Bold Bright

by Dr. Joyce Mori

Although the colors on this mixed-media art quilt are intense and modern, the appliqué designs are Native American motifs. Other motifs can be adapted from my book Quilting Designs from Native American Pottery (AQS, 2013). The appliqués are machine stitched with a blanket stitch and the black outline designs are also stitched by machine, though you can hand embroider them if you prefer. Tube beads and seed beads are sewn onto the quilt to add embellishment.



BOLD & BRIGHT, 16" x 16", by Joyce Mori

Skill level: Intermediate Finished quilt size: 16" x 16"

MATERIALS

Note: Requirements are based on 42" fabric width.

3/8 yard solid black for binding, borders, and appliqués

41/2" x 41/2" scrap yellow tone-on-tone

1/4 yard red tone-on-tone

1/4 yard bright green tone-on-tone

1/4 yard blue tone-on-tone

Backing - 20" x 20"

Batting - 20" x 20"

Fusible web - 10" x 24"

Seed beads – A small tube or container of size 11 in yellow, black, silver, and red. You will not use a whole tube.

A few lime green seed beads

Tube beads - silver, black and purple

You only need a small number of each. I used 3mm black tube beads.

Beading thread and needle

Monofilament for free-motion quilting

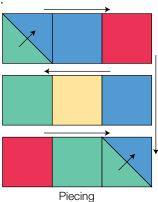
Black thread for machine stitching and freemotion quilting

Washout or brush-out pen or pencil for drawing the embroidery pattern onto the quilt top

Template plastic

Piecing the block

Following the piecing diagram below, join a bright green tone-on-tone triangle and a blue tone-on-tone triangle along the long edges. Press seam allow-ances in the direction of the arrows. Make 2 HST units. Lay out the HST units along with blue, green, red, and yellow squares. Sew the pieces into rows. Sew the rows together.



CUTTING

Note: All strips are cut across the width of fabric (WOF) unless otherwise noted.

From solid black:

4 strips 2" x 19¼" for mitered border (2" extra has been allowed.)

2 strips 11/8" x WOF for 74" of single-fold binding 1 strip 4" x 25" for appliqués

From yellow tone-on-tone:

1 square 41/2" x 41/2"

From red tone-on-tone:

2 squares 41/2" x 41/2"

4 strips 2" x 16" for border appliqués

From bright green tone-on-tone:

1 square 4%" x 4%"; cut on one diagonal to make 2 triangles

2 squares 41/2" x 41/2"

From blue tone-on-tone:

1 square 47/8" x 47/8"; cut on one diagonal to make 2 triangles

2 squares 41/2" x 41/2"

Trace the appliqué patterns onto template plastic. Cut them out on the drawn lines. Apply fusible web to the wrong side of the black appliqué fabric strip. Using the templates, draw 1 A, 2 B, and 2 Br (reverse of B) appliqué shapes on the paper backing of the fusible web. Cut them out on the drawn line. Referring to the photo of my quilt, place and fuse the appliqués to the piecework.

Stitch the border strips to the quilt. I mitered my borders. To do this, center a border strip on one edge of the quilt. Sew it to the quilt center, starting and stopping ¼" from each corner. Tip: I like to start sewing in the center of the border and stitch to ¼" from the corner. Repeat for all sides. Miter the corners, trim the seam allowances to ¼", and press the seam allowances open. Editor's note: For more detailed instructions on adding mitered borders see "Quiltmaking Essentials" at AmericanQuilter.com.

Before proceeding, make sure that the border appliqué pattern C is the proper length and width for your border. The pattern has a little extra length so you can overlap the ends at each corner. Trace the pattern onto one end of a long piece of template plastic, adjusting as necessary to fit your quilt. Flip the template plastic over, match the center line on the pattern to that on the traced template half, and finish tracing. Cut it out on the drawn line.

Apply fusible web to the wrong side of the red fabric pieces. Using the template, draw the border appliqué design on the paper backing of the fusible web. Cut it out on the drawn line. Make 4. Fuse the appliqués to the borders, overlapping the corners as necessary.

Appliqué, quilting, and finishing

Layer the backing, batting, and quilt top. Baste to secure. Select your favorite machine appliqué stitch, and then sew around all the appliqué pieces. I used a blanket stitch.

Using template A and the washout fabric marking pen or pencil, draw around the design on the plain two corner blocks on the quilt. With black thread in the bobbin and needle, machine embroider on the drawn lines.

Machine quilt in the block and border backgrounds to hold the layers together. I stitched leafy vines and feather shapes using clear monofilament on the piecework section and black thread on the border. Stitch in the ditch between the patchwork section and border to secure the layers before you do the beadwork.

Referring to the picture of my quilt, add beads. You may decide you want more or fewer beads.

Trim the quilt as needed. Sew the binding strips together to make 74" of continuous binding. Finish the edges of your quilt with single-fold binding.



