

How To Make A Watercolor Quilt With Quilt-Fuse Nonwoven Layout Grid Material

Materials:

Quilt-Fuse
Quilt fabrics
Graph paper
Thread
Embellishments optional

Tools:

Colored pencils
Rulers
Rotary cutter
Scissors
Cutting mat
Cutting guide
Layout mat
Seam ripper
Iron
Ironing board
Sewing machine
Bobbin

Skill Level

Sewing is simple, straight seams. Design, cutting and pressing skills are required.

Quilt-Fuse revolutionizes the art of making watercolor quilts by simplifying its design, securing the squares, ensuring matching corners, and making it easier to create consistent size squares.

One of the most popular quilting techniques today is called “watercolor.” It is named for its use of fabrics with different color values and patterns to create a scene that has the look of a watercolor painting. Pieces are usually small squares or strips with brightly colored floral patterns. Quilt-Fuse is specifically designed for use with this and similar techniques.

By Laurie Pessetto



Here, this finished quilt top has the look of a watercolor painting. By using darker colors at the bottom that gradually lighten, it adds depth to the scene. Quilt-Fuse makes it easier to position and adjust squares as the project is put together.

Tips

Quilt-Fuse is marked with 2" dashed squares on the back and lightly textured fusing on the front. Lay out the fabric squares on the front, rearrange to your heart's content, then carefully press—don't iron, with a medium hot iron to fuse the design.

The up-down motion of pressing is needed for the entire quilt construction. Each square should fit exactly within its dashed boundaries. A thread shy is better than a few threads too wide. When all the squares are bonded to Quilt-Fuse, you are ready to fold it along the dashes with the fabric right sides together, and sew straight seams.

The dashes will be on the edge of the seam on the wrong side. Choose a method to trim the seams and press. You might grade or layer the seam and then press all the horizontal seams to one side and the vertical seams to the other side. You also might choose to press each seam open if fabrics are heavier than a light cotton.

Quilt-Fuse can be written on with a pencil or marker. Retain an extra row or two around the perimeter to allow for design changes. If your quilt is large, you might divide it into sections, create the sections on pieces of Quilt-Fuse, and then sew all the sections together as a last step. Just leave a little extra Quilt-Fuse around the edges to help match the sections together at the end.

A general design guide is to place darker fabrics at the front or bottom of the quilt, lightening toward the top to create depth and motion. Another way to add perspective and depth is to layer objects. Look for multiple fabrics that share a tone or texture to create and define areas of your design.

The more fabrics you find in a color family, the more mixing, depth, and variety you will have in your design. Sometimes the wrong side of a fabric is just as usable as the right side. Five or six different fabrics of one color will give you plenty of creative shading possibilities.

If you want to add diagonals to some squares, cut two fabric squares for each diagonal and then decide what slant and angle complement your design. Stitch the diagonal seam with the right sides together. Trim and open the seam and press the square before adding it to the design. You also may add textures and embellishments to individual squares before you sew if the additions are flat, or you may add them when the entire quilt has been stitched.

Sew all the horizontal seams before you sew the verticals. Begin in the center and alternate stitching direction and sections from above and below the center as you sew the seams. This minimizes any stretch you may get based on the pull of the presser foot and direction of the seam. Take notice if the presser foot creates enough drag to distort the top or bottom fabric layer as you sew, skewing the matchup of the corners. If so, you may need to compensate by creating a slight tension as you feed the fabric to the needle.

Directions:

1. Create a design layout plan on graph paper. Coloring it will help you figure out your fabric color palette.
2. Count the number of squares for each color and calculate the yardage necessary to have around 10 extra squares of each color.
3. Rinse or prewash your fabrics and press them when dry. Any wrinkles will affect your ability to cut the fabric perfectly square. You might use a cutting guide with a rotary blade to speed up the cutting process.
4. - 8. Place each square into position right side up on the textured side of Quilt-Fuse following your design layout plan.



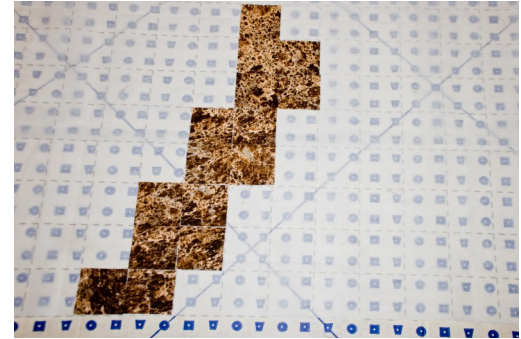
1. Design and color your Watercolor Quilt Project on graph paper.

Squares		Yardage
42	Bark	6"
79	Plants	14"
70	tree	10"
15	path	6"
57	Sky	12"

2. Count and label the number of squares for each design area.



3. A cutting guide will speed up the cutting process.



4. Pick one design element and position it on the Quilt-Fuse.



5. Add elements of the design using your graphed pattern.



6. Add row by row, marking diagonals with two fabric squares.



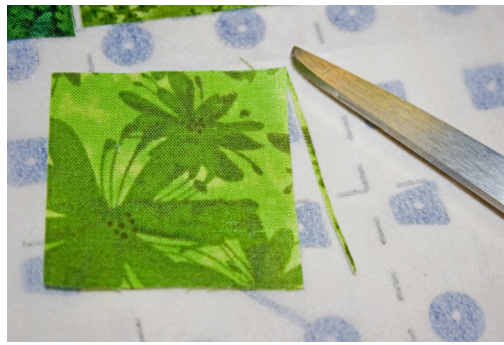
7. The tree trunks and sky are in place.



8. The design is laid out. Now is the time to make any alterations.

Directions:

- Trim any squares that are more than two or three threads too large for the 2" box.
- For diagonal squares, place the two fabrics right sides together and stitch at a slant, trim, open seams, and press before placing them on Quilt-Fuse.
- Check the fit of each square with the dashes.
- Begin carefully pressing the squares at one edge with a medium hot iron to fuse them onto Quilt-Fuse.
- Press from the middle squares to the remaining edges.
- Place tape on your sewing machine at $\frac{1}{4}$ " if you need help to keep the seams at the correct width.
- Fold the center horizontal seam, right sides together, with the dashed Quilt-Fuse line exactly on the fold.
- Stitch a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam, backstitching at the beginning and end of each seam.



9. Trim any squares that overlap the 2" dashes.



10. Stitch the diagonals, trim, open seams, and press before placing them on Quilt-Fuse.



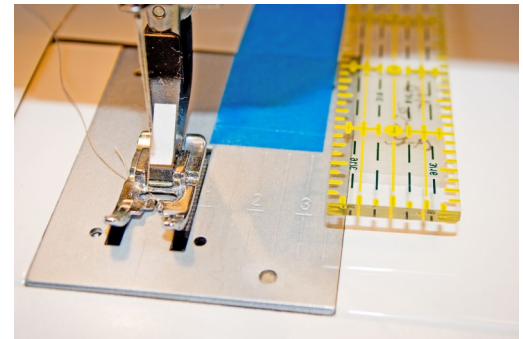
11. Check the fit of the squares before you start to press.



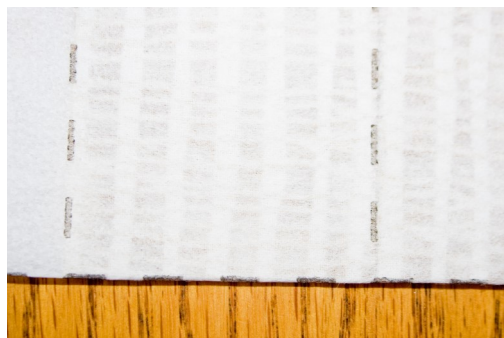
12. Begin pressing from an edge.



13. Work in to the center and then out to the edges.



14. If necessary you can mark the $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam with tape on your sewing machine.



15. Fold the horizontal center seam exactly on the dashes, right sides together.



16. Stitch the first horizontal seam.

Directions:

17. The first horizontal center seam starts the construction.
18. Stitch one seam above the center seam and then one below the center seam, alternating until all the horizontal seams are finished.
19. Sometimes a square shifts and is not caught in the seam.
20. Carefully remove the seam for that square.
21. Tuck the edge of the square into the fold.
22. Resew that section.
23. The correction is not visible from the front with all the horizontal seams sewn.
24. Cut open the dashed seam edges $\frac{1}{8}$ " from the dashed edge.



17. The first seam starts the process.



18. Alternate the direction of sewing and take turns sewing seams above and then below the center seam.



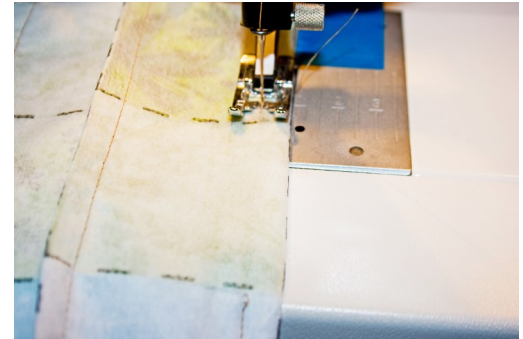
19. Check to see if any squares shifted out of place.



20. Pick out the seam on a loose square.



21. Tuck the loose edge back into the fold.



22. Restitch that square.



23. The horizontal seams are finished.



24. Cut the horizontal seams open $\frac{1}{8}$ " from the stitching line.

Directions:

25. Trim the wide edge with the dashes off.
26. This technique leaves nicely layered seam edges.



25. Trim off the dashed section of the seam edge.



26. The seams are layered and ready to press.

27. Press every horizontal seam the same direction on the wrong side.
28. Turn the quilt over and press the seams open and straight on the right side.



27. Press all the seams the same direction on the wrong side.

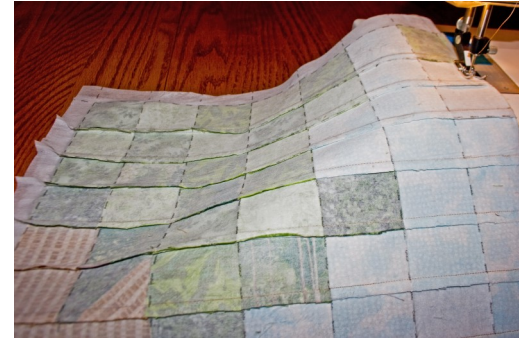


28. Turn to the right side and press each seam open and flat.

29. The design starts to take form with all the horizontal seams completed.
30. Fold the center vertical seam, right sides together, with the dashed Quilt-Fuse line exactly on the fold of the seam.



29. All the horizontal seams look straight and flat.



30. Fold the vertical center seam and stitch it at $\frac{1}{4}$ ".

31. Repeat the stitching pattern until all the vertical seams are sewn.
32. The quilt face sewing is completed.



31. The vertical seams are all completed.



32. The quilt face is sewn.

Directions:

33. Cut open the vertical seams.
34. Trim off the excess including the dashes.

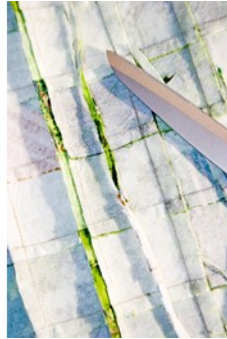


33. Cut open the vertical seams.



34. Trim off the dashed section of the seam edge.

35. The seam edges are layered so they will lie flat when pressed.
36. Press the vertical seams on the back of the quilt.



35. The vertical seams are layered and ready to press.



36. Press all the vertical seams the same direction.

37. Re-press the front of the quilt to flatten and open each seam.
38. The quilt front is finished. You might add embellishments and then finish the edges.



37. Turn and press the entire quilt face on the right side.



38. The finished quilt face is ready for any embellishments and to be edge finished.

About HTC Quilt-Fuse

Cut the time and effort involved in pieced designs like watercolor, Bargello, photography quilts and more, while adding stability and uniformity to your block sewing with HTC Quilt-Fuse™. Fusible on one side with a 2-inch preprinted layout grid, Quilt-Fuse™ is designed for simplifying techniques that rely on careful placement of fabric squares to create artistic visual effects.

Simply cut the translucent white material to the size of the finished project with a 6- to 8-inch margin on all sides. Lay out your design on the light-gray grid on the fusible side, using 2- or 4-inch fabric squares. The brushed surface holds the squares in place until you're ready to fuse and then stitch them, using the grid as a guide.

Quilt-Fuse™ reduces the need for pinning and makes sewing faster and more accurate when working with many small blocks and long seams. The 48-inch width is large enough for most projects, yet easy to manage at the sewing machine. U.S.-made of polyester and cellulose, Quilt-Fuse™ adds light interfacing support without bulk and is washable and dry-cleanable.

It works great for pillows, table runners and wall-hangings, as well as quilts, offering expanded design opportunities. Quilt-Fuse™ is sold in 25-yard rolls. To learn more, go to:

<http://www.htc-retail.com/pdf/QuiltFuse.pdf>



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