

Harlequin Rag Quilt
"Janie's Quilt"
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Please read all instructions before beginning.

I made this quilt for a sister of one of my mother's dear friends who discovered recently that she has cancer. I know her only as Janie. My mother, who inspires much of my work, wanted Janie to have a quilt to keep her warm. I've machine stitched the well-known words of encouragement – live, love, laugh, hope, dream & cherish -- onto the quilt. Cancer in any form can strike any one of us at any time. Nobody is immune from this silent killer. Please have your annual check ups. Early detection almost always has a near 100% cure rate.

I'm offering this pattern at no charge in honor of Janie and others who need prayers & encouragement. If you know anyone who is battling an illness or who has other difficulties in their lives, a home made quilt is a great way to let them know you care.

We used Janie's color scheme in her home to create this quilt. The full pattern is available for download. Included is the full set of instructions, words of encouragement, two different layout patterns, and a blank pattern so you can create your own layout.

Quick Quilting Hints

- I used 10" squares for this quilt.
- If you want a larger quilt, simply add more squares or cut larger squares.
- If you want a smaller quilt, omit squares or cut smaller squares.
- Press fabric before cutting.
- To "lock" your stitches, stitch forward, back, forward at the beginning and end of each row of stitches.
- Use flannel in the middle if you want to make a light weight quilt. Cut the middle flannel the same size as the front and back squares.
- Use batting in the middle if you want to make a warmer quilt.
- For ruffled seams, cut the batting the same size as the top and back squares. Snip the seams so that each cut is about 1/4" apart.
- For raggedy seams, cut the batting 1" to 2" smaller than the front and back squares. Snip the seams so that each cut is about 1/8" apart.
- Homespun and other loosely woven cottons fray best.
- Prints and tightly woven cottons don't fray as much.
- 1 yard of fabric yields twelve 10" squares
- Use 1/2" seam allowance to sew squares & rows together.
- The seam allowance removes 1" from the overall size of each square.
- There is no need to wash the fabric before beginning your rag quilt project since you will wash the fabric after the quilt is finished.

- Trim away the selvage edges (these are the edges that are fixed by the manufacturer so they won't unravel therefore they cannot be used as part of the rag quilt).
- Trim the frayed edges so they will be even when you begin to cut your squares.
- Download my FREE [Rag Quilting Basics](#) tutorial to find more important rag quilting hints.

Supplies

Fabric 1 – 3 ½ yards

Fabric 2 – 2 ½ yards

Fabric 3 - 2 yards (stitch the words onto this fabric)

Fabric 4 – 1 yard

Backing – 9 yards (use duplicate fabrics
that you used for the front or use a solid flannel like I did)

Optional: 1 ½ yards of border fabric or your choice to cut triangles to fill in the outer
gaps (I used green plaid homespun) PLUS an additional 1 ½ yards of backing.

Bag of Full Size Batting (cotton, traditional or low loft are the easiest to sew)

Sewing machine

Cutting mat and rotary cutter OR

10" square template and scissors.

1200 yards of thread to sew the quilt

300 yards to sew the words (1 wound bobbin)

Size 12 or 14 sewing machine needles

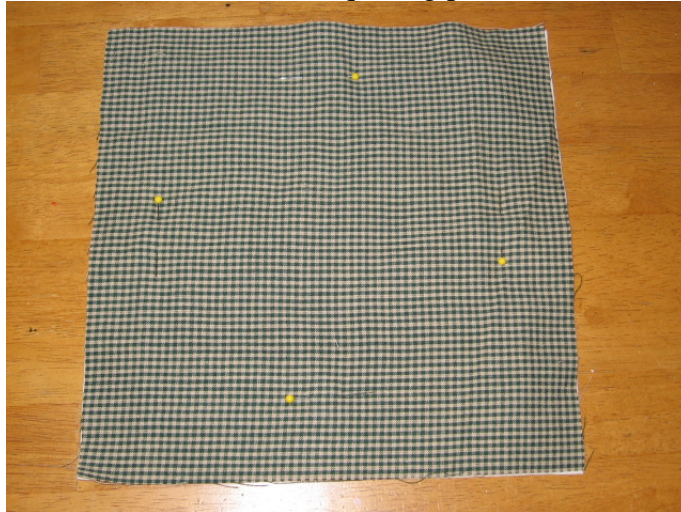
5 to 20 bobbins (wind as many spare bobbins as you have to save time)

Rag quilting or sharp pointed scissors with a spring to clip the seams

Recommended: Lint roller

Optional: embellishments such as doilies, buttons, lace, etc.

Optional but recommended: quilting pins (4 for each stack)



Instructions

1. Cut (38) 10" squares from Fabric 1.
Cut (28) 10" squares from Fabric 2.
Cut (22) 10" squares from Fabric 3.
Cut (10) 10" squares from Fabric 4.
Cut (98) 10" backing squares.
Cut (98) batting or flannel squares – 10" batting squares if you want the ruffled look;
8" batting squares or 10" flannel squares if you want the raggedy look. I used 8"
batting squares with this quilt.



2. Place middle piece (batting or flannel) behind the front pieces.



3. Place the backing behind the front and middle pieces with the right side facing outward.



4. Center and trace the words onto six “Fabric 3” squares. Stitch one word onto each square turned in the harlequin fashion. Machine stitch a square border around the words. Stitch the border about 1” from the edges.



5. Optional: Sew embellishments onto the other 16 “Fabric 3” pieces.
 - a. I placed doilies onto the front of the fabric and batting, sewed the buttons on by hand, then added the backing.
 - b. I quilted these stacks by machine stitching around the doilies in two places (around a center circle and around the outer edges), then I machine quilted a border around the square.



6. Sew the traditional X to quilt the remaining stacks. You can quilt an optional border around the X for added quilting.



- 7a. Use the layout pattern A to sew your stacks into the harlequin style. Begin sewing squares together into rows with the seams facing toward the front. As you piece the squares in the harlequin fashion, you will also be creating new rows. See 7b for another layout option.



- 7b. Use layout pattern B to sew squares into rows like you would an ordinary quilt. Two rows will have one square while others will have several squares due to the diagonal way you will attach the rows together to get the harlequin design.



7c. Optional: Cut thirteen 10" squares from the border fabric and from the backing fabric if you have chosen to perform this step. Cut each square in half diagonally so that you have 26 front triangles & 26 back triangles. Cut thirteen 8" batting squares. Cut them in half diagonally so that you have 26 batting triangles. Create your stacks as you did in steps 2 & 3. **If you aren't going to add the triangle border, skip to step 9.**



8. Sew the triangles into the outer gaps to create a border.



9. Sew around the outside edges, using a 1/2" seam allowance.



10. Clip the seams carefully so as to not clip through the thread. Clip closely together to create more ragging.



11. Wash on gentle cycle in cold water. Tumble dry on low setting. A lot of people will use a commercial laundry mat for this process. If you use your home appliances, be sure to start with clean lint trap(s). Clean the trap(s) about halfway through the washing and drying cycles and again at the end of each cycle. Clean out the drums thoroughly. All of this will help prevent against drain pipe blockage and dryer fire.



12. After drying, take outside and shake well. Remove any remaining strings with a lint roller. Finished rag quilt will be approximately 88" x 100". Size will vary depending on piecing variations, fabric used and dryer shrinkage.

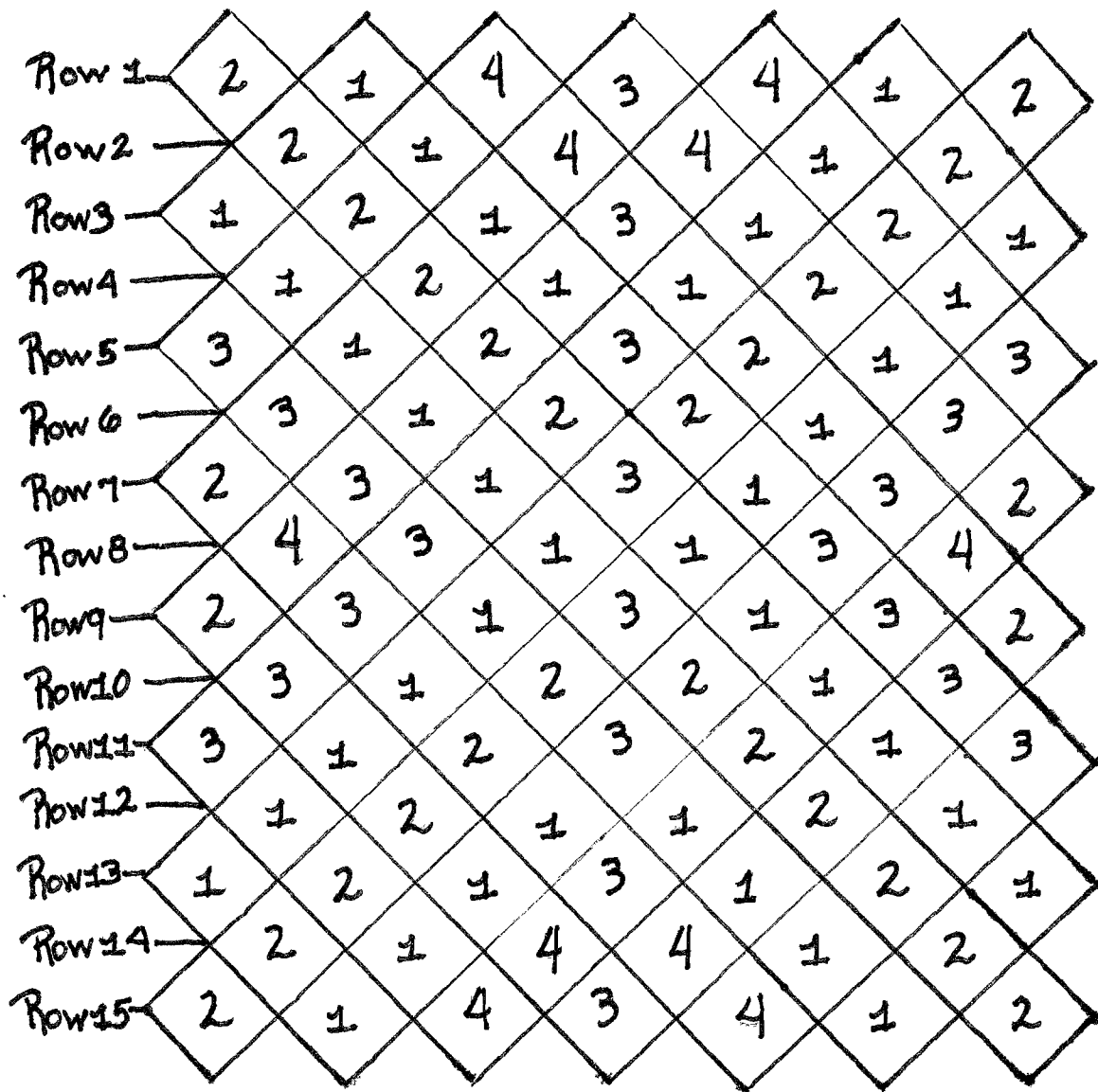


You may use this pattern to make similar rag quilts for fun or for profit. Please give designer credit to Sew Practical. All of our patterns are now registered. If you have any questions, you may contact us at mkwilson@chartertn.net. We would love to showcase your Sew Practical creations on our blog <http://sewpractical.blogspot.com> along with your personal story behind your creation and your family friendly website url, Ebay store or seller ID, or blog url if applicable.

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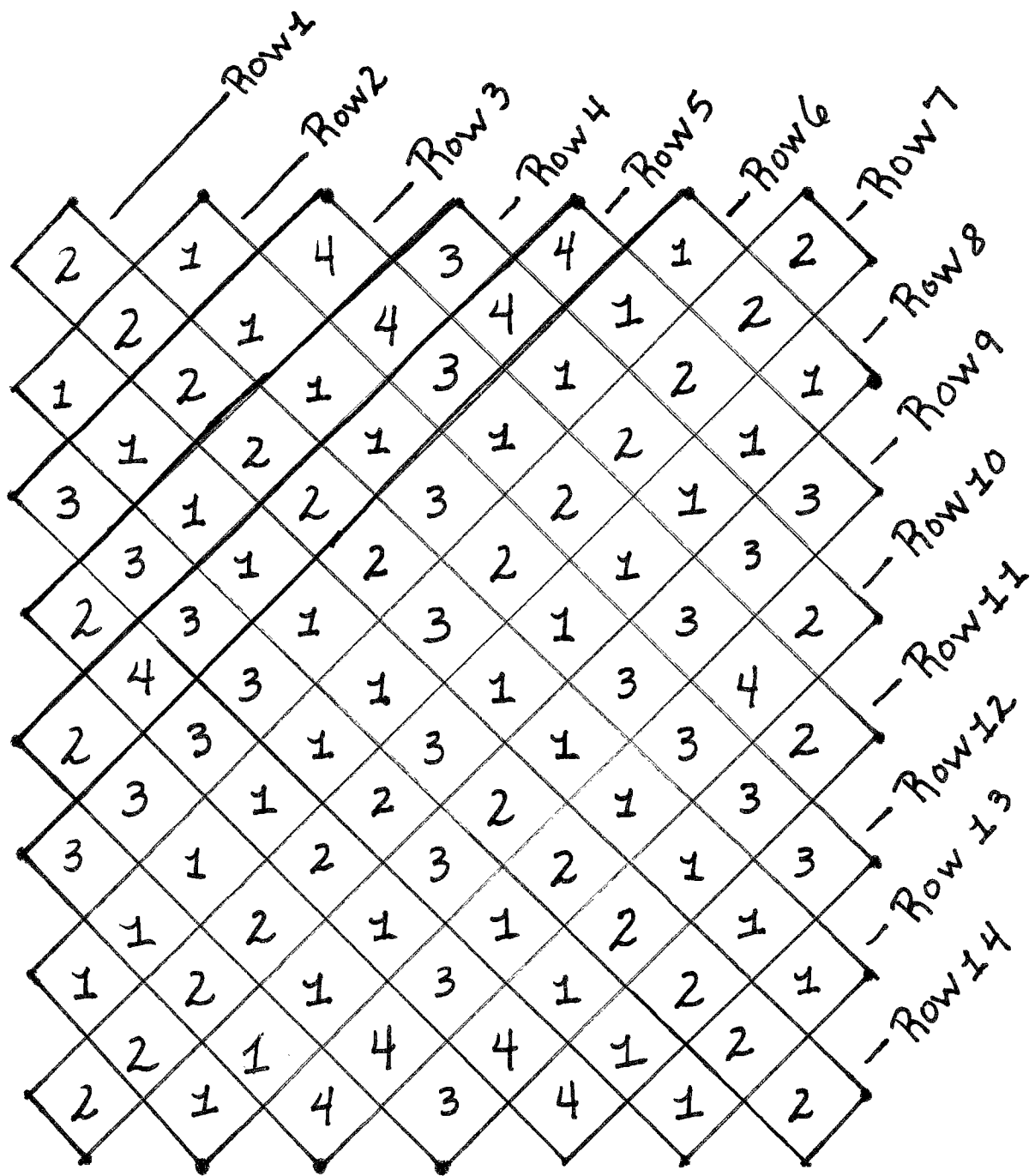


Harlequin Rag Quilt Pattern A



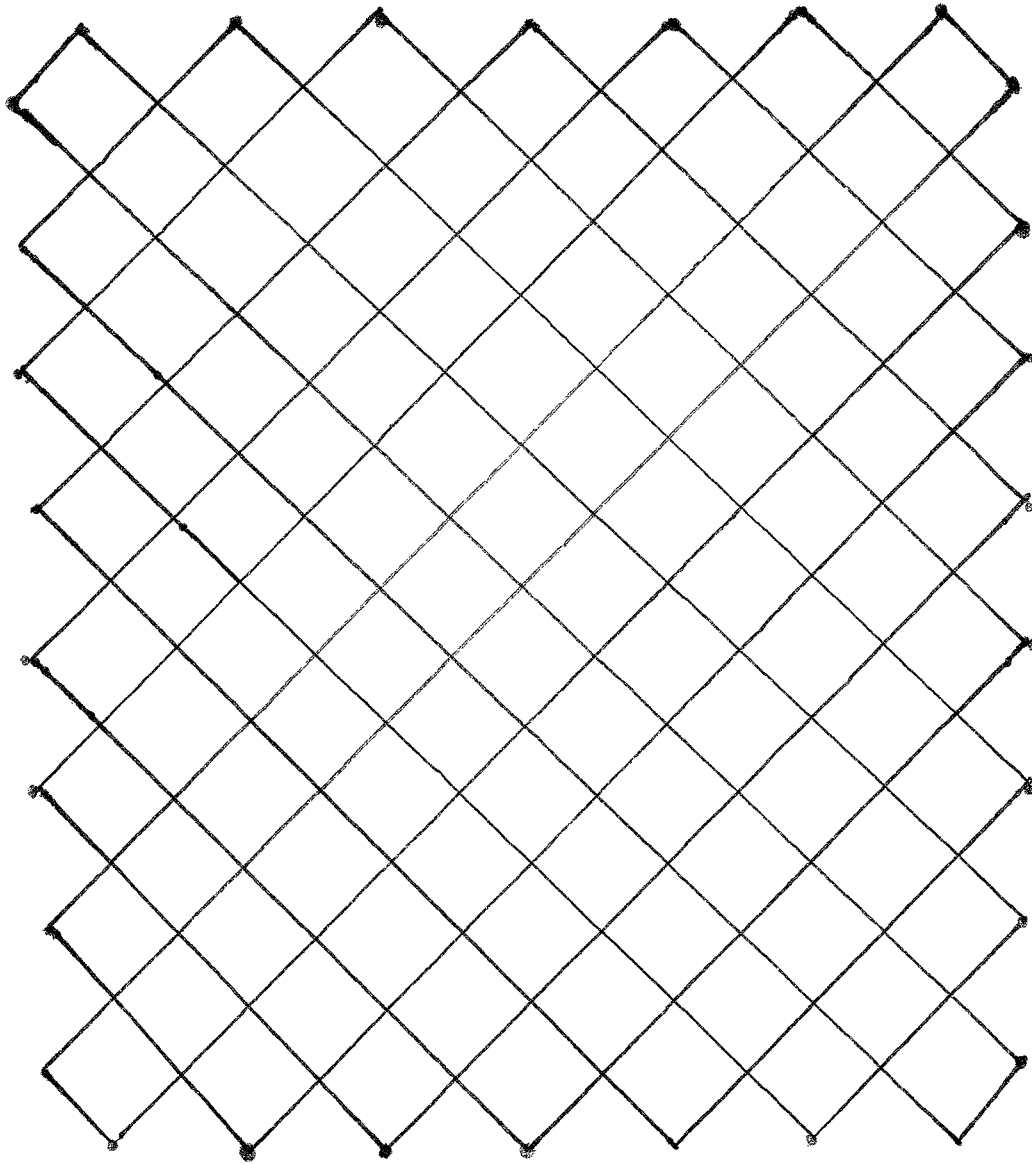
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Harlequin Rag Quilt



Pattern B
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Harlequin Rag Quilt Blank Pattern



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Cherish
Dream
Laugh
Love

Live

Hope