

FINAL SIZE OF THE QUILT PANEL



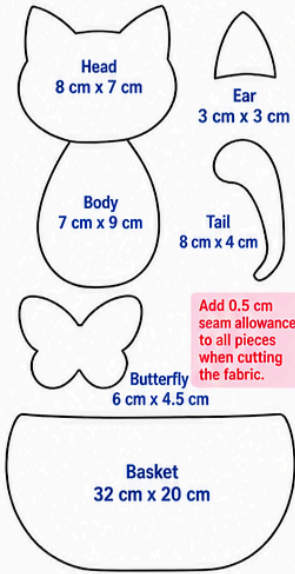
60 cm (23.6 in)

50 cm (19.7 in)

MATERIALS

- 100% cotton fabric (quilting weight)
- Background fabric: 55 cm x 65 cm
- Basket fabric: 35 cm x 30 cm
- Cat fabrics (gray, orange, white): 30 cm x 30 cm each (or scraps)
- Butterfly fabrics: 20 cm x 20 cm (or scraps)
- Border fabric: 6 cm x 220 cm (binding)
- Batting: 55 cm x 65 cm
- Backing fabric: 55 cm x 65 cm
- Sewing thread (matching colors)
- Fabric pencil or marker
- Fabric scissors / rotary cutter
- Pins or clips
- Sewing machine or hand sewing needle

TEMPLATES (WITHOUT SEAM ALLOWANCE)



Head: 8 cm x 7 cm

Ear: 3 cm x 3 cm

Body: 7 cm x 9 cm

Tail: 8 cm x 4 cm

Butterfly: 6 cm x 4.5 cm

Basket: 32 cm x 20 cm

Add 0.5 cm seam allowance to all pieces when cutting the fabric.

1 CUT THE FABRICS



- Use the templates to cut all pieces with 0.5 cm seam allowance.
- Cut background, backing, batting and border strips.

2 PREPARE THE APPLIQUÉ PIECES



- Draw details with a fabric pencil.
- Apply fusible web (optional) or baste the pieces onto the background fabric.

3 SEW THE CATS (APPLIQUÉ)



- Place and pin the cat pieces on the background.
- Sew around the edges using a straight stitch or blanket stitch (small stitches).

4 MAKE THE OTHER CATS



- Repeat the same process for the other two cats.
- Add ears, tails and facial details with fabric and embroidery by hand or machine.

5 MAKE THE BASKET



- Sew the basket pieces together and appliqué onto the background.
- Topstitch around the edge.

6 ADD THE BUTTERFLIES



- Sew the butterfly pieces, add antennae with embroidery and appliqué onto the background.

7 EMBROIDER DETAILS



- Use embroidery thread to stitch the mouth, whiskers and details.
- You can also use small buttons for the eyes or embroider French knots.

8 QUILT THE PANEL



- Layer: backing (wrong side up), batting, and top panel (right side up).
- Quilt with free motion or straight/wavy lines.
- Use a walking foot for even quilting.

9 ADD THE BORDER



- Cut 4 strips of 6 cm x 55 cm (top and bottom) and 4 strips of 6 cm x 50 cm (sides).
- Sew the side borders first, then top and bottom.
- Press the seams.

10 BINDING (FINISHING)



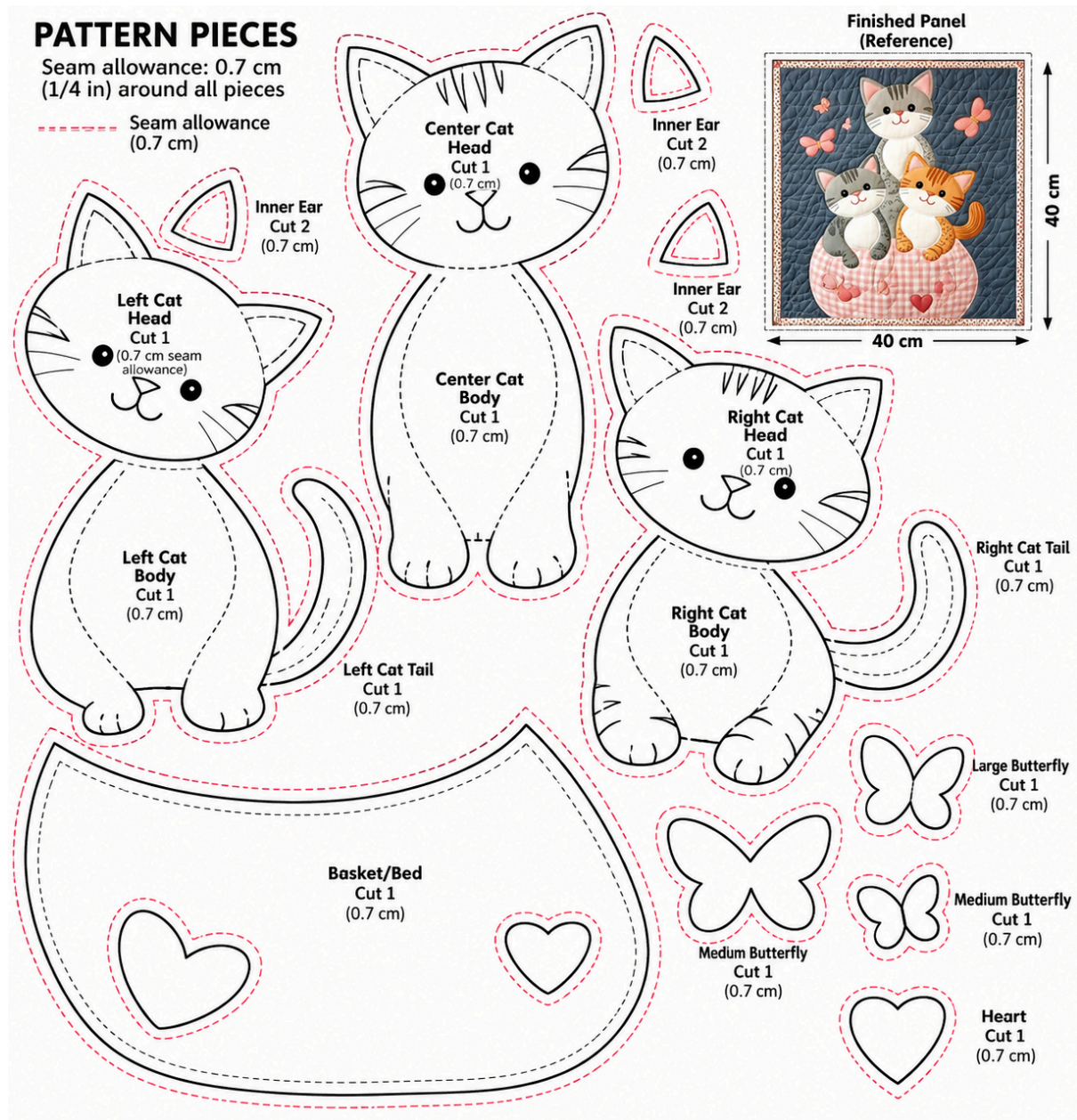
- Cut 6 cm x 220 cm for the binding.
- Fold in half lengthwise, press.
- Sew around the quilt, miter the corners.
- Fold to the back and hand stitch or machine stitch to finish.

11 FINISHED RESULT



MAIN STITCHES AND METHODS (US TERMS)

Straight Stitch (for appliqué)	Blanket Stitch (for appliqué)
Backstitch (for details)	French Knot (for eyes or details)
Running Stitch (for quilting)	Free Motion Quilting (wavy lines)
Machine Stitching	Hand Stitching (binding)



Three Cats in a Basket Quilt Panel Pattern – Complete Step-by-Step Sewing Tutorial 🐱 🧵

Creating a Three Cats in a Basket Quilt Panel is a delightful way to combine traditional American quilting techniques with colorful fabric appliqué, decorative embroidery, and free-motion quilting. This charming project features three

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adorable cats sitting inside a pink gingham basket, surrounded by delicate butterflies against a beautifully quilted blue background.

This complete tutorial follows the illustrated pattern, from preparing the fabric templates to stitching the final binding. It uses US sewing and quilting terminology, with all measurements provided in centimeters (cm). Whether you are an experienced quilter or a beginner learning fabric appliqué, the instructions will help you create a decorative wall hanging with a professional handmade finish.

The finished quilt panel measures approximately 50 cm wide × 60 cm tall. It is suitable for decorating a sewing room, nursery, craft space, or cozy living area. You can also personalize the cats with different fabrics, embroidery details, or decorative colors while keeping the original design.

Step 1: Gather Your Materials and Prepare the Fabric



Before beginning, organize your fabrics, tools, and templates. Preparing everything in advance makes the sewing process easier and helps maintain accurate measurements.

Fabric requirements

Material	Measurements
Blue background fabric	55 × 65 cm
Pink gingham basket fabric	35 × 30 cm

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Gray, orange, and white cat fabrics	30 × 30 cm each, or scraps
Butterfly fabrics	20 × 20 cm, or scraps
Decorative border fabric	Four 6 cm-wide strips, cut to fit
Binding fabric	6 × 220 cm total strip length
Quilt batting	55 × 65 cm
Backing fabric	55 × 65 cm

Choose 100% cotton quilting fabric whenever possible. Cotton is easy to press, sew, and quilt, making it ideal for appliqué projects.

For the cats, select a combination of gray prints, orange prints, and cream or white fabrics. The original design includes two gray cats and one orange tabby cat, each with a light-colored belly and muzzle.

For the basket, use a soft pink-and-white gingham fabric. Small-scale checks work particularly well because they add texture without overwhelming the cat appliqués.

Additional sewing supplies

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- Matching sewing thread in gray, orange, white, pink, and blue
- Black and pink embroidery floss
- Fabric scissors or a rotary cutter
- Cutting mat and quilting ruler
- Fabric marking pencil or washable marker
- Sewing pins or clips
- Fusible web (optional)
- Sewing machine with straight-stitch and zigzag capabilities
- Walking foot or free-motion quilting foot
- Hand-sewing needle
- Iron and ironing board

Important measurement note: The illustrated templates are labeled without seam allowance. Add 0.5 cm around fabric pieces when using a turned-edge appliqué method. For raw-edge fusible appliqué, pieces are generally cut on the finished outline instead, so do not add a turning allowance unless you intend to fold the edges under.

Step 2: Prepare and Cut the Appliqué Templates

The original graphic provides five principal template shapes: cat head, body, ear, tail, butterfly, and basket.

Template measurements

Templ ate	Approximat e size
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Cat head	8 × 7 cm
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Cat **7 × 9 cm**
body

Cat **3 × 3 cm**
ear

Cat **8 × 4 cm**
tail

Butter **6 × 4.5 cm**
fly

Baske **32 × 20 cm**
t

These measurements are the guide's approximate individual template sizes, not a full-scale printable pattern. The final design also uses smaller decorative pieces, such as muzzles, bellies, paws, and inner ears.

How to prepare the templates

- 1. Trace the shapes. Transfer the head, body, ears, tail, butterfly, and basket outlines onto template paper. For consistent results, use sturdy cardstock or quilting template plastic.**
- 2. Prepare the cat fabrics. Trace three cat heads and three bodies. Cut additional cream-colored pieces for the muzzles and bellies, along with small pink inner-ear shapes.**

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3. Cut the ears and tails. Prepare two ears for each cat and the visible tails shown in the original composition. You may adjust the tail curves slightly to fit behind the bodies.

4. Prepare the basket. Trace the rounded basket shape onto pink gingham fabric. Keep the gingham checks aligned so the finished basket looks symmetrical.

5. Prepare the butterflies. Cut several butterfly shapes in pink, coral, and patterned fabrics. For the small butterflies, reduce the main butterfly template proportionally.

6. Mark the appliqué placement. Arrange the paper pieces on the blue background before cutting all the fabric. This allows you to check spacing and proportions.

Press the fabric before cutting. Smooth, wrinkle-free fabric is easier to measure and produces cleaner appliqué edges.

Step 3: Create the Cat Appliqué Pieces 🐱

The cats are the central feature of this quilt panel. Each one has a rounded head, pointed ears, a softly curved body, and an embroidered face.

The original design includes one gray cat positioned higher in the background, a smaller gray cat on the lower left, and an orange tabby cat on the lower right.

Prepare the first gray cat

Begin with the largest gray cat. Use gray patterned cotton for the head and body, white fabric for the muzzle and belly, and pink fabric for the inner ears.

Position the white muzzle across the lower portion of the head. The muzzle should have a gently curved upper edge, leaving enough gray fabric visible for the forehead and striped details.

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Attach the muzzle using your preferred appliqué technique. A small blanket stitch or narrow zigzag stitch works well.

Next, place the white belly in the center of the body. Keep the shape rounded and symmetrical, following the original illustration.

Prepare the ears

For each ear, place a smaller pink triangle inside the gray outer ear.

Secure the pink piece using a short straight stitch or blanket stitch.

If you are using turned-edge appliqué, fold the seam allowance underneath before stitching.

Add the facial markings

Using a washable fabric pencil, lightly draw the following features:

- **Two rounded black eyes**
- **A small pink triangular nose**
- **A curved smiling mouth**
- **Three whiskers on each side**
- **Short dark stripes across the forehead**

Do not permanently stitch the facial features until the main pieces have been positioned and secured.

Repeat the same process for the smaller gray cat and the orange cat, changing the fabric colors and stripe patterns.

Step 4: Arrange and Sew the Three Cats onto the Background

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The placement of the cats is essential to reproducing the composition shown in the graphic.

Lay the blue background fabric on a clean, flat surface. Identify the center and mark the approximate basket position.

Arrange the cats before attaching them permanently.

Position the cats

Place the largest gray cat near the upper center of the composition. Its head should sit above the other two cats, creating the impression that it is peeking over them.

Position the smaller gray cat on the lower left, with its head slightly overlapping the central cat's body.

Place the orange tabby on the lower right, facing slightly inward toward the gray cat.

Keep the cats close together so they appear to be sitting inside the same basket.

Attach the pieces in layers

Begin with the pieces that need to appear behind other elements, such as tails, ears, and partially hidden bodies.

Pin or temporarily fuse them into place.

Use a straight stitch close to the folded edge or a blanket stitch around the appliqué shapes.

For machine blanket stitching, practice on a fabric scrap first to find a stitch width and length suitable for the size of your pieces.

Continue attaching the cat bodies, heads, muzzles, and belly patches.

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Avoid stitching through areas that will later be covered by the basket unless the stitching is necessary to secure the fabric.

Add the orange cat's tail

The orange tabby has a curved tail extending to the right.

Use orange striped fabric to create the tail, positioning its base behind the cat's body.

Stitch along the curved edge slowly, stopping with the needle down whenever you need to turn the fabric.

Once all three cats are attached, press the appliqué carefully from the wrong side, using a pressing cloth if necessary.

Step 5: Make and Attach the Pink Gingham Basket 🧺

The pink gingham basket is one of the most recognizable elements of the quilt panel. Its wide, rounded shape creates the appearance of a cozy fabric pocket holding the three cats.

The basket template measures approximately 32 × 20 cm.

Cut and prepare the basket

Place the basket template on the wrong side of the pink gingham fabric.

Trace the outline, adding the 0.5 cm turning allowance if using the turned-edge method.

Cut carefully around the curved lower edge.

For a smooth finish, you can use lightweight fusible interfacing or a turned-edge appliqué technique.

Press the curved seam allowance toward the wrong side, making small clips in the allowance where needed. Do not cut into the finished edge.

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Position the basket

Place the basket over the lower portions of the three cats.

The upper edge should cover part of their bodies, giving the impression that they are sitting inside it.

Make sure the basket is centered horizontally.

The lower rounded edge should remain above the bottom border, leaving enough blue background visible around the appliqué.

Sew the basket

Pin the basket securely.

Sew around the visible edges using a matching pink thread.

A narrow straight stitch gives the basket a simple finish, while a blanket stitch creates a more decorative handmade appearance.

If desired, add a few gently curved quilting lines across the gingham fabric to suggest texture and softness.

The original illustration also shows small butterfly appliqués and a heart on the front of the basket. These details will be added in the following steps.

Step 6: Create and Attach the Butterfly Appliqués

The butterflies add movement, color, and balance to the composition.

In the reference image, several butterflies appear around the cats, with additional small butterflies decorating the front of the basket.

Prepare the butterfly shapes

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Use the butterfly template measuring approximately 6 × 4.5 cm for the larger butterflies.

Cut the shapes from pink, coral, or printed cotton fabrics.

For a more decorative look, combine two complementary prints or add small contrasting wing sections.

You may also make smaller butterflies by reducing the original template.

Arrange the butterflies

Position the larger butterflies around the upper portion of the panel.

Place one toward the left side of the cats and another near the upper-right area.

Add smaller butterflies to fill empty spaces without overcrowding the design.

Arrange additional butterflies on the front of the basket.

Check the overall balance before sewing.

Stitch the butterfly appliqués

Secure each butterfly with pins or temporary fusible web.

Sew around the wing edges using a narrow blanket stitch or straight stitch.

For small butterflies, use short stitches so the curves remain smooth.

Add a butterfly body using embroidery floss or a narrow fabric strip.

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Use black or dark-colored embroidery floss to create the antennae.

A simple backstitch works well for the butterfly body and antennae.

You can add a few decorative stitches inside the wings to imitate the delicate patterns shown in the reference image.

Step 7: Embroider the Cats' Faces and Decorative Details

Embroidery gives the cats their friendly expressions and adds personality to the finished panel.

The original design uses simple facial details that are easy to recreate with basic hand embroidery.

Embroider the eyes

Use black embroidery floss to create small, rounded eyes.

You can make the eyes with tightly worked satin stitches or French knots.

Alternatively, use small black fabric circles secured with appliqué stitches.

For decorative wall hangings, securely attached small buttons are another option. Avoid buttons on projects intended for babies or young children.

Stitch the noses

Draw a small triangle in the center of each muzzle.

Fill it with pink embroidery floss using short satin stitches.

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Keep the nose centered between the eyes and slightly above the mouth.

Create the mouths

Use reddish-pink or dark coral embroidery floss.

Begin beneath the nose and stitch a short vertical line.

Then embroider two gentle curves extending outward to form a smiling mouth.

Use backstitch for smooth, continuous lines.

Add whiskers and stripes

Using gray, black, or brown embroidery floss, stitch three whiskers on each side of the muzzle.

Keep the whiskers evenly spaced.

Add short stripes across the forehead of the gray cats.

For the orange tabby, use darker orange or brown thread to emphasize the forehead stripes, body markings, and tail.

Add the heart

Cut a small heart from pink or burgundy fabric.

Position it near the bottom center of the basket, as shown in the reference design.

Attach it with a small blanket stitch.

Press the completed appliqué panel gently before moving on to quilting.

Step 8: Prepare the Quilt Sandwich and Quilt the Panel

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Quilting joins the decorative top, batting, and backing into one finished textile panel.

The original graphic features a blue background covered with soft, flowing quilting lines.

Prepare the three layers

Cut or square the materials as needed:

- Quilt backing: 55 × 65 cm
- Batting: 55 × 65 cm
- Prepared appliqué top: sized to fit within the quilt sandwich

Lay the backing fabric on a flat surface with the wrong side facing upward.

Place the batting on top.

Position the appliqué panel over the batting with the right side facing upward.

Smooth all three layers from the center outward to remove wrinkles.

Secure the layers with quilting safety pins or temporary basting stitches.

Quilt the background

For a finish similar to the original image, use free-motion quilting to create gently curved lines across the blue background.

Install a free-motion quilting foot and follow your machine manufacturer's instructions for the feed dogs.

Move the fabric slowly beneath the needle, guiding it into flowing, wavy patterns.

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Try to keep the quilting lines evenly distributed across the background.

Avoid stitching directly through the embroidered faces unless it is part of your intended design.

Alternative: Walking-foot quilting

If you are new to free-motion quilting, use a walking foot to sew straight or gently curved lines.

A walking foot helps feed the layers evenly and reduces puckering.

You can quilt diagonal lines, soft curves, or a loose grid pattern.

The most important goal is to secure all three layers without distorting the appliqué.

Quilt around the cats and basket

Use outline quilting around the cats, basket, and butterflies to emphasize their shapes.

This technique is sometimes called echo quilting when additional lines follow the contours at a consistent distance.

Keep the quilting light around the smaller appliqué details.

Once quilting is complete, remove the basting pins and trim excess batting and backing.

Step 9: Add the Decorative Fabric Border

The original quilt panel has a narrow white border decorated with small reddish-pink dots.

This border frames the blue quilted background and creates a clean, finished appearance.

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Prepare the border strips

The illustrated guide specifies:

- **Two strips measuring 6 × 55 cm for the top and bottom**
- **Two strips measuring 6 × 50 cm for the sides**

These are cutting references from the graphic. Measure your actual quilted panel before cutting the final border lengths, because the required strip lengths depend on the dimensions of the quilt top at this stage.

The graphic's 6 cm strip width also provides more fabric than is visible in the finished narrow border. Trim or adjust the strips to achieve the intended appearance.

Sew the side borders

Place one border strip along the left edge of the quilted panel, right sides together.

Pin carefully, matching the ends and center points.

Sew using a consistent 0.6 cm seam allowance.

Press the seam allowance toward the border.

Repeat for the right side.

Attach the top and bottom borders

Measure the width of the panel after the side borders have been attached.

Cut the top and bottom border strips to the required length.

Sew them in place using the same seam allowance.

Press carefully.

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If you want the border to be part of the quilted three-layer structure, attach it to the appliqué top before making the quilt sandwich and quilting. This is the more conventional quilting sequence and produces a fully quilted border.

Step 10: Finish the Quilt with Fabric Binding

Binding covers the raw outer edges of the quilt and provides a durable, decorative finish.

The reference tutorial uses a dotted fabric binding that coordinates with the outer border.

Prepare the binding strip

Cut a strip measuring 6 cm wide × approximately 220 cm long.

If your fabric is not long enough, join shorter strips with diagonal seams to create one continuous strip.

Press the seams open to reduce bulk.

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

Press firmly to create a double-fold binding strip.

Attach the binding

Place the raw edges of the folded binding against the raw edge of the quilt front.

Leave a short unsewn tail at the beginning.

Sew along the quilt edge using a consistent seam allowance suitable for the binding width and quilt thickness.

When approaching a corner, stop the seam allowance distance from the edge.

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Fold the binding upward and then back down to create a neat mitered corner.

Continue sewing along the next side.

Repeat this process around all four corners.

Join the binding ends

When you reach the starting point, stop with enough room to join the two binding ends.

Trim and join the ends neatly.

Finish stitching the remaining section.

Finish the back

Fold the binding over the quilt's raw edge toward the back.

Use clips to hold it in place.

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

Alternatively, machine-stitch the binding from the front, making sure the stitching catches the folded edge on the back.

Check all four corners and reinforce any loose areas.

Binding length tip: A finished 50 × 60 cm quilt has a perimeter of 220 cm. Because joining the binding ends and turning the corners require additional length, the illustrated 220 cm strip is tight. Preparing approximately 235–245 cm of continuous binding is safer.

Step 11: Final Pressing and Finishing Touches ✨

Your Three Cats in a Basket Quilt Panel is almost complete.

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Lay the finished quilt on a flat surface and inspect the appliqué, embroidery, quilting, border, and binding.

Check that all fabric pieces are securely attached.

Trim loose threads and remove any remaining temporary fabric markings according to the marker manufacturer's instructions.

Press the finished quilt

Use a warm iron appropriate for cotton fabric.

Press gently without flattening raised embroidery stitches.

A pressing cloth can protect the decorative stitching and prevent unwanted shine.

If necessary, lightly steam the border and binding to help the edges lie flat.

Avoid stretching the panel while pressing.

Add a hanging sleeve

If you plan to display the quilt as a wall hanging, add a fabric hanging sleeve to the back.

Cut a strip of fabric approximately 8–10 cm wide and slightly shorter than the finished quilt width.

Fold and hem the short ends.

Fold the strip lengthwise, right sides together, and stitch along the long edge.

Turn it right side out and press.

Hand-stitch the sleeve to the upper back of the quilt, keeping the stitches from showing on the front.

Insert a small hanging rod to display your finished project.

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Finished quilt dimensions

[Adorable Handmade Quilt Embroidered Cats](#)

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Finished width

50 cm

19.7 inches

Finished height

60 cm

23.6 inches

Illustrative visual reference. The uploaded tutorial graphic remains the primary guide for fabric placement and design details.

The finished quilt should feature three expressive cats, a rounded pink gingham basket, colorful butterflies, a textured blue background, and a coordinating dotted border.

Step 12: Understanding the Main US Quilting Stitches and Techniques

The illustrated tutorial includes several common sewing and quilting methods. Understanding their purposes will help you choose the best technique for each section of the project.

**Stitch or
technique**

Main purpose

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Straight stitch	Attaching appliqué and sewing seams
Blanket stitch	Finishing and securing appliqué edges
Backstitch	Embroidering mouths, whiskers, and antennae
French knot	Creating small decorative details or eyes
Running stitch	Hand quilting and decorative outlines
Free-motion quilting	Making wavy and curved quilting patterns
Machine stitching	Securing fabric layers and constructing the panel
Hand stitching	Finishing the binding and small details

Tips for better appliqué stitching

Use a new, sharp sewing-machine needle appropriate for quilting cotton.

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Match the thread color to the fabric whenever you want the stitches to blend into the design.

For decorative blanket stitching, contrasting thread can help emphasize the appliqué shapes.

Keep your stitching speed slow when sewing around curves, ears, and small butterfly wings.

Test your chosen stitches on a scrap quilt sandwich before working on the actual panel.

For the smoothest result, press each appliqué section before adding the next layer.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Is this quilt panel suitable for beginners?

Yes. The project is suitable for confident beginners who are comfortable using a sewing machine and cutting fabric accurately. If you are new to appliqué, begin with the larger basket shape before attempting the smaller ears and butterflies.

What is the best fabric for this quilt pattern?

100% cotton quilting fabric is the best choice. It is easy to cut, press, and stitch, and it holds its shape well during appliqué and quilting.

Do I need a sewing machine?

No. You can complete the entire project by hand using blanket stitch, running stitch, and backstitch. However, a sewing machine will make the construction and quilting stages faster.

What seam allowance should I use?

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The illustrated tutorial specifies 0.5 cm for turned-edge appliqué pieces. For regular piecing seams, this tutorial uses approximately 0.6 cm, close to the standard American quilting seam allowance of ¼ inch.

Can I use fusible web for the cats and butterflies?

Yes. Lightweight fusible web is especially useful for holding small appliqué shapes in place. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for applying it, and choose an edge-finishing stitch appropriate for your fabric and web.

Can I make the quilt larger?

Absolutely. You can enlarge the templates proportionally and increase the background, batting, backing, and border measurements. Keep the relationships between the cats, basket, and butterflies consistent so the composition remains balanced.

How do I prevent puckering while quilting?

Baste the layers thoroughly, use a suitable quilting needle, and avoid pulling the fabric while stitching. A walking foot is particularly helpful when quilting straight lines.

Can I wash the finished quilt?

Yes, provided the fabrics, threads, and embellishments are washable. Prewash fabrics if you are concerned about color bleeding or shrinkage, especially when combining dark blue, orange, and white cotton. Use a gentle cycle with cool water and dry flat when possible.

What can I use instead of embroidery for the eyes?

Small black fabric circles are a good alternative. You can also use securely attached buttons for an adult decorative wall

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hanging, but avoid detachable embellishments on items intended for babies or young children.

How long does this quilt project take?

A beginner may need approximately 8–15 hours, depending on sewing experience and the amount of hand embroidery. Experienced quilters may complete it more quickly.

Conclusion: Enjoy Your Handmade Three Cats in a Basket Quilt Panel ❤️

The Three Cats in a Basket Quilt Panel Pattern combines several enjoyable sewing techniques in one creative project. From preparing the cotton fabrics and cutting the appliqué templates to embroidering the cats' expressions and quilting the blue background, every stage adds character to the finished design.

The pink gingham basket, playful kittens, colorful butterflies, and decorative border create a charming handmade wall hanging that can brighten a nursery, craft room, or living space.

By following the original graphic and the detailed instructions in this tutorial, you can create your own version while developing valuable skills in fabric appliqué, hand embroidery, machine quilting, and quilt binding.

Most importantly, take your time with the small details, enjoy choosing your fabrics, and have fun bringing these three adorable cats to life through quilting. 🐱🦋🧵