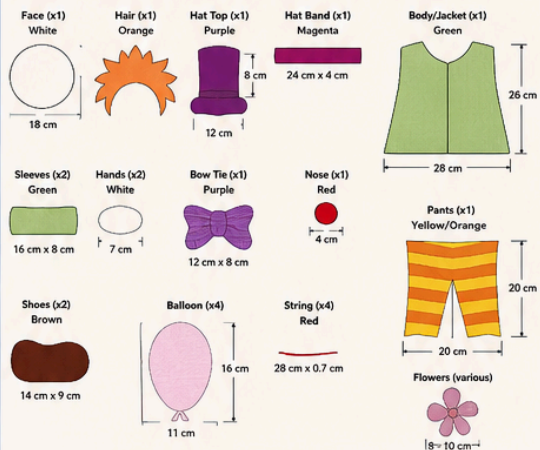
MATERIALS

- 100% Cotton Fabric (various colors)
- Backing Fabric: 80 cm x 84 cm
- Batting (cotton): 80 cm x 84 cm
- Fusible Web
- Thread (matching colors)
- Buttons: 3 (2 cm diameter)
- Binding Fabric: 250 cm x 6 cm
- No-Sew Fusible Appliqué Sheet (optional)
- Basic Sewing Tools

FABRIC SUGGESTION

- Skin/Face: White
- Hair: Orange
- Hat: Purple / Magenta
- Jacket: Green (striped)
- Bow Tie: Purple
- Pants: Yellow/Orange (striped)
- Shoes: Brown
- Balloons: Pink, Blue, Yellow, Orange
- Flowers: Assorted
- Background: Pastel mix

CUTTING GUIDE (All measurements include 0.7 cm seam allowance)



STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS

1. PREPARE THE BACKGROUND

Sew pastel fabric strips together to create the background panel. Background size should be 70 cm x 74 cm.



2. APPLIQUÉ THE MAIN PIECES

Use fusible web or appliqué method to attach all clown pieces onto the background. Start with larger pieces first.



3. ADD DETAILS

Sew or appliqué facial features, bow tie, buttons, and balloon strings. Embroider smile and details if desired.



4. ADD FLOWERS AND GRASS

Appliqué flowers and grass pieces at the bottom of the quilt.



5. QUILTING

Quilt as desired. Echo around shapes, add swirls in the background, and details in flowers and balloons.



6. BINDING

Attach binding strips using your favorite method. Miter corners and finish by hand or machine.



US QUILTING METHODS USED

APPLIQUÉ (FUSIBLE OR NEEDLE TURN)

Used to attach fabric shapes to the background.



PIECING

Used to join fabric strips for the background.



QUILTING

Stitching through all layers (top, batting, backing) to add texture and durability.



BINDING

Finishing the raw edges with fabric strips.



SEWING METHODS – KEY TECHNIQUES

1. SEAM ALLOWANCE

Always use 0.7 cm.



2. APPLIQUÉ METHOD

Use for piecing and appliqué.



4. PRESSED STITCH

Press seams flat or open for a neat finish.



2. STRAIGHT STITCH

Use a basic stitch or zigzag to appliqué.



5. TOPSTITCH

Topstitch around shapes for a crisp finished look.



6. HAND STITCH (OPTIONAL)

Use for binding finish or small details.



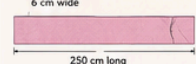
QUILT LAYERS DIAGRAM



1. Quilt Top (with appliqué and piecing)
2. Batting (cotton)
3. Backing Fabric

BINDING STRIPS

Cut binding fabric 6 cm wide



FINISHED QUILT



BACK VIEW



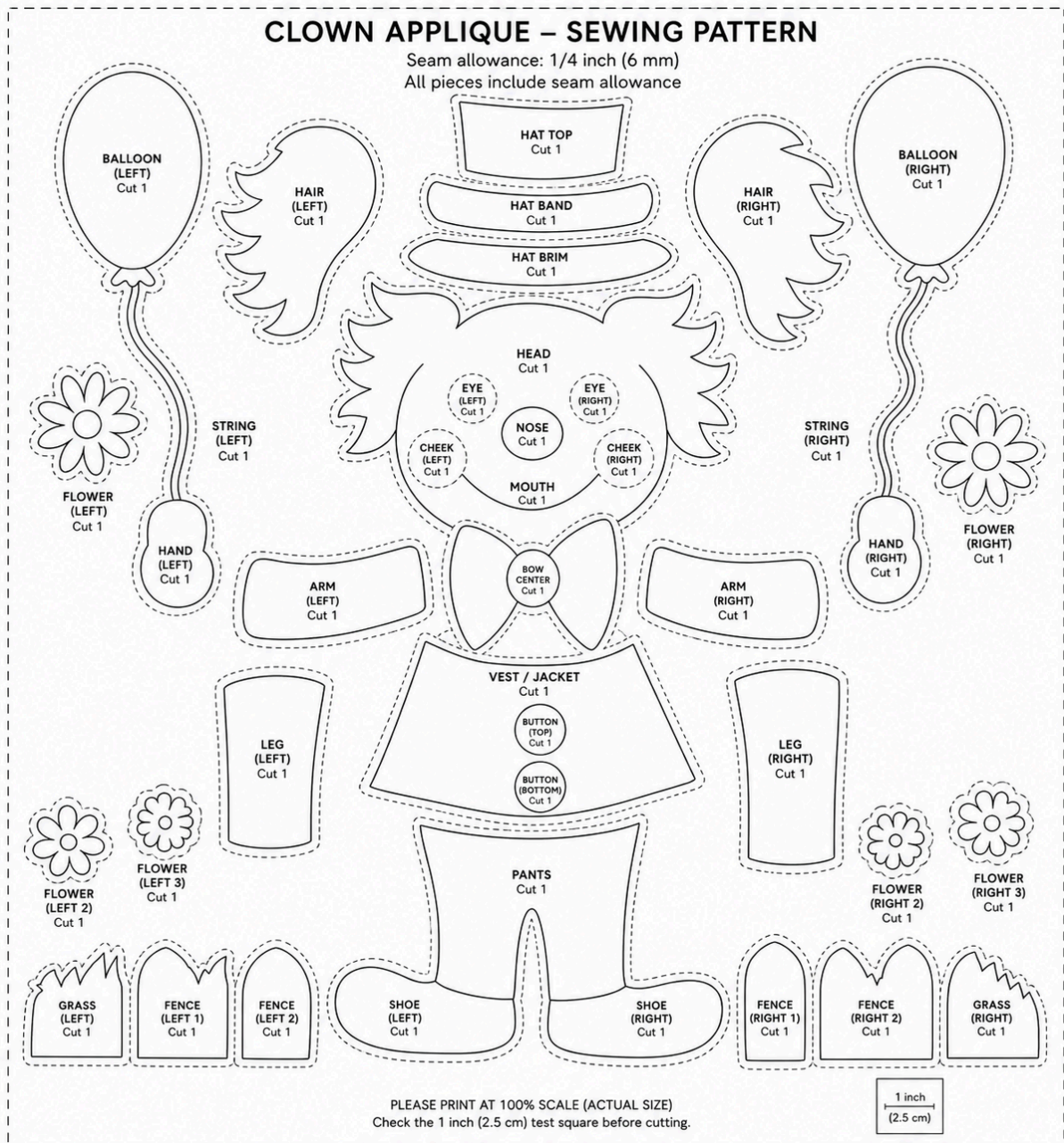
TIPS

- Use high quality cotton fabric for best results.
- Take your time with appliqué, accuracy makes the design pop.
- Practice quilting on scrap fabric before starting.
- Wash and press your quilt for a professional finish.

CARE INSTRUCTIONS

- Machine wash cold, gentle cycle.
- Use mild detergent.
- Tumble dry low or air dry.
- Do not bleach.
- Iron on cotton setting.

Enjoy making your Clown Quilt! Have fun with colors and details to make it your own masterpiece. ♥



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Clown Quilt – Complete Step-by-Step Tutorial

Create a cheerful Clown Quilt featuring a smiling appliqué clown, colorful balloons, flowers, striped pants, and a soft

pastel patchwork background. This detailed tutorial follows the measurements, materials, construction order, and quilting methods shown in the reference design.

The finished quilt measures approximately 27½ inches × 29 inches, or 70 cm × 74 cm. It is a manageable wall-hanging or nursery-quilt size and is suitable for confident beginners as well as experienced quilters.

All pattern measurements already include a ¼-inch seam allowance, approximately 0.7 cm, unless otherwise noted.

Finished Quilt Size

The completed quilt should measure:

Width: 27½ inches or 70 cm

Height: 29 inches or 74 cm

Because appliqué and quilting can slightly change the final dimensions, your quilt may vary by a small amount. This is normal.

Materials and Supplies

Gather all materials before cutting.

You will need:

- **100% cotton quilting fabric in various colors**
- **Pastel cotton fabric strips for the background**
- **Backing fabric measuring at least 32 inches × 34 inches**
- **Cotton batting measuring at least 32 inches × 34 inches**
- **Lightweight fusible web**
- **Coordinating sewing thread**
- **Quilting thread**
- **Three buttons measuring approximately ¾ inch or 2 cm**
- **Binding fabric**

- **Optional no-sew fusible appliqué sheet**
- **Fabric scissors**
- **Paper scissors**
- **Rotary cutter**
- **Cutting mat**
- **Quilting ruler**
- **Iron and ironing board**
- **Sewing machine**
- **Hand-sewing needle**
- **Appliqué needle, when using needle-turn appliqué**
- **Straight pins**
- **Safety pins or basting spray**
- **Fabric marking pencil**
- **Template plastic or cardstock**
- **Point turner or blunt tool**
- **Seam ripper**
- **Optional embroidery floss**

Use high-quality quilting cotton whenever possible. It is easier to cut, press, appliqué, and quilt than loosely woven fabric.

Suggested Fabric Colors

The original quilt uses a playful combination of bright clown colors and soft pastel background fabrics.

For the clown's face, use white or cream fabric.

For the hair, use orange fabric.

For the hat, use purple and magenta fabric.

For the jacket, use green fabric, preferably a subtle stripe or small print.

For the bow tie, use purple fabric.

For the pants, use yellow and orange striped fabric.

For the shoes, use brown fabric.

For the balloons, use a mixture of pink, blue, yellow, orange, or red fabrics.

For the flowers, use assorted bright scraps.

For the background, use a pastel mixture of blue, lavender, pink, mint, cream, and pale green.

You do not need to match the exact fabrics shown. The quilt will still look consistent when you repeat a few colors throughout the design.

Cutting the Background Pieces

The background is created from vertical pastel fabric strips.

Cut enough fabric strips to create a background panel measuring at least 28 inches × 30 inches before trimming. Making the panel slightly larger gives you room to square the quilt after appliqué and quilting.

The strips may be cut in different widths for a soft patchwork appearance. Suggested strip widths include:

- **2 inches**
- **2½ inches**
- **3 inches**
- **3½ inches**
- **4 inches**

Cut each strip approximately 30 inches long.

Arrange the strips vertically in a pleasing order. Alternate light and medium colors so that similar colors are not placed directly beside one another.

Sew the strips together using a ¼-inch seam allowance.

Press each seam as you work. You may press the seams to one side, alternating directions, or press them open to reduce bulk.

Continue joining strips until the panel is larger than the required finished size.

Square the panel and trim it to approximately 27½ inches × 29 inches only after the main appliqué work is complete.

Cutting the Main Clown Appliqué Pieces

Make paper or template-plastic patterns for every appliqué piece. Label each template with the piece name, color, quantity, and orientation.

When using fusible appliqué, trace the templates onto the paper side of the fusible web. Reverse any asymmetrical pieces before tracing.

The following measurements are approximate and may be adjusted slightly to maintain the proportions of your quilt.

Face

Cut one white or cream face piece.

The face should measure approximately:

7 inches wide × 7 inches high

The design uses a rounded circular or slightly oval shape.

The lower portion of the face may be widened slightly to create full clown cheeks.

Hair

Cut one orange hair piece.

The hair sits behind the face and should extend around both sides.

The finished hair section should measure approximately:

8 to 9 inches wide × 5 inches high

Create several curved or pointed locks along the outside edge. The hair should look playful rather than perfectly symmetrical.

Hat Top

Cut one purple hat-top piece.

The hat-top section should measure approximately:

4¾ inches wide × 3¼ inches high

The sides may be slightly angled so that the top is wider or more dramatic.

Hat Band

Cut one magenta hat-band piece.

The band should measure approximately:

9½ inches × 1½ inches

The band may be gently curved to follow the lower edge of the hat.

Jacket Body

Cut one green jacket-body piece.

The jacket should measure approximately:

11 inches wide × 10¼ inches high

Shape the shoulders with gentle curves. Angle the sides outward slightly toward the bottom.

Cut a shallow curved neckline at the top center.

The center of the jacket may be marked with a seam line, decorative stitching, or a fabric fold.

Sleeves

Cut two green sleeve pieces.

Each sleeve should measure approximately:

6¼ inches × 3¼ inches

Round the outside ends slightly.

The sleeve pieces may use the same green fabric as the body or a coordinating stripe.

Hands

Cut two white or cream hand pieces.

Each hand should measure approximately:

2¾ inches wide

Use a rounded mitten shape. The hands may include a small thumb curve, but detailed fingers are unnecessary.

Bow Tie

Cut one purple bow-tie piece.

The bow tie should measure approximately:

4¾ inches × 3¼ inches

You may cut the bow tie as one complete shape or as two bow loops and a small center knot.

For additional dimension, make the bow tie from two fabric layers, turn it right side out, and attach it as a three-dimensional embellishment.

Nose

Cut one red circular nose.

The nose should measure approximately:

1½ inches in diameter

The nose may be flat appliqué, padded appliqué, felt, or a fabric-covered button.

Pants

Cut one yellow-and-orange striped pants piece.

The pants should measure approximately:

8 inches wide × 8 inches high

Cut the pants as a single piece with a deep inverted V between the legs.

The upper edge should fit underneath the lower edge of the jacket.

Shoes

Cut two brown shoe pieces.

Each shoe should measure approximately:

5½ inches × 3½ inches

Use a rounded, oversized shape for a traditional clown appearance.

The shoes should face slightly outward.

Balloons

Cut four balloon pieces.

Each balloon should measure approximately:

4¼ inches wide × 6¼ inches high

Use an oval shape with a slightly wider upper section and a small point or knot at the bottom.

Suggested colors include:

- **Pink**
- **Blue**
- **Yellow**
- **Orange or red**

Decorate the balloons with dots, small flowers, stripes, or contrasting appliqué shapes.

Balloon Strings

Cut or prepare four red balloon strings.

Each string should measure approximately:

11 inches long

The string width shown in the cutting guide is approximately ¼ inch.

Instead of cutting very narrow fabric strips, you may use:

- **Embroidery floss**

- Yarn
- Decorative cord
- Bias tape
- Satin cord
- Machine satin stitching
- Couching thread

Curved strings create a more natural appearance than perfectly straight strings.

Flowers

Cut several flower shapes from assorted fabric scraps.

Each flower should measure approximately:

3 to 4 inches across

Create flowers using five or six petals with a small circular center.

Use different sizes throughout the lower half of the quilt. Smaller flowers may be added near the clown's hands or balloons.

Grass and Decorative Bottom Pieces

The bottom edge of the quilt includes irregular grass, leaves, and colorful fabric shapes.

Cut narrow curved pieces in various heights using:

- Green fabric
- Brown fabric
- Pink fabric
- Blue fabric
- Lavender fabric
- Multicolored stripes

The tallest pieces may measure approximately 5 to 6 inches high, while shorter pieces may measure 2 to 3 inches high.

There is no need for every shape to match. The variety gives the quilt its whimsical garden effect.

Preparing Fusible Appliqué Pieces

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

Leave approximately ½ inch between traced shapes.

Rough-cut around each shape, leaving a small margin outside the drawn line.

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

Follow the fusible-web manufacturer's instructions for temperature and pressing time.

Do not slide the iron. Place it down, hold it in position, and lift it before moving to the next area.

Allow the fused fabric to cool completely.

Cut each appliqué shape precisely along the traced line.

Remove the paper backing shortly before positioning the pieces on the background.

Planning the Quilt Layout

Place the prepared pastel background panel on a large flat surface.

Mark the horizontal and vertical center lines using a removable fabric marker.

Arrange the clown approximately in the center of the quilt.

The hat should begin several inches below the upper edge so that there is room for the upper balloons.

The clown's shoes should sit several inches above the lower edge. This leaves space for the grass, flowers, and decorative border area.

Place the balloons around the clown:

- **One pink balloon near the upper-left corner**
- **One blue balloon above the clown's left shoulder**
- **One yellow balloon near the upper-right side of the hat**
- **One orange or red balloon near the upper-right corner**

Arrange the balloon strings so that some curve behind the clown's arms and body.

Do not fuse anything until you are satisfied with the entire composition.

Take a photograph of the layout before removing or moving any pieces. The photograph can be used as a placement reference.

Step 1: Prepare the Patchwork Background

Sew the pastel fabric strips together to form the background panel.

Press each seam carefully.

The background should remain flat, without stretched or wavy edges.

A light spray of starch may be used to stabilize the panel before appliqué.

Trim loose threads from the front and back.

Place the panel right side up on a pressing surface.

Confirm that the panel is larger than 27½ inches × 29 inches.

Do not add the backing or batting yet. The appliqué is attached to the quilt top first.

Step 2: Add the Balloons and Strings

The balloons are placed behind most of the clown pieces, so they should be attached early.

Begin by positioning the four balloon strings.

Create gentle curves rather than sharp angles.

Secure the strings by couching them with matching thread, using a narrow zigzag stitch, or applying them as narrow fusible strips.

Position the balloon shapes over the upper ends of the strings.

Fuse the balloons according to the adhesive manufacturer's directions.

Add decorative circles, flower shapes, or spots to the balloons before stitching their outer edges.

Stitch around each balloon using one of the following methods:

- **Narrow zigzag stitch**
- **Blanket stitch**
- **Satin stitch**
- **Raw-edge straight stitch**
- **Hand blanket stitch**

Use thread that matches the appliqué fabric for a subtle finish or contrasting thread for a more decorative outline.

Step 3: Appliqué the Hair and Face

Position the orange hair piece near the upper center of the quilt.

The hair must sit behind the face and hat.

Fuse or baste the hair in place.

Position the white face over the center of the hair.

The face should cover the middle portion of the hair while leaving orange curls visible on both sides.

Check that the face is level before fusing.

Stitch around the outside edge of the hair.

Stitch around the outside edge of the face.

Use a shorter stitch length around tight curves.

Pivot frequently with the needle down to create smooth outlines.

Step 4: Construct and Attach the Hat

Position the purple hat-top piece above the face.

Allow the lower portion of the hat to overlap the upper hair and face slightly.

Add the magenta hat band across the base of the hat.

The band should extend slightly beyond both sides of the hat top.

Fuse the hat pieces in place.

Stitch around the hat top first.

Stitch around the hat band second.

Optional decorative topstitching may be added along the upper and lower edges of the band.

Step 5: Create the Clown's Facial Features

Mark the placement of the eyes, cheeks, mouth, and nose using a removable fabric pencil.

Position the eyes symmetrically above the center of the face.

The eye shapes may be created with small white and blue appliqué circles, black fabric, embroidery, or fabric paint.

Add two pink or red cheek circles.

Position the red nose in the center of the face.

Create the smiling mouth using black embroidery, narrow bias tape, fabric paint, or satin stitching.

Add a white curved section around the mouth when you want to copy the original exaggerated clown smile.

Secure all appliqué features with matching or contrasting thread.

Attach the nose last when it is padded or three-dimensional.

For a padded nose, place a small amount of batting behind the red fabric circle before sewing it to the face.

Step 6: Appliqué the Jacket Body

Position the green jacket body below the clown's face.

The upper edge should tuck slightly under the face or bow-tie area.

Center the jacket using the marked vertical center line.

Fuse or baste the jacket in place.

Stitch around the neckline, shoulders, sides, and lower edge.

Add a vertical decorative seam down the center of the jacket.

You may use contrasting thread to emphasize the striped fabric.

If the jacket fabric has directional stripes, confirm that the stripes run vertically before cutting and attaching the piece.

Step 7: Attach the Sleeves and Hands

Position one sleeve on each side of the jacket.

The inner sleeve edges should overlap the jacket body slightly.

Angle the sleeves outward to create an open-arm pose.

Place the white hands at the ends of the sleeves.

The hands may overlap the sleeve edges by approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ inch.

Fuse the sleeves and hands.

Stitch around the sleeve edges.

Stitch around the hands using a small stitch length.

Add a short curved line to suggest a thumb when desired.

Step 8: Add the Bow Tie and Buttons

Center the purple bow tie directly below the clown's face.

The bow tie should overlap the jacket neckline.

Fuse and stitch around the bow-tie shape.

Add a small circular knot to the center.

Attach three buttons vertically down the center of the jacket.

The reference design uses buttons approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in diameter.

Buttons are best attached after quilting so that they do not interfere with the sewing-machine foot.

Mark their locations now, but wait until the quilt is nearly complete before sewing them on permanently.

Step 9: Add the Pants

Position the striped pants under the jacket.

The top edge of the pants should be hidden slightly beneath the jacket.

Align the center of the pants with the center of the jacket.

Make sure both pant legs appear equal in length.

Fuse the pants in place.

Stitch around the outside edges and along the inner-leg opening.

Add one or more decorative horizontal stitched lines when the fabric does not already have stripes.

Step 10: Attach the Shoes

Place one brown shoe under each pant leg.

Angle the shoes outward slightly.

The upper edge of each shoe should tuck beneath the lower edge of the pants.

Fuse the shoes in place.

Stitch around each shoe.

Add decorative curved topstitching to create a sole, toe, or heel when desired.

Because the shoes are near the bottom of the quilt, leave enough room underneath them for the garden shapes.

Step 11: Add Flowers, Grass, and Garden Details

Arrange the grass and decorative shapes along the lower edge of the quilt.

Place taller shapes near the outer corners and shorter shapes near the clown's shoes.

Overlap the grass pieces to avoid empty spaces.

Fuse the shapes in sections, working from the back layer to the front layer.

Position the larger flowers throughout the lower half of the quilt.

Add smaller flowers near the balloon strings, clown's hands, or open background areas.

Use contrasting fabric circles for the flower centers.

Stitch around each grass shape, petal, leaf, and flower center.

For added detail, quilt or embroider stems and leaves after the quilt sandwich is assembled.

Step 12: Add Final Appliqué Details

Examine the entire quilt top for areas that need additional color or definition.

Add small balloon dots, flower centers, garment stitching, or decorative patches.

Embroider the clown's eyebrows and mouth details.

Add stitched lines to the hat, jacket, pants, and shoes.

Trim all loose threads.

Check every appliqué edge to make sure it is securely stitched.

Press the quilt top from the back using a pressing cloth.

Avoid pressing directly over dimensional pieces.

Step 13: Square the Quilt Top

Place the completed quilt top on a large cutting mat.

Use a long quilting ruler to square the corners.

Trim the quilt top to approximately:

27½ inches × 29 inches

Check the measurement across the top, center, and bottom.

Check the measurement along the left side, center, and right side.

The quilt must be square before the borders or binding are added.

Do not remove too much fabric from the appliqué area.

Step 14: Prepare the Quilt Backing

Cut the backing fabric at least 3 to 4 inches larger than the quilt top on every side.

For this quilt, prepare a backing approximately:

34 inches × 36 inches

The backing may be a single fabric piece or a pieced backing.

When piecing the backing, use a ½-inch seam allowance for extra strength.

Press backing seams open.

Remove the selvage edges before joining large backing pieces because selvages can shrink differently during washing.

Press the entire backing fabric.

Lay the backing wrong side up on a clean, flat surface.

Step 15: Prepare the Batting

Cut the batting approximately the same size as the backing.

A suitable batting size is:

34 inches × 36 inches

Use low-loft cotton batting for a traditional quilted appearance.

Cotton-polyester batting may also be used when you want slightly more loft and easier machine quilting.

Smooth the batting before layering.

Remove folds or wrinkles by allowing it to rest flat.

Do not iron polyester batting directly.

Step 16: Assemble the Quilt Sandwich

Place the backing fabric wrong side up.

Tape the backing edges to the floor or work surface, keeping the fabric smooth but not stretched.

Center the batting over the backing.

Smooth the batting from the center outward.

Place the quilt top right side up over the batting.

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

Baste the three layers together.

You may use:

- **Curved safety pins**
- **Thread basting**
- **Temporary basting spray**
- **Long hand-basting stitches**

Begin basting in the center and work toward the outer edges.

Make sure the layers remain smooth.

Step 17: Quilt the Background

Begin quilting near the center of the quilt.

Stitch around the main clown shapes to stabilize the design.

Continue quilting the pastel background.

Suggested background quilting designs include:

- **Meandering lines**
- **Loops**
- **Swirls**
- **Gentle waves**

- **Echo quilting**
- **Vertical lines following the patchwork strips**

Keep the quilting density consistent.

Avoid leaving large unquilted areas because they may puff or distort after washing.

Use a walking foot for straight quilting.

Use a free-motion quilting foot for swirls and curved designs.

Practice the quilting design on scrap fabric before working on the finished quilt.

Step 18: Quilt the Clown and Appliqué Pieces

Quilt inside the large appliqué pieces to keep them flat.

Add quilting lines to the jacket that follow the fabric stripes.

Quilt around the face without stitching across important facial features.

Add curved quilting lines inside the hair to suggest movement.

Stitch along the pant stripes.

Outline the shoes and balloons.

Add small quilting details inside the flowers.

Do not quilt directly through raised buttons or dimensional embellishments.

Attach those elements only after quilting is completed.

Step 19: Trim the Quilted Layers

After quilting, place the quilt on a cutting mat.

Trim the extra batting and backing even with the quilt top.

Use a long ruler and rotary cutter.

Check that the corners remain square.

Measure the quilt again before binding.

Staystitch around the quilt approximately $\frac{1}{8}$ inch from the edge when the layers feel loose.

This narrow line of stitching will be hidden by the binding.

Step 20: Cut the Binding Strips

Cut binding strips $2\frac{3}{8}$ inches to $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide.

The graphic recommends strips approximately $2\frac{3}{8}$ inches or 6 cm wide.

Prepare approximately 100 inches of continuous binding.

To allow for joining and finishing, it is safer to prepare at least 110 inches.

Join the strips with diagonal seams.

Place two strips right sides together at a 90-degree angle.

Sew diagonally from one corner to the opposite corner.

Trim the seam allowance to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch.

Press the seams open.

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

Press it carefully.

Step 21: Attach the Binding

Begin attaching the binding along one side of the quilt, several inches away from a corner.

Leave a loose binding tail approximately 8 to 10 inches long.

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

Sew using a ¼-inch seam allowance.

Stop ¼ inch before the first corner.

Backstitch and remove the quilt from the machine.

Fold the binding upward to create a 45-degree angle.

Fold it back down so the folded edge aligns with the next side of the quilt.

Continue sewing from the top edge.

Repeat this process at all four corners.

Stop approximately 10 to 12 inches before reaching the starting point.

Join the binding ends with a diagonal seam or a straight overlap seam.

Finish sewing the remaining section.

Fold the binding to the back of the quilt.

Hand-stitch it in place using a blind stitch, or machine-stitch it for a faster finish.

Create neat mitered corners on the back.

Step 22: Attach the Buttons and Dimensional Details

Sew the three buttons securely down the center of the jacket.

Use strong thread and make several passes through each button.

Do not pull the thread so tightly that the quilt puckers.

Attach the padded red nose, dimensional bow tie, or other embellishments at this stage.

Check that all decorative elements are washable and securely attached.

For a quilt intended for a baby or small child, avoid loose buttons and detachable embellishments. Replace them with flat appliqué circles for safety.

Step 23: Finish the Back

Inspect the quilt back for loose threads, knots, or skipped stitches.

Bury quilting-thread tails between the quilt layers.

Trim any visible thread ends carefully.

The reference quilt uses a lavender or purple backing with an all-over quilted texture.

A patterned backing can help hide small inconsistencies in the quilting stitches.

Press the quilt gently from the front and back.

Use steam only when appropriate for the chosen batting and fabrics.

Step 24: Wash and Block the Quilt

Wash the finished quilt in cold water on a gentle cycle.

Use a mild detergent.

Do not use bleach.

Color-catching sheets may be added during the first wash, especially when using red, purple, or orange fabrics.

Tumble dry on low heat or air dry flat.

Remove the quilt while slightly damp and smooth it into shape.

Allow it to dry completely.

Press on a cotton setting when necessary.

The first wash may create a soft, slightly crinkled quilted texture.

Appliqué Method Options

The quilt may be made with several appliqué techniques.

Fusible Raw-Edge Appliqué

This is the fastest and easiest option.

Fusible web is ironed to the back of each fabric piece. The shape is cut, fused to the background, and stitched around the edge.

A narrow zigzag, blanket stitch, or satin stitch may be used.

This method is recommended for beginners.

Needle-Turn Appliqué

Needle-turn appliqué creates smooth finished edges.

Add approximately ¼ inch around each template for the turn-under allowance.

Baste the pieces to the background.

Turn the raw edge under with the needle as you sew.

Use small invisible stitches.

This method takes longer but produces a traditional hand-appliquéd finish.

Turned-Edge Machine Appliqué

The raw edges can be turned before the pieces are attached.

Use freezer paper, starch, interfacing, or a facing method to prepare each shape.

Press the seam allowance to the back.

Stitch close to the folded edge with matching thread.

No-Sew Fusible Appliqué

A permanent no-sew fusible sheet may be used for a decorative wall hanging.

This option is not as durable as stitched appliqué.

For a washable quilt, secure all fused shapes with stitching.

Piecing Method

The pastel background is made using traditional strip piecing.

Place two fabric strips right sides together.

Sew with a consistent ¼-inch seam allowance.

Press the seam.

Add the next strip.

Continue until the background reaches the required width.

Accurate seams help the background remain straight and flat.

Quilting Method

Quilting joins the quilt top, batting, and backing.

Begin in the center and work outward.

Quilt around the appliqué shapes first.

Fill the background with loops, swirls, flowers, waves, or simple straight lines.

The original quilt includes curved free-motion quilting that adds texture without competing with the clown design.

Binding Method

Binding covers and protects the raw outer edges.

Double-fold binding is recommended.

Cut the strips approximately $2\frac{3}{8}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide.

Join the strips, press them in half, and sew them around the quilt edge.

Miter the corners carefully.

Finish the second side by hand or machine.

Essential Sewing Techniques

Maintain an Accurate Seam Allowance

Use a consistent $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch seam allowance for patchwork piecing.

Test the seam allowance on scrap fabric before beginning.

Measure the sewn unit rather than relying only on the markings on the sewing machine.

An accurate seam allowance helps the background stay square.

Use a Secure Appliqué Stitch

A narrow zigzag or blanket stitch works well for fusible appliqué.

Choose a stitch width that covers the raw edge without extending too far into the appliqué.

Reduce the stitch length around small curves.

Use stabilizer behind the quilt top when the appliqué stitching causes puckering.

Create Smooth Curves

Move slowly around curved pieces.

Stop with the needle in the down position.

Lift the presser foot slightly.

Pivot the fabric a small amount.

Lower the foot and continue stitching.

Frequent small pivots create smoother curves than a few large pivots.

Press Without Distortion

Press the seams rather than rubbing the iron back and forth.

Sliding the iron can stretch the fabric.

Press from the back whenever possible.

Use a pressing cloth over fusible appliqué.

Allow fused pieces to cool before moving them.

Topstitch for Definition

Add topstitching around the jacket, pants, hat, shoes, and bow tie.

Topstitch approximately $\frac{1}{8}$ inch from the edge.

Use matching thread for subtle detail.

Use dark contrasting thread for a cartoon-style outline.

Hand-Stitch Small Details

Hand stitching is useful for:

- **Mouth lines**
- **Eyebrows**
- **Balloon strings**
- **Flower stems**
- **Button attachment**
- **Binding**
- **Small decorative accents**

Use a knot that can be buried between the quilt layers.

Quilt Layer Order

The quilt sandwich must be assembled in this order:

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

The backing and batting should extend several inches beyond the quilt top during quilting.

Trim them only after the quilting is finished.

Tips for Better Results

Use good-quality cotton fabric for the best cutting and stitching results.

Prewash fabrics when you are concerned about shrinking or color bleeding.

Use a new sharp needle for appliqué.

A size 70/10 or 80/12 universal needle works well for most quilting cotton.

Change to a quilting needle when sewing through all three quilt layers.

Test fusible web on fabric scraps before applying it to the actual pieces.

Do not overheat fusible adhesive because excessive heat can make it stiff.

Work slowly around the clown's face because the facial expression is an important part of the design.

Check the complete layout from a distance before fusing the appliqué.

Use thread colors that blend with each appliqué piece.

Quilt on scrap fabric to test the tension before quilting the finished project.

Take breaks while free-motion quilting to prevent uneven stitching caused by fatigue.

Care Instructions

Machine wash the quilt in cold water using a gentle cycle.

Use mild detergent.

Do not bleach.

Tumble dry on low heat or air dry.

Iron using a cotton setting when needed.

Do not place a hot iron directly on plastic buttons, synthetic cords, or dimensional decorations.

Store the quilt clean and completely dry.

Avoid folding it in the same place for long periods. Refold it occasionally to prevent permanent creases.

Final Quality Check

Before considering the quilt complete, examine the following areas:

- **All appliqué edges are stitched securely**
- **The quilt is square**
- **The quilting is evenly distributed**
- **There are no large unquilted areas**
- **The backing has no folds or puckers**
- **The binding is fully attached**
- **The corners are neatly mitered**
- **Buttons and embellishments are secure**
- **Loose threads have been trimmed**
- **Fabric-marker lines have been removed**

Your Clown Quilt is now ready to display, give as a handmade gift, or use as a colorful decorative quilt. The combination of pastel patchwork, bright appliqué fabrics, playful balloons, and garden flowers makes every version unique. 🎈 🤡 🧵