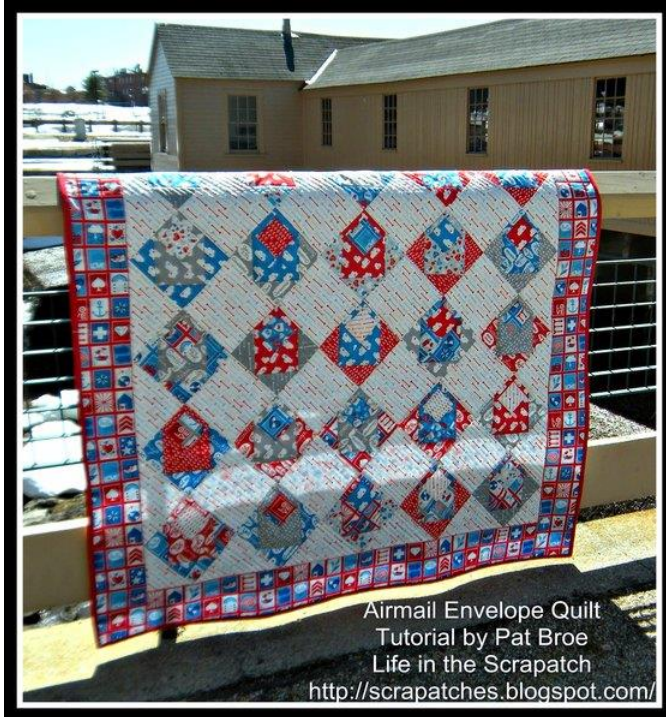


## *Airmail Envelope Quilt - Part 1: Fabric Requirements*

Hello! I am Pat from [Life in the Scrapatch](#) blog and I am so happy to share this quilt and tutorial with you. Thanks to Bear Creek Quilting Company for sponsoring this quilt tutorial and hosting me.



This envelope block and quilt was designed by me and inspired by this bright and happy fabric: [Airmail](#) from Moda Fabrics by Eric and Julie Comstock.



I saw this fabric and the image of an envelope quilt block popped into my head. I researched envelope blocks online and did not find the same block that my quilty muse wanted to make so I sewed a test block of scrap fabric and then used EQ6 to design the block and layout of my quilt.

I love this quilt!

Here is my four part tutorial if you would like to make this quilt, too...



### **Airmail Envelope Quilt Fabric Requirements:**

- **Blocks:** 1 - Airmail Fat Quarter Bundle
- **Background:** 1 3/4 yards Airmail Cupid Arrows Multi
- **Border:** 1 yard Airmail Postage Love Red
- **Binding:** 1/2 yard Kona Solid Cardinal
- **Backing:** 3 1/2 yards Airmail Happy Mail Cloud
- **Batting:** 52 inches by 60 inches



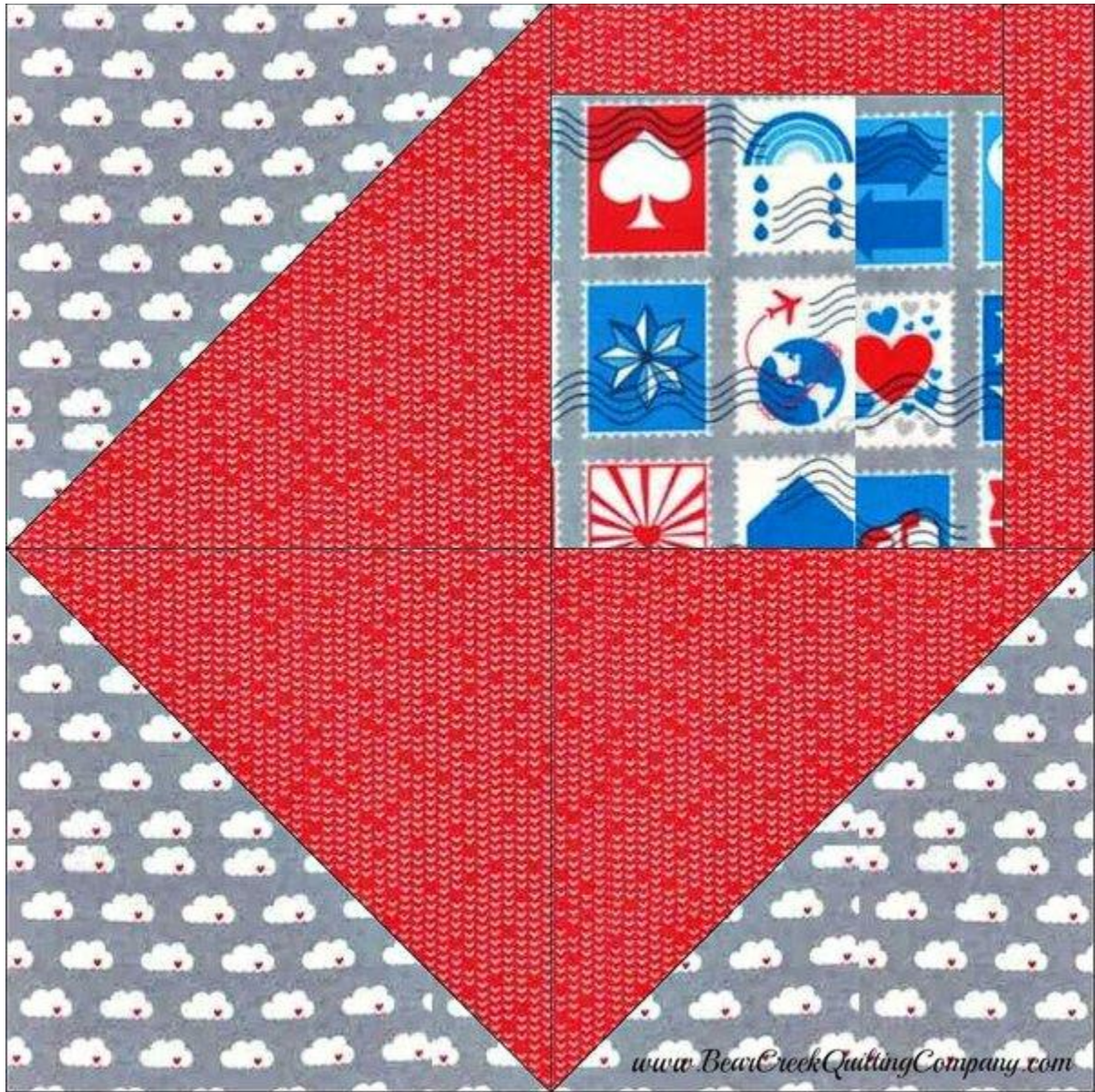
- **Thread:** Mako Cotton by Aurifil

My FAVORITE thread!

**Quilt Layout:**



Quilt Size: 47 inches by 55 inches



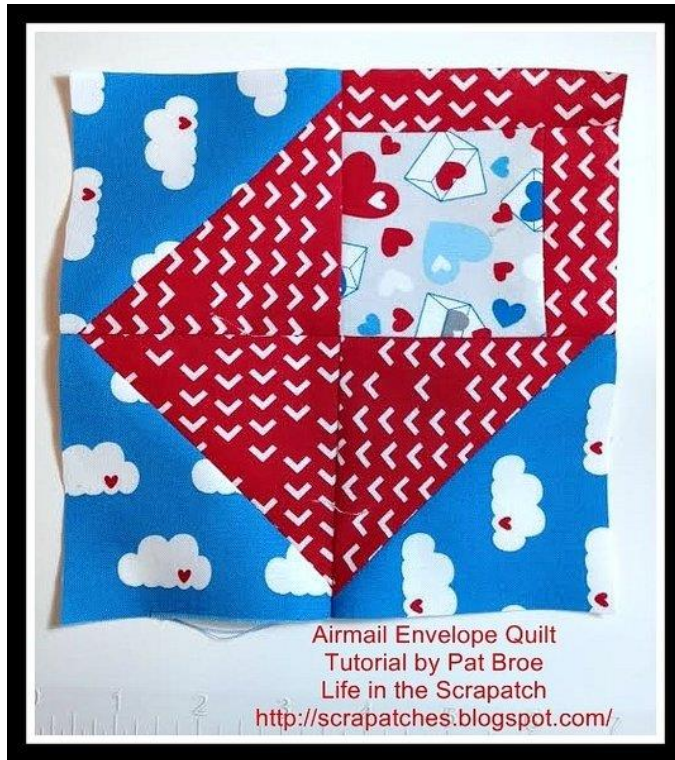
Airmail Envelope Block: 6 inches finished; 30 blocks

## *Airmail Envelope Quilt - Part 2: Sewing the Blocks*

Welcome back -

It's time to sew these cute little envelope blocks!

Are you ready to get started?



**Airmail Envelope Quilt Block:** 6 1/2 inches unfinished; 30 blocks



This **Airmail** Fat Quarter Bundle is so bright and happy!  
This quilt was so much fun to sew.

I love the fact that this red, white, blue and gray colorway is gender-neutral and works for Valentine's Day, Patriotic holidays and for anyone young at heart.

**Tip:** When I sew a new block design, I always make a test block before I cut all my fabric for a quilt.

I asked three of my good quilty friends to sew a test block for me before writing this tutorial for you.

Sew...here are the cutting and sewing instructions for making your **Test Block**:



### **Cutting Instructions for One Block:**

**Tip:** Chose fabrics that show contrast between lights and darks.

#### **Fabric A:**

- Cut: TWO - 4 inch squares and then cut each square ONCE on the diagonal (you will have one extra triangle)
- Cut: ONE - 1 inch by 3 inch rectangle
- Cut: ONE - 1 inch by 3 3/4 inch rectangle

#### **Fabric B:**

- Cut: TWO - 4 inch squares and then cut each square ONCE on the diagonal (you will have one extra triangle)

#### **Fabric C:**

- Cut: ONE - 3 inch square

## Sewing Instructions:



Make the quarter log cabin (QLC) unit by sewing the 1 inch by 3 inch **Fabric A** rectangle to one side of the 3 inch **Fabric C** square.

Press open.



Then sew the 1 inch by 3 3/4 inch **Fabric A** rectangle at the right angle to the side of this unit.



Trim and square to 3 1/2 inches as shown.



Chain sew triangles.



Trim and square to 3 1/2 inches.



## Layout of Block:



Sew the top half together with the square pointing in towards the bottom of the "envelope".  
Sew the bottom half square triangle (HST) together.



Then, nesting the center seam, sew the two halves together.



Back of block showing pressed seams.

I pressed the quarter log cabin unit seams open.

I pressed the half square triangle units toward the outside and the bottom half square triangles toward the center to nest the seams.



Trim and square block. Unfinished block measures 6 1/2 inches square.

**30 Airmail Envelope blocks** are needed for this quilt.

## Cutting and Piecing:



I sorted and cut the Airmail fat quarters into stacks - red, blue, gray and white.

I took the Multi Color Arrow fabric out of the sort as I used this fabric for my background.

In each of my scrappy blocks, I chose one print from one red fat quarter and one blue fat quarter and then one print either or white fat quarters.



I cut my fat quarter as shown above.

From each of the red, blue and gray (or white) fat quarter:

- Cut: ONE - 1 inch strip
  - Subcut: TWO - 1 inch by 3 inch rectangle
  - Subcut: TWO - 1 inch by 3 3/4 inch rectangle

From the remaining fabric of the red, blue and gray (or white) fat quarter:

- Cut: ONE - 4 inch strip lengthwise
  - Subcut: SIX - 4 inch squares
- Cut: ONE - 3 inch strip crosswise
  - Subcut: TWO - 3 inch squares



Then I cut each of the 4 inch squares into TWO triangles.

This gave me a good size piece of each fat quarter left.

I did have to cut additional red and blue pieces as needed to complete all 30 blocks.



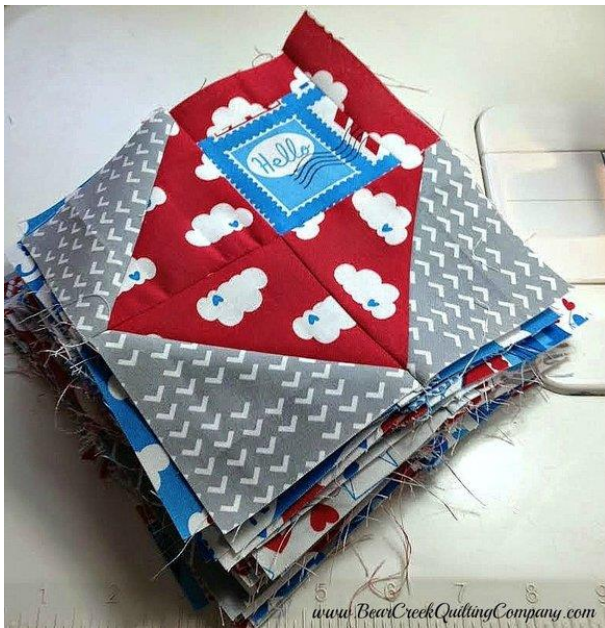
I left the pieces in stacks near my sewing machine and picked a red, a blue and a gray (or white print) at random for each block.



Using the same method as shown above for the test block, I chain pieced the blocks.



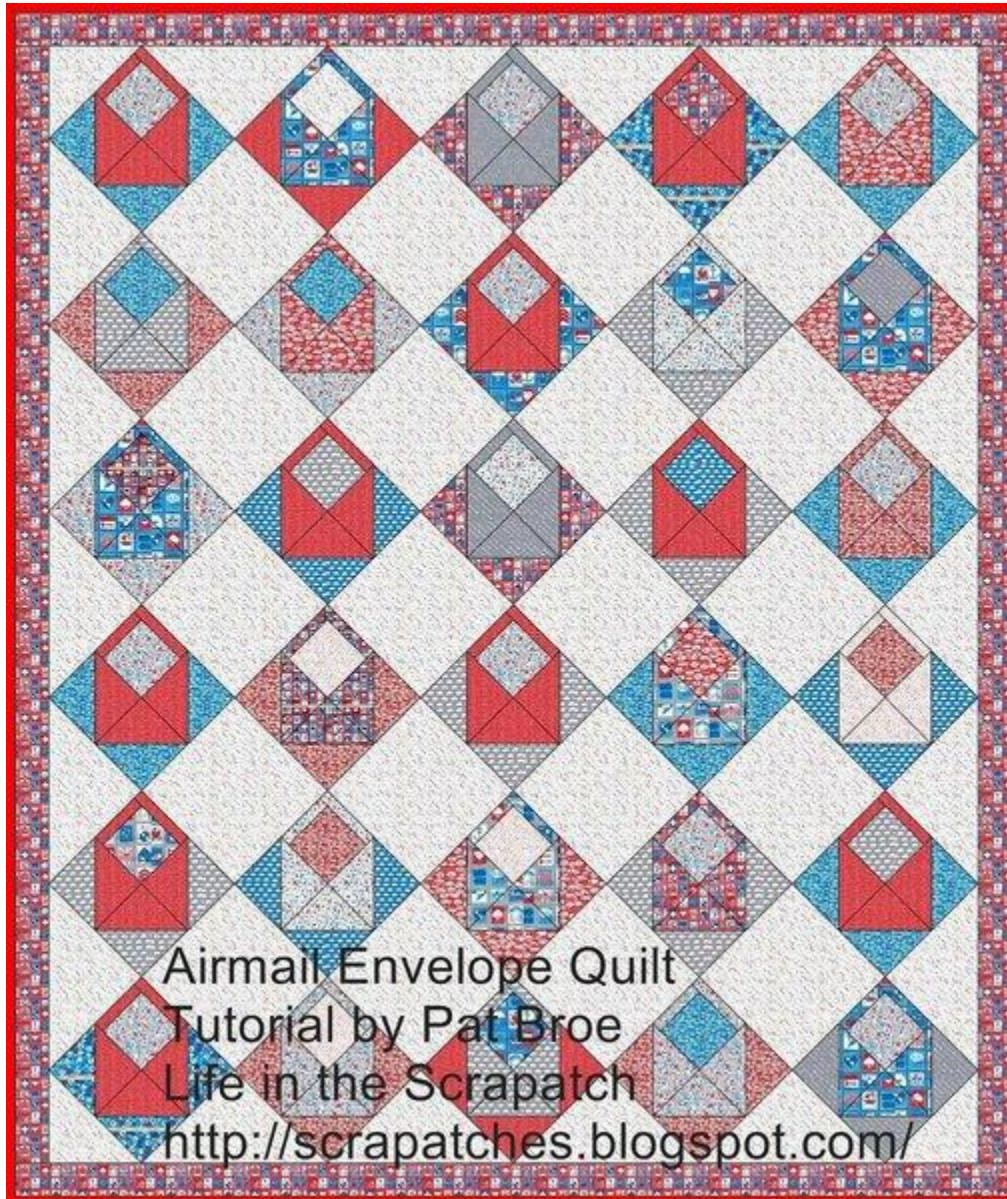
I used my roller to press the seams and my small scissors to snip the dogears of my half square triangles as I went along.



**30 Airmail Envelope Blocks DONE!**

### *Airmail Envelope Quilt - Part 3: Piecing the Top*

Hello and Welcome back! Did you get your 30 blocks created? Now comes the fun part...let's put this quilt together!



Time to piece the top!



From these lovely Airmail fabrics from Moda Fabrics.

### **Background Fabric:**

General Cutting Instructions for Background Fabric:

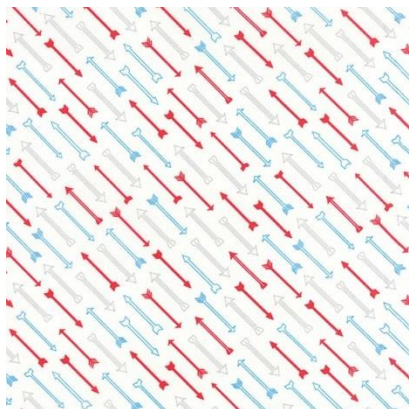
- Cut TWENTY - 6 1/2 inch squares for setting the blocks on point
- Cut FIVE - 10 inch squares and cut TWICE on the diagonal to make TWENTY triangles (you will have two extra triangles)
- Cut TWO - 5 1/2 inch squares and cut ONCE on the diagonal for the FOUR corner triangles

There are TWENTY - 6 1/2 inch Setting Squares.

There are EIGHTEEN Setting Triangles.

There are FOUR Corner Triangles.

**\*\*NOTE: The above cutting instructions may be used for all solid or non-directional background fabrics.**



This is the background fabric I chose for my quilt; Airmail Cupid Arrows Multi.

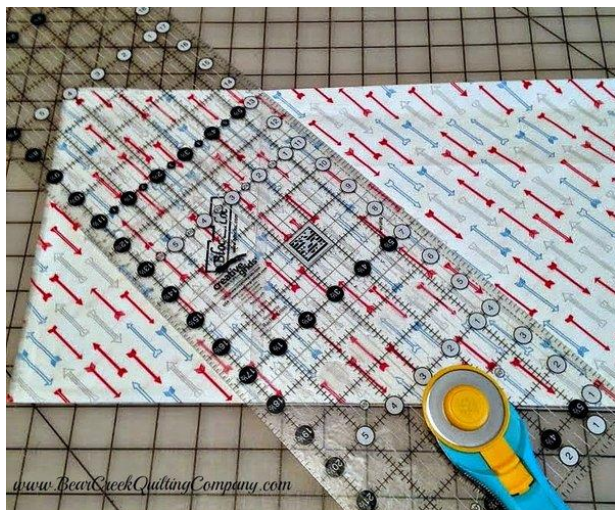


Since this is a directional fabric and my blocks are set on point in my quilt, this took some creative cutting to keep the arrows moving on the diagonal as in the fabric swatch. (These instructions are detailed below in highlighted yellow.)

### **Cutting the Setting Squares from Directional Fabric:**



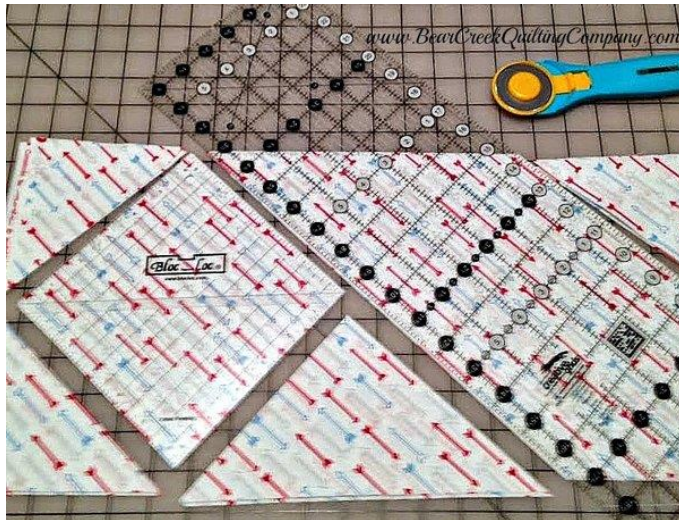
I cut 9 1/4 inch width of fabric (WOF) strips to cut my 6 1/2 inch squares...



Then I cut my blocks on the diagonal...



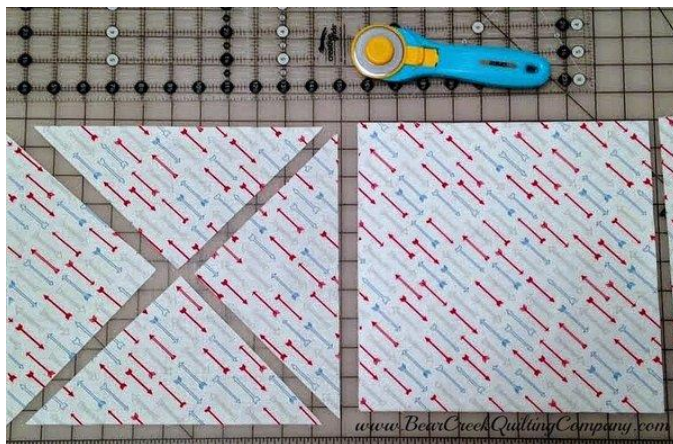
...as shown.



This did yield extra triangles that I saved for another project as they are NOT the correct size for the setting triangles.

There are TWENTY - 6 1/2 inch setting squares in this quilt.

### **Cutting the Setting Triangles from Directional Fabric:**



I cut FIVE - 10 inch squares and then cut TWICE on the diagonal as shown.

I had TWO extra triangles.

There are EIGHTEEN setting triangles in this quilt.

## **Cutting the Corner Triangles from Directional Fabric:**



**Cut TWO - 5 1/2 inch squares and cut ONCE on the diagonal.**

There are FOUR corner triangles in this quilt.

**Note how these are cut in opposite directions. This allows the arrows in the corners to point in the same direction as the setting squares.**

## **Sewing the Center of the Quilt:**



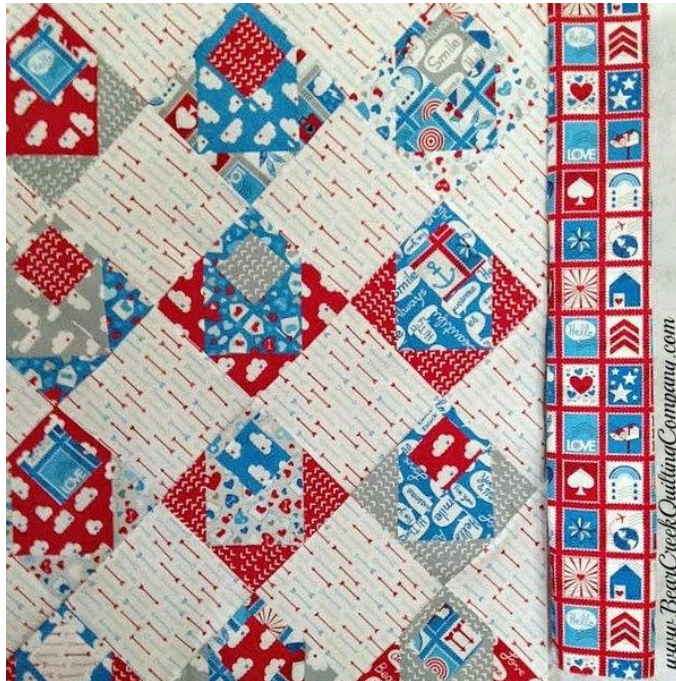
Layout the blocks on point on your design wall, on a flat table or the floor and add the Setting Triangles and Corner Triangles.

I set the blocks at random and then moved one or two to more evenly distribute the colors.

Notice how all the arrows in the background fabric are pointing in the same direction, on the diagonal. This does require extra care and effort but I feel the result provides more interest and movement in the finished quilt.

Sew the TEN rows together, starting at the upper left hand corner and moving diagonally downward toward the lower right corner.

Add the Corner Triangles and trim square the center of your quilt as needed.



Here is the center of my pieced quilt and ready to add the border fabric.

### **Border Fabric:**

General cutting instructions for the Border Fabric:

- Cut SEVEN - 5 inch border strips.



Here is my pretty border fabric.

This, too, is a directional fabric and requires specialized cutting and sewing.

I cut the top and bottom border strips by length of fabric (LOF).

I first cut off the selvages.

Then I cut TWO - 5 inch length of fabric strips.

For the side borders, I laid the remaining fabric, single width.

I cut THREE width of fabric (WOF) 5 inch strips from the left side and THREE width of fabric strips from the right side.

By cutting the fabric this way, I could allow for my 1/4 inch seam allowance using the red stripe in the fabric and keep the cute postage stamp motifs whole on the inside edge of my border.

(The wide center strip, under the ruler, is extra fabric.)

### **Sewing on the Borders:**



Sew the top border strip to the top of the quilt, paying careful attention to the direction of the fabrics.



Sew the bottom border in the same manner.

Press the top and bottom border seams outward.



Piece the side borders together carefully to match the red lines.

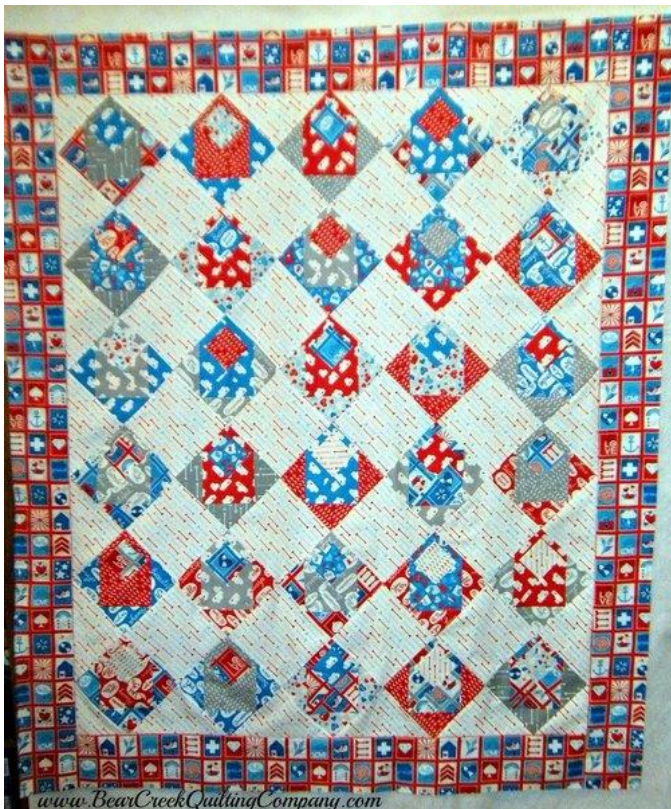


Press seams open to lay flat.



Sew on the side strips, matching the red lines wherever possible. This is one of the bottom corners of my quilt. Notice how my fabrics line up and will look "upright" in my quilt.

Press outward toward the borders.



Here is my completed quilt top!

I really like the way this looks with all the directional fabrics aligned.

## *Airmail Envelope Quilt - Part 4: Quilting and Finishing*



It's time to finish the **Airmail Envelope Quilt!**

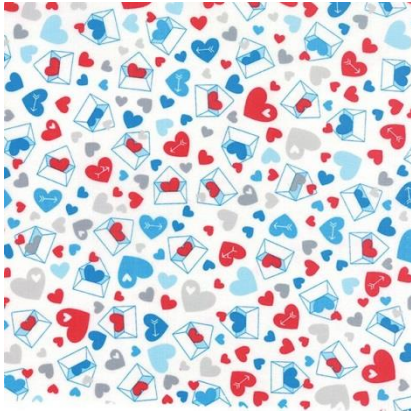


**Airmail** from Moda! I really love this bright and happy fat quarter bundle.

Opening a new fat quarter bundle is like unwrapping a lovely gift, one that goes on giving while I enjoy making and then giving the quilt.

This one is for an adorable baby boy!



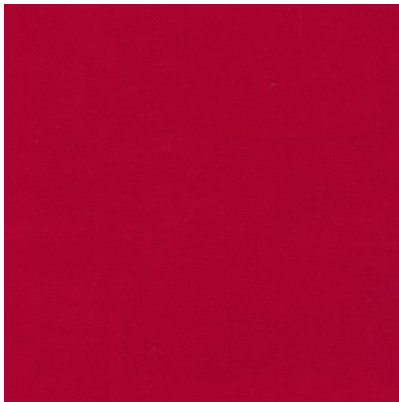


To finish this quilt you will need:

**Backing Fabric:**

- 3 1/2 yards Airmail Happy Mail Cloud

I cut the backing fabric in half and pieced with one horizontal seam, which I pressed flat to make the backing as smooth as possible.



**Binding Fabric:**

- 1/2 yard Kona Cotton Solid Cardinal

I cut SEVEN - 2 1/2 inch strips for the binding and pieced in a continuous strip.

**Batting:**

- 52 inches by 60 inches of your choice

I used **White and Warm** by The Warm Company.



I used these color coordinated **Aurifil** threads sent to me by Bear Creek Quilting Company for the quilting:

- Blue #2730
- Red #2250
- White #2024

I also used Gray #2605, which I had in my stash and forgot in the photo. Oops!

The weight is **Mako 50**, which I normally only use for piecing, but they worked perfectly for quilting.

I had to loosen my tension slightly on my Janome 6600p.

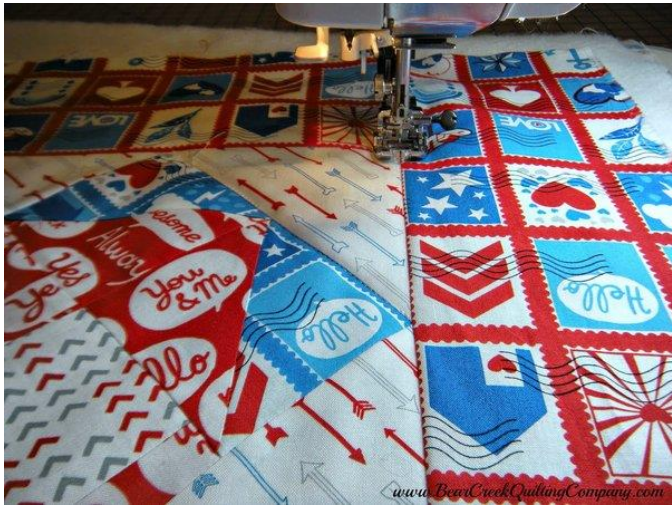
I doubled the thread for hand binding to give it a little extra strength.

I love working with **Aurifil** cotton threads!

For the quilting, I did a straight line with my walking foot and I just "followed the arrows."



Using the white thread, I stitched in the ditch (SITD) along each of the seamlines between each row, on the diagonal, running in the same direction of the arrows.



Then I stitched around the center of the quilt and the outer border.



Then I ran one line of stitches 1/8 inch inside the outside edge of the top.

This is my usual method for securing the quilt sandwich.

I do not use pins.

I smooth the front of the quilt over the batting, turn it over and smooth on the backing. I do this several time until the sandwich is smooth and wrinkle free and then I lightly press with a warm iron.

I do check the back from time to time to be sure that I have not gotten a wrinkle throughout the quilting process, but this works well for me.



Next, I switched to the red in the top thread, keep the white in the bobbin.



I stitched a grid on the red lines, between the postage stamp motifs, in the outer border. I really liked the way the red thread sank into the fabric and outlined the stamps.



For the center of the quilt, I stitched around each envelope and around the square, matching the thread to the fabric colors; red for red, blue for blue and gray for gray.



Then I put the white back in the top thread and stitched lines 1/2 inch apart, along the arrows and the setting triangles on the envelope blocks.



This made the envelopes stand out nicely!



Here is a close up of the quilting on the back.

The white thread sinks right into the white background.

I love this effect!



Ready for binding!



This is my favorite method:

I press one edge in 1/4 inch, then press in half and stitch the open end to the edge of my top.

I trim the batting to 1 inch from this thread line.



I leave ten inches open on either end of the binding.

I open the binding and finger press the diagonal to close the binding.



I stitch on the crease.



I trim and press the seam open and then finish stitching the binding to the top.





Then I fold over the edge and hand stitch the binding to the back.

That gives the effect of a double fold binding without the bulk of the seam on the front.

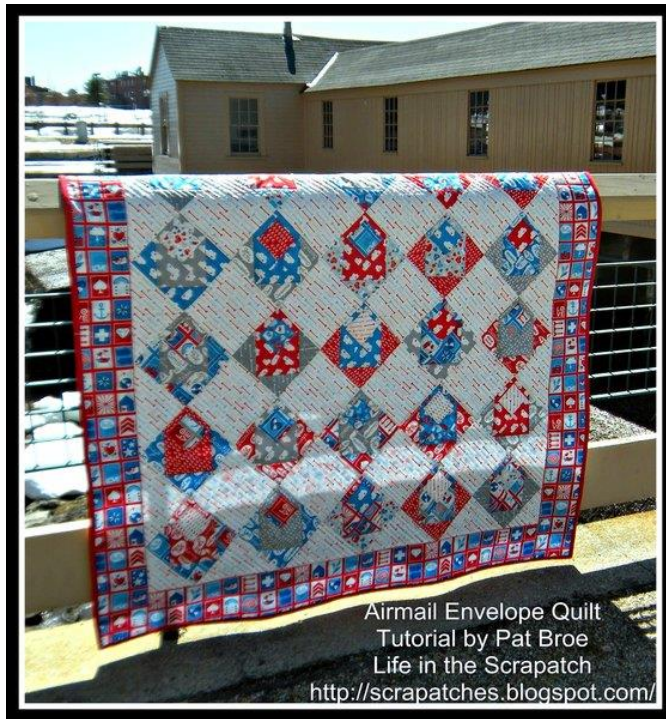
I love hand stitching the back.

Making the last stitch, snipping that thread and turning over my new quilt is my very favorite part of the quilting process.

The joy of seeing my beautiful new finished quilt never gets old!



Here is the closeup of the corner of the finished quilt.



I hope you have enjoyed this tutorial.

Thank you to Bear Creek Quilting Company for this wonderful opportunity to share my love of fabric and quilting with you and for my beautiful new quilt!

If you sew this quilt, we would love to hear from you.

If you have any questions, please email me at [scrapatches@gmail.com](mailto:scrapatches@gmail.com) and I will do my best to help.

Happy Quilting!

Pat 



"Airmail Envelope Quilt" Tutorial was designed and created for Bear Creek Quilting Company by Pat from [Life in the Scrapatch](http://Life in the Scrapatch).

Fabric used in this tutorial is from *Airmail* by Eric & Julie Comstock for Moda.