

# Quilted Advent Calendar

*This advent calendar is made like a small quilt, but has sturdy slip pockets to hold candy or other surprises!*

Finished calendar is approx. 24" x 36"



## Fabric Requirements:

### For Pockets:

- 4 squares 4.5" each, cut from 12 prints
- 16 squares 4.5" each, cut from 3 solids

### For Sashing:

- 1 yard white solid

### For Back:

- 3/4 yard coordinating print or solid
- 2 additional 4.5" squares

### For Binding:

- 1/4 yard, cut into three 2.5" strips

## You will also need:

- Thread for sewing, quilting and appliqué
- Rotary Cutting Supplies
- Fusible Webbing, such as Steam-A-Seam Lite
- 1" x .25" Plywood Strip or 3/8" Wooden Dowel, trimmed to 23.5" long
- Low-Loft Quilt Batting, approx. 26" x 38"



## Choose a Layout



Start by cutting all of the 4.5" squares for pockets. You may want to fussy cut one square from each print to use for the pocket fronts.



Pair each set of four print squares with four solid squares. You'll be using the solid to make a number applique on the print and vice versa, so pair fabrics for maximum contrast.



Divide each pair into one set of three print and one solid square and one set of one solid and three print squares.



Arrange your sets in four columns of six rows each, alternating solid and print pocket fronts in a checkerboard pattern.

Within each set, the single square will be the pocket front and the three others will be the pocket lining, pocket back and number applique. (If you have fussy cut print squares for pocket fronts, arrange them accordingly.)

Keep sets laid out in this arrangement until all number appliques have been added. (Once numbers are added, you can refer to the charts below.)

## Add Numbers

Determine whether you would prefer to use a random or sequential number arrangement. Then, use the charts below to add the appropriate number appliqué to each pocket front.

2	10	18	14
22	3	9	23
17	13	19	1
5	20	8	21
12	15	24	6
7	11	4	16

*Random Arrangement*

1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24

*Sequential Arrangement*

Repeat the following four steps for each pocket:



To make appliques, start by tracing the appropriate number(s) onto the paper (non glue) side of a piece of fusible webbing.



Iron the webbing onto the wrong side of the applique square. Once it cools, carefully cut out the number and peel the paper backing away.



Place your number applique half an inch from each edge, in the lower-right corner of the pocket front square.



Iron in place and sew around the edges, using a buttonhole or satin stitch and coordinating thread.

## Make the Pockets



With right sides together, sew the tops of pocket front and pocket lining together, using a 3/4" seam allowance.



Press seam open . . .



. . . and then fold the front of the pocket closed, as shown above.



Place this piece on top of the pocket back and baste in place, as shown above.

## Add Sashing

From sashing fabric, cut 16 strips 2" by the width of the fabric.

- Cut 6 strips into 8 pieces 4.5" long, for a total of 48 pieces.
- Cut remaining 12 strips into 5 pieces 7.5" long, for a total of 50 pieces (which is two extra).



Using a 1/4" seam allowance, sew a 4.5" sashing strip to the top and bottom of each pocket with a print front (as shown above), and to the left and right of each pocket with a solid front (not shown). Press seams toward the outside.



Sew a 7.5" strip to the left and right of each pocket with a print front (as shown above), and to the top and bottom of each pocket with a solid front (not shown). Press seams to the outside.



Once all blocks are sashed, they will need to be trimmed to 6.5" squares, with the pockets offset from the center in each. Use the color coding on the charts on Page 3 and the chart below for direction on how to trim each.



The measurements in the chart below refer to distance from the seam between the pocket and the white sashing. Use your quilting ruler and rotary cutter to trim each side of the blocks.

	Top	Right	Bottom	Left
Green Blocks	1"	1.5"	1.5"	1"
Yellow Blocks	1.5"	1.5"	1"	1"
Pink Blocks	1"	1"	1.5"	1.5"
Blue Blocks	1.5"	1"	1"	1.5"

## Finishing

Use the charts on Page 3 to, once again, lay out your blocks in the finished arrangement. Still using a 1/4" seam allowance, sew each row of four blocks together, pressing seams open. Sew the six rows together and press seams open to finish the quilt/calendar top.



Use your quilt top, batting and backing to make a quilt sandwich and machine quilt the sashing as desired.



Fold your two additional 4.5" square in half diagonally, as shown above. These will become the hanger pockets for the calendar.



Place the resulting triangles in the top corners of the calendar back, as shown above, and baste or zigzag stitch in place.



Finish your calendar by making and sewing binding. (This will also secure the hanger pockets.) I used 2.5" strips to make continuous double-fold binding.



Slide your plywood strip of dowel into the hanger pockets on the back.



This wooden strip of dowel will help keep your calendar stable and provide a way to hang it.

*That's it! Enjoy your advent calendar!*