



sewing patterns
BY PATTY YOUNG

sun & surf summer quilt

FREE PATTERN



DESIGN AND INSTRUCTIONS BY VALERIE HABERER FOR MODKID LLC

FREE PATTERN • NOT FOR RESALE

Sun & Surf Summer Strip Quilt

by Valerie Haberer for Modkid

This simple strip quilt is the perfect weight for summer. Take it to the beach, use it to cover a picnic table at the park, spread it out under a shade tree to enjoy some quiet time or just snuggle on the sofa on a cool summer evening. And, because the back is just a towel, it's super easy to wash up!

Ingredients:

- 1 towel – Please pre-wash and dry your towel to de-lint & pre-shrink! (Our towel is a bath towel, 30" x 60".)
- Assorted fabrics (WOF) – Please pre-wash, dry & iron. Strips can be cut any width, but 2 ½" to 9" work best. For the sample quilt we used fabrics from Patty Young's PLAYDATE collection, for Michael Miller Fabrics.
- Thread to match your towel color
- Spray Starch
- Straight pins (I like glass head pins, because we're doing so much ironing, we can leave them in and the heads don't melt.)

Directions:

Please read all of the directions in advance of cutting or sewing, so you get the gist of the technique. If you do, you'll agree it's super simple!

You'll be strip piecing, using a **quilt-as-you-go** technique. It is helpful to use a walking foot. It's also important to iron & use spray starch on your towel before beginning, and again, after every strip is added. Press your towel loops in their natural direction, on both sides of the towel. A towel has lots of movement to it, and a beautiful quilt top is as square as possible!

You can use any number of fabrics you wish. The design of this quilt top can be totally random, or you can plan it out. I did not, however, cut my last strip in advance, but waited until I was ready to sew it on. Then, I could get an accurate measurement. More on this step later.

Measure the width of your towel. Add 1" to this measurement for the side seam allowances. The length of your fabric strips will be cut to this measurement. For example, our towel is 30" wide, so our strips were cut 31". Press under ½" on each short end of your first strip. Think of your towel as a rectangle, with the short sides being the "top" and "bottom" and the long sides become the side edges (left & right). For your first strip, also press ½" along the top edge toward the wrong side. Beginning at the top of the towel, place the first strip, right side up, having the folded edge of the fabric strip even with the finished top edge of the towel and the folded side

DESIGN TIP

If you are going to add any appliqué letters to the terry side of your quilt, do it before you begin piecing the quilt "top". Then, you can cover the back side of the appliqué with your quilting strips for a finished look!



edges even with the side edges of the towel. You might leave the finished (usually selvedge) side edges of the towel exposed for a pretty look. Plus, it serves as a built-in guide to keep your side edges straight! Pin along the very top and side edges, smoothing the fabric strip against the towel. Topstitch close to the folded edge of the fabric strip along top edge of the towel. Go to the iron now, and press the strip down, spray starch the fabric and the towel, pressing the section where the second strip is going to be sewn.

Select your second fabric, cut the strip the desired width, and press $\frac{1}{2}$ " on each side edge toward the wrong side. With right sides together, pin the second strip to the first strip, with raw edges aligned. **NOTE: While a traditional quilt seam allowance is $\frac{1}{4}$ ", it's better to use a bit wider seam for this quilt as it's going to get washed and used!** I use the edge of my walking foot as a guide, with my needle in the right position. That gives me about $\frac{3}{8}$ " seam allowance. Stitch the second strip to the first strip, stitching through the towel as well. Flip the fabric over, with wrong side of fabric to right side of towel, and press down against the towel, making sure you keep the folded side edges even with the side (selvedge) edge of the towel. Use spray starch and press your strip and the section of towel that you're covering next. You will be covering the towel from top to bottom. Continue choosing fabrics and adding strips in this fashion, until you have just about covered the entire towel. Press, starch, and press some more. Really, it improves the look and makes it easier, and only takes a few extra minutes.

Make sure that your final strip is at least 1" wider than the remaining section of towel. Stitch this last strip to your quilt and, along the unfinished bottom edge, fold the fabric strip under $\frac{1}{2}$ ", and press. Topstitch along the bottom edge of the towel. Press and starch your entire quilt, taking particular care with the folded side edges. Topstitch along the folded side edges, about $\frac{1}{8}$ " from the fold. Now, you're off for a stylin' summer day!

DESIGN TIP

You can add some traditional quilt blocks within each strip for variety, or use appliqué or machine embroidery to embellish some of the strips!

DESIGN TIP

Pair this quilt with the Modkid Sun & Surf Tote for summer activities. Adapt the quilt to fit on a hand towel to fashion an absorbent changing mat for baby and give as a gift with the Modkid Sun & Surf Tote – it's also the perfect diaper bag!



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