

# Stocking

This large Christmas stocking is just perfect for hanging on the mantle piece on Christmas Eve to be filled with goodies by Santa▶



**T**his stocking has been made using a quick piecing method. If you want to highlight individual bits of fabric using fussy cutting, more fabric will be required and the squares will have to be sewn together individually.

## GETTING STARTED

**1** Put the fabric to make the toes and heel of the stocking to one side and cut the others into three strips 3in wide.

**2** Join the strips in pairs, by placing RS together then sewing down one of the long edges. You can either use the same pairings each time or vary them as Jane did.

**3** Press the seams open, then join the pairs together to make four sets of four strips as shown in Fig 1. (There will be one pair left). Try and ensure that the no two strips the same are besides each other. Press the seams open again.

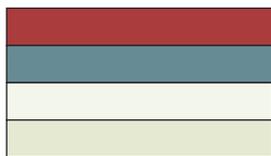


Fig 1 Sets of four strips

**4** If possible, use a rotary cutter, mat and ruler to ensure your cutting is accurate. Otherwise, draw the lines and carefully cut with scissors. Cut each set of four into strips 3in wide. If your piecing has been reasonably accurate, you should get 7 sets of squares from each set of four strips. However, you only need to get six, so there is some leeway.

**5** Place two strips of squares together, carefully lining up the seams. Pin together at each seam to stop the fabric from shifting whilst you are sewing. Stitch together. Press open. Repeat to make another three pairs. Using the same technique, join seven rows together. Do this again to give two lots of 7 x 4 squares.

## PIECING THE STOCKING

If you find the following instructions complicated, just use common sense and layout all the strips until it looks like a stocking shape and then sew together.

**1** Take one of the remaining strips of 4 x 1 squares and unpick a seam to give two lots of two squares. Sew these onto the end of two sets of 2 x 4 squares to give two sets of 2 x 5 squares.

**2** Unpick another strip to give two squares. Join a square at the top of

each set of 2 x 5 squares, one of the left, one on the right (as the stocking is pieced both front and back). Cut the remaining fat eighth into two pieces 5 ½ x 8 ½in and two pieces 10 x 4 ½in. Plan which way to cut so that all four can be cut.

**3** Unpick another set of four squares to give two sets of two squares. Stitch these to the top of each of the 5 ½ x 9 ½in pieces. Join one of these pieces to a set of 4 x 2 squares. These pieces are longer, so ensure you line up the squares with the

**Skill level**

## Finished size

62 x 46cm (24 ½ x 18in) at its widest

## Materials

- ♦ Coordinating set of seven fat eighths, preferably in Christmas colours
- ♦ 26 x 49in backing fabric
- ♦ 26 x 49in wadding

## Where to buy

Jane used a bundle of fat eighths bought a few years ago to make Christmas gifts, but which she never got round to making. However, similar fabrics are available from all good quilt shops. This stocking has a refined grown up feel, but if you used bright Christmas prints, it would make a great gift for a child.

**Designed and made by Jane Wright**



flat fabric, as shown in Fig 2. Cut off the excess of the two squares, to create a straight line.

**4** Repeat to create the heel piece for the other side of the stocking, ensuring that you join them on the reverse. Stitch these pieces to the bottom of each set of 7 x 4 squares.

**5** Join the sections of 5 x 2 squares plus 1 to the side of each of these long pieces, at the opposite side from the heel

fabric. Add the toe fabric to the side of each stocking, lining it up roughly as shown in Fig 3.

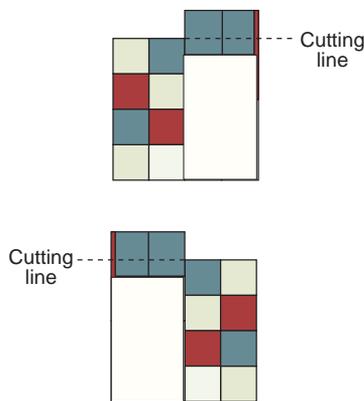


Fig 2 Adding the toe piece

## QUILTING

**1** Layer up the front of the stocking with wadding and backing fabric. Safety pin together to create a quilt 'sandwich'. Repeat for the back. Jane machine quilted in straight lines diagonally through each square. This is a fast quilting method as when you reach the end of stocking, you can turn the stocking round and carry on

quilting in the next direction. She also quilted  $\frac{1}{2}$ in from the toe and heel.

**2** Trim off any extra wadding and backing fabric. Take two remaining strips of 4 x 1 squares and press in half, then in half again to create a long thin strip. Open out again and pin one each to the top edge of both the front and back of the stocking, RS together, lining up the raw edges. Stitch in place.

**3** Turn the strip over to the back and fold up following your pressed line to give a hem. Stitch in place, by hand, ensuring

you do not stitch through to the front. Pin the front and back together, RS facing. Try and ensure that the edges of the squares are lined up.

**4** Using your eye, draw out the shape for the bottom of the stocking. Sew the two pieces together, following your drawn line.

**5** Cut off any extra fabric, to lessen the bulk and turn through to the RS. If wanted, press one of the left over 4 x 1 strips of squares in half two times and add at the top to create a hanging loop.

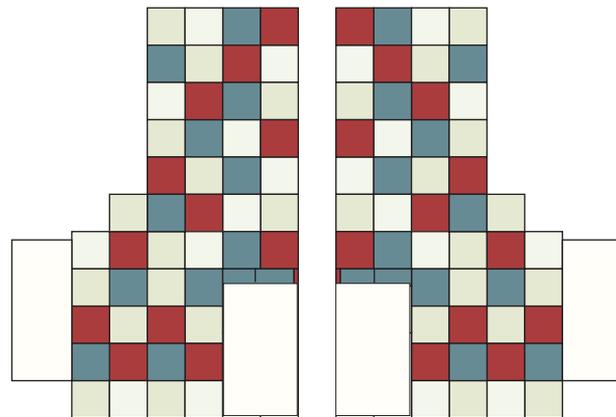


Fig 3

# Christmas extras

If you are looking for other quick ideas to brighten up your home for Christmas why not try some of these simple ideas.

This simple cushion is a flat piece of quilting. The simple holly shapes are full size on the pattern sheet. We have satin stitched them here but they could just be bondawebbed in place with straight stitch or even no stitching as they are only going to get a few weeks use every year. The layers are held together with echo quilting following the outline of the holly shapes. The outer edges are bound and the binding also extends to make some ties.



These wrap round the back of your usual cushion and tie together to make a very quick and easy cushion wrap. If you were feeling very lazy and have no young children, you could even forget the ties and safety pin the corners together!