

How To Quilt As You Go

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*** This guide provides a comprehensive walkthrough of the "quilt-as-you-go" method, a technique allowing quilters to piece and quilt simultaneously, reducing bulk and simplifying the quilting process. It's structured in three main sections: 1. Fundamentals: This section covers essential materials, choosing fabrics, and understanding the basic principles of quilt-as-you-go (QAYG). It will explain the various approaches to QAYG, including the use of batting and stabilizer, and different piecing methods conducive to the technique. 2. Step-by-Step Projects: This section presents detailed, illustrated instructions for several QAYG projects, ranging from simple blocks to more complex designs. Each project will break down the process into manageable steps, making it easy for beginners to follow. Projects will include variations to demonstrate adaptability of the technique. 3. Advanced Techniques and Troubleshooting: This section explores more advanced aspects of QAYG, such as using different quilting patterns, incorporating embellishments, and resolving common problems quilters encounter. It will*

delve into techniques for managing bulky seams, achieving consistent tension, and finishing your QAYG projects professionally. Quilt as you go, QAYG, quilting, piecing, quilting techniques, patchwork, fabric, batting, stabilizer, sewing machine, hand quilting, quilting projects, beginner quilting, easy quilting, modern quilting, quilt patterns, finishing techniques, troubleshooting.

Quilt-as-you-go (QAYG) is a time-saving and efficient quilting method that involves piecing and quilting simultaneously. This approach eliminates the need to layer and baste a large quilt top before quilting, significantly simplifying the process, especially for beginners. This guide provides a complete to QAYG, from selecting materials and choosing projects to mastering advanced techniques. It covers a range of projects, from simple blocks to more intricate designs, catering to different skill levels. The step-by-step instructions, combined with troubleshooting tips, equip quilters with the knowledge and confidence to successfully employ this versatile quilting technique. Understanding QAYG empowers quilters to create beautiful quilts in a more manageable and enjoyable way. The guide emphasizes choosing the right tools and materials for success, highlighting crucial aspects like fabric selection, appropriate batting and stabilizer options, and choosing suitable quilting patterns based on the project's complexity. The aim

is to demystify this popular method, allowing both novice and experienced quilters to experiment and enhance their quilting skills. (1500 words would follow here detailing the three sections outlined above with project examples, diagrams and illustrations. This section is omitted as it is beyond the scope of a concise response.)_10 Frequently Asked Questions about Quilt-as-You-Go: **1. What type of batting is best for quilt-as-you-go? (Addresses batting selection for optimal results)** **2. Do I need a stabilizer for quilt-as-you-go? (Explores the benefits and necessity of stabilizers)** **3. How do I prevent puckering when quilting-as-you-go? (Focuses on techniques to maintain even tension)** **4. What size pieces are best for a beginner quilt-as-you-go project? (Suggests ideal starting sizes and project complexity)** **5. Can I use a walking foot with quilt-as-you-go? (Addresses the use of different sewing machine feet)** **6. How do I finish the edges of a quilt-as-you-go project? (Explains binding and other finishing techniques)** **7. What types of quilting patterns work best for quilt-as-you-go? (Recommends appropriate quilting designs for the process)** **8. Is quilt-as-you-go suitable for large quilts? (Addresses scalability of the technique for larger projects)** **9. How do I handle seams and curves when quilting-as-you-go? (Provides tips for managing tricky areas during quilting)** **10. Can I hand-quilt a quilt-as-you-go project?*** (Addresses the possibility of combining QAYG with hand quilting)

Quilt as You Go: Your Shortcut to Beautiful, Finished Quilts

Are you dreaming of creating stunning quilts but feel overwhelmed by the traditional quilting process? Perhaps you love the idea of patchwork, but the thought of sandwiching a large quilt, meticulously basting it, and then wrestling it through your sewing machine for hours on end fills you with dread. If that sounds like you, then allow me to introduce you to a game-changer: ****Quilt as You Go (QAYG)****. This innovative technique turns the entire quilting process on its head, making it faster, easier, and incredibly satisfying. Instead of quilting the entire project at the end, you quilt each piece individually as you construct it. This means no more bulky layers, no more awkward maneuvering, and a significantly reduced risk of puckering or shifting. Whether you're a beginner quilter looking for an approachable entry point or an experienced quilter seeking a more efficient method, Quilt as You Go is worth exploring. In this comprehensive guide, we'll dive deep into the world of QAYG. We'll break down the core concepts, explore different QAYG methods, offer tips for success, and discuss the types of projects that shine with this technique. Get ready to transform your quilting experience!

What Exactly is Quilt as You Go?

At its heart, Quilt as You Go is a method where the quilting stitches are applied to individual fabric pieces **before** they are joined together to form the final quilt. Think of it as building your quilt block by block, and quilting each block as you go. This is in stark contrast to the traditional approach where all the fabric pieces are assembled first, and then the quilting is done over the entire layered sandwich. The beauty of QAYG lies in its modularity. Each section of your quilt is a mini-quilt in itself, complete with backing, batting, and the decorative top layer. Once each section is quilted, it's then joined to the next section, often with a binding technique that simultaneously joins the pieces and creates a neat edge. This eliminates the need for large-scale basting and quilting.

Why Choose the Quilt as You Go Method?

The appeal of QAYG is multifaceted. Let's explore some of the key advantages: ** **Speed and Efficiency:*** This is arguably the biggest draw. By quilting smaller pieces, you can complete your project much faster. You don't need a large quilting space or a longarm quilting machine to achieve professional-looking results. Your domestic sewing machine is perfectly capable! ** **Reduced Bulk and Easier Handling:*** Imagine trying to wrangle a queen-sized quilt sandwich through the throat of your sewing machine. It's

a daunting task! With QAYG, you're only working with manageable-sized pieces, making the entire process much less physically demanding and much more enjoyable. *

****No More Basting Woes:**** The dreaded basting process – pinning or spraying layers together – is completely eliminated. This saves time and frustration, and you don't have to worry about pins shifting or tape leaving residue. *

****Perfect for Beginners:**** If you're new to quilting, QAYG can be incredibly forgiving. Working with smaller units allows you to practice your piecing and quilting skills in a less intimidating environment. Plus, mistakes are often easier to unpick and correct on smaller sections. *

****Versatility:**** QAYG isn't limited to just traditional patchwork quilts. It's fantastic for a wide range of projects, from placemats and table runners to tote bags and even full-sized quilts. * ****No Need for a Separate Binding Step (Often):**** Many QAYG methods incorporate a binding as part of the construction, meaning you finish the edges as you join the pieces. This can be a huge time-saver!

Common Quilt as You Go Techniques

There are several popular ways to implement the Quilt as You Go method, each with its own unique charm and steps. Let's delve into a few of the most common:

1. The "Stitch and Flip" Method (also known as

"Fold and Stitch" or "Tunnel Quilt")

This is perhaps the most straightforward and widely used QAYG technique. It's perfect for creating quilt blocks, particularly those with a "foundation" layer. ****How it works:****

****Preparation:**** You'll typically start with a foundation piece of fabric (often fusible interfacing or a lightweight woven fabric). ****Adding Strips:**** Place your first strip of patchwork fabric right side up, with the raw edge aligned along one edge of your foundation. *

****Second Strip:**** Place your second strip of patchwork fabric right side down, directly on top of the first strip, aligning the raw edges. The right sides of the patchwork pieces should be facing each other. ****Stitch:**** Sew along the aligned raw edge, through all layers (patchwork strip, foundation, and the second patchwork strip). ****Flip and Press:**** Flip the second patchwork strip up, so its right side is now showing. Press it flat. You'll have a thin strip of batting sandwiched between the two patchwork pieces. ****Quilt:**** Now, you'll quilt through these three layers (the two patchwork strips and the foundation). You can quilt in straight lines, wavy lines, or any design you fancy. ****Repeat:**** Continue adding strips in this manner, stitching, flipping, pressing, and quilting each new strip until your foundation is covered and you have a fully quilted panel. ****Key Considerations for Stitch and Flip:**** ****Foundation Choice:**** Fusible interfacing is popular because it's lightweight and easily fuses to the back of the patchwork, giving it stability. However, other

lightweight fabrics can also be used. * **Batting:** You'll be working with very thin strips of batting. This is what gets quilted into each section. * **Stitch Length:** Use a slightly shorter stitch length for quilting to ensure the stitches hold the layers together securely.

2. The "Continuous Binding" or "Join as You Go" Method

This method is particularly popular for creating longer strips or panels that are then joined together. It often involves a binding strip that is incorporated as you join the quilted segments. **How it works:** * **Create Quilted Panels:** You first create individual quilted panels using a QAYG method like Stitch and Flip, or by quilting pre-made blocks. These panels should have backing, batting, and top. * **Prepare Binding Strips:** Cut long strips of binding fabric. * **Joining:** Lay two quilted panels right sides together, with the edges you want to join perfectly aligned. * **Attach Binding:** Place a binding strip along the seam line, right side down. Sew along the edge of the panel, catching the binding strip. * **Flip and Fold:** Flip the panel over. Fold the binding strip over the seam and press. * **Stitch Down:** From the right side of the panel, you'll stitch down the folded binding, enclosing the raw edge of the previous panel. This stitch will often be done in the ditch of the seam, or very close to it, creating a neat finish. **Key Considerations for Continuous Binding:** * **Precision is Key:** Accurate cutting and

sewing of your panels and binding strips are crucial for a smooth join. * **Seam Allowances:** Ensure consistent seam allowances throughout your construction. * **Pressing:** Thorough pressing is essential to create crisp folds and a professional finish.

3. The "Foundation Paper Piecing" (FPP) Quilt as You Go Variation

While not strictly a QAYG method in the traditional sense of quilting as you go, FPP can be adapted to feel very similar, especially when you want to create intricate designs. In this approach, you quilt over the paper foundation as you build up the fabric layers. **How it works:** * **Print Pattern:** Print your FPP pattern onto foundation paper. * **Add Fabric:** Place your first fabric piece on the wrong side of the paper, covering the designated area. * **Stitch:** Flip the paper over and sew along the printed line, through the paper and fabric. * **Flip and Press:** Flip the paper back to the right side, and press the fabric piece open. * **Add Next Fabric:** Place the next fabric piece right side down, aligning it with the next seam line. * **Stitch, Flip, Press:** Repeat the stitching, flipping, and pressing process until the entire pattern is covered. * **Quilt (Optional but Recommended):** Once the piecing is complete, you can quilt over the paper foundation and fabric layers before removing the paper. **Key Considerations for FPP QAYG:** * **Paper Removal:** Be sure to remove the foundation

paper carefully after quilting. * **Batting and Backing:** For a true QAYG feel, you would sandwich batting and backing behind your FPP unit before quilting.

Essential Supplies for Quilt as You Go

While QAYG generally requires fewer specialized tools than traditional quilting, there are a few items that will make your journey smoother: * **Rotary Cutter, Mat, and Ruler:** Essential for precise fabric cutting. * **Sewing Machine:** Any standard domestic sewing machine will work. Consider a walking foot for even fabric feeding, especially when quilting through multiple layers. *

* **Thread:** Good quality cotton or polyester thread in a color that complements your fabrics. * **Batting:** You'll need thin batting (like cotton or a cotton/poly blend) cut into pieces or strips as needed for your chosen method. *

* **Backing Fabric:** Usually cotton or a similar quilting fabric, cut to size. * **Thread or Interfacing (for Foundation):** Depending on your chosen QAYG method.

* **Iron and Ironing Board:** Crucial for pressing seams and ensuring crisp results. * **Seam Ripper:** Because,

let's be honest, even experienced quilters make mistakes! * **Optional: Quilting Design Rulers or Templates:** If you want to create specific quilting patterns.

Tips for Success with Quilt as You Go

* **Pre-wash Your Fabrics:** Always pre-wash your

quilting fabrics to prevent shrinkage and color bleeding in your finished project. * **Accurate Cutting:** Precision in cutting your fabric pieces is paramount. Even a slight discrepancy can lead to issues when joining pieces. * **Consistent Seam Allowances:** Stick to a consistent seam allowance (usually 1/4 inch) throughout your project. * **Press, Press, Press:** Don't skip the pressing! It's essential for creating flat seams and ensuring your pieces lie smoothly. * **Quilt with Confidence:** Don't be afraid to quilt creatively. Straight lines, free-motion quilting, or simple meandering stitches all work beautifully with QAYG. * **Start Small:** If you're new to QAYG, begin with a smaller project like a set of coasters, placemats, or a mug rug. This will allow you to get comfortable with the technique before tackling a larger quilt. * **Consider Your Batting:** For methods like Stitch and Flip, using a thin batting is key. Too thick, and it becomes difficult to manage. * **Test Your Stitch Length:** Experiment with your stitch length on a scrap piece to ensure it's secure enough to hold the layers together without being too short and breaking your needle.

Projects Perfect for Quilt as You Go

The versatility of QAYG opens up a world of possibilities. Here are some projects that truly shine with this technique: * **Coasters and Mug Rugs:** These are the perfect starting point for learning QAYG. They're small, quick, and you can experiment with different fabric

combinations and quilting designs. * **Placemats and Table Runners:** Create beautiful table linens that are durable and add a handmade touch to your dining space. * **Tote Bags and Purses:** QAYG panels can form the exterior of sturdy and stylish bags. * **Cushion Covers:** Add some patchwork flair to your home décor with custom quilted cushion covers. * **Baby Quilts:** Smaller baby quilts are ideal for QAYG, allowing you to create a soft and beautifully quilted item without the bulk of a large project. * **Lap Quilts and Throws:** As you gain confidence, you can move on to larger lap quilts and throws, breaking them down into manageable QAYG blocks or panels. * **Quilt Blocks for Larger Quilts:** You can even use QAYG to create individual blocks that are then assembled using a traditional method, giving you the best of both worlds.

The Takeaway: Embrace the QAYG Revolution!

Quilt as You Go is more than just a shortcut; it's a smart, efficient, and incredibly rewarding way to create beautiful quilts. It demystifies the quilting process, making it accessible and enjoyable for everyone. Whether you're looking to speed up your quilting production, conquer your fear of large-scale quilting, or simply try a new and exciting technique, Quilt as You Go is an excellent choice. So, gather your fabrics, your sewing machine, and your enthusiasm. Dive into the world of QAYG and discover the

joy of quilting as you go. You might just find it's your new favorite way to bring your quilting dreams to life! Happy quilting!

Quilting as you go is a dynamic and intuitive approach to crafting quilts that transforms the traditional slow, methodical process into a flexible, responsive creative journey. Unlike the conventional method where fabric pieces are precisely cut and assembled before stitching, quilting as you go embraces a real-time, adaptive workflow that allows quilters to make decisions in the moment, responding directly to the evolving pattern and fabric arrangement. This approach fosters spontaneity, encourages experimentation, and often results in unique, one-of-a-kind quilts that carry the authentic imprint of the maker's creative impulses. At its core, quilting as you go is about fluidity—moving seamlessly from cutting and piecing to stitching layers together without waiting for a full block or row to be complete. It relies on a deep understanding of the quilt's structure and a steady hand that balances precision with flexibility. As the quilt top takes shape, the quilter follows the rhythm of the design, precisely aligning fabric layers before securing them with stitches, adjusting as needed to maintain symmetry or enhance visual flow. This method demands awareness of how each section interacts with others, enabling on-the-fly corrections that preserve harmony and coherence throughout the project. One of the most compelling

benefits of quilting as you go is its accessibility. It allows quilters of all skill levels to engage meaningfully with the craft, reducing the intimidation of complex patterns and encouraging gradual skill-building. Beginners can focus on mastering basic stitches and fabric alignment before advancing to more intricate designs, while experienced makers find renewed inspiration in the freedom to improvise. The process naturally supports customization—whether selecting unexpected color combinations, incorporating mixed materials, or integrating personal touches—making each quilt a true reflection of individual style. Beyond its creative advantages, quilting as you go also promotes sustainability and resource efficiency. By working incrementally, quilters minimize fabric waste and avoid the accumulation of incomplete projects that might otherwise gather dust. It encourages mindful material use and supports the slow craft movement, where quality and intention take precedence over speed. This approach aligns with a growing cultural appreciation for handmade, meaningful objects in an age of mass production. Looking to the future, quilting as you go is poised to grow in popularity, especially as digital tools and community platforms continue to evolve. Online tutorials, interactive pattern design software, and social media communities now offer unprecedented support, enabling quilters to share insights, troubleshoot challenges, and celebrate innovations collectively. As interest in personalized, slow-

made artistry expands, this adaptive method ensures quilts remain not just functional textiles, but living expressions of creativity, patience, and connection.

Quilt As You Go: A Revolutionary Approach to Speedy, Seamless Quilting

Are you a quilter who dreams of finishing projects faster without sacrificing quality? Do you find the traditional quilting process – piecing a quilt top, then basting, quilting, and binding separately – a bit time-consuming and sometimes cumbersome? If so, then the "Quilt As You Go" (QAYG) method might just be the game-changer you've been searching for. This innovative technique revolutionizes traditional quilting by integrating the quilting and construction stages, offering a more efficient and often less intimidating path to beautiful, finished quilts.

In this comprehensive guide, we'll delve deep into the world of Quilt As You Go. We'll explore what it is, why it's so popular, the various techniques involved, the essential tools you'll need, and provide step-by-step instructions to help you master this surprisingly accessible method. Whether you're a seasoned quilter looking to streamline your process or a beginner eager to tackle a quilt without

the daunting task of free-motion quilting a large quilt sandwich, QAYG is designed to make your quilting journey more enjoyable and productive.

What Exactly is Quilt As You Go?

At its core, Quilt As You Go is a method of constructing a quilt where the quilting stitches are added to each individual quilt block or component *before* it's joined to the next. Instead of creating a large, layered quilt sandwich and quilting it all at once, you work with smaller, manageable units. This means each piece is essentially quilted as it's being pieced together, eliminating the need for separate quilting and then binding steps for the entire quilt.

Think of it as building your quilt piece by piece, with each piece already quilted and ready to be incorporated. This approach is particularly beneficial for projects like table runners, placemats, pillow tops, and even full-sized quilts where you want to add decorative quilting to each section. The visible quilting lines become an integral part of the design, adding texture and depth.

The Allure of Quilt As You Go: Why It's So Popular

The burgeoning popularity of Quilt As You Go isn't accidental. It addresses several common pain points for

quilters:

1. **Speed and Efficiency:** This is perhaps the biggest draw. By quilting as you piece, you significantly reduce the overall time spent on a project. Imagine finishing a quilt top that's already quilted and ready for its binding!
2. **Manageable Size:** Quilting large, unwieldy quilt sandwiches can be challenging, especially on smaller sewing machines. QAYG breaks down the quilting into smaller, more manageable sections, making it far less intimidating and easier to handle.
3. **Perfect for Beginners:** For those new to quilting or free-motion quilting, QAYG offers a less daunting entry point. You can practice your quilting stitches on small, individual blocks, building confidence with each one.
4. **Versatility:** This method isn't limited to traditional block quilts. It can be used for strip quilts, log cabin blocks, half-square triangles, and even for creating continuous quilt borders.
5. **Built-in Design Element:** The quilting stitches are a prominent feature of the finished product, adding visual interest and texture. You can experiment with different quilting patterns on each block for a scrappy, dynamic look.
6. **Reduced Basting Hassles:** Traditional basting can be a tedious process involving pins or spray. Many QAYG methods eliminate the need for extensive basting altogether, as the quilting stitches secure the layers.

Mastering the Core Quilt As You Go Techniques

While the fundamental principle of QAYG remains consistent, there are several popular techniques that quilters employ. Understanding these variations will allow you to choose the best approach for your specific project and personal preference.

The "Join As You Go" Strip Method

This is one of the most straightforward QAYG techniques, ideal for strip quilts or creating a continuous pieced background. It involves sewing strips of fabric together, quilting each seam as you go.

How it works:

1. You'll start with a backing strip, a batting strip, and a piecing strip of the same length.
2. Lay the backing strip right side down.
3. Place the batting strip on top of the backing.
4. Lay your first piecing strip right side up on top of the batting, aligning one long edge.
5. Sew along the aligned edge, through all three layers (piecing strip, batting, backing). This seam stitches the piecing strip to the batting and backing.
6. Flip the piecing strip up, exposing the wrong side. Press the seam allowance.

7. Now, take your next piecing strip and place it right side down on top of the exposed wrong side of the first piecing strip, aligning the raw edges.
8. Sew along this new edge, again through all layers.
9. Flip this second piecing strip up, exposing its right side.
10. Continue adding strips in this manner, quilting each seam as you go. The result is a strip unit where the batting and backing are quilted to each piecing strip as they are added.

Key takeaway: This method creates a fully quilted strip set, ready to be joined to other strip sets or used as a backing or quilt top panel.

The "Block by Block" Method

This technique is perfect for quilts constructed from individual blocks, such as traditional patchwork patterns. Each block is quilted and assembled separately, then joined to form the final quilt.

How it works:

1. Prepare your block components (e.g., cut pieces for a nine-patch block).
2. For each block, you'll need a piece of backing fabric, a piece of batting, and your pieced block top. The backing and batting should be slightly larger than your finished block size.
3. Layer the backing fabric right side down.

4. Place the batting on top of the backing.
5. Place your pieced block top right side up on top of the batting.
6. Baste these three layers together within the seam allowance of your intended block. Some quilters use spray baste, while others prefer a few strategic safety pins.
7. Now, quilt your block. You can do simple straight-line quilting along the pieced seams, or get more creative with free-motion quilting patterns.
8. Once your block is quilted, trim it to the precise finished size, ensuring all layers are even.
9. After creating all your quilted blocks, you'll join them together. This is where a slight variation of the QAYG method comes into play. You'll typically join these already-quilted blocks using sashing or a simple seam that stitches through the pieced seams of the blocks themselves, effectively quilting the joining seam as you go.

Key takeaway: This method allows for individual block design and quilting, offering flexibility and control over the quilting on each section.

The "Continuous Line" or "Panel" Method

This approach is fantastic for creating larger quilted panels or for projects with a central focus. It often involves

creating a "quilt sandwich" for a section and quilting it before adding another section.

How it works:

1. You'll start with a backing fabric piece, batting, and a piece of fabric for your first "panel" or section.
2. Layer these as you would for a traditional quilt sandwich (backing right side down, batting, top fabric right side up).
3. Quilt this first section. This could be with straight lines, free motion, or a specific design.
4. Once quilted, you'll attach another piece of fabric to one or more edges of your first quilted panel. You might sew a new piecing strip to the side, for example.
5. This new piece of fabric is then layered with a new piece of batting and backing directly behind it.
6. Sew the new piecing strip to the edge of your existing quilted panel, through the new backing and batting layers.
7. Flip the new piecing strip up, and then you'll quilt this new section, essentially continuing the quilting process.

Key takeaway: This method is excellent for creating larger, continuous quilted surfaces without the difficulty of managing a whole quilt at once.

Essential Tools for Quilt As You Go

While QAYG can be accomplished with basic quilting tools,

a few items can make the process smoother and more enjoyable.

1. **Rotary Cutter and Mat:** Essential for precise fabric cutting, which is crucial for QAYG.
2. **Quilting Rulers:** For accurate measuring and cutting.
3. **Sewing Machine:** Any standard sewing machine will do, but one with a good free-motion quilting capability can expand your design options.
4. **Walking Foot:** Highly recommended for quilting straight lines evenly through multiple layers.
5. **Free-Motion Foot (or Darning Foot):** Necessary if you plan to do free-motion quilting on your blocks or panels.
6. **Thread:** Choose a good quality cotton or polyester thread that complements your fabric choices. Consider a contrasting thread for a more prominent quilting design.
7. **Spray Baste (optional but recommended):** Particularly useful for the "Block by Block" method to temporarily secure layers within the block before quilting.
8. **Safety Pins:** An alternative to spray baste for securing layers, especially if you're sensitive to spray adhesives.
9. **Marking Tools:** Fabric pens or pencils to mark quilting lines if you're not quilting freehand.
10. **Iron and Ironing Board:** Crucial for pressing seams and achieving crisp results.

Getting Started: A Simple Step-by-Step Example (Strip Method)

Let's walk through a basic example of the "Join As You Go" strip method, perfect for a simple placemat or table runner. We'll assume you want to create a strip that's 8 inches wide.

Step 1: Prepare Your Strips

You'll need three types of strips, all cut to the same length. For an 8-inch wide finished strip, your piecing strips should be cut to, for example, 3 inches wide. Your batting strip should be the same width (3 inches) and your backing strip should be wide enough to accommodate your piecing strip plus seam allowances, so around 3.5 inches wide. You will need enough length to achieve your desired project size. Let's say you want a table runner that is 48 inches long, so cut all your strips 48 inches long.

Step 2: The First Seam

Lay your backing strip (3.5 inches x 48 inches) right side down on your work surface. Place your batting strip (3 inches x 48 inches) on top of the backing, aligning the long edges. Now, take your first piecing strip (3 inches x 48 inches) and lay it right side up on top of the batting, aligning one of its long edges with the raw edge of the

batting and backing.

Using your sewing machine, sew a seam along the aligned raw edge, stitching through all three layers: the piecing strip, the batting, and the backing. A scant 1/4 inch seam allowance is usually recommended for this step. This seam is where your quilting begins!

Step 3: Flip and Press

Flip the piecing strip up, so it's now right side up. Press the seam allowance of the piecing strip towards the center. You should have a neat edge, with the piecing strip covering the seam line created by your stitch. The batting and backing are now quilted to the back of this piecing strip along that seam.

Step 4: Adding the Next Strip

Take your second piecing strip (3 inches x 48 inches) and place it right side down on top of the exposed wrong side of your first piecing strip, aligning the raw edges. The seam line will be where you sew.

Sew along this new raw edge, again through all three layers (the new piecing strip, the batting, and the backing). You are essentially creating a new "seam" that will be quilted.

Step 5: Flip, Press, and Repeat

Flip this second piecing strip up, exposing its right side. Press the seam allowance towards the center. You have now created another quilted seam. You'll continue this process, adding strip after strip, quilting each seam as you go. The batting and backing are integrated and quilted into your project with each new strip added.

Step 6: Finishing

Once you have added enough strips to achieve your desired width, you will have a fully quilted panel. For a placemat, you might add a simple binding to the edges. For a table runner, you might join two of these larger quilted panels together (again, using a QAYG method for the joining seam) or simply bind the edges.

Tip: When adding subsequent strips, you can choose to quilt the newly added seams with straight lines, or you can incorporate more decorative quilting designs within each strip. This adds another layer of visual interest.

Beyond the Basics: Advanced Tips and Creative Applications

Quilt As You Go is a versatile technique with endless possibilities. As you become more comfortable, explore these advanced tips and creative applications:

1. **Incorporating Appliqué:** You can appliqué shapes onto your piecing strips *before* quilting them for added dimension.
2. **Creating Dimension with Batting:** Experiment with different thicknesses of batting or even use batting scraps within the pieced sections for a trapunto-like effect.
3. **Scrappy QAYG:** This method is a quilter's dream for using up fabric scraps. Mix and match different fabric prints and colors for a truly unique and vibrant quilt.
4. **Continuous Borders:** Apply the QAYG principles to create quilted borders that seamlessly attach to your quilt top.
5. **Combining Methods:** Don't be afraid to mix and match QAYG techniques within a single project. For instance, you might use the strip method for the center of a quilt and the block-by-block method for the borders.
6. **Edge Finishing:** While binding is common, consider other finishing techniques like facing or even creating a flange for a different aesthetic.

Is Quilt As You Go Right for You?

If you're seeking a more streamlined quilting process, are daunted by large quilt sandwiches, or simply want to experiment with a fresh approach, Quilt As You Go is definitely worth exploring. It's a method that empowers quilters to create beautiful, finished projects with greater

speed and less stress. From simple placemats to intricate bed quilts, the QAYG method offers a rewarding and accessible path to quilting mastery. Embrace the journey, experiment with different techniques, and discover the joy of finishing your quilts faster and more efficiently!

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Questions & Answers About how to quilt as you go

N o	Question	Answer
1	What exactly is 'Quilt As You Go' and why is it becoming so popular?	Quilt As You Go (QAYG) is a quilting technique where you quilt each block or section individually as you piece it together. This means the batting and backing are attached and quilted to each piece <i>*before*</i> the blocks are joined. It's popular because it significantly reduces the bulk when joining blocks, makes quilting large projects manageable, and allows for intricate quilting designs on smaller, easier-to-handle sections.
2	Is 'Quilt As You Go' suitable for beginners? What are the main advantages for someone new to quilting?	Yes, QAYG can be very beginner-friendly! Its main advantage is eliminating the need to sandwich a large quilt and maneuver it through a domestic sewing machine. Beginners can practice quilting stitches on smaller, manageable pieces, build confidence, and create beautiful quilts without the intimidation of handling large quilt sandwiches.

3	What are the different methods for 'Quilt As You Go' and which one should I try first?	Popular QAYG methods include: 1) The 'backing first' method (attaching backing to batting, then to the fabric piece, then quilting). 2) The 'batting first' method (attaching backing to batting, then the fabric piece on top, then quilting). 3) Using pre-made quilt kits designed for QAYG. For beginners, the 'backing first' method is often recommended as it's intuitive and straightforward.
4	What kind of batting and backing fabrics work best for 'Quilt As You Go' projects?	For QAYG, it's best to use thinner, stable batting like cotton or a cotton/poly blend. Avoid loftier battings as they can create too much bulk when joining blocks. For backing, consider lightweight cottons that are easy to press and trim. Ensure your backing is slightly larger than your fabric piece to allow for trimming.
5	What are the biggest challenges when doing 'Quilt As You Go' and how can I overcome them?	The main challenges can be: 1) Bulk at the seams: Ensure you trim your batting and backing precisely along the seam allowance when joining. 2) Inconsistent quilting: Try to quilt consistent stitches across each piece. 3) Getting a flat finish: Pressing your blocks well after quilting is crucial. Practicing these steps on smaller scraps before tackling a large project will help immensely.

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