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Fibers

Use a needle and beading thread as a loop to guide the fibers through an eyelet in one corner. Tie a lark's head knot or overhand knot to secure.



To make a little bird's nest, wrap two or three different fibers together around your finger a couple of times, then slip the loop off and hold it in place on the Inchie. Using beading thread, come up through the fiber nest, pass the needle and thread through a seed bead, and go back down through the Inchie, pulling the thread tight to secure the bead and part of the fiber nest at the same time. Add enough beads around the nest in clusters to attach the fibers securely.



Favorite Quilting Techniques



Fabric Preparation

I recommend prewashing all fabrics to pre-shrink and remove sizing and excess dye. Wash in cold water with a mild soap or detergent, dry in the dryer, and remove promptly to control wrinkles. Fold the fabric neatly with the selvages together so it's ready for rotary cutting.

Make Accuracy a Habit

Use the same ruler throughout a project, as even rulers made by the same manufacturer can vary. Cut the fabrics for your quilt in a well lit area, and use a fresh blade in the rotary cutter. To make accurate templates, lay thin translucent template plastic over the paper pattern and trace the curved lines of the pattern. Mark dots at the corners of straight edges of the template and connect the dots with a ruler for the straightest edge. Transfer all markings to the plastic template and use a mini hole punch or a large needle to make holes where the dots are. Cut out the

Tip! When you trace the template onto the fabric, you're actually adding the width of the drawn line to the dimension of the template. You'll need to cut just inside the drawn line on the fabric so that your patchwork piece is the right size.

template with scissors, cutting on the center of the drawn line.

Turn the templates face down and trace onto the wrong side of the fabric. It's safe to use a Pigma® Micron® pen to trace around templates, since you'll be cutting away the drawn line when you cut out the fabric piece. Transfer dots through the holes to the fabric with a removable marker or chalk pencil. When you cut out the fabric pieces, use small, very sharp scissors and cut just inside the drawn line.

Check your seam allowances to be sure they are an accurate $\frac{1}{4}$ ". Small differences can add up to big problems as you piece blocks together and the quilt gets bigger.

Pressing for Success

Press patchwork seams as you go during construction for best results. Use a dry iron on a cotton setting and gently press seam allowances in the direction indicated in the pattern. Don't press too firmly with the iron as this can leave shiny marks on the fabric or cause the seam to open too far. You don't want the sewing thread to show at the seam line. Use steam sparingly, if at all. Save the steam setting on the iron for

INCHIE ART GALLERY

Quilt Size: 13¼" x 17"

Materials

40" wide fabric

- 1 yard blue fabric for background, Inchie backing, and facing
- ⅛ yard for Inchies
- ¾ yard for backing
- Batting at least 18" x 21"
- 7" x 9" filler for Inchies
- 7½" x 9½" stiffener
- Beads, fibers, and other embellishments as desired
- 1½ yards Velcro® brand Fabric Fusion tape

Cutting

From the background fabric, cut:

- Two 1½" strips for facing
- One 21" strip; from this strip, cut:
 - One 18" x 21" rectangle for quilt backing
 - One 13¾" x 17½" rectangle for quilt top
 - One 8" x 10" rectangle for Inchie backing

From the Inchie fabric, cut:

- One 7" x 9" rectangle



Make the Quilt

Mark the quilting lines

Mark a center guideline from top to bottom on the 13¼" x 17" rectangle. Measure 1⅜" to the right of the center guideline and mark the first quilting line from top to bottom. Mark two more lines to the right of the first quilting line in the same manner. Repeat for the left side.

Mark a center guideline across the rectangle from side to side. Measure up 2¼" from this center guideline, and mark a quilting line. Measure up 1⅜" from this line and mark the next quilting line. Mark two more lines above the second quilting line in the same manner, marking each line 1⅜" from the preceding line. Repeat for the bottom.

Tip! Choose an Inchie fabric with a variety of different motifs and colors, and then divide the Inchies into groups of similar design after they are cut. Add embellishments to enhance the subtle differences in the groups. Viewers might be surprised that all the Inchies were made from just one fabric!



Quilt and Finish

Layer the quilt with batting and backing.

Quilt on the marked quilting lines, quilting all lines from top to bottom first, and then side to side.

Finish the quilt edges with a facing using the 1½" strips as described on page 36.

Tip! Use a variegated thread that contrasts nicely with the background fabric and complements the colors of the Inchie fabric to quilt the background quilt.

Make the Inchie

Layer the Inchie fabric with the filler, stiffener, and backing to make the Inchie sandwich. Refer to the Basic Inchie Instructions Section (pages 12–20) to make 48 Inchie.

Embellish the Inchie with beads, wire, decorative threads, crystals, or found objects as desired. Refer to Making Them Stick (page 17) to attach the Inchie with Velcro, positioning them as shown in the diagram, arranging the Inchie as desired.

DIMINUTIVE DETAILS

A few of the Inchie on this quilt were not embellished with beads or embroidery, since the design of the fabric, quilting, and couched threads was quite beautiful as it was. Don't be afraid to let an Inchie stand on its own without further embellishment if the design of the fabric and couched trims is interesting enough.





FIG. 2.

Tip! Choose an Inchie fabric that is similar to the portrait fabrics. Very often, panel prints have coordinating fabrics that are suitable for Inchies, or you can use parts of the panel that are not being used for portraits.

Tip! Don't worry if your portraits are oddly sized or not all the same size. It's actually more interesting! This quilt is sized "on the fly" as it's constructed. So it doesn't really matter what size the portraits are.

Sew the quilt

Sew the quilt top together in rows as shown. Begin at the top, and flip the top border over onto the top portrait row; pin together and sew.

Repeat for the remaining rows, lining up the portraits and separator strips as desired as you sew. Press the seam allowance toward the borders and separator strips.

Use a ruler and rotary cutter to trim the side edges of the quilt so they are straight and the top and bottom corners are square.

Quilt and finish

Layer the quilt with batting and backing. Quilt as desired. Use your favorite binding method to bind the quilt with the 2¼" strips of the binding fabric.

Make the Inchies

Refer to the Basic Inchie Instructions (pages 12–20) to make about 30 Inchies. The number needed will vary, depending on the finished size of your quilt.

Embellish the Inchies with beads, decorative threads, brads, crystals, or found objects as desired. Refer to Making Them Stick (page 17) and use beads to attach the Inchies to the quilt, positioning Inchies on the quilt as shown or arranging them as desired.