Project: Pillowcase with X-Block Band

FABRICS are from the Welcome to Bear Country collection by The Berenstains for Moda Fabrics *(modafabrics.com)*.

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Materials

- 18×22" piece (fat quarter) light print No. 1 (blocks)
- 4—18×22" pieces (fat quarters) assorted prints Nos. 2–5 (blocks)
- ⅜ yard print No. 6 (band)
- ⅞ yard print No. 7 (pillowcase body)

Finished pillowcase: 30×20" (fits a standard-size bed pillow)
Finished block: 5" square

Quantities are for 44/45"-wide, 100% cotton fabrics.
Measurements include ¼" seam allowances for pieced blocks and ½" seam allowances for pillowcase construction. Sew with right sides together unless otherwise stated.

Cut Fabrics

From print No. 1, cut:

- 96—1¾" squares

From *each* of four assorted prints (Nos. 2—5), cut:

- 8—3" squares

From print No. 6, cut:

- 1—5½×40½" strip

From print No. 7, cut:

- 1—25¾×41" rectangle

Assemble Blocks

Use a ¼" seam allowance for the following steps.

1. Use a pencil to mark a diagonal line on wrong side of each print 1¾" square. (To prevent fabric from stretching as you draw lines, place 220-grit sandpaper under each square.)

2. For one block you will need twelve 1¾" marked squares and four matching print 3" squares.

3. Align a marked print square with opposite corners of a print 3" square **(Diagram 1;** note direction of drawn lines). Sew on drawn lines; trim excess, leaving a ¼" seam allowance. Press open attached triangles, pressing seams toward triangle.

4. In same manner, add a third marked 1¾" square to a remaining corner, again noting direction of drawn line. Stitch, trim, and press as before to make a unit **(Diagram 2).** The unit should be 3" square including seam allowances.

5. Repeat steps 3 and 4 to make four units total.

6. Sew units together in pairs **(Diagram 3).** Press seams in opposite directions. Join pairs to make a block. Press seam in one direction. The block should be 5½" square including seam allowances.

7. Repeat steps 3–6 to make eight blocks total (two blocks from each of the four assorted prints).

Assemble Band

1. Use a ¼" seam allowance for the following steps. Sew the blocks together in a row **(Band Assembly Diagram).** The pieced row should be 5½×40½" including seam allowances.

2. Referring to **Band Assembly Diagram,** sew together the pieced row and print 5½×40½" strip along a pair of long edges.

3. Join short ends of Step 2 unit to make a loop. Press seam open. Fold loop in half with wrong side inside; press to make pillowcase band.

Assemble Pillowcase

Use a ½" seam allowance for the following steps, except where noted.

1. Fold print 25¾×41" rectangle in half to form a 25¾×20½" rectangle. Sew together long edges and one pair of short edges to make pillowcase body. Turn right side out and press flat.

2. Referring to **Diagram 4,** slide pillowcase band over pillowcase body with pieced strip facing pillowcase body; align raw edges and pin. Using ¼" seam allowance, sew through all layers.

3. Press pillowcase band open, pressing seam allowance toward pillowcase body. Topstitch on pillowcase body ⅛" from band edge to secure seam allowance and complete pillowcase **(Diagram 5).**

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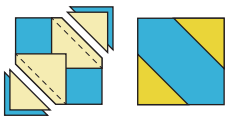


DIAGRAM 1

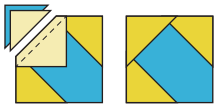


DIAGRAM 2

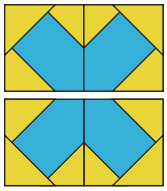
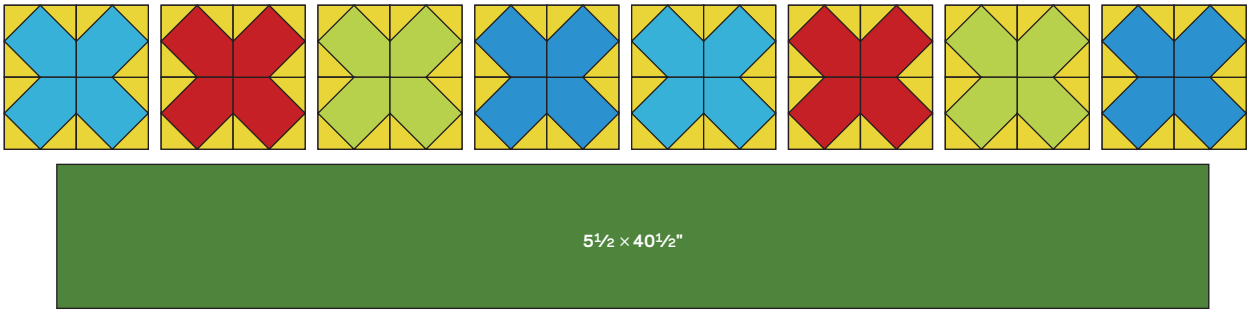


DIAGRAM 3



BAND ASSEMBLY DIAGRAM

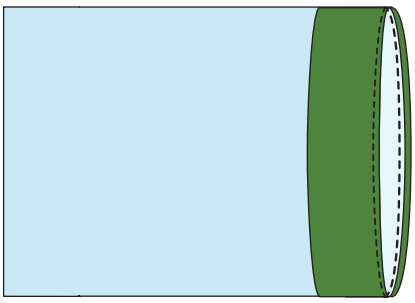


DIAGRAM 4

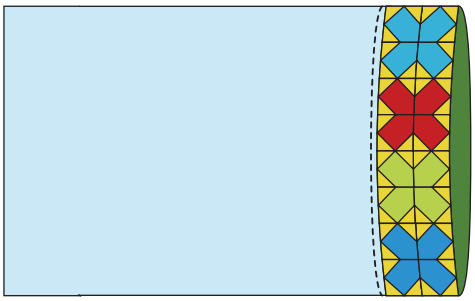


DIAGRAM 5

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