Shared inspiration

Repeating a block throughout a quilt creates a sense of directional movement. The same block often looks completely different, depending on the colours that set the mood and the placement or size of the blocks. Both of these quilts use a Flying Geese motif, pieced in different ways, repeated throughout the quilt and coming from a central square for a very different and dynamic effect.

Playground Days

Jungle Boogie
Jungle Boogie

Sarah Fielke

THE IDEA

This quilt was made for my son Oscar, who grooves on his tuba to the jungle beat. He picked out the panther fabric and I picked the blacks, the greens and the block to look like cat’s paws padding through the undergrowth. This quilt is not difficult to make, since you use a clever technique to make four Flying Geese at once, and do not have to cut any triangles. You could also use a Flying Geese ruler if you prefer, to make cutting your units more accurate.

Finished quilt size

King single, 170 x 244 cm (67 x 96 inches)

Block size: 19½ inches, including seam allowance

Materials and tools

- 0.9 m (1 yard) green-and-black stripe for block centres and binding
- 0.6 m (¼ yard) green-and-black patterned fabric for block corners
- 1.5 m (1½ yards) red-and-tan spotted fabric
- 1.5 m (1½ yards) tan-and-red spotted fabric (reverse)
- 0.45 m (¼ yard) each of two different black tone-on-tone prints, and 0.6 m (¼ yard) extra of one (1.5 m (1½ yards) fabric in total)
- 0.2 m (¼ yard) each of 14 different green fabrics (2.8 m (3½ yards) fabric in total)
- 5.2 m (5½ yards) backing fabric
- 190 x 260 cm (75 x 102 inches) cotton batting
- 2B pencil
- Quarter-inch ruler
- Rotary cutter, quilter’s ruler and cutting mat
- Neutral-coloured cotton thread for piecing

NOTE: It is recommended that all fabrics be 100 percent cotton, and be ironed. Requirements are based on fabric 112 cm (44 inches) wide. Unless otherwise stated, all seam allowances are ¼ inch throughout. Colour test any dark fabrics that you are using (see page XXX), and wash them before cutting if they run. Please read all instructions before starting.
Cutting
All fabrics are strip cut across the width of the fabric from fold to selvedge unless otherwise specified or unless you are using a directional print (cut off all selvedges first). Cut the largest pieces first.

FROM GREEN-AND-BLACK STRIPED FABRIC, CUT:
- Two strips, 5 inches wide. Cross cut into 15 squares, each 5 inches, for block centres.
- Nine strips, 2½ inches wide, for the binding. Join the strips end to end, using a 45-degree seam and press seams open.

FROM BLACK-AND-GREEN PATTERNED FABRIC, CUT:
- Six strips, 3½ inches wide. Cross cut into 60 squares, each 3½ inches, for the block corners.

FROM RED-AND-TAN SPOTTED FABRIC, CUT:
- Four strips, 3½ inches wide. Cross cut into eight squares, each 3½ inches. When you are ready to piece, cross cut these squares across both diagonals into 32 quarter-square triangles.

FROM TAN-AND-RED SPOTTED FABRIC, CUT:
- Four strips, 14½ inches wide. Cross cut into eight squares, each 14½ inches. When you are ready to piece, cross cut these squares across both diagonals into 32 quarter-square triangles.

FROM THE SMALLER PIECE OF BLACK FABRIC, CUT:
- Three strips, 5½ inches wide. Cross cut these strips into 21 squares, each 5½ inches.

FROM THE LARGER PIECE OF BLACK FABRIC, CUT:
- Seven strips, 5½ inches wide. Cross cut into 5½-inch squares, until you have a total of 66 black squares (including the previous 21).

FROM EACH OF 14 GREEN FABRICS, CUT:
- Two strips, 3½ inches wide, for a total of 28 strips. Cross cut these strips until you have 324 squares, each 3½ inches.

Constructing the quilt top
There are 15 blocks, called Road To California, laid out in Flying Geese style. You may want to make just one of the Flying Geese units first, so that you get the hang of the technique before you start any chain-piecing or quick sewing. This technique will give you four very accurate Flying Geese units from one square, eliminating the need for working with bias.

FLYING GEESE UNITS
1. Begin by laying two green 3¼-inch squares on top of a black 5½-inch square, putting a green square face down on two diagonal corners of the black square. Rule three pencil lines onto the green squares – one straight up the diagonal corners of the squares, and the remaining two ¼ inch on either side (Diagram 1). The centre line is your cutting line and the two lines on either side are your sewing lines.
2. Before cutting, sew along the sewing lines, through all layers, and then cut apart on the centre cutting line. Finger-press the triangles away from the black fabric (Diagram 2).
3. Now place a green square in the corner of the resulting black triangles and rule your three lines, as before (Diagram 3). Sew along the sewing lines, then cut apart on the centre cutting line and press. You should have four Flying Geese units (Diagram 4).
4. Repeat Steps 1 to 3 until you have made 264 Flying Geese units.
5. Sew the Flying Geese together into 60 units of three Flying Geese each (Diagram 5). The remaining 84 Flying Geese units are for the borders, and the remaining 60 green squares are for the block corner pieces.

BLOCK CORNER UNITS
6. Cut the remaining 60 green squares in half on the diagonal, creating 120 half-square triangles.
7. Sew a half-square triangle to two adjacent sides of a green-and-black patterned corner square until you have made 60 corner units (Diagram 6).

ASSEMBLING THE BLOCKS
8. Sew a corner unit to the black end of a Flying Geese unit (Diagram 7). Press. Repeat for all 60 units of each.
10. Lay the remaining pieces of the block out next to the sewing machine, reversing the position of the spotted fabrics, as shown in the photograph. You'll have two quarter-square triangles in each fabric left.
11. Sew a red-and-tan triangle to one side of a Flying Geese unit, and a tan-and-red triangle to the other side. Press carefully and repeat in the opposite order for the other side of the block.
12. Sew the block together up the diagonal seams (Diagram 9, page 62). Press. Repeat Steps 11 and 12 until you have 15 blocks, each measuring 19½ inches square.
13. Sew the blocks into five rows of three across the quilt. Press the seams carefully, then sew the five rows together. The quilt top should now measure 57½ x 95½ inches.
Border
14. Take the remaining Flying Geese units you made and sew them together into two rows of 42 flying geese each.
15. Find the centre of one of the strips and the centre of the side of the quilt top and pin. Next, match and pin the ends; then pin in between, easing as you go if necessary. Sew and repeat with the other side border. Your quilt top is now complete!

Backings, quilting and binding
Cut the backing fabric crosswise in half into two 260-cm (103-inch) pieces. Remove the selvages and stitch the pieces together up the middle seam. Press the seam allowance open and press the backing piece carefully. Refer to pages XXX-XXX for instructions on finishing.
Jungle Boogie was machine-quilted using a tan thread to match the linen background of the black cat fabric. The quilter used a leafy pattern to continue the jungle theme.