

EPISODE 17 CLASS NOTES: APPLIQUÉ, SASHINGS & JOINING UNITS

In this episode, we'll revisit dot-to-dot quilting for our last two blocks, learn how to add a beautiful flowing appliqué vine through the quilt (if you choose!), and cover tips for joining our rows and units together and applying the sashings with precision.

Quilting the Final Two Blocks (G1 & G2):

We left Blocks G1 and G2 unquilted till now in case you needed to make any size adjustments for your quilt. If your quilt sections aren't quite matching up, you can increase the size of these blocks to fill any gaps. For my quilt, I'm using the small "Melons" and some more "Clamshells." Refer to the episode 5 notes for the quilting tips.

Creating Flowing Appliqué (Optional):

I love the idea of a vine with flowers and leaves meandering through different sections of the quilt – it adds such a lovely flow. This is entirely your choice to add or omit.

Preparation:

- **Flowers & Leaves:** [Use the flower and leaf templates from Episode 11](#). Choose your desired colours, trace onto fabric, and cut out the number you wish to use.
- **Vine:** Cut ½" wide strips of your chosen vine fabric. Feed these strips through your ¼" Sasher tool to create the bias vine.

Application:

Refer to the [downloadable diagrams](#) for examples of where I've placed my vine and flowers – I started near the lattice sashing in Unit C/F to make it look like it's growing from there. Don't be afraid to change your sashing positions from earlier plans to balance your colours!

- Lay out your vine, flowers, and leaves in a pleasing position on your quilt sections.
- Glue all pieces in place using Roxanne Glue-Baste-It and press.
- Using MonoPoly thread (top and bobbin), stitch around each of the shapes and the vine with your preferred appliqué stitch (eg. blanket stitch, zigzag, or straight stitch).

- Important: It's easiest to complete this appliqué before joining these sections with their spacer strips and feature sashings, where possible.

Joining Rows to Complete Units & Adding Sashings

Now we'll join the rows of blocks (that we created in Episode 16) to complete each main unit. We'll use spacer strips for this, and then apply a feature sashing over that join.

Spacer Strips for Joining Rows within Units:

- **Unit A:** Join row A1-A2 to row A3-A4 with a 3 ½" x 15 ½" spacer strip.
- **Unit B:** Join row B1-B2 to row B3-B4 with a 2 ½" x 22 ½" spacer strip.
- **Unit C:** Join row C1-C2 to row C3-C4 with a 2 ½" x 22 ½" spacer strip.
- **Unit E:**
 - Join row E2-E3 to row E5-E6 with a 2 ½" x 10 ½" spacer strip.
 - Join this combined row (E2-E3-E5-E6) to the E1-E4 row using a 4 ½" x 22 ½" spacer strip.
- *(Units D and F do not have other rows to join onto as they are single-section units)*
- **General Process:** After joining the rows with the correct spacer strip (press seams towards spacer), glue your chosen sashing over the top of the spacer strip and stitch down.

Sashing Tip 1: Applying a 4" Wide Sashing (eg. over vine sections):

- The 4" wide sashing piece (that might cover your flowing appliqué) is handled differently – it does not go through the Sasher tool.
- Your appliqué is stitched through the top fabric and batting only (the spacer strip acts as the backing later).
- Once appliquéd, trim this entire piece (fabric with appliqué and batting) to be 4" wide.

- Create edge finishes: Cut 1" wide fabric strips and put them through the ½" Sasher tool to make folded strips.
- Application: First, glue and press the 4" appliquéd sashing piece onto its spacer strip (you can add a few dots of glue in the middle of the sashing too). Then, glue and press the ½" folded edge strips over the raw edges of this 4" sashing on both sides, like a binding. (I chose two different blue fabrics for my edge strips as white didn't look right).

Sashing Tip 2: Aligning Sashing Sections Perfectly (eg. Star Points, Four Patch):

- When you need sashings to flow perfectly from one section to another:
- Lay a ruler along your existing sashing line on the first piece.
- Mark a reference line with your fabric pencil onto the block/spacer strip area where the next piece will join. Do this on both sides if needed.
- When pinning the next section (which has the spacer strip attached), align its spacer strip edge carefully with this drawn reference line.
- Use double fork pins, pinning on either side of the sashing and the drawn line to ensure nothing shifts. Pin the ends of the blocks to the spacer strip too.
- Stitch your ¼" seam. This ensures your sashing lines will match up beautifully!

Sashing Tip 3: Gluing for Perfect Point Alignment (eg. Four Patch):

- When applying a sashing like a Four Patch that needs to align precisely with existing seams:
- Apply glue along the stitching line on one side of the spacer strip.
- Carefully position the sashing, ensuring the centre seams and edges line up perfectly with the underlying block's seams/edges. Press to set the glue.
- To really anchor it while the glue sets and you work on the other side: use your double fork pins to pin through all layers into your ironing mat/surface at those critical seam intersections. This allows you to "fudge" or ease fabric a little if needed.

- Now, glue and press the other side of the sashing, and the outer edges, while the centre is securely pinned.
- Once the glue is fully set, remove the pins from the ironing surface.
- Stitching: Go to your machine and stitch down each side of the sashing. For extra stability on these pieced sashings, I also like to stitch down through the centre seam lines of the Four Patch.

Cutting Chart for the Next Episode

Important: Please cut these spacer strips out ready for next time, but **DO NOT JOIN THE UNITS TOGETHER YET!** We have a few more tips and steps for that process.

- Unit A to B – 3 ½" x 23" spacer strip
- Unit C to F – 4 ½" x 23" spacer strip
- Unit D to E – 2 ½" x 23" spacer strip
- Unit E to G – 2 ½" x 23" spacer strip
- Units C-F to Units D-E-G – 2 ½" x 37" spacer strip
- Units A-B to Units C-F-D-E-G – 2 ½" x 41" spacer strip

Next time, we'll start joining these big units together to see the quilt come alive, add in the next sashings, and begin working on our borders.

Till then, happy quilting! Bye for now.