

Project: Cute and Cuddly Throw

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FABRICS are from the Nested Owls collection by Adornit and the Kozy Cuddle collection, both from Shannon Fabrics (shannonfabrics.com).



Use plush fabrics to piece an easy throw that takes advantage of the 58" width of the fabrics—it's the perfect easy-to-make gift!

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Because the fabric has stretch, working with plush can be a different experience. Senior editor Elizabeth Beese pieced this quilt entirely on a serger, which easily controlled the stretch of the fabrics. "I also cut pieces a little larger than the original so I could use $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowances," she says. Turn to page 4 for more tips on working with plush fabrics.

Materials

- $\frac{1}{2}$ yard each of solid aqua plush, solid coral plush, multicolor owl print plush, and red-and-white polka dot plush (quilt top)
- $\frac{1}{3}$ yard each of multicolor chevron print plush and solid tan plush (quilt top)
- $\frac{5}{8}$ yard binding print
- $3\frac{2}{3}$ yards backing fabrics
- 66×72" batting

Finished quilt: 58×66"

Yardages and cutting instructions (except for binding) are based on 58" of usable fabric width.

Measurements include $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowances. Sew with right sides together unless otherwise stated.

Cut Fabrics

Cut pieces in the following order.

From solid aqua plush, cut:

- 1—11×58" strip
- 2—3×58" strips

From solid coral plush, cut:

- 2—8×58" strips

From multicolor owl print plush, cut:

- 2—7×58" strips

From red-and-white polka dot plush, cut:

- 2—6×58" strips
- 2—2×58" strips

From multicolor chevron print plush, cut:

- 2—5×58" strips

From solid tan plush, cut:

- 2—4×58" strips

From binding print, cut:

- 7— $2\frac{1}{2}$ ×42" binding strips

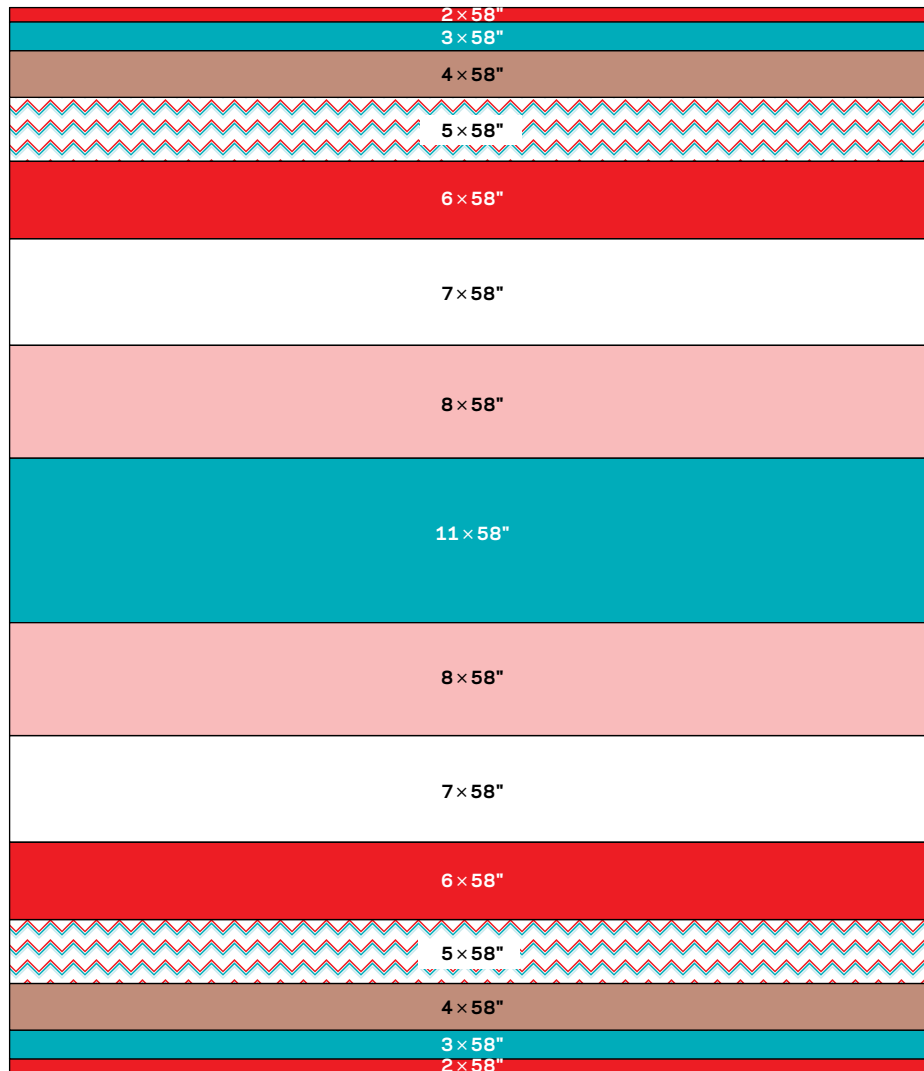
Assemble Quilt Top

1. Referring to Quilt Assembly Diagram, lay out assorted plush strips.
2. Using a $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance, join strips to make quilt top. Finger-press seams in one direction. If desired, trim edges to square them up.

Finish Quilt

1. Layer quilt top, batting, and backing; baste. Quilt as desired.
2. Bind with binding print binding strips.

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QUILT ASSEMBLY DIAGRAM

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Working with plush fabric

- Plush fabric has a nap. Run your hand up and down each length of plush fabric. The direction of the nap is whichever direction feels smoothest and makes the pile lie flat when you run your hand across the fabric. Join the pieces so the nap runs in the same direction.
- Plush fabric sheds when cut; use a rotary cutter to minimize fuzz. After cutting, place pieces in a dryer with a damp washcloth on low heat for about 10 minutes. Or, keep a lint roller or vacuum handy. Keep fabric edges and cutting mat clean as you cut.
- Plush fabric stretches on the crosswise grain but very little along the lengthwise grain (parallel to the selvages). Pin together pieces before you stitch to minimize stretching.
- Use an even-feed foot (also called a walking foot) to prevent the fabric pieces from slipping.
- Use a 90/14 ballpoint (stretch) needle and a longer-than-normal stitch—3.0 to 3.5 millimeters—to keep seams from puckering.
- Finger-press seams only; do not press with an iron. Polyester plush fabrics, especially those that are textured, can be damaged from the heat of an iron.

—Tips courtesy of Shannon Fabrics (shannonfabrics.com).