



Quilt
around the World

Skiathos

A Quilt Design by Jutta Hufnagel & Johann Gutauer
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About the Pattern

Greece does funny things to your brain and consequently your view of all aspects of life. You can be as stressed out as you like but a few days surrounded by the sea, the blue sky, the sun, the breathtaking landscape and the friendly people will bring a big smile to your face.

This quilt was inspired by a bar on the Greek island of Skiathos.

Finished Quilt Size:

68" by 68" (1.73 m by 1.73 m)

Finished Block Size:

12" (30 cm)

Difficulty:

Easy to intermediate

Technique and Layout:

The pattern for this quilt was created for template-free rotary cutting. The quilt has twelve 12" (30 cm) pink blocks set horizontally. The



Skiathos Quilt

blocks are separated by 3" (7.5 cm) wide white sashings. The border is ca. 6" (15 cm) wide and cut from the same white fabric as the sashing strips.

This quilt works best with a great variety of differently patterned fabrics (e. g. batiks, prints, false solids etc.).

About Skiathós

Skiathós is a small Greek island in the Aegean Sea. It belongs to the group of islands called Sporades.

Although Skiathós is quite small, it is a popular tourist destination. It boasts many beautiful sandy beaches and the major town, also called

Skiathós, offers the lively bustle of a small harbour with a lot of restaurants, bars and little shops selling souvenirs and lovely arts and crafts items.

Skiathós can be reached either by ferry or by plane.



Pattern E-2011-A0057

Free PDF Pattern

General Remarks

Please read all the instructions carefully including those on Quilting and Finishing before starting the project.

Seam allowances of ¼" for imperial or 0.75 cm for metric are included in the cutting and sewing instructions unless otherwise stated.

Please see last page for fabric requirements and necessary tools and notions.

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Skiathos Block

The Skiathos block is a simple block that consists of several strips/rectangles of different widths. It is very suitable for beginners – the only challenge is sewing straight seams and keeping an accurate seam allowance.

Our version of the block and its resulting quilt follows a monochromatic colour scheme. The visual interest comes from the many different pink fabrics that vary greatly in pattern and style of fabric (small prints, false solids, batiks etc.). The very simplicity of this block gives you unlimited scope to play – use many different unwanted “ugly” fabrics in as many different colours as possible or a selection of precious fabrics (silks, velvets etc.) from a reduced colour palette.

Cutting

- From each of the pink fabrics, cut one 12 ½” (31.5 cm) wide strip across the width of the fabric.
- For each block cut rectangles from the various cut pink strips. The rectangles have a long side of 12 ½” (31.5cm) but differing sized short sides

- Here we have included two examples of strip/rectangle widths that would result in a finished block size of 12” or 30 cm. The measurements given include the



seam allowance of 2 x ¼” or 2 x 0.75 cm.

- Example 1:
- Inches: 3 ½” – 2 ½” – 4 ½” – 1 ½” – 2 ½”
- cm: 9 cm – 6.5 cm – 11.5 cm – 4 cm – 6.5 cm
- Example 2:
- Inches: 2 ½” – 3 ½” – 1 ½” – 2” – 2 ½” – 3”
- cm: 6.5 cm – 9 cm – 4 cm – 5.25 cm – 6.5 cm – 7.75 cm

Sewing

- Sew the strips/rectangles together maintaining an accurate ¼” or 0.75 cm seam allowance
- Press all seam allowances in one direction.
- Your first Skiathos block is now finished.



- Before proceeding with a second block it is worth checking the accuracy of your block size. Reworking a single block is far easier than finding that you have 16 inaccurate blocks which won't fit together!

Assembly

Centre of Quilt:

- Make a total of 16 blocks.
- Cut 12 short sashing strips: 12 ½” x 3 ½” (32 cm x 9 cm)
- Cut 3 long sashing strips: 57 ½ x



- Arrange the finished blocks in 4 rows of 4 blocks each.
- For the 1st and 3rd row, alternate blocks and short sashing strips as follows:

Block (vertical stripes) – short white sashing strip – block (horizontal stripes) – short white sashing strip – block (vertical stripes) – short white sashing strip – block (horizontal stripes)

- For the 2nd and 4th row, alternate blocks and short sashing strips as follows:

Block (horizontal stripes) – short sashing strip – block (vertical stripes) – short sashing strip – block (horizontal stripes) – short sashing strip – block (vertical stripes)



Flowers were a major source of inspiration for the Skiathos Quilt!

Assembly (continued)

- Press the seam allowances towards the blocks.
- Set out the rows on your design wall, on a large table or on the floor.
- Sew one long sashing strip to the lower edge of the 1st row.
- Join the 2nd row to the lower edge of the sashing strip.
- Continue until all the rows and all the long sashing strips have been joined to.



Borders:

Measure through the centre of the quilt top and along the side edges. Ideally, all three measurements are identical. If your measurements don't differ greatly, there is no real problem. Cut two strips from the white fabric 6 1/2" (16.5cm) wide and the length you measured through the centre of the quilt. Pin the border in the middle and distribute any extra length, either in the quilt centre or the border, over the whole length.

However, if your measurements differ greatly, something went wrong during sewing and assembling the blocks. Have a cup of tea and consider re-sewing the quilt centre after analysing where the error lies. If this is not an option for you, calculate the average of the measurements through the centre of the quilt and the right side. The result is the length you should cut the right border. Apply the same technique for the left side. You must be aware, however, that this procedure will most probably result in a quilt that does not hang flat!

- Sew a border strip to each side of the

quilt centre.

- Repeat for the top and bottom of the quilt centre.
- Your quilt centre is now complete.



More flowers...

To establish the length of the border strips, measure through the centre of the quilt top and along the side edges.

Quilting: Sketchbook Daisies

The Sketchbook Daisy quilting motif is a free-motion quilting motif in two senses. Even before you lower your feed dog and attach the free motion embroidery foot to your sewing machine, you need some free-motion in your drawing arm and hand to transfer the quilting guidelines to your quilt top. There is no template for the daisies – but we will of course help you with detailed



instructions on how to proceed and which tools to use.

Moreover, the sketched outlines are only loosely followed and quilted several times over with the quilting lines never entirely following previously quilted lines.

This method has two advantages: Design-wise it gives an impression of dynamic movement. And it forgives a lot of machine quilting inaccuracies. Always remember: Flowers in nature aren't perfect either!

The Sketchbook Daisy quilting motif was also inspired by Greece, with its images and easygoing attitude. For a reason we failed to discover, daisies are everywhere. Not only the flowers as such, but also images on a tote bought at a souvenir shop or inlaid in a

stone pavement.



A pebble mosaic which can be found in one of the narrow streets in the town of Skiathos

Quilting: Sketchbook Daisies (continued)

Preparation for Quilting

- Press the quilt top and the backing fabric.
- Lay the backing fabric on the floor right side down. Unfold the batting and lay it on the backing fabric. If necessary, use warm air from a hair dryer to smooth out any wrinkles.
- Put the finished quilt top on the batting and backing. Make sure that there are no puckers in the backing fabric and join the layers using your favourite basting technique.



- Start sketching a large quarter daisy into the lower right corner of the quilt.

... the Sketchbook Daisies don't need to be an accurate technical drawing...

- Identify the imagined centre of the large Sketchbook Daisy which we placed in the wide white border close to the lower right corner of the quilt sandwich.



- Since the Sketchbook Daisies don't need to be an accurate technical drawing, you don't need compasses to draw around the centres. We used a standard rotary cutting ruler. Place one corner of the ruler on the starting point and move the ruler around in a counter-clockwise motion marking the outline as you went along.
- Using a piece of string attached to your initial starting point and long enough to mark the petals. Use the same marking method as described above to finish drawing the first daisy. Use a ruler to make sure that the petals are approximately the same width (approximately the same width is sufficient as a perfect daisy would look far too "clinical").



- Determine where you would like to place the smaller daisies. Either draw the centres as described above or find a plate or saucer of the right size. Draw the petals using a (shorter) piece of string distributing the width of the petals evenly on the outline of the daisy centre.

Quilting

- Prepare your sewing machine and work place for machine quilting.
- Use a thread suitable for machine quilting. We chose a variegated pink thread.
- Start with the large daisy.
- Always start at the centre of the quilt and work outwards. Quilt at least five times along the outlines of the large daisy never quilting over already existing quilt lines. When quilting the petals of

the daisy, stagger the quilt lines even more (ca. 1" or 2.5 cm away from the previous line) to give the impression of movement.



- Fill the centre circles of the daisy with continuous line circles of different sizes.
- Before you continue to quilt the smaller daisies, we suggest that you start quilting the background meander quilting motif until you reach the outlines of the smaller daisies. Always work from the centre towards the edges. By doing this this, you can always smooth out any extra fabric in either the top or the backing.



- When you have quilted the entire surface of your quilt sandwich, trim away any extra backing and batting.

Finishing

Binding

For the mitred binding, we used up some leftover strips from the Skiathos blocks. We re-cut them to a width of 2" (5 cm) and joined them together to make four long binding strips. The strips should be ca. 3" (7.5 cm) longer than the edges of the quilt. It is easier to make the mitres if the joining seams are not close to the corners.

Label

For the label, we took a picture of the Greek island Skiathos (in the background) and a picture of a pink carnation and played around with it in our photo editing software.



The text reads: Skiathos – inspired by an excursion to the Greek island in May 2010.

Materials needed

- A sheet of pre-treated fabric for inkjet printing
- An inkjet printer
- A shallow bowl or basin to soak the fabric after printing
- rotary cutter, cutting mat and ruler
- neutral coloured thread
- Iron and ironing board

Technique

- If you would like to use our label design, e-mail at info@quilt-around-the-world.com to request the blank jpg file.
- Add the desired text for your label using your photo editing software.
- After printing, let the ink dry according to the manufacturer's instructions. We usually let the ink dry over night.
- Remove the backing paper and soak in water to remove excess ink.
- Let the label dry on a flat surface. Press and cut to size adding ¼" (0.75 cm) for the seam allowance.
- Appliqué to the back of your quilt.

There are quilts that seem to take on a life of their own and start to dictate what they themselves would like to happen to their design.

Just looking at the quilted sandwich made it clear that the binding needed to pick out the pink fabrics of the blocks and that Greece, the island Skiathos and the flower motif would play a major part in the label design.



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Free Pattern
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Material, Tools and Notions needed

Fabric Requirements

For the 12 blocks

Pink fabrics: at least 8 Fat Quarters

For the sashings and the border:

White fabric: 2 yds (2 m)

To finish the quilt

A piece of batting, ca. 78" x 78" (ca. 2 m x 2 m)

A piece of backing fabric, ca. 78" x 78" (ca. 2 m x 2 m)

Other tools and notions needed:

- Rotary cutter, cutting mat, ruler
- Iron and ironing board
- Sewing machine
- Marking pencil for light fabrics
- Pins
- Neutral-coloured thread for piecing
- Thread for machine quilting (variegated pink thread and light pink thread)
- Safety pins or basting thread

Make sure to buy the 18 x 22 inch or 50 x 55 cm cuts and not the 25 cm cuts across the entire width of the fabric sold in some quilt shops. You can also buy yardage (1/2 yd or 0.5 m), but you will have some serious leftovers in that case.

