

Project: Avian Table Topper

INSPIRED BY FOLLOW THE LEADER FROM DESIGNER LANIE TIFFENBACH  
QUILT TESTER: LAURA BOEHNKE



Showcase fussy-cut bird designs in uneven Nine-Patch blocks and frame them with Flying Geese units in a tabletop quilt. Fabrics are from the Skylark collection from Red Rooster Fabrics ([redroosterfabrics.com](http://redroosterfabrics.com)).

## Project: Avian Table Topper

**Materials**

- 18×22" piece (fat quarter) bird print (blocks)
- 18×22" piece (fat quarter) each of green, pink, and purple grass prints (blocks, middle border)
- 9×22" piece (fat eighth) each light pink, light green, and lavender print (corner triangles)
- $\frac{1}{8}$  yard strip green floral (sashing)
- $\frac{5}{8}$  yard purple floral (sashing, inner and outer borders, binding)
- 18×22" piece (fat quarter) cream floral (middle border)
- 9×22" piece (fat eighth) pink floral medallion (middle border)
- $1\frac{1}{2}$  yards backing fabric
- 29×49" batting

Finished quilt: 21×41"

Finished blocks: 6" square;  $8\frac{1}{2}$ " square

Quantities are for  $4\frac{4}{5}$ "-wide, 100% cotton fabrics.

Measurements include  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowances. Sew with right sides together unless otherwise stated.

**Cut Fabrics**

Cut pieces in the following order.

**From bird print, cut:**

- 3— $3\frac{1}{2}$ " squares
- 12—2" squares

**From green grass print, cut:**

- 8— $2\times 3\frac{1}{2}$ " rectangles
- 4— $5\frac{1}{4}$ " squares
- 8—3" squares, cutting each in half diagonally to make 16 small triangles total

**From pink grass print, cut:**

- 4— $2\times 3\frac{1}{2}$ " rectangles
- 4— $5\frac{1}{4}$ " squares

**From purple grass print, cut:**

- 3— $5\frac{1}{4}$ " squares

**From each light pink, light green, and lavender, print, cut:**

- 2— $5\frac{1}{2}$ " squares, cutting each in half diagonally for 12 corner triangles total

**From green floral, cut:**

- 2— $1\frac{1}{2}\times 9$ " sashing strips

**From purple floral, cut:**

- 4— $2\frac{1}{2}\times 42$ " binding strips
- 2— $1\frac{3}{4}\times 41$ " outer border strips
- 2— $1\frac{3}{4}\times 18\frac{1}{2}$ " outer border strips

**From cream floral, cut:**

- 44— $2\frac{7}{8}$ " squares
- 2— $1\frac{3}{4}\times 9$ " inner border strips
- 2— $1\frac{1}{4}\times 30\frac{1}{2}$ " inner border strips

**From pink floral medallion, cut:**

- 4— $3\frac{1}{4}$ " squares

**Assemble Blocks**

1. Referring to **Diagram 1**, lay out one bird print  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " square, four bird print 2" squares, and four green grass print  $2\times 3\frac{1}{2}$ " rectangles in three rows.
2. Sew together pieces in each row. Press seams toward rectangles. Join rows to make a green uneven Nine-Patch block. Press seams in one direction. The block should be  $6\frac{1}{2}$ " square including seam allowances.
3. Repeat steps 1 and 2 to make a second green uneven Nine-Patch block.
4. Using pink grass print rectangles instead of green grass print, repeat steps 1 and 2 to make a pink uneven Nine-Patch block.

**Assemble Quilt Center**

1. Referring to **Diagram 2**, add pink print corner triangles to opposite edges of a green uneven Nine-Patch block; press seams toward triangles. Add pink print corner triangles to remaining edges to make a Square-in-a-Square block; press seams toward triangles. Trim block to 9" square including seam allowances.

2. Using light green print corner triangles and pink uneven Nine-Patch block, repeat Step 1 to make a second Square-in-a-Square block.
3. Using lavender print corner triangles and remaining green uneven Nine-Patch block, repeat Step 1 to make a third Square-in-a-Square block.
4. Sew together Square-in-a-Square blocks and green floral  $1\frac{1}{2}\times 9$ " sashing strips to make quilt center. Press seams toward sashing strips. The quilt center should be  $9\times 28$ " including seam allowances.

**Add Inner Border**

Sew purple floral  $1\frac{3}{4}\times 9$ " inner border strips to short edges of quilt center. Add  $1\frac{1}{4}\times 30\frac{1}{2}$ " inner border strips to remaining edges. Press all seams toward inner border. The quilt center now should be  $10\frac{1}{2}\times 30\frac{1}{2}$ " including seam allowances.

**Assemble Flying Geese Units**

1. Use a pencil to draw a diagonal line on wrong side of each cream floral  $2\frac{7}{8}$ " square.
2. Referring to **Diagram 3**, align two marked cream floral squares with opposite corners of a pink grass print  $5\frac{1}{4}$ " square; the cream floral squares will overlap in the center. Sew a scant  $\frac{1}{4}$ " from drawn lines on both sides of lines. Cut apart on drawn lines to make two triangle units (**Diagram 4**). Press triangle units open, pressing seams toward cream floral triangles.

## Project: Avian Table Topper

3. Referring to **Diagram 5**, align a marked cream floral square with pink grass print corner of a triangle unit. Sew a scant  $\frac{1}{4}$ " from drawn line on both sides of line. Cut apart on drawn line (**Diagram 6**). Press cream floral triangles open, pressing seams toward cream floral triangles to make two Flying Geese units. Each unit should be  $4\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ " including seam allowances. Repeat with remaining triangle unit to make two additional Flying Geese units.
  4. Repeat steps 2 and 3 to make 16 pink Flying Geese units total.
  5. Using green grass print  $5\frac{1}{4}$ " squares instead of pink grass print, repeat steps 2 and 3 to make 16 green Flying Geese units total.
  6. Using purple grass print  $5\frac{1}{4}$ " squares instead of pink grass print, repeat steps 2 and 4 to make 12 purple Flying Geese units.
2. Sew together five Flying Geese units to make a short middle border strip (**Quilt Assembly Diagram**). Press seams in one direction. The strip should be  $4\frac{1}{2} \times 10\frac{1}{2}$ " including seam allowances. Repeat to make a second short middle border strip.
  3. Sew together 15 Flying Geese units and two Square-in-a-Square units to make a long middle border strip. Press seams at ends toward Square-in-a-Square units; press remaining seams in one direction. The long middle border strip should be  $4\frac{1}{2} \times 38\frac{1}{2}$ " including seam allowances. Repeat to make a second long middle border strip. (You will have four Flying Geese units left over.)
  4. Sew short middle border strips to short edges of quilt center. Join long middle border strips to remaining edges. Press all seams toward inner border. The quilt center now should be  $18\frac{1}{2} \times 38\frac{1}{2}$ " including seam allowances.

### Assemble and Add Middle Border

1. Referring to **Diagram 7**, sew green grass print small triangles to opposite edges of a pink floral medallion  $3\frac{1}{4}$ " square. Add green grass print small triangles to remaining edges to make a Square-in-a-Square unit. Press all seams toward green grass print triangles. Trim Square-in-a-Square unit to  $4\frac{1}{2}$ " square including seam allowances. Repeat to make four Square-in-a-Square units total.

### Add Outer Border

Sew purple floral  $1\frac{3}{4} \times 18\frac{1}{2}$ " outer border strips to short edges of quilt center. Add purple floral  $1\frac{3}{4} \times 41$ " outer border strips to remaining edges to complete quilt top. Press all seams toward outer border.

### Finish Quilt

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

## Project: Avian Table Topper

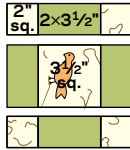


DIAGRAM 1

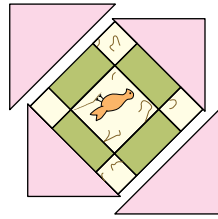


DIAGRAM 2

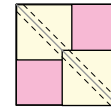


DIAGRAM 3

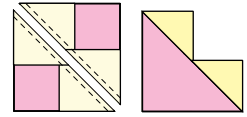


DIAGRAM 4

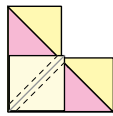


DIAGRAM 5

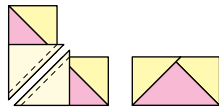


DIAGRAM 6

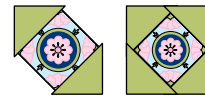
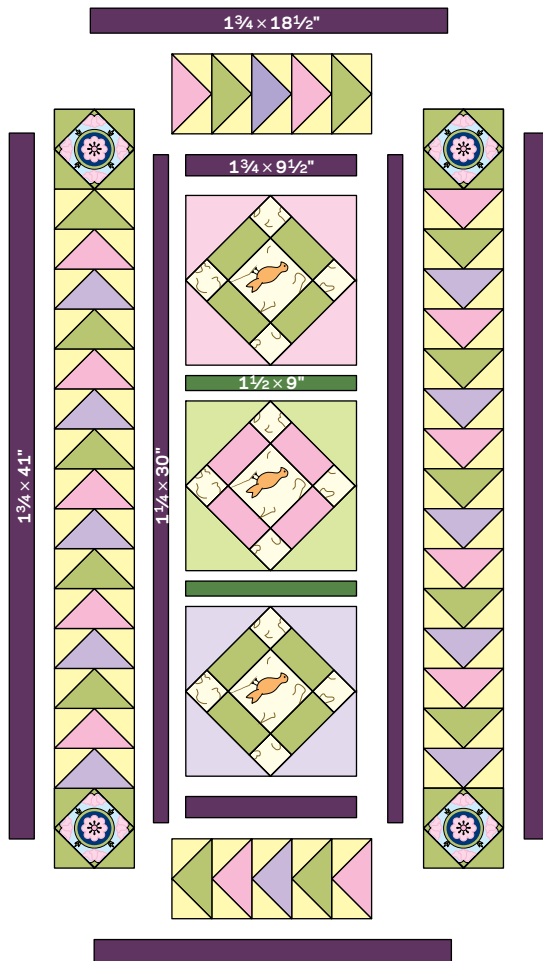


DIAGRAM 7



QUILT ASSEMBLY DIAGRAM