



“12 + 2 = Q” Quilt

by Elizabeth Hartman / www.ohfransson.com



Queen Bed Quilt, approximately 90” x 96”

Fabric and Supplies

12 Fat Quarters (18” x 21”) for Pieced Rows

1 Neutral Flat Bed Sheet, at least 56” x 98” for Top

1 Contrasting Flat Bed Sheet, at least 98” x 104” for Back and optional scrap Binding

94” x 100” Batting

3/4 yard Fabric for Binding (if not using sheet scraps)

Please refer to Page 5 for more about Binding.

Sheet Sizes

The measurements above refer to the *usable size* of the sheets, or the size not including the hems. When contemplating the usable size of a sheet, measure the hems and subtract their width from the finished sheet’s dimensions.

I recommend using sheets with small hems, such as those sold at IKEA. I used two IKEA sheets, a Twin (66” x 102”) for the front, and a King (102” x 108”) for the back.

Keep in mind that different stores may sell different sheet sizes and that vintage sheets may be smaller than contemporary ones. If you’re having trouble finding a sheet large enough for the quilt back, you might consider sewing smaller ones together.

Thread Count

Bed sheets are often advertised as having a particular thread count (usually threads per inch) with higher thread counts being more luxurious and desirable. Although it may seem counterintuitive, when using them in quilts, you’re probably better off sticking with sheets that have a lower thread count, which will be more similar in look and feel to most quilting cottons. Sheets with lower thread counts will also be easier to sew and machine quilt.



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Special Considerations When Working With Sheets

If you're using an all-cotton sheet with a thread count of about 250 or less you probably won't need to make any special adjustments. Just piece and quilt as you normally would. If you're using a crisp poly/cotton percale (e.g. most vintage sheets) or higher-thread-count cotton, you may want to try a Microtex/Sharp needle. These needles cause less disruption to finer fibers and may help you to achieve a better stitch.

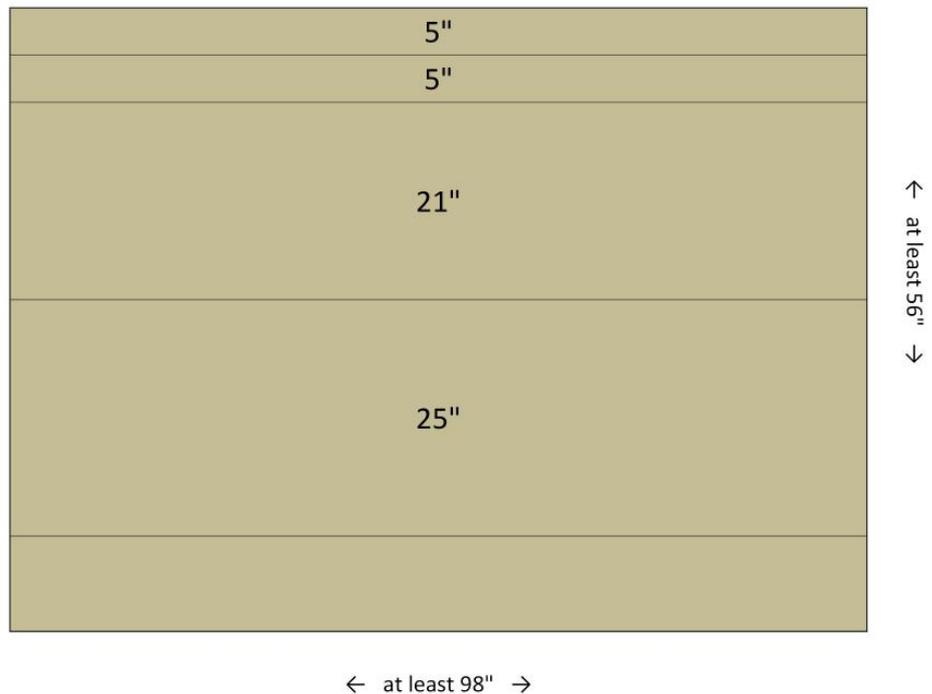
Sheets, especially higher-thread-count sheets, tend to wear out needles more quickly than regular quilting cotton. When working on a quilt this size, you may need to replace your needle part way through the project. Keep an eye on your stitches, especially during quilting, and don't hesitate to replace your needle whenever necessary.

Sheets may shrink, bleed or otherwise behave differently in the wash than quilting fabric, so it may be a good idea to prewash your sheets. Ideally, if you prewash your sheets, you should also prewash your fat quarters.

If you don't usually do your own quilting, keep in mind that it's common for long-arm quilters to decline working on quilts made with sheets.

Cutting the Neutral Sheet

Unfold your 56" x 98" sheet. Standing up, hold the unfolded sheet with both hands on the long (98") side, allowing the other long edge to hang to the floor. Bring the two corners of the side you're holding together, folding the sheet in half. Hold the sheet up as high as necessary to make sure that the bottom edge is also matching up. Fold the sheet in half a second time (and a third if necessary) continuing to hold the sheet by the same long side and making sure the bottom is lined up.



Once the sheet is evenly folded, lay it on your cutting mat, allowing the excess to hang off the table. (Use weights, if necessary, to keep it from falling off.)

Trim away the hem and cut the fabric into the following strips:

- 2 strips 5" x 98"
- 1 strip 21" x 98"
- 1 strip 25" x 98"

Cutting the Fat Quarters

From each fat quarter, cut one piece 11" x 20" and one piece 6" x 20".

Choose 6 of the 11" x 20" pieces and set them aside. Add to that stack the 6" x 20" pieces cut from the *other* 6 fat quarters (the ones that are cut from different fabrics than the 6 larger pieces you set aside).

This should make a total of 12 pieces, 6 of them 11" x 20" and 6 of them 6" x 20" -- one piece cut from each of your 12 fat quarters. These will be used to make the **Large Pieced Row**.

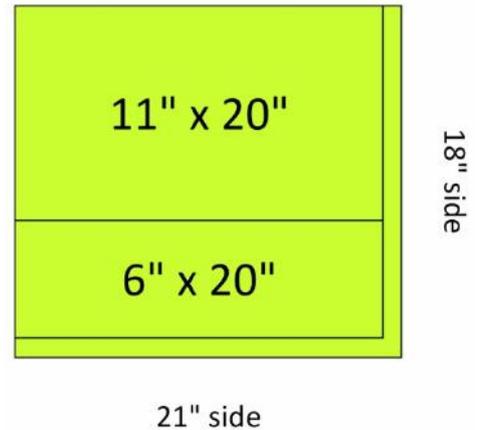
Carefully stack the remaining 11" x 20" pieces. From this stack, cut a stack of 6 pieces 11" x 11" and a stack of 6 pieces 11" x 6".

Carefully stack the remaining 6" x 20" pieces. From this stack, cut a stack of 6 pieces 6" x 11" and a stack of 6 pieces 6" x 6".

The remaining 3" pieces (as shown on the far right of the photo at right) aren't needed for this project, but may be used as part of your binding, if desired.

You may have noticed that you cut 6" x 11" pieces from both the 11" wide and the 6" wide stacks. At this point, you'll want to trade those stacks of pieces (as shown in the photos at right) so that each of your pieced rows will include a piece of each of the 12 fat quarters.

The 11" x 11" pieces and the 6" x 11" pieces you've just placed next to them will be used to make the **Medium Pieced Row**. The 6" x 6" pieces and the 6" x 11" pieces you've just placed next to them will be used to make the **Small Pieced Row**.



Finishing the Quilt

Sandwich your quilt, centering your batting and quilt top on the wrong side of your contrasting sheet.

Because of the large size of this quilt, I recommend that you don't attempt to cut down a larger backing sheet before making your quilt sandwich. Leaving a large sheet large will give you more wiggle-room when lining things up.



Remember that you have scraps of each of the fat quarters that can be cut down to 2 1/2" wide and used as part of your binding!

Machine quilt as desired. A quilt this size can be kind of a bear to work with on a home machine, so be sure to take breaks to relax your arms and neck. You may want to break your quilting into two or more sessions.

Bind quilt as desired.

Detailed tutorials for making a quilt sandwich, free-motion quilting, and making and sewing double-fold binding are available on my blog.



Once you've sandwiched and pin-basted your quilt, trim away excess batting and backing to within about 2" of the edge of your quilt top. I found that the scraps I cut away from my quilt back were plentiful enough to use to make about 400" of double-fold binding.

If you don't have enough leftovers to make binding (or simply don't want your binding to be the same as your quilt back!) use 3/4 yard of coordinating fabric cut into 10 strips 2 1/2" x width of fabric.

