Birds and Balloons Quilt for Girls
by Kim Diehl

Finished Quilt Size: 42½" x 48½"
A Free Project Sheet from

2 ply flannel

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Ric Rac Paddywack
Birds and Balloons Quilt for Girls

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MATERIALS
Yardages are based upon a 42" width of useable fabric after prewashing and removing selvages.

1 yard of cream/multi dot print for quilt center: F6458-26
⅝ yard of pink rick rack stripe print for bird appliqués, patchwork, and binding: F6464-22
1 fat quarter (18" x 21") each of 7 assorted prints for balloon and bird appliqués, and patchwork: F6457-6 (green plaid); F6459-44 (yellow polka dot); F6461-22 (pink button), 55 (lavender button); F6462-66 (green chevron), 101 (blue chevron); F6464-33 (orange rick rack stripe)
1 fat eighth (9" x 21") each of 12 assorted prints for bird appliqués and patchwork: F6457-3 (orange plaid), 55 (lavender plaid); F6459-66 (green polka dot); F6460-11 (blue rick rack); F6461-11 (blue button); F6462-22 (pink chevron), 44 (yellow chevron); F6463-11 (blue gingham), 22 (pink gingham), 55 (lavender gingham); F6464-55 (lavender rick rack stripe), 101 (blue rick rack stripe)
1 package each of jumbo rick rack (approximately ⅝"-wide) in pink, turquoise, and green colors for balloon strings
3 yards of print of choice for backing (Kim suggests pink/multi button print F6461-25)
49" x 55" rectangle of batting
Standard sewing and quilting supplies
Supplies for your favorite appliqué method

Cutting
Cut all pieces across the width of the fabric in the order given unless otherwise noted. For greater ease, instructions for cutting the appliqués are provided separately.

From the cream/multi dot print, cut:
1 rectangle, 30½" x 36½"

From the pink rick rack stripe print, cut:
5 binding strips, 2½" x 42"
Reserve the remainder of the print.

From the 7 fat quarters of assorted prints, the 12 fat eighths of assorted prints, and the reserved remainder of the pink rick rack stripe print, cut a combined total of:
78 squares, 2½" x 2½"
52 rectangles, 2½" x 6½"
(For added choices as you piece the border patchwork, you may wish to cut a handful of extra rectangles and squares.)
Reserve the remainder of the prints for the appliqués.

Cutting and Stitching the Appliqués
1 Using the pictured quilt as a guide (or, create your own color combinations), use the patterns provided on page 5 to cut and prepare the following appliqués from the reserved prints:
• 7 balloons
• 7 birds
• 7 bird wings

2 Fold the cream/multi dot 30½" x 36½" background rectangle in half, right sides together, and use a hot, dry iron to lightly press a center vertical crease.

3 Referring to the appliqué placement illustration on page 3, center a balloon over the vertical background crease, positioning the top of the balloon approximately 15¼" down from the top raw edge; pin or baste in place. Next, position and baste two balloons onto the right and left sides of the background, placing them approximately 1" in from the raw side edges, and 11" down from the top raw edge. Last, using the suggested measurements provided in the placement guideline, position and baste the remaining four balloons onto the background rectangle.
Position and baste a bird appliqué to the top of each balloon, so that the edges of the finished shapes will lightly touch after they’ve been stitched. Use your favorite method to stitch the appliqués in place, leaving an approximate 1”-wide unstitched opening at the bottom of each balloon to add the rick rack string.

Position, baste, and stitch a wing onto each bird.

Using the pictured quilt as a guide for color placement, add a rick rack string to each balloon, tucking the raw edge under the balloon at the bottom opening approximately ½”, and extending the length approximately ½” beyond the bottom block edge. Pin each rick rack length to the background at approximately 2” intervals to secure it well for stitching. Using your sewing machine and matching or complimentary thread colors (variegated thread adds a nice touch), and beginning and ending with a locking stitch or a couple of back stitches, zig zag stitch each string in place, running your stitches down the center of the rick rack.

Note: While Kim chose to lay out the rick rack strings of the featured quilt in straight lines, these could also be formed into curvy serpentine shapes . . . have fun with this step!

Appliquéd openings at the bottom of the balloons.

Piecing and Adding the Border

Sew all pieces with right sides together using a ¼” seam allowance unless otherwise noted.

1. Choosing the prints randomly, join three assorted print 2½” squares end-to-end. Press the seam allowances open. Repeat for a total of 26 pieced rectangle units measuring 2½” x 6½”, including the seam allowances.

2. Select a step 1 pieced rectangle unit. Join an assorted print 2½” x 6½” rectangle to each long side of the unit. Press the seam allowances toward the newly added strips. Repeat for a total of 26 pieced Rail Fence Variation blocks measuring 6½” square, including the seam allowances.
1 Referring to the illustration, lay out six Rail Fence Variation blocks end-to-end. Join the blocks. Press the seam allowances toward the vertically positioned blocks. Repeat for a total of two pieced side border strips measuring 6½” x 36½”, including the seam allowances. Join these pieced border strips to the right and left sides of the quilt center as shown. Press the seam allowances toward the quilt center.

2 Referring to the illustration for orientation of the blocks, repeat step 3 to make a top and bottom pieced border strip, with each strip consisting of seven Rail Fence Variation blocks. Using the illustration as a guide, join these pieced border strips to the remaining sides of the quilt center. Press the seam allowances toward the quilt center. If desired, trim away the excess rick rack string lengths to bring the edges flush with the bottom border seam line. The pieced and appliquéd quilt top should now measure 42½” x 48½”, including the seam allowances.

Completing the Quilt

Layer the quilt top, batting, and backing. Quilt the layers. This quilt is an ideal project for a simple, overall quilting design, making it durable for lots of use by that special little one in your life. Join the pink rick rack stripe 2 1/2” x 42” strips into one length and use it to bind the quilt.
Patterns do not include seam allowances.

Turn off scaling when printing this page. The box at left should measure $\frac{1}{2}" \times \frac{1}{2}".$
Ric Rac Paddywack

Fabrics in the Collection (2 ply flannel)

F6457-3  F6457-55  F64657-6  F6458-16  F6458-26
F6459-44  F6459-66  F6460-11  F6460-16  F64660-26
F6461-11  F6461-22  F6461-25  F6461-55  F6462-22
F6462-44  F6462-66  F6462-101  F6463-11  F6463-22
F6463-55  F6464-22  F6464-33  F6464-55  F6464-101
F6465P-66  F6465P-66