

“Early Snow” Quilt-As-You-Go Bargello pattern

Class Lesson Plan



Two 3 ½ hour classes work well for this pattern. Students are often eager to buy a kit rather than select the fabric themselves. The pattern is very easy to follow and quite detailed.

Before the First Class

- Suggest that students use a combination of flannel with a grid (Maywood makes Creative Grid) and a very thin batting (Hobbs Thermore works well). This eliminates the time it would take to draw a grid on the batting. If a student wants a very low loft quilt, the flannel may be used alone.
- Students should have the bargello fabrics cut into strips per the pattern instructions.
- For reference, students should cut a 1/4" swatch of each fabric, number it, and staple it to a piece of paper.
- Recommend that the students layer the backing, flannel grid and the batting and secure the layers with safety pins (or adhesive spray) before the first class so that they will have more time for sewing in class.

First Class — 3 ½ hours suggested

The goal for the first class is for the students to begin sewing the segments of the strip sets onto the batting sandwich.

- As advised, check to see that the students have a swatch of each fabric used in the strip sets numbered and stapled to a piece of paper for reference.
- Explain the method for directional piecing of the strip sets e.g. sewing with the even numbered strip on top.
- Have the students begin sewing the strips together making just one strip set (the pattern calls for 2). That way they can spend class time sewing the strips onto the backing sandwich and learning the shifting process. They can make the second strip set at home.
- Cut the strip set in half.
- Press the seam allowances in half of the strip set up and press them down in the other half. At home they will do the same with the 2nd strip set.

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- Follow the chart in Figure B and make the first 3 cuts (1, 3 & 5) from the Odd set and the next 3 cuts (2, 4 & 6) from the Even set. As the cuts are made, lay segment 1 face down on the table with segment 3 face down on top of it and then segment 5 face down on top of 1 & 3. Turn the segments over and put a pin in the top labeling them "Odd". Do the same with Even cuts 2, 4 & 6. Now when the student takes a segment from the top of each pile, the segments will be in the proper order.
- Follow the instructions in the pattern and lay the segments on the batting and backing using the grid for alignment. Lay each new segment face up next to the sewn segment and shift it up or down following the chart. Then lay it right sides together on top of the previously sewn segment and pin each seam intersection. Flip & sew and shift following the instructions and charts.
- Once the students have sewn a couple of segments, they can continue on their own.
- Students should have the bargello background completed, if at all possible, before the second class.
- Explain the procedure for fusing the web onto the appliqué fabrics. Ask them to have all but the snow caps fused and cut out before the next class.

Second Class — 3 to 3 ½ hours suggested

- Have each student show her quilt. Discuss progress and any problems.
- Draw lines and square up the quilt – do NOT cut the batting and backing away until after the borders have been added. Check to see whether the top of the highest mountain will overlap the top border. If not, draw the straightening line low enough so that it will overlap the border.
- "Fit" the snow caps to the mountain before tracing them onto the fusible web. (Follow the instructions in the pattern.) Cut out and fuse into place.
- Position the large tree and the deer and fuse into place.
- Sew on the borders.
- Demonstrate binding and discuss quilting of the appliqué pieces.
- Edge stitch around the appliqués using the quilting ideas discussed if time allows.
- Have students display and discuss their projects.