

Boho Summer Breeze – Cheater Quilt Instructions



Hello! Welcome to the Boho Summer Breeze –Cheater Quilt tutorial! This is about as easy as quilting can get, so pour yourself a relaxing drink of choice and let's read through all the steps *before* you do anything else. Don't be alarmed by the length of the instructions. Most of this is clarifying explanation. I will assume everyone has some basic quilting knowledge to keep this brief. If you have not ever made a quilt before, I'd suggest going to YouTube to learn the basics after reading through this. There are tons of expert quilters out there to teach you everything you need to know. If anything is unclear, I'm here to help: bealadesigns@gmail.com.

Decisions:

1. What size quilt do you want to make? Of course, the larger the quilt, the longer it will take. I don't say that to stifle you, but on the other hand, it is important to have realistic time expectations to ward off burnout and frustration. If this is your very first quilting experience, go smaller rather than larger to get the hang of it.

I have designed the fabric so that one width of petal signature cotton (42" wide) will yield one personal blanket approximately 40" wide by 70" long.

https://www.spoonflower.com/en/fabric/13018517-cheater-quilt-boho-summer-breeze-by-beala_designs

There are two ways to alter the width:
Adjust binding width or add extra panels.

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(I used a 2" binding.)

Each block is just under 10" (something like 9.86"). There are 4 blocks per fabric width. I added a 1" buffer on either side to insure a good shrinking margin (counting the selvages). So, if making a personal quilt, there is no cutting required at all for the width. More on the shrinking in a minute.

If making a wider quilt, simply sew additional blocks to one side to reach the desired width. **Note:** be sure to allow for seam allowance when ordering and cutting the fabric. This will mean you lose an entire block for the full length of the quilt in order to have a seam allowance since the blocks touch each other and you'll want to do the same with the extra width to hide the new section.

Of course, the length can be adjusted by simply ordering the length you want. If anything you may need to cut some length off unless you don't care about having a partial block at the top and/or bottom. I personally think it's a cleaner look to only have full blocks showing, but that's up to you.

I won't go into all the binding particulars here. Check out YouTube if you need help with binding decisions. Basically, decide on the width you like. Look at the plethora of examples online. For a personal quilt, I like the smaller widths. I really wanted the quilt center to be the showstopper, so a smaller binding won't detract from that, it just gives it a finished look.

One more word on binding, the amount of fabric you need will also be greatly influenced by whether you want a straight binding or a bias cut binding. Typically I go with a straight binding because it takes much less fabric. The only time I'll use bias cut is if there are curved edges involved.

Here is a handy binding calculator that will help determine how much fabric to purchase:

<https://www.quiltersparadiseesc.com/Calculators/Binding%20Calculator.php>

Ordering:

2. Calculate and order fabric. I have made each block of the quilt into a repeat fabric. So if you look in my Spoonflower shop (https://www.spoonflower.com/profiles/beala_designs?sort=new) you will see them listed separately. This is so you can choose a perfectly matched fabric for the backing and binding for your quilt. (I used the vines design in blue and green: https://www.spoonflower.com/en/fabric/13018270-boho-summer-breeze-vines-blue-green-by-beala_designs)

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Tip: I like to sketch out my quilt to make sure I haven't forgotten any measurements (seam allowances, etc.). It's easy to overlook something. When in doubt, order a little more fabric than you think you'll need.

Cutting:

3. Measure twice (or more ☺) & cut once. The key thing to remember is your quilt will shrink a little during the quilting process.

♦Cut the backing, batting & the top piece larger than you want the final quilt to be by at least 2 inches on all sides. Everything shifts and shrinks when quilting so you'll want the extra so you can square it all up before binding.

You will essentially not need to cut anything along the side when making a 40x70 quilt with my Boho Summer Breeze Cheater Quilt fabric. I have already allowed for this extra, including the selvages.

♦The batting has to fill in the binding, too so don't forget to cut the batting and the backing large enough all the way around to account for the binding width.

♦Don't cut your binding until all the quilting is finished. Because batting has different thicknesses it's best to make a sample sandwich and test out binding widths to get a good fit before assuming what exact width you'll need in order to get the look you want.

Sewing:

4. Pen everything together (also known as making your quilt sandwich: backing, batting, and top) and sew.

Use any quilt stitch desired. I used a lot of echo quilting in my blocks to make each design stand out, but a simple all over quilting stitch would be just as nice. Using the same all over quilting stitch will make the project go much faster. Quilting a different stitch in each block and then stitching in the ditch along the block outlines takes more time.

Binding:

Add the binding and you're done!

As you can see, calculating is the hardest part to this quilt—and if you make a personal sized blanket, even that is mostly done for you. Once the size of the quilt and the yardage needed is determined, putting it together is a *breeze* since there is no need to first create each block with smaller pieces.

I hope you enjoy this project and please tag me on Instagram with pictures of your quilt! @beala_designs.