

Bandana Summer Picnic Quilt

By: Dori Troutman



Supplies:

9 Bandana Handkerchiefs, (21.5 inches each)
1 Cotton Sheet (for quilt backing)
Thermoweb StitchnSew High Loft Fleece
Thermoweb SpraynBond Basting Adhesive
HeatnBond Fabric Fuse Liquid
General Sewing Supplies



Sewing Instructions

Step One: Wash and iron your handkerchiefs and carefully cut each one to measure 21 inches square. Or less if you need to. The goal here is to cut off the hem of each handkerchiefs and square them off nicely.

Step Two: Lay them out on the floor (or a table) and arrange them into the color design that you are happy with. You will place them in three rows, with three handkerchiefs in each row.

NOTE: Once I have them laid out on the floor, I like to take a picture of the layout. It is easy to forget how you wanted them when you begin to sew. This way you have a photo to refer back to!



Step Three: When you are happy with your layout, you will sew them together! Place your first two handkerchiefs in row one right sides together and sew a 1/4 inch seam down one side. Add the third handkerchief and sew it. Repeat with remaining two rows. You will now have three long strips. Now lay these on the floor to make sure you have them arranged the way you planned. Refer to your photo to make sure you have them arranged the way you planned.

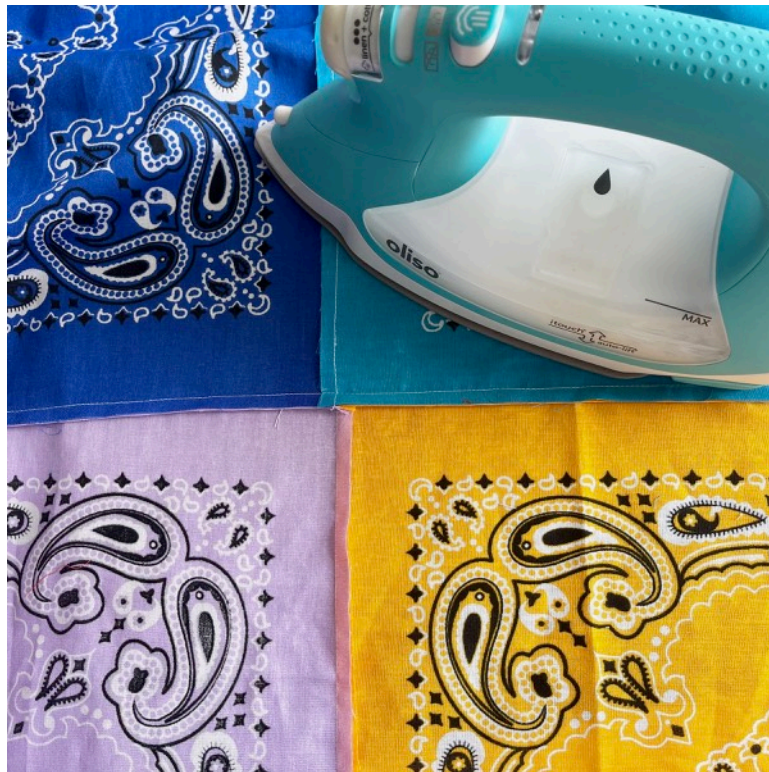
Step Four: Take your first long row to the ironing board. We will iron the seams on the back of the row with all the seams facing to the left. (There is a reason for this!). Set the row back on the floor.



Step Five: Take your second long row to the ironing board and repeat the process but this time iron all your seams to the right. Repeat with rows three and four, being sure to stagger how you iron your seams. Lay them on the floor in order as your finish ironing.

Step Six: Now for the fun part! Let's sew the rows together! Start with row one and carefully flip it over row two so that right sides of fabric are together. Here is where the way that we ironed the seams come into play. We will form what is called "nesting the seams". Pick up your two long rows and using clips (or pins) we will clip the rows together at each seam. The seams on one row will be going to the right and the seams on the other row will be going to the left. This allows you to match them exactly, there is less bulk, and your corners will come out perfectly. So when you put your clip or pin at each seam, make certain they are nesting together. Once you've placed those clips at the seams you can add more if you'd like. Take your two rows to the machine and sew 1/4" seam all the way. Sew slowly, removing clips as you go.

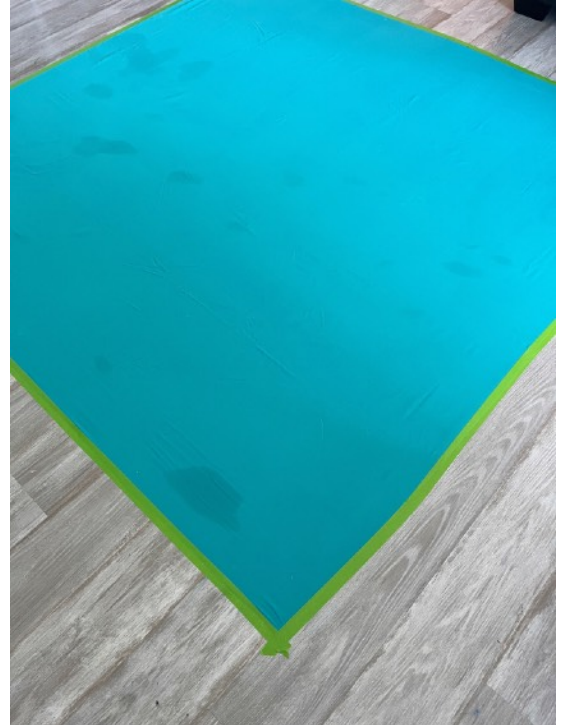
Step Seven: Repeat the same process as above, adding rows three and four.



Step Eight: Yay! You have your picnic quilt top complete! Now we get to move on to the attaching it to the back! Take your quilt top to the ironing board and carefully iron all your long seams. I like to iron the back first and then flip it over and iron the front. Iron thoroughly. Set your quilt top aside where it will not wrinkle.

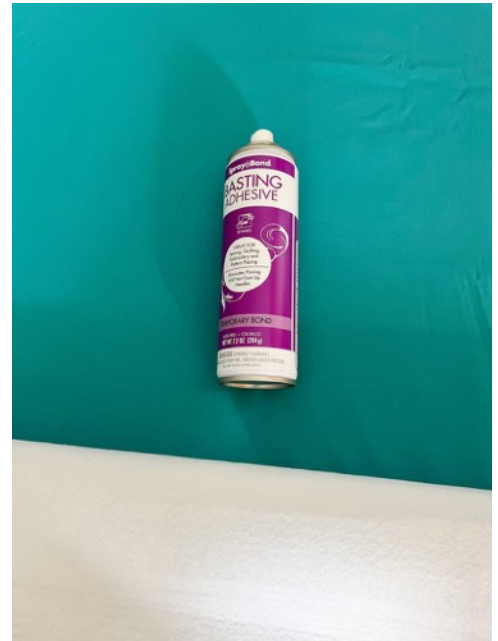
Step Nine: Cut your quilt backing to be about 8 - 10 inches larger all the way around than your quilt top. Iron the backing (you can use steam for this step!) and lay it on the floor, wrong side facing down. I like to tape it to the floor so that it holds in place perfectly and you don't end up with creases when your quilt layers are sandwiched together. I use the green Frog Painters Tape for this step as it removes easily from the floor and doesn't leave any residue.

Note: I like to use the floor for laying the quilt backing down. It gives me plenty of room that way. Or you can use a table or counter top and work in sections.



Step Ten: Cut your StitchnSew High Loft Fleece to the approximate size as your quilt top - I cut mine just a bit bigger all the way around. Center it on top of the quilt backing. Your backing will be larger than the fleece.

Step Eleven: Once you have it centered on the quilt backing we will use SpraynBond Basting Adhesive to adhere it. I like to start at about the half way point and fold the fleece back and spray the fabric backing. Just spray lightly about 12 inches away from the fabric. Fold your fleece back over and make sure it adheres, repeat on the other half.



Step Twelve: Now you will take your quilt top and lay it on the fleece, making sure it lines up exactly. Repeat step eleven except this time spray the adhesive to the back of the quilt top (not to the fleece). The reason I choose to always spray to the fabric is that I feel it adheres better.

Step Thirteen: Once your quilt is completely adhered together, you can remove the tape from the fabric backing. Now you have a completed “quilt sandwich”!



Step Fourteen: Now for the fun part - we are going to quilt your picnic quilt! You can quilt it any way that you would like. I chose to just sew 1 inch lines next to each seam on the blocks, making sure to go both directions. You can play around with this step, quilting any way you would like. Be sure to change your stitch to a longer length.

Note: We are at the finish now! I am going to do a “cheater binding” for this quilt since it is a simple picnic quilt and it doesn’t need to be anything special. So as I step you through this, keep in mind this is not how you would do the binding for a regular quilt! Here we go...



Step Fifteen: Fold the backing under the quilt and cut the quilt batting to be exactly the same as the quilt top. Be very careful not to nick the backing fabric, keep checking that you have it pushed underneath out of the way.

Once you have the batting cut, now measure and carefully cut all the way around your quilt backing so that it is 1 inch larger than your quilt top.

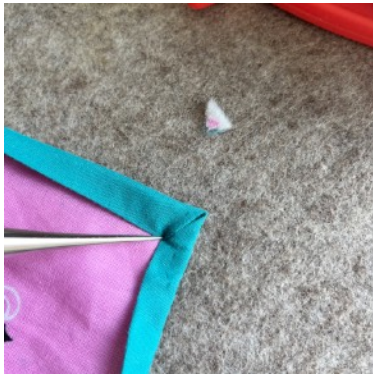




Step Sixteen: Take your quilt sandwich to the ironing board and iron the 1 inch of fabric to the front side of the quilt. Once you have done that, you will fold that raw edge to the ironed crease. Iron again. Now, fold that over to the front of the quilt and iron one more time!



Step Seventeen: When you get to the corners, you will cut off that tip on the bias, and then fold that edge over. These mitered corners can get a little fiddly, so just slowly work with it until you get it. Use a dot of fabric fuse on each side of the corner and fold that over. Repeat on the other side.



I use a stylus to hold it in place for a minute until the glue adheres, and then place a clip on that corner.

Step Eighteen: Continue the above steps, mitering the corners, ironing all the sides, holding everything in place with clips.





Step Nineteen: Now you get to sew the “cheater binding” in place! Sew all the way around, removing the clips as you go and carefully sewing around each corner.

And just like that, your quilt is complete and it’s time to plan a picnic!

