Roses

by Cathy Wiggins

Roses, 44" x 44", by Cathy Wiggins

I created this design by using my Fabric Paint by Number technique. The design work has been done for you, so you can dive right into creating this cheery floral quilt.

For more detailed information on making quilts, including mitered borders, see the AQS Quiltmaking Essentials & Tested Tips at www.AmericanQuilter.com.

Choosing fabrics

You will need 5 red prints and 4 green prints, all gradated by value (see Fabric & Cutting Requirments). Note that on the pattern pieces, numbers 1–5 are red, with 1 as the lightest and 5 the darkest. Numbers 1G–4G are green, with 1G as the lightest and 4G the darkest.

Getting started

On a copy machine, enlarge patterns for the rosebud, fully-opened rose, and letters 225%. Write the word "tracing" on each enlarged page. With

the enlarged pattern for the rosebud "tracing" side up, trace all the pieces marked 1 on the smooth side (paper side) of the paper-backed fusible web using a fine-tip Sharpie® (fig. 1). Leave ¼" between traced pieces. Repeat for the pieces 2–5, making a separate section for each number (fig. 2). Do the same for leaf pieces 1G–4G.

Tip: To keep track of what I have traced, I make a small checkmark on each piece on the pattern as I trace it.

Following the manufacturer's directions, iron the fusible web onto the wrong side of the corresponding fabrics (fig. 3).

Cut out the pattern pieces just outside the traced lines (fig. 4). This makes pieces large enough to overlap just a bit, which helps eliminate gaps that could occur during the assembly process.

Tip: I store pieces in plastic bags, using one for each fabric.

Because you are using a fusible web technique, you'll need a mirror image of the pattern to use for the construction. To create your mirror image, turn the enlarged pattern over, trace all of the lines, and transfer the numbers using the fine-point permanent marker. Mark this side of the pattern "construction."

With the "construction" side up, place the pattern on a pressing surface. (I use a bath towel folded in half.) Center one fat quarter of muslin over the pattern,

FABRIC & CUTTING REQUIREMENTS

Skill level: Intermediate

Quilt size: 44" x 44"

- Requirements are based on 40" fabric width.
- Strips are cut from selvage to selvage unless otherwise noted.
- Border measurements include seam allowance plus 2" extra.
- A fat quarter is approximately 18" x 20"

5 red prints – 1 fat quarter each of light, medium-light, medium, medium-dark, and dark	• See pattern directions
Red print – 1⅜ yards	• outer border, 4 strips 5½" x 46½"*
4 green prints – 8" x 8" each of light, medium-light, medium, and dark	• See pattern directions
Green background – 1⅛ yards	• 34½" x 34½"**
Dark green – ⅓ yard	• folded inner border, 4 strips 2" x 36½"
Binding – ½ yard	• 5 strips 2¼" x 40" for 186" of continuous binding
Backing – 2⅞ yard	• 2 panels 25" x 48" • sleeve, 1 strip 9" x 48"*
Batting	• 48" x 48"

* Cut outer border strips and sleeve parallel to selvages. If you prefer, crazy piece the border strips, as Cathy did.
** If you wish, crazy-piece this background square.

SUPPLIES: 1 yards fusible paper-backed web, fine-point permanent marker
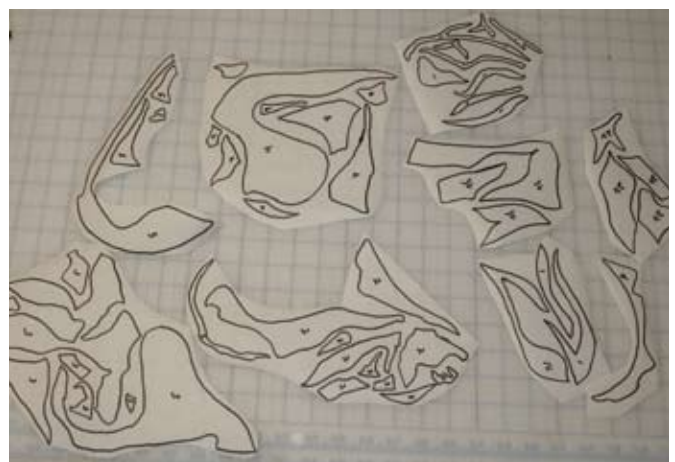

Fig. 1

Fig. 2

and then pin the pattern and muslin to the pressing surface. Spread the fused fabric pieces around the pattern in color groups (fig. 5).

Tip: Because smaller pieces can be difficult to see the through the muslin, I often make a copy of complicated sections of the pattern to use as a reference.

Fig. 3

Fig. 4

Fig. 5

Fig. 6

Fig. 7

Beginning with a piece in the center of the pattern, find the corresponding fabric piece and remove the paper backing. Using the pattern under the muslin as a guide, position the fabric piece (fig. 6). "Tack" the piece in place with the tip of your iron or a small iron, fusing just a small area in the center of the fabric piece.

Working out in a circular direction, continue positioning and tacking pieces (figs. 7, 8) until the rosebud and leaf are complete (fig. 9). Tack large pieces first, allowing the smaller pieces to lie on top.

Tip: Tacking fabric pieces in place instead of ironing them down completely allows you to maneuver a piece if needed, or to tuck other pieces under it. I always put the smallest and lightest-colored pieces on top.

Once all fabric pieces are in place, press the entire surface with a large iron according to the fusible web manufacturer's directions. Turn the completed rosebud over and press once more from the back. Then trim the muslin even with the edges of the image.

Using the thread of your choice, secure each piece using a small zigzag stitch (fig. 10). I use either a matching thread or invisible monofilament thread. Repeat to make the larger rose.

Fig. 8

Fig. 9

Fig. 10

Making the letters

Using the enlarged pattern, trace the letters on the paper side of the fusible web. The letter *s* will need to be traced twice to make the word "Roses." Iron the web to the wrong side of your chosen fabric, and cut out the letters on the traced lines.

Assembling the quilt center

The roses and letters are now ready to apply to the background. Position the roses and letters, referring to the photographed quilt. The letters can simply be ironed onto the background. Appliqué the roses using a small zigzag stitch and thread of your choice. Secure the edges of the letters with the same stitching and thread used to apply the roses.

Adding the borders

Fold the green border strips in half lengthwise with wrong sides together, and press. Aligning the raw edges, center a green folded border strip on a red outer border strip and baste 1/8″ from the raw edges (fig. 11). Repeat to make 4 border units. Treat each border unit as a single border. Matching centers, sew the borders to all four the sides of the quilt, beginning and ending the stitching ¼" from the corner of the quilt. Press these seam allowances toward the borders. Miter the corners. Press the seam allowances open and trim them to ¼".
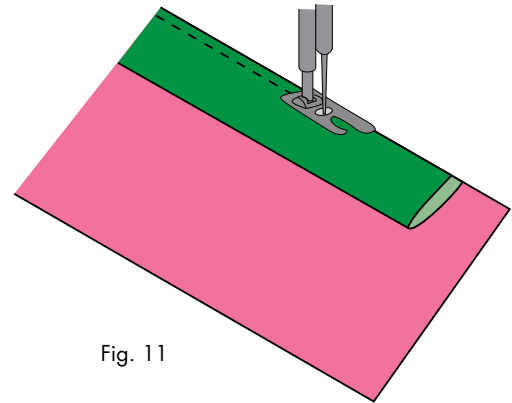

Fig. 11

Quilting and finishing

Layer the backing, batting and quilt top. Baste the layers together. Quilt as desired. In the roses, I quilted curved lines following the contours of the petals. I heavily quilted the background to make the roses stand out; stippling or other close quilting would be a good choice. The border is quilted in straight lines.
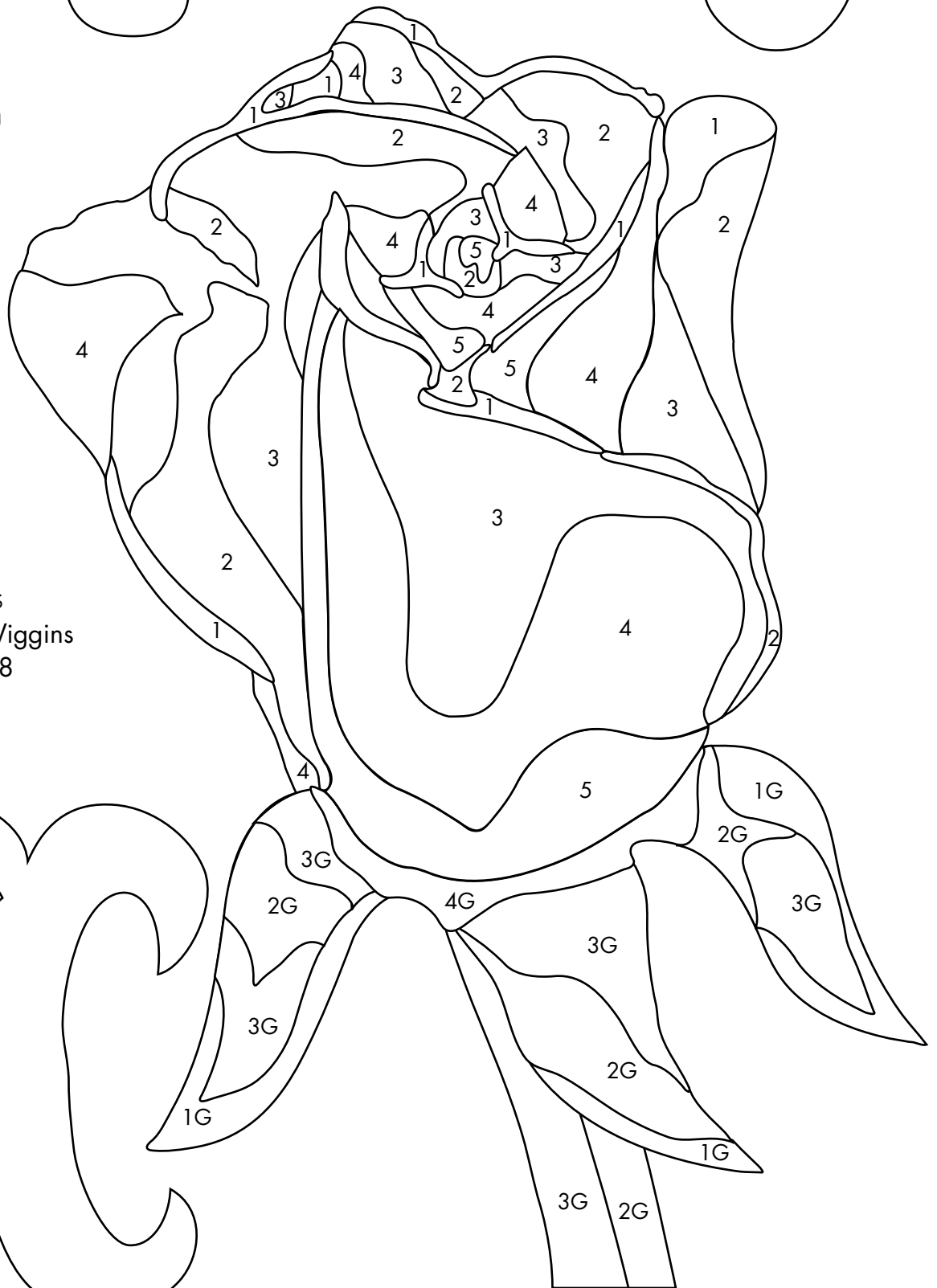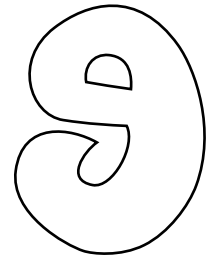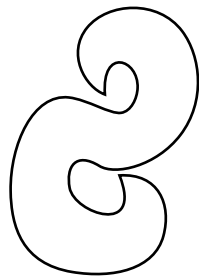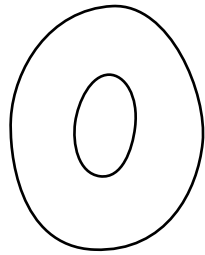
Join the binding strips with diagonal seams to make 186″ of continuous binding. Finish the edges of the quilt with double-fold binding. To display your quilt, make a sleeve and sew it to the back of the quilt.

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Enlarge pattern 225%.

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