

GillyMac Quilt-As-You-Go Tutorial

Have you ever been put off making a quilt because it will be too big to quilt? Or maybe your quilting confidence is much higher when the piece you are tackling is smaller. For either of these problems, Quilt-As-You-Go is the answer!



Quilt-As-You-Go (QAYG) is a process which joins pre quilted quilt pieces together. With this method a quilt is built in pieces, the pieces are quilted and then those pieces are joined together and bound. This differs from the traditional quilting process when quilting happens once the quilt top is joined together.

There are many methods for QAYG but those below are the two I find the most successful. The method you choose will depend if sashing between panels is acceptable for the look and feel of the final quilt. If it is not, then the second method is for you.

Method 1 – Using Sashing on Front of Quilt



1. Quilt each panel as desired – this can be up to the edge of each panel. Trim the block to the size required with a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance on each edge to be joined.

2. Cut a sashing strip of width 1" for the front of the quilt and width $1\frac{1}{4}$ " for the back of the quilt. These are cut to the length required for the sides being joined. On the back strip only, create a $\frac{1}{4}$ " fold (over to the wrong side) and press. This will be used for final hand sewing later in the process.
3. Pin or clip the front and back strips either side of one of the quilted panels (right sides together) along the raw edges to be joined. Sew using a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance. Due to the layers at this point a walking foot is very useful.



4. Once sewn, don't fold out the back strip, leave it pinned right side together to the back of the quilt. Unfold the top strip and press.
5. Lay the top strip right sides together with the other quilted piece, matching the unsewn edge of the top strip with the edge to be joined on the second quilted piece. Check the orientation of the two quilted pieces is correct, pin and sew with a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance.



6. The two quilted pieces are now joined together on the front. Press the sashing strip on the front. Turn over to the back and trim the two pieces of wadding (from each quilted piece which is now on top of the joined front strip), so they overlap by $1/8"$. I use a $1/8"$ overlap to allow for a tiny bit of shrinkage and also to avoid over-trimming.
7. Release the back strip from the pins, fold over the exposed wadding and hand sew the folded edge of this back strip down onto the quilted pieced with a whip stitch.



Method 2– No Sashing on Front of Quilt



1. Quilt each panel as desired leaving a $1/2"$ unquilted piece along any edges to be joined. Trim the block to the size required with a $1/4"$ seam allowance on each edge to be joined.

2. Cut a sashing strip of width $1\frac{1}{4}$ " for the back of the quilt. This is cut to the length required for the sides being joined. Create a $\frac{1}{4}$ " fold (over to the wrong side) and press. This will be used for final hand sewing later in the process.
3. On one of the quilted pieces pin the wadding and front away from the backing, leaving the backing exposed. Pin the back sashing strip to the exposed backing, along the edge to be joined, right sides together. Sew the back sashing strip to the edge using a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance.



4. For each quilted piece to be joined, now pin the wadding and backing fabric back and away from the quilt front fabric.
5. Checking the orientation, lay the two exposed front edges right sides together and sew with a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance.
6. The two quilted pieces are now joined together on the front. Turn over to the back and release the pins holding the backing and wadding out of the way. Trim the two pieces of wadding so they overlap by $1/8$.. I use a $1/8$ " overlap to allow for a tiny bit of shrinkage and also to avoid over-trimming.
7. Fold the back strip over the exposed wadding and hand sew the folded edge of this back strip down onto the quilted pieced with a whip stitch.

Options

With all methods there are tweaks that can be made. Here are a few that I have used.

- For both methods - A backing strip can be avoided by leaving the backing fabric 1" larger all the way around, not trimming it and then at the final stage in both methods, once side would be trimmed and one would be folded over and hand sewing down using a whip stitch.



- For both methods - After trimming and lining up the wadding, wadding tape can be used to bind the two pieces of wadding together.
- For Method 1 – the size of the sashing can be changed. 1" cut is the minimum front sashing which results in a $\frac{1}{2}$ " sashing look. If a 1" sashing look is required, for example then the front sashing should be cut to $1\frac{1}{2}$ " and the back to $1\frac{3}{4}$ ". Remember also in this instance to trim the pieces with an additional $\frac{1}{2}$ " around the edge not a $\frac{1}{4}$ " or there will be a gap in the wadding.

So there you go ... Simple and easy ☺

These notes are accompanied by a video tutorial in the membership area of www.gillymacdesigns.com