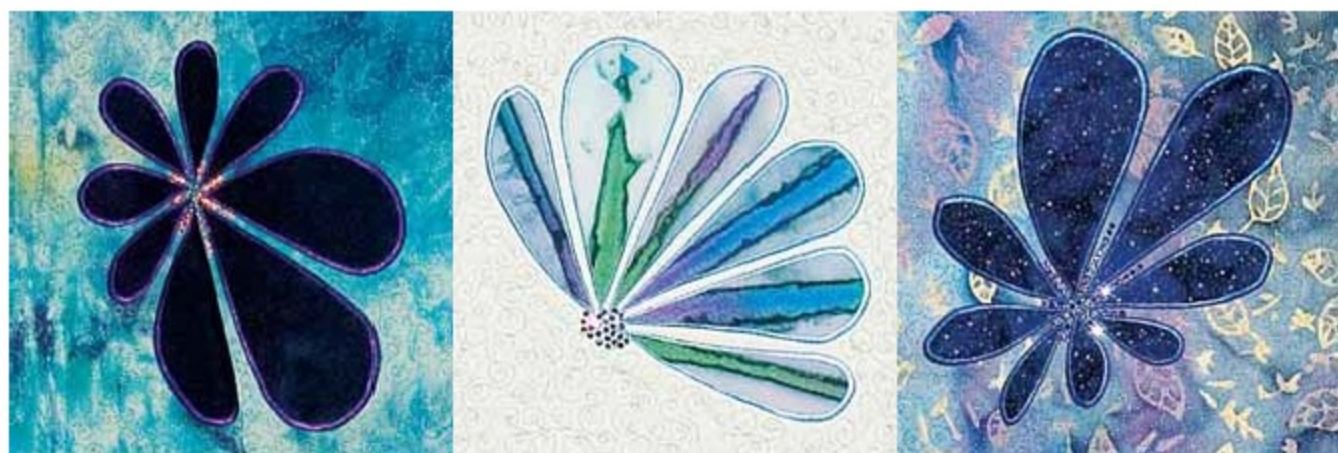


Moody Blue Daisies

by Mary Kay Price



MOODY BLUE DAISIES, 51" x 51", by Mary Kay Price



Fanciful flowers embellished with machine satin stitching and crystals make an ideal wallhanging to celebrate the seasons.

For more detailed information on making quilts, see the AQS Quilting Essentials & Tested Tips on our Web site at www.AmericanQuilter.com.

Selecting fabrics

For the daisy fabrics and their background squares, I used a variety of dark, medium, and light values. When choosing fabric pairs for a block, be sure that there is enough value contrast for the daisy to stand out from its background.

Choose medium and dark blues for the pieced border.

Making the daisy blocks

Two daisy patterns are provided. For more variety, draw some of your own daisies, using the quilt photograph for inspiration. You can get even more variety by reversing the patterns.

To make a block, first trace the flower petals on the paper side of a 7½" x 7½" square of fusible web. Following the manufacturer's directions, iron the web to the wrong side of a 7½" x 7½" fabric square. Cut out the petals. Peel off the paper and arrange the petals on a 9½" x 9½" background square. Fuse with a hot iron.

Spray baste or pin the fused daisy to a piece of tear-away stabilizer. Machine satin stitch each petal, beginning and ending at the point. Maintaining a stitch length of .4 throughout, begin with a narrow width (1.5) gradually widening the satin stitch by .5 at a time to a width of 4.0 at the fullest part of the petal, and narrowing back to 1.5 when you return to the starting point.

After all the petals are embroidered, carefully tear away the stabilizer. Centering the design, trim the block to 8½" x 8½". Repeat to make 25 daisy blocks, pairing fabrics as desired.

Assembling the quilt center

Arrange the daisy blocks in 5 rows of 5 blocks each, as shown in the

FABRIC & CUTTING REQUIREMENTS

Skill level: Easy

Quilt size: 51" x 51"
Finished block size: 8" x 8"

- Requirements are based on 40" fabric width.
- Border and binding strips are cut from selvage to selvage.

Assorted light, medium, and dark prints* – 3⅞ yards

- 25 A, 25 B

Assorted medium and dark prints* – 1⅞ yards

- 36 C

Stripe – ¼ yard

- border, 6 strips 1" x 40"

Blue print – ½ yard

- binding, 6 strips 2¼" x 40" for 216" of continuous binding

Backing – 3½ yards

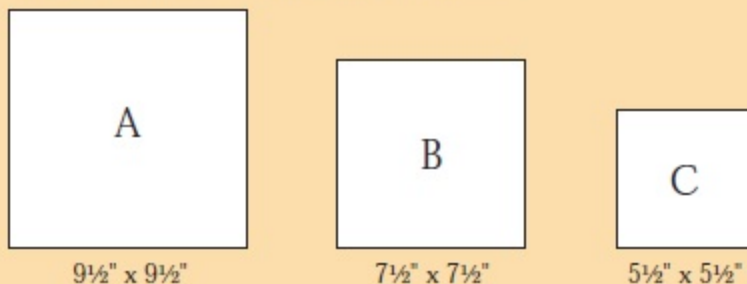
- 2 panels 29" x 59"
- sleeve, 1 strip 9" x 51"

* Read "Selecting Fabrics" for help choosing fabrics for this project.

SUPPLIES: 2¼ yards fusible web, rayon or polyester threads for embroidery, tear-away stabilizer, 1600 Swarovski® crystals in various colors, BeJeweler® tool. (Swarovski Austrian crystals and BeJeweler tool available from Cher's Crystals, www.cheriscrystals.com.)

ROTARY CUTTING

Rotary dimensions include seam allowances.



assembly diagram on the next page. Sew the blocks together in horizontal rows, pressing the seam allowances in the directions indicated by the arrows. Sew the rows together.

Adding the borders

Referring to the quilt assembly diagram, join 8 C patches to make each of the side borders. Press the seam allowances and sew these borders to the sides of the quilt. Join 10 C patches to make each top and bottom border. Sew the borders to the top and bottom of the quilt.

Sew together the striped border

strips as needed to make strips long enough for borders. Measure the vertical length of the quilt through the center and cut 2 strips this measurement. Sew them to the sides of the quilt. Press the seam allowances away from the quilt center. Measure the width of the quilt through the center, including the side borders you just added. Cut 2 strips this length and sew them to the top and bottom of the quilt.

Quilting and finishing

Layer the backing, batting, and quilt top. Baste the layers together. Quilt as desired. I quilted the blocks

and daisies in the ditch and then I quilted the background in a swirling meander pattern.

Sew the binding strips together, end to end, to make 216" of continuous binding. Finish the edges of your quilt with double-fold binding. To display your quilt, make a sleeve and sew it to the back of the quilt.

Adding crystal embellishments

The daisy centers are created by the application of Swarovski® Austrian Hot-Fix Crystals (detail photo, page 89). The crystals are backed with an adhesive, which is then melted with a BeJeweler® tool. Add crystals to the daisy centers and narrow border if desired.

Embroidery or button embellishments may be substituted for the crystals. ♠

