Comfort Quilt

A comfort quilt can be made with any square – any fabric – any design – any pattern. Preprinted quilts from a store may be used. A solid piece of fabric may be used and tied with colorful yarn ties. Comfort quilts can be given to various organizations to bring comfort and love to children. The quilts could be distributed to a local abuse shelter, a hospital pediatric unit, the EMT unit in your community, or a mission project in any area. All offer a place to comfort a child.

Here is a simple pattern you can use to get started making a pieced top. It takes about 1-2 hours, depending on your expertise. It can be made from scraps or newly purchased materials.

The basis for this simple quilt is a traditional nine patch square. It takes two colors of fabric for the center and two or three for the outside bands. The finished size is approximately 45 inches.

You will need:

- Two - 1 yard pieces of coordinating fabrics
- One - ¼ yard piece in a third color for third border (This is optional. You may use only two colors for border.)

Note: You may also use scraps in any combination.

- Cut five 12 inch squares of a focus fabric – Fabric 1
- Cut four 12 inch squares of a second fabric – Fabric 2
- Cut one fabric in 1 ½ inch strips.
- Cut one fabric in 2 inch strips.
- Cut one fabric in 1 ½ inch strips.
- Sew 12 inch squares together in nine patch fashion.
- Row one – one square of Fabric 1, one square of Fabric 2, and one square of Fabric 1
- Row two – one square of Fabric 2, one square of Fabric 1, and one square of Fabric 2
- Row three – repeat row one

Press all seams to the darker fabric.

- Sew row one to row two, matching the seams. They will nest against one another.
- Sew row three to the unit again, matching the seams.

You have now finished the center of the quilt and will border this with the strips you have cut.

- Use strip 1 ½ inches wide. Border the nine patches by sewing strips on all 4 edges.
- Use strip 2 inches wide. Repeat as with border #1.
- Use strip 2 ½ inches wide. Repeat as with borders #1 and #2.

To assemble the quilt, you will make a sandwich of three layers.
1) Backing fabric – the size of your finished quilt. This can be a piece of matching fabric or muslin.

2) Quilt batting – you may use any brand or size. It should be cut the size of your top. It works best to use ¼ inch loft (thinner material).

3) Quilt top.

Place the quilt top and the backing right sides together. Put the quilt batting on the backing side. Sew ¼ inch seam around the outside of the square leaving an opening in one side to turn the quilt. The construction is like that of a pillow.

Turn the quilt and sew up the opening.

Press well. This can now be held together in a number of ways.

1) Hand quilt following seam lines.

2) Machine quilt sewing in the ditch (the seam line) along all the seams in the nine patch and around the border seams.

3) Tie the quilt at four to six intervals.

4) Combination of #2 and #3. The 12 inch squares are a little large to leave with no quilting when you sew it down. A tie in the center of each will secure the quilt.

5) If you are a machine quilter you may want to free style inside the squares of the nine patch and follow the stitch in the ditch along other seams.
Programming Ideas

Isn’t this just for groups of ladies who sew? Who else could do this?

Everything in Comfort Quilt work is simple, straight line sewing. It will take people who can cut, pin and sew. Kids love to pick fabric, draw on fabric, and even do some of the sewing.

Locate people in your church who sew. They may be old or young, male or female. They may not want or be able to teach, but they could help assemble the quilts if you brought the quilts to them. Some seniors might be delighted to simply sit at a machine and sew what you put together for them.

Any children’s group can color the 12 inch square used in this quilt. In preparation, cut 12 inch white or muslin squares, and trace from coloring books large pictures that children would enjoy. You can use fabric marking pens or regular crayons to color the pictures. Heat set squares before sewing into the quilt. (If you are brave and you have several adult helpers, children can even be allowed to do the sewing.)

Children could do the drawing and adults the putting together. Both groups could enjoy one another at a show before sending off the quilts.

A senior group might enjoy this project. If they can’t do all the work, have a younger group finish or start the quilt.

Youth groups can do all the things involved. Make this a full service project by taking youth to the delivery point of the project. Let them hear what people are doing with the quilts, and how the quilts are helping.

Some churches use these quilts in baby dedication services. As the child is presented, they are placed into a quilt to symbolize the loving arms of the church family. When the child is returned to their family, the quilt accompanies them.

Children’s worship programs that take offerings can earmark money from their program for use with the quilts. When quilts are made they are brought to the children’s program for blessing and dedications.

If your church has worked in a mission area in the summer, this might be a way to stay connected. Encourage people to pray as they work on any project to make it a double blessing.

Disciples Home Missions Comfort Quilt Instructions contributed by
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