

# OCEAN MOON QUILT – STEP-BY-STEP TUTORIAL

• A SEWING AND QUILTING GUIDE •



**FINISHED SIZE**  
70 cm (W) x 105 cm (H)

**SKILL LEVEL**  
Intermediate

## FABRIC & MATERIALS

- Assorted blue fabrics  
1.5 m total (various shades)
- White / light gray fabrics  
0.4 m
- Backing fabric: 0.8 m
- Batting (quilt batting):  
0.8 m
- Binding fabric: 0.3 m
- Thread to match
- Basic sewing supplies
- Fabric glue (optional)
- Fusible web (optional)
- Rotating cutter, ruler,  
cutting mat

## MAIN METHODS USED

-  **STRIP PIECING:** Sewing fabric strips together to create a larger piece.
-  **APPLIQUE:** Sewing fabric shapes on top of the background fabric.
-  **FOUNDATION PIECING:** Building the design on a background foundation (useful for curves and waves).
-  **QUILTING:** Stitching through the quilt layers to add texture and secure.
-  **BINDING:** Finishing the raw edges for a clean look.

## CUTTING GUIDE

|                                                                                    | PIECE               | SIZE (cm)   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------|
|  | Dark Blue Strips    | WOF* x 6 cm |
|  | Medium Blue Strips  | WOF* x 6 cm |
|  | Light Blue Strips   | WOF* x 6 cm |
|  | White / Gray Strips | WOF* x 6 cm |
|  | Moon Circle (white) | Ø 18 cm     |
|  | Binding Strips      | 6 cm x WOF* |

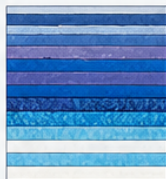
\*WOF = Width of Fabric (approx. 110 cm)

## STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS

### 1. PLAN YOUR DESIGN

Lay out your strips on a flat surface. Play with the placement of dark, medium, light blues and white to create a balanced ocean look.

Mark the moon and its reflection placement.



### 2. CUT YOUR STRIPS

Cut all fabrics into 6 cm wide strips across the width of the fabric (WOF). You will need many strips in different shades.



### 3. SEW STRIPS TOGETHER

Sew the strips together lengthwise using a 1/4 inch (0.7 cm) seam allowance. Press seams open or to one side. Continue until you have one large panel.



### 4. CUT WAVY SHAPES

Using a paper pattern or freehand cutting, cut gentle wavy shapes across the panel to create the ocean waves.

Cut several wavy strips.



### 5. ARRANGE THE WAVES

Lay out the wavy strips in order on your design wall or floor. Adjust colors and placement until you are happy with the flow.



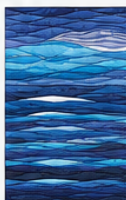
### 6. APPLIQUE THE MOON

Place the moon circle on the upper part of the quilt. Applique using small zigzag stitch or needle-turn technique. Add the moon reflection shapes using white/gray fabrics.



### 7. SEW THE QUILT TOP

Sew the wavy strips together in order, matching the curves and colors. Use a 1/4 inch (0.7 cm) seam allowance. Press seams.



### 8. LAYER YOUR QUILT

Place backing fabric right side down. Add batting on top. Place quilt top right side up. Baste all layers together using pins or basting spray.



### 9. QUILT THE DESIGN

Quilt along the waves and around the moon. You can use walking foot or free-motion quilting. Follow the wave shapes for a beautiful texture.



### 10. TRIM THE EDGES

Trim excess batting and backing, making the edges even with your quilt top.



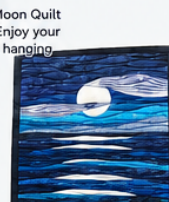
### 11. BINDING

Sew binding strips together end to end. Fold in half lengthwise and press. Attach the binding to the front of the quilt, mitering the corners. Fold to the back and hand stitch or machine stitch in place.



### 12. FINISHED!

Your Ocean Moon Quilt is complete! Enjoy your beautiful wall hanging or gift.



## TIPS

- Use a variety of blue fabrics for depth and movement.
- Take your time arranging the waves.
- Press seams carefully for a flat quilt.
- Quilting follows the design and enhances the ocean effect.
- This pattern is perfect for using fabric scraps!

## MEASUREMENTS SUMMARY (IN CM)

|                             |                |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Quilt Top (before quilting) | 70 x 105       |
| Finished Quilt              | 70 x 105       |
| Moon Circle Diameter        | 18             |
| Strip Width                 | 6              |
| Binding Width               | 6              |
| Seam Allowance              | 0.7 (1/4 inch) |

## CARE INSTRUCTIONS

-  Hand wash or gentle machine wash in cold water.
-  Use mild detergent.
-  Do not bleach.
-  Lay flat to dry.
-  Iron on low if needed.

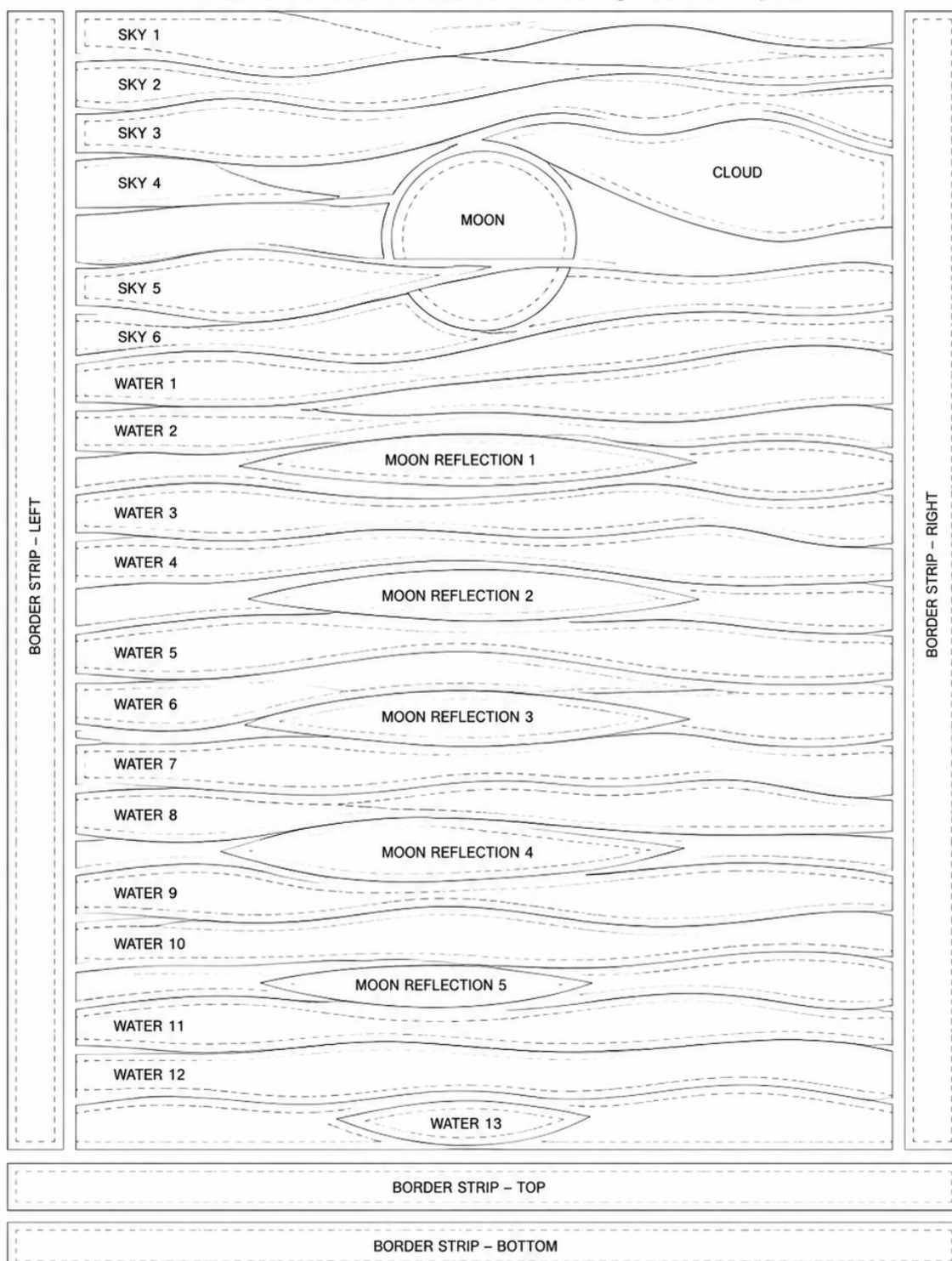
Create with love, quilt with passion! ❤️

# MOONLIGHT WAVES QUILT – PATTERN TEMPLATE

Finished Size: Approx. 18" x 28" (45 cm x 71 cm)

Seam Allowance: 1/4" (6 mm) included

Please add this seam allowance when cutting around each piece



—— CUTTING LINE  
 - - - - SEAM ALLOWANCE (1/4")

## IMPORTANT NOTES:

- Cut around the solid line.
- Seam allowance of 1/4" (6 mm) is included.
- Use your favorite method to appliqué or piece the design.

<https://creative.craftsforlove.com/> - **SEE THE BEST PATTERNS**

# Ocean Moon Quilt – Complete Step-by-Step Tutorial

The **Ocean Moon Quilt** is a beautiful fabric wall hanging inspired by moonlight reflecting across moving ocean waves. The design is created with layered blue fabric strips, curved wave pieces, a white moon, and smaller reflection shapes.

This project combines **strip piecing, appliqué, foundation piecing, quilting, and binding**. The finished quilt measures approximately **27½ inches wide by 41⅓ inches high or 70 cm by 105 cm**.

The pattern is rated **intermediate**, but patient beginners can complete it by working slowly, labeling the fabrics, and arranging the waves before sewing them permanently.

## Finished Size and Important Measurements

The finished Ocean Moon Quilt should measure approximately:

- Finished quilt: **27½ × 41⅓ inches** or **70 × 105 cm**
- Quilt top before quilting: **27½ × 41⅓ inches** or **70 × 105 cm**
- Moon diameter: **7 inches** or **18 cm**
- Fabric strip width: **2⅜ inches** or **6 cm**
- Binding strip width: **2⅜ inches** or **6 cm**
- Seam allowance: **¼ inch** or approximately **0.7 cm**

Because quilting can slightly shrink the quilt top, it is helpful to make the backing and batting at least **2 to 3 inches larger on every side** before assembling the quilt sandwich.

## Fabric and Materials

For the ocean background and waves, gather approximately **1.65 yards or 1.5 meters of assorted blue fabrics**. Choose several shades so the finished design has movement and depth.

Include very dark navy, dark blue, royal blue, medium blue, turquoise, aqua, and pale blue fabrics. Solids, batiks, marbled fabrics, small prints, and tonal fabrics can all be combined.

You will also need:

- Approximately **½ yard or 0.4 meter of white and light gray fabrics**
- Approximately **⅞ yard or 0.8 meter of backing fabric**
- Approximately **⅞ yard or 0.8 meter of quilt batting**

- Approximately  $\frac{1}{3}$  **yard or 0.3 meter of binding fabric**
- Coordinating sewing thread
- Basic sewing supplies
- Fabric scissors
- Rotary cutter
- Acrylic quilting ruler
- Self-healing cutting mat
- Pins or quilting clips
- Fabric marking pen or chalk
- Iron and ironing board
- Paper for creating wave templates
- Fabric glue or glue stick, optional
- Lightweight fusible web, optional
- Walking foot or free-motion quilting foot, optional but recommended

Choose a low-loft batting for a wall quilt. Cotton or an 80/20 cotton-polyester blend will keep the project relatively flat while still allowing the quilting texture to show.

## Main Techniques Used

**Strip piecing** means sewing long fabric strips together to create a larger fabric panel. This technique forms the basic ocean background.

**Appliqué** means placing fabric shapes on top of another fabric and stitching around their edges. The moon and some wave details are added with appliqué.

**Foundation piecing** means arranging and attaching fabric pieces over a base or foundation. This method is especially helpful for controlling the curved ocean waves.

**Quilting** means stitching through the quilt top, batting, and backing. The quilting secures the layers and adds texture.

**Binding** covers the raw outer edges of the quilt and gives the project a clean, finished border.

## Step 1: Plan the Ocean Design

Before cutting or sewing, lay the blue fabrics on a large table or design wall. Arrange them from dark to light to create the feeling of moonlight moving across the ocean.

Use the darkest navy and midnight-blue fabrics near the top and in several areas near the bottom. Place medium blues through the center and reserve brighter turquoise and aqua fabrics for the illuminated water.

Avoid arranging all the fabrics in a perfect color gradient. The ocean will look more natural when dark, medium, and bright shades appear in irregular groups.

Decide where the moon will be positioned. In the original design, the moon is placed in the upper-left or upper-center portion of the quilt.

Mark the approximate moon position with a paper circle. Then identify the area directly below the moon where the white and light gray reflection pieces will be placed.

Take a photograph of the arrangement before moving the fabrics. This picture can serve as a reference if the strips become mixed up while sewing.

## Step 2: Cut the Fabric Strips

Press all fabrics before cutting. Remove deep folds so the strips can be measured accurately.

Cut the assorted blue fabrics into strips measuring approximately **2 $\frac{3}{8}$  inches or 6 cm wide** across the width of the fabric.

The original cutting guide calls for strips cut from the **width of fabric**, commonly abbreviated as **WOF**. Standard quilting cotton is usually about **42 to 44 inches wide** after the selvages are removed.

Cut strips from the following color groups:

- Dark blue strips: WOF  $\times$  2 $\frac{3}{8}$  inches
- Medium blue strips: WOF  $\times$  2 $\frac{3}{8}$  inches
- Light blue strips: WOF  $\times$  2 $\frac{3}{8}$  inches
- White or light gray strips: WOF  $\times$  2 $\frac{3}{8}$  inches
- Binding strips: 2 $\frac{3}{8}$  inches  $\times$  WOF

You will not necessarily use every strip at its full length. Some will later be cut into curved wave shapes.

Cut more blue strips than you think you will need. Extra pieces make it easier to improve the color arrangement as the ocean develops.

## Step 3: Sew the Background Strips Together

Place the blue strips in the order selected during the planning stage. Begin at the top of the quilt and work downward.

Place the first two strips right sides together. Align one long edge and pin or clip the layers.

Sew the strips together using a consistent  **$\frac{1}{4}$ -inch seam allowance**.

Add the next strip in the same way. Continue until the strips form one large rectangular panel.

Press each seam carefully before adding too many additional strips. You may press the seams open or press them to one side.

Pressing seams open helps reduce bulk, especially when several curved pieces will later be added over the panel. Pressing to one side is also acceptable when done consistently.

Check the panel frequently to make sure it remains straight. If the strips begin to curve, alternate the direction in which you sew the seams. For example, sew one strip from left to right and the next strip from right to left.

The completed panel should be slightly larger than the intended finished size. Do not trim it to exactly  $27\frac{1}{2} \times 41\frac{1}{3}$  inches yet.

## **Step 4: Create the Wavy Templates**

Draw several long, gently curved wave lines on paper. Make each wave slightly different so the ocean does not look repetitive.

The curves should be smooth rather than sharply pointed. Broad waves are easier to sew and create a more natural appearance.

Cut out the paper wave templates and place them over the strip-pieced panel. Experiment with the shapes before cutting any fabric.

Some waves can stretch nearly across the entire quilt. Others can be shorter and placed only in selected sections.

Prepare waves in different widths. Narrow waves add movement, while wider waves create stronger bands of color.

Label the templates if you plan to reuse them. Mark the top and bottom edges to prevent accidental reversal.

## **Step 5: Cut the Curved Wave Pieces**

Place a paper template on a selected blue fabric strip or on a small strip-pieced section.

Trace around the template with a removable fabric marker. Cut along the marked curve using fabric scissors or a rotary cutter.

Cut several dark, medium, bright, and pale blue wave pieces.

Do not make all the waves identical. Vary the curve, length, and thickness of each piece.

Include some white or light gray wave pieces for the moonlit sections. These should be used sparingly so the reflection remains the brightest part of the design.

Arrange the cut pieces on the background without sewing them yet. Continue cutting and adjusting until the waves flow naturally across the quilt.

## Step 6: Arrange the Ocean Waves

Lay the strip-pieced background flat on a table or attach it to a design wall.

Place the curved wave pieces over the background. Begin with the larger pieces and then fill smaller spaces with narrower waves.

Overlap some waves slightly to create depth. The raw edges can remain visible temporarily because they will be secured during the appliqué and quilting stages.

Place darker waves near the upper section to suggest a nighttime sky and distant water. Use bright turquoise and medium blue pieces through the center to create the strongest sense of movement.

Distribute pale blue and white waves near the moon's reflection. Keep the brightest section vertically aligned beneath the moon.

Step back from the design frequently. Look for areas where one color is too dominant or where the wave direction feels unnatural.

When satisfied, photograph the arrangement again. Numbering the pieces with small paper labels can also help preserve the correct order.

## Step 7: Make and Position the Moon

Create a circle template measuring approximately **7 inches or 18 cm in diameter**.

Trace the circle onto white, cream, or very light gray fabric. A slightly textured or marbled fabric can make the moon appear more luminous.

For raw-edge appliqué, cut the circle directly on the traced line.

For turned-edge appliqué, add approximately **¼ inch around the circle** before cutting. Turn the extra fabric to the back and press it around the template.

Place the moon in the upper portion of the quilt. The graphic positions it slightly left of center, but it can be moved a little to suit the wave arrangement.

The moon should overlap some of the upper ocean waves so it appears to sit behind or among the water movement.

Secure it temporarily with pins, a small amount of fabric glue, or fusible web. Follow the manufacturer's instructions when using fusible web.

## Step 8: Create the Moon Reflection

Cut several white, cream, and light gray fabric pieces into narrow, irregular wave shapes.

Arrange the longest reflection pieces immediately below the moon. Gradually shorten the pieces as they move downward.

Separate the white pieces with blue gaps. The reflection should look broken and shimmering rather than like one solid white column.

Use gray pieces between some of the white waves to soften the transition into the blue water.

Keep the reflection generally aligned with the moon, but allow the shapes to shift slightly from side to side.

Once the arrangement looks balanced, secure each reflection piece with pins, fabric glue, or fusible web.

## **Step 9: Appliqué the Moon and Waves**

Choose a coordinating thread for each fabric or use a neutral blue thread that blends with several shades.

Stitch around the moon using a small zigzag stitch, blanket stitch, or straight stitch positioned close to the raw edge.

A narrow zigzag stitch is useful when you want the raw edges to remain covered. A straight stitch creates a more artistic raw-edge appliqué finish.

Sew slowly around the circle. Stop with the needle down whenever you need to reposition the fabric.

Next, secure the curved wave pieces. Begin with pieces positioned underneath other waves and work toward the top layers.

Stitch close to the upper and lower edges of each wave. If a wave is very narrow, one line of stitching through the center may be enough.

Press the quilt top carefully after all pieces are attached. Use a pressing cloth if fusible web or glue was applied.

## **Step 10: Complete the Quilt Top**

Inspect the entire ocean design. Make sure every wave, moon section, and reflection piece is securely attached.

Add additional small blue waves if any section looks empty or disconnected.

Check that the composition flows from one side to the other. Curves should lead the viewer's eye through the quilt rather than ending abruptly.

Measure the panel. It should still be slightly larger than the final dimensions.

Do not perform the final trimming until the quilt has been layered and quilted. Waiting prevents the edges from becoming uneven if the quilting causes minor distortion.

Remove loose threads and press the quilt top from the back.

## Step 11: Prepare the Quilt Backing

Cut the backing fabric at least **4 to 6 inches wider and taller** than the quilt top.

If one fabric piece is not large enough, join two backing pieces with a **½-inch seam allowance**. Press the seam open.

Press the entire backing thoroughly.

Place the backing right side down on a clean floor or large table.

Secure the backing with painter's tape or clamps. It should be smooth and firm but not stretched.

The backing fabric can be dark blue, black, or another coordinating color. Because this quilt is designed as a wall hanging, a simple solid backing works well.

## Step 12: Layer the Quilt Sandwich

Place the batting over the backing. Smooth it from the center toward the edges.

Position the quilt top right side up over the batting.

The quilt sandwich should now be arranged in this order:

1. Backing fabric, right side down
2. Batting
3. Quilt top, right side up

Smooth all three layers carefully. Check that there are no folds or wrinkles underneath the quilt top.

Baste the layers together with safety pins, basting spray, or long hand-basting stitches.

When using pins, place them approximately every **3 to 4 inches** across the quilt.

Keep the quilt flat during basting. Uneven layers may create pleats on the back during quilting.

## Step 13: Quilt the Ocean Design

Attach a walking foot for controlled curved stitching or a free-motion quilting foot for more artistic lines.

Begin quilting near the center of the quilt and work outward.

Quilt along the curved edges of the waves. Follow the natural direction of each fabric piece.

Add extra flowing lines inside some larger waves to create texture and movement.

Around the moon, use curved or echo quilting. Stitch one or more lines that follow the circular shape.

The moon itself can be lightly quilted with gentle curves, small spirals, or simple contour lines. Avoid extremely dense quilting if you want the moon to remain slightly raised.

Quilt through the white reflection shapes, following their horizontal direction.

Continue quilting until all areas are evenly secured. Try not to leave large unquilted spaces unless the batting manufacturer allows them.

Check the back of the quilt frequently for folds, puckers, or loose thread loops.

## Step 14: Trim the Quilt Edges

After quilting is complete, lay the quilt on the cutting mat.

Use a large square ruler and a long acrylic ruler to straighten the edges.

Trim away the excess batting and backing.

Square the corners to 90-degree angles.

Trim the finished quilt to approximately **27½ × 41⅓ inches** or **70 × 105 cm**.

Measure the width at the top, center, and bottom. Measure the height on both sides and through the center.

Make small adjustments if necessary, but avoid removing too much of the outer waves.

## Step 15: Prepare the Binding

Join the **2⅜-inch-wide binding strips** end to end.

For less bulk, join the strips with diagonal seams. Place two strips right sides together at a 90-degree angle.

Sew diagonally across the overlapping corner. Trim the seam allowance to approximately ¼ inch and press the seam open.

Continue joining strips until the binding is long enough to cover the entire quilt perimeter plus at least **10 to 12 extra inches**.

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

Press the fold carefully.

Roll the prepared binding loosely until ready to attach it.

## Step 16: Attach the Binding

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

Leave an unsewn binding tail measuring approximately **6 to 8 inches**.

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

Sew using a **¼-inch seam allowance**.

Stop ¼ inch before the first corner and backstitch. Remove the quilt from the machine.

Fold the binding upward at a 45-degree angle, then fold it back down so the fold aligns with the top edge of the quilt.

Begin sewing the next side from the edge. This creates a mitered corner.

Repeat the process at all four corners.

When you return to the starting point, join the two binding ends neatly. Finish sewing the remaining section.

Fold the binding over the quilt edge to the back.

Hand stitch it in place with a blind stitch for a traditional finish, or machine stitch it close to the folded edge.

## Step 17: Add a Hanging Sleeve

Because the Ocean Moon Quilt is ideal for wall display, add a hanging sleeve to the back.

Cut a fabric strip approximately **8½ inches wide** and slightly shorter than the finished quilt width.

Hem both short ends.

Fold the strip in half lengthwise with wrong sides together and press.

Position the raw edges along the upper back edge of the quilt before the binding is completely attached. Secure the top edge beneath the binding.

Hand stitch the lower folded edge to the backing fabric. Do not stitch through the front of the quilt.

Insert a wooden dowel or curtain rod through the sleeve for hanging.

## Step 18: Final Pressing and Finishing

Remove loose threads and inspect the binding.

Check that all appliqué edges are secured.

Press the quilt gently on a low setting. Avoid flattening the quilt too aggressively because the quilting texture is part of the design.

Attach a quilt label to the back. Include the project name, maker's name, location, and completion date.

Allow the quilt to rest flat for several hours before hanging it.

Your **Ocean Moon Quilt** is now complete and ready to display as a wall hanging, decorative textile, or meaningful handmade gift. 🌙🌊

## Helpful Tips for Better Results

Use many shades of blue. The contrast between dark navy, medium blue, turquoise, and pale blue is what gives the ocean its depth.

Take your time arranging the waves. The layout stage may take longer than the actual sewing, but it strongly affects the final appearance.

Press carefully after each major sewing stage. A flat quilt top is easier to appliqué, layer, and quilt.

Use fabric scraps whenever possible. This pattern is an excellent way to use leftover blue, white, and gray fabrics.

Follow the shapes of the waves while quilting. Curved quilting lines strengthen the ocean effect and make the water appear to move.

Test your appliqué and quilting stitches on scrap fabric before stitching the quilt.

Use a new needle, especially when sewing through fusible web and multiple layers.

Choose a thread that blends with the waves unless you want the quilting to become a visible decorative feature.

## Care Instructions

Hand wash the finished quilt or use a washing machine on a gentle cycle with cold water.

Use a mild detergent without bleach.

Do not use chlorine bleach or harsh stain removers.

Lay the quilt flat to dry whenever possible.

If necessary, press it on a low setting with a protective pressing cloth.

For a wall hanging, remove the quilt from direct sunlight occasionally to prevent uneven fading.

Store it rolled around an acid-free tube or folded loosely with clean cotton fabric between the folds.

<https://creative.craftsforlove.com/> - **SEE THE BEST PATTERNS**