
Rosy Quilt Top with Liza Lucy

Chapter 1 - Introduction

Overview

(upbeat music) - The very first quilt Kaffe and I made together was called Rosy. We were beginners 20 something years ago and this is a great beginners quilt. It's made just with squares. In another video on Creativebug, Kaffe, in his London studio, showed how to mix the colors and put them together to design this quilt. And we're gonna show you the original Rosy and show you how far we've come in color selection. In this video, you're going to learn to cut and sew Rosy together. (upbeat music)

Chapter 2 - Materials

Materials

- I'm having a real flashback here, because this is not only the original Rosie, but the very first quilt that Liza and I actually made together. When I was asked to make the first quilt I was thinking about a wonderful quilt I'd slept under in Wales, that was made of furnishing fabric, so it was English overblown roses, very, very soft, very faded sort of look. So I actually went looking for fabrics that I felt were that sort of mood, and a lot of these are very, very soft, but they were about the most exciting fabrics we could find at that time, when you wanted upscale florals, 'cos they really didn't exist that much in the patchwork world. So it's amazing to see how far our fabrics have come from this after years of developing our own fabrics and our own color combinations. - Well it certainly is a blast from the past. This was not only the first quilt, but we didn't even know about quilting very much. It's tied, and the little ivory buttons I bought from an antique dealer are from men's underwear. (laughter) Last century or something, these little ivory buttons. - I'd forgotten that, yeah. - So it's not only our first quilt it's tied with a nice fluffy batting inside. Something we've never done before, so I mean this is it. - [Male] Yeah, yeah. - Well, why don't you show 'em how far we've come? - Take this down. - [Woman] And that's the center I sewed after you sent me the pieces that you worked on in your video. - [Male] After I mocked it up. - Yep. - In the earlier class. It looks amazingly bright doesn't it? What I'm loving seeing is we had a very pale flower right here, which you've replaced with another flower from the same fabric. And that works a lot better and my eye now travels over the whole piece, it doesn't get hung up on that light spot. - Let's talk about the materials. All designed by you and Philip Jacobsen, Brandon Mabley, And discuss the borders when I'm all done showing everyone how to cut and sew this quilt. 'Cos you never got to the borders in the first video. - No, that's right. - Okay, so here are the fabrics that we used. On the website we will spell out exactly which fabrics. And I'm gonna give you general instructions on what kind of fabrics to choose. This is a scrappy quilt. It's not necessary for you to put things exactly where we did or choose exactly the same fabrics we did. In fact, we're hoping you make your own choices because this can be a very exciting lesson for you to learn to how to choose your own fabrics. The guidelines are basically these: you want about 10 to 15 large scale prints, and this is what I mean by a large scale print. Something that's kind of big and bold. And you want about 10 to 15 smaller scale prints. Like this, those are not hard and fast numbers. You generally are going to need about a half yard of each of the large scale and generally you are going to need a quarter yard of the small scale. That will depend a little bit on how you mix them. You do not want less than a half yard, however, of any of the large scale and that will become apparent in a minute when I tell you how big they need to be

cut. As to tools, you need the usual. Sewing machine, thread, pins, but you also need a rotary cutter, mat, and a couple of rulers can make this quite simple. I recommend highly that you do not work on a mat smaller than this one, and this one measures, let's see, 18 by 12. So don't go smaller than this for your mat. The ruler I started with, and I made almost all my first probably 50 quilts with is this one, so I'm very comfortable with it. It's six by twelve inches. I like it a lot, it's good for this. I could cut all the large prints with it, although because they're going to be cut at nine and a half inches you can see that it only goes six inches this way so this can be a handy ruler to have. Either a nine and a half inch square ruler, or in this case this is a twelve and a half inch. I like the bigger one because I get more use out of it, but if you've got a nine and a half inch square that would also work. Those are your tools, those are your materials, let's cut.

Chapter 3 - Cutting Instructions

Cut fabric pieces

- I'm going to show you how to cut the small blocks first. Most fabrics that you buy are going to come off the bolt doubled like this. I'm going to show you how to cut the small patches first. Leave the fabric doubled. If this is your absolute first quilt ever, you may want to watch my video, Quilting 101, before you start to do this because I will go through this more quickly this time than I did on that video. That video may give you a little bit more confidence. So I folded it, basically, so that there are four layers. I would probably do this a little more evenly, but I wanted you to be able to see that there are four layers that I'm cutting through. Most beginners make the mistake of thinking they have to line the fabric up with the lines on the mat and the lines on the ruler. That's not the case. Only use the lines on your ruler and you'll be just fine. Otherwise, you're going to go very slowly and you won't be very happy. First thing you're going to do is find three and a half inches. And you wanna cut bigger than three and a half inches on the first slice. So I'm lining up any one of these lines here, any one of these, doesn't matter which. And at about four inches on the crease. And I'm going to hold my ruler down, open my blade, and cut across. I'm gonna run out of room here, but that's just waste, so I'm just going to go right through. I'm not going to move my ruler off the fabric that's underneath it. I'm going to move the fabric away from my ruler. I'm now going to turn everything around, leaving my ruler in place. Because I'm right handed and I wanna cut either this way or away from me. I'm now taking my ruler and putting it on the edge we just cut at three and a half inches. Again, forget about this over here. I wish it weren't there, but here we go. And we're gonna cut and we now have a nice strip, oh, go away. Three and a half inches. I'm now going to take my ruler, turn it, and place it on any one of these lines, it doesn't matter which one. On my ruler, not on the mat. And I'm gonna get rid of the stuff to my right. Turn it around again. Notice I left the ruler on top? It helps stabilize. And we have all these layers, oh, look. I could cut off a little more and get four even ones. So I'm going to do that. Back around. The idea is to get four that are going to end at the same place. You can see that this is a process that takes some finessing and some getting used to and is very forgiving. It's just fabric. Okay, now, I found that I have all four exactly in the same place, I'm moving this to three and a half inches, I'm putting it on any line here, and three and a half inches here. I like to keep my pinky off to the side here, by the way, make kind of a spider with my fingers and keep my pinky here, it helps stabilize the ruler. And cut away. And now I have four three and a half inch patches. And I'm gonna put my ruler back down. Try not to move this fabric. Most beginners try and move the fabric instead of the board, and that's where they have a lot of problems. And you put this on three and a half and a nice square edge here, and cut away, got another four here, and I'm gonna set them aside. On every nine patch block that we're

gonna make, you're gonna need five of one fabric and four of another. Let me show you what I mean. This green dot is one, two, three, four, five patches. And this large charred print is one, two, three, four patches. So let me lay this one out so you can see it. How it will be laid out. And by the way, it doesn't matter if the big print goes in the corners or in the middle, this is a scrappy quilt, I can't say that enough. You can just do all kinds of things, and it will be just fine. You know, there are a lot of people who like something called a charm quilt, which means every fabric only gets used one. This is not a charm quilt. You can repeat the fabrics you like best as many times as you want. Now I also made a decision on this one I would probably make the opposite decision tomorrow, but today I decided in this directional print to put them all going in the same direction. That's your choice, and that's how we'll make a nine patch. Half the blocks in the center are nine patches, the other half are made with just a single fabric cut into a large piece. Let's cut those now. Cafe picked this large print with these giant peonies to be fussy cut. That means you're going to make it into a bullseye. And those are harder to cut than the other blocks, but I wanna show you why having this large 12 1/2 inch ruler becomes handy for this kind of thing. It is going to be cut at nine and a half inches, which is here to here. And because he wants it fussy cut, I can keep moving this ruler around until I can visualize where it needs to be cut. Now I'm not gonna do that one now, I'm going to do a normal one, because it takes a bit of time until you get the bullseye exactly where you want it. Don't be too worried about it being exact. Back to the word, scrappy quilt, a bullseyeish is good enough. And this is an already cut non-bullseye. I won't go through the cutting again, it's exactly the same as what we just did. You can see that I have cut this nine and a half inches square. I tend to cut these not in double layers. I like to see the image I'm going to get on these large blocks, even if they're not being fussy cut. Sometimes, in a print such as this one, if I'm not careful, I'll get mostly green or mostly pink, and I'd like a nice mixture. We have one more size square to cut. The nine patches are three and a half inch squares. These are nine and a half inch squares. And the inner border are cut five inches. The outer border is made from the leftover squares from the nine patches, so you really only have three sizes of squares to cut. Now, Cafe chose this ombre fabric, which has a real character to it that we have to pay attention to, because the color changes throughout. So what I'd like to do on this fabric is double it up and then fold it again into fours. Four layers, and lay it down. Because this ruler is long enough and it's wide enough I'm going back to my old friend this six by 12, and I'm putting any line right on the fold, and more than five inches, so I've got actually about six here, and I'm going to cut here. I'm not gonna move my ruler, I'm gonna move the fabric away. I'm going to turn my ruler and mat. Now I'm going to line it at five inches here, and there, and cut away. My next step is to turn my ruler and cut away the selvedge edges. Throw that away. Spin it again. Move it to five inches. And here's my five inches. Cut, ooh, and I hope we have another five here. I think we will. Oh, we're gonna make it. Five inches here. It wiggled a little bit. We'll wiggle it right back. Okay. Goodbye. And here we have four five inch pieces. Cafe talked a little bit about these various characteristics of the colors here, and we will sort them later on, when we're going to design the sequence for the inner border. You notice I made a couple of mistakes along the way, they were very little ones. I try to cut pretty accurately, I try to sew pretty accurately, because it makes patchwork so simple, if you just take the time to do that well. But don't make yourself crazy, unless you're trying to win a blue ribbon for absolute perfection in the stitching. And I don't think it's gonna happen with this quilt. You'll be fine with a little bit of fudging here and there.

Chapter 4 - Sew Nine Patch Blocks

Nine patch quilt block

- Sewing the nine patch is the hardest thing you're going to have to do making this quilt, and it's very, very easy. You're going to take the five patches of one fabric and the four patches of another and sew it into a block called the nine patch. So let's sew. I'm going to sew this together, this together, and this together first. So put the fabrics together face to face and take them one at a time to my sewing machine. This is a 1/4 inch foot. Nearly every seam you'll ever make in patchwork will be 1/4 inch wide. Now, if you don't have a 1/4 inch foot, refer to my video Quilting 101 to see other ways of getting to 1/4 inch. I'm placing it right there so the fabric's along the edge. I'm not pinning, because these are very small patches. If you're more comfortable pinning, by all means pin. Just sew to the end. Do not remove from the sewing machine. Just bring your other pair over, your next pair. Line them up. Place under the feed dog and then continue to sew. You do not need to pick up the presser foot. Just continue to sew. Right to the end of the second pair. Pick up the third pair. Oh, keep wiggling around till they're lined up nicely. Sometimes it takes a bit of work. By the way, you might be wondering why I have this piece of plastic here on my sewing machine. I find it handy to help me guide that 1/4 inch seam. It's a gizmo called an angler, and I tape it to my sewing machine. And I like the way I can see that 1/4 inch seam lining up. It's handy to have; it's not necessary. Almost there. Take it up. Cut it off. Move it back over to your work space. And open them up. Like so. Now, most people are going to cut the thread here, here, and here, sew this to this one, this to this one, and this to this one. But if you're a little bit careful, you can do this without cutting, and I like the way it works. So I'm going to place the third member of that row on top of this. The second member. And over to here. And over to here. If you have more than a nine patch, a much more complicated block, this gets harder. I can move three pieces over pretty easily to my machine. Line up the edges. Lower the presser foot and sew. Now, when you get here, line up this one. Takes a little bit of effort. And continue to sew. One more time. Our three rows are now sewn. Remove it from the machine. Open it up. And here we are. Now, you can at this point iron. And I don't. I find that if I do what's called finger pressing, it's sufficient. I'm going to finger press my seams toward my more solid fabric. This is just a choice I'm making. So I'm gonna open it up and just take my fingernail and press it open. I'm gonna press the seam that way here and here. And this is the fabric I'm gonna press to here, so I gotta fold it under a little bit. Press with my fingernail, and here. And what this will do is it will position my seams, which are ironed to one side, or finger pressed to one side, and it'll put them in a position so they will oppose each other when I sew the rows together. Let me show you. I'm gonna sew this row to this row first right here. Look. My seam is pressed this way. And on the one that's going to nest to it, it's the other way. So I can now just put those together and they're gonna make a perfect join because they are in opposite directions and they make a nice little locking nest there that will make a good join. So I'm gonna put that one to there and drop a pin in and take it to my machine. And we're gonna sew a 1/4 inch seam. I do not wanna sew over my pin. If you have a dentist who will give you his used tools, this is a wonderful poky tool that will help you sew. Otherwise I sometimes will use a seam ripper, or you can purchase something called a stiletto. Now, look, I made kind of a bad join there when I was sewing my patches together. This is fabric. It's very forgiving. And I'm not trying to make an award-winning quilt with perfect, perfect bits and joins, so I'm gonna let that be. You'll find that you can give up on a lot of perfectionism. Quilting is pretty forgiving stuff. And let's see how it looks. Well, that looks pretty good even though it wasn't perfect. That one's very good. Okay, last row. This one to this one. Right here. Same thing. You're gonna nest those little seams together and pin, and one last time. They're gonna nest together nicely and pin. Get my thread under, there we go. There it is, a nine patch. If this is your first time making a quilt, you've now become a patchworker. This is

patchwork. You're going to make 21 nine patch blocks. They can all be different. You can repeat some. If you like a fabric a lot, use it a few times. If you don't like it very much at all, use it only once. So now we are going to take 21 of the large single prints and alternate it with the nine patches to make a row. There are 21 of these. They can all be different. They can have some repeats; it's up to you. And there are going to be 21 large blocks made out of a single print, large-scale prints, and we're gonna alternate them. And we're going to make rows by sewing nine patches alternating with these, and let me show you how to do that. Now, I would iron at this point. And I turn it to the back side so I can make my seams as flat as possible. If some of these seams are not perfect, don't worry about it, because there's going to be batting in the center and a backing and then it's going to be quilted and you will never know if the seams flip this way or that. It's a good idea to try to get them perfectly flat, but don't make yourself crazy over it. I certainly don't. So we need six blocks in the first row, and let's make a row. I've already prepared my sequence. Take your nine patch and sew it to your large-scale print. And you're going to put them face to face. And by the way, take a look. It doesn't matter if I sew it this way or this way. It's the same. And I'm going to pin it on each end and in the middle. Like so. And like so. Now, look, this is a little puffier than the bottom piece. Now, some people would wanna do what's called squaring up. I don't. Fabric is quite flexible and forgiving. So I'm going to fold it like so, find the middle, pinch it, and place my pin. You can see that this is a little bit bigger on top than the single piece. And I learned from a seamstress awhile ago that if I put the larger piece against the feed dogs, the bed of my sewing machine, it will help ease the two together. So I'm gonna choose to put this facedown on my machine. Start to sew. Don't run over your pins. Let's see. Got a thread caught here, so give me a second. Now there. You know, lots of things seem to go wrong in sewing sometimes, like that caught thread, but they're rarely big problems. They're just little ones. Easily fixed. Okay. Let's take a look. There. So we're gonna alternate the big prints with the nine patch. Next piece that will go on will go here. And you're gonna sew that on exactly the same way we just did this. You're gonna continue, using six blocks total alternating, so three of each until you get your first row done. And you're going to then make seven rows of these alternating blocks. So let me get to the end of the first one and I'll show you how to attach rows together. Okay, there's a row. One, two, three, four, five, six blocks. The second row, which I've already sewed, has six blocks, but this time it starts with the nine patch. So you can see it's now going to alternate big, small, small, big prints. I'm going to pin these together at each join. I'm going to go this way. And pin where the blocks meet. Just as you did with the nine patches, you wanna make the seams go in alternate directions so that they nest together. So I've pushed one to this side and one to that side and placed a pin. Let's do it again. I'm going to push this one to that side. I'm going to push that one this way, and underneath I'm gonna push it the opposite way. And see how they nest together very nicely? And place a pin. And do that all the way along. And then I'm gonna pin the ends too just to stabilize. So there's a pin in that end, and one in this end. And using a 1/4 inch seam, doesn't change, I'm going to sew these two rows together, just the same as everything else you've done to this point. 1/4 inch under the foot and sew like the wind. When you've sewed together seven rows, you've got the center of your Rosy Quilt finished. And here it is.

Chapter 5 - Sew Borders

Inside borders

- Now we're going to do a border for this rosy quilt, and we'll start with five inch cut squares going down, and I've chosen my ombre fabric to be every other fabric and then lots of the green prints, every other one on this particular border. You'll see that there's a lot of differences in this, so that

makes it quite interesting as a border fabric. And here we have one sewn up. So you can see how we start with the dark and then we go through the different changes in the ombre. And these nice green prints in between, keeping that lovely soft greenness moving out to the edge of our quilt. - You're gonna cut these squares at five inches, which means they're going to finish at four and a half. But right now all you need to know is that we're gonna cut them at five inches. Every other square is an ombre stripe, and don't get too hung up on the idea of making it totally symmetrical. It's not going to happen. You'll start with an ombre, and it'll finish with a green print. Let's not worry about this kind of perfectionism. It's a large scale green fabric, alternating with the ombre stripe. Now you're going to need 14 blocks, which are half ombre and half green for each side. And 14 blocks for the top and bottom. Again, half are ombre, and half are green prints. Also notice that when Caith placed the ombre stripes, that they run in a horizontal manner, away from the quilt, so that they are consistent. You don't want to flip them back and forth. This is a design decision he made to make it a little bit more soothing and consistent. They do mirror themselves a little bit, so I started and ended with the darkest ones, and I grew into the paler and oranger ones in the center. You may choose to do otherwise, and we have another border to do.

Outer border

- For the last border and the finish of our quilt, we take the leftover squares from our nine patches. And doing that same size square, taking out the darkest colors, and just making a nice scrappy green border for our quilt. - Our friend Amy Butler makes fabric, very popular with people my daughter's age, and so I made a top using Amy's fabric, a rosey. And we made a very different border decision on this one. - Wow. - This may be a border treatment that you're more comfortable with, and the instructions for it will be on the website, for to do a very plain border like this, to make a throw. - Yeah. But that's fun, putting that little patch in the corner. That's different. And then doing the spotty border, that's quite fresh. - You don't have to learn any new sewing skills after this. You have learned all you need to know about sewing the patches. But, you need to know a little bit more on how to arrange things for the borders. Now Kafe talked to you about how to mix the colors. Let me show you what you're going to be doing. Now here's a graphic, similar to the one you're going to find on the CreativeBug website. Kafe talked about how this fabric, the ombre stripe, is directional. And I want you to keep track of which way to place the fabric. So I find it very handy to refer back to this as a map. I know that I want my stripes to run horizontally, as Kafe mentioned it helps to make kind of a soothing thing, so I'm gonna draw them here. Just make directional lines on these orange patches which represent the ombre fabric. Now you're gonna alternate the ombre fabric with greenish large prints. You're not gonna use any of the other colors that dominate too strongly in the center. They're a lot of reds and peaches and so on. And you're just going to line these up, alternating, so that you have 14 on each side, lined up this way, and 14 here, and you wanna line the stripes up this way on the top and bottom. Now Kafe also talked about how the colors sort of shade, and so I recommend highly that you lay out your borders until there's a soothing mix that appeals to you. Do notice that the ombre is not in every corner, because of the way the math works. You're going to place them just as they are here. Don't worry, it's a scrappy quilt, you're not looking for absolute mirror images everywhere. Just go with the flow, you'll be fine. So I'm not gonna show you how to sew these borders together. It's no different than how you sewed before. You're just going to place a patch on top of another patch and sew a quarter inch seam. I've already made the borders, and I will show them to you. And I will show you how to attach a border to the center. There are 14 patches sewed together for the top and bottom with the stripe

going this way, and fourteen for the sides with the stripe going this way. I'm going to sew the first border to the side. This is the left side of the quilt, center that I've just taken off the design wall, I'm going to place the border against the left side and I'm going to pin just exactly as we've been pinning all along. Periodically matching seams, flipping them so they alternate top and bottom, and they nest together. And I'm gonna pin this all the way along the side, and sew it on. I'm gonna find seams that match up, I'm going to flip them so that they nest, just as before, and I'll do that all the way down the entire length. And we will sew a quarter inch seam. The last border is going to be made now. Our quilt is growing, this is the last step. You're gonna use the leftover pieces from the nine patches, the three and a half inch squares, but I don't want my border to be more important than my center. So I'm going to do this in all greens, I'm not going to use any of the ombre stripe, and I'm gonna pull out any bright colors that will make the border more distracting. So I want a nice green flow, all the way through. For the two side strips, and here I've made them, you're going to need 24 three and a half inch squares. For the top and bottom, you're going to need 23 three and a half inch squares. Now remember this is all going to be on the website so you don't have to keep track of these numbers, but just be sure you make a nice beautiful sea of green. And let's get the last border sewed on. You're gonna sew this in exactly the same way you did the other borders. You're gonna attach the side strips first to the center, both sides, then the top, then the bottom. And your top will be complete.

Chapter 6 - Finishing Your Quilt

Quilting and binding

- Here's our finished rosy. Looking amazing. It's always extraordinary when you actually sew pieces of fabric together that you had in mind. The finished result is always satisfying. - And this is just a top. It's not going to be a quilt until it's quilted. So we're gonna show two other rosies that are quilted to give some ideas for quilting. - Here we've got a wonderful, rich, brown, petey story. It's actually looks like old leather and wood to me, a very very beautiful, warm story, whereas here, we've got the cool, brilliant green of high summer with jewel-like colors just jumping off this green base. - They're different ways that these are quilted. This one has a swirly overall pattern that imitates leaf and flowery kinds of shapes that are somewhat random. On this one, she has embossed the different details. - [Keith] Right. So she's gone like round these flowers and round these. - So she let the fabric tell her where to do the quilting. The last step is binding. Keith and I love striped bindings. If you cut on the bias, you get a little barber pole kind of effect, and I think it really is beautiful on almost every quilt. On the one we did at this workshop, I'm going to go back to our ombre stripe, and I'm gonna cut it on the bias. The bias is the diagonal. This is a grain, this is a grain, this is bias. So, in another workshop, you will learn how to make bias binding, but here's what it's going to look like on the edge of a quilt. - [Keith] Yeah, that'll be nice. It'll go through these different colored moods with that little dot. - And it sort of spirals very gently. Quite beautiful. I love a striped binding. I just do. - Yeah, me too. - [Woman] Yeah. - We've showed you our very first rosy, the very first one that we made with those very limited fabrics, rather subdued, quiet fabric, that we thought were fabulous at the time. Look how far we've come with our own fabric designs and building these incredible colored moods with this beautiful, simple quilt to construct. - We were beginners. You're a beginner. We can't wait to see what you do. - Right. - Yeah, let's go.