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Holiday Patchwork Jumbo Bow



Skill Level: Beginner
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Bows are all the rage right now! These jumbo patchwork bows are everywhere and can be done in all sorts of fabric palettes, including holidays or seasons. There are several ways you can make these to make them your own. This project uses strip piecing to quickly achieve the patchwork look. These can be quilting using any method including using the IQ Designer Decorative fills. Once you start, you won't be able to stop!

Supplies:

- Baby Lock Sewing machine. For this project, the Baby Lock Radiance was also used for quilting with embroidery as well as piecing the project.
- 10 5/8" X 16" Embroidery Hoop or optional magnetic hoop
- Embroidery Foot
- ¼" Piecing Foot for Sewing

- Fusible Fleece or Batting.
- 2.5” strips of fabrics. The fabric requirements can vary. For this project a Fat Quarter pack of fabric was used that had the full collection. I was able to create 4 sets of 5 prints to create the patchwork effect. In total I needed 40 of these pieced/cut strips. You may have to play around with the match based on the varied fabrics you have for your project. I wanted variety, which I had in the collection, but you can also use 2.5” strips of scraps and use those to create the pieced strips.
- ¾ Yard for the backing-
    - Cut into 10.5” x WOF for the Bow and Tails pieces. Trim to finished quilted pieces.
- 2- 2.5” X 9.5” for the bow center
    - Note: If you are looking for a specific style of bow, there are tons of patterns available to make
- Zip Ties
- Hot Glue Gun for finishing
    - You can also hand sew the bow center if you prefer.
- Sewing Notions; scissors, pins
- Iron, pressing mat, rotary cutter, ruler, cutting mat

For this project, I first made a Halloween Bow and then a Fall inspired Bow.





Instructions:

Creating the Patchwork Bow and Tail Pieces

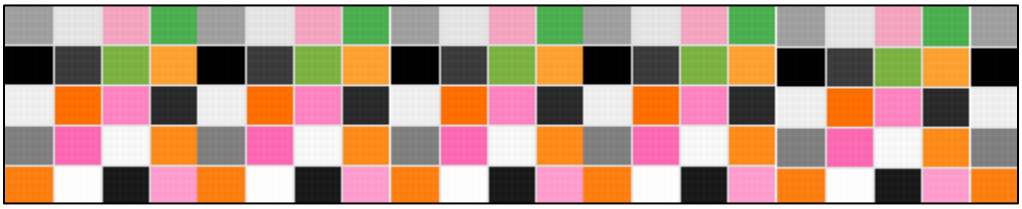
1. Gather your cut 2.5” strips. Play around with combinations of fabrics and divide them into sets of 5 strips.
2. With each set of 5 strips, lay out the fabrics to determine the sequence you want to sew them together.
    a. Planning ahead will allow you to have more variance in color as you are sewing the strips together.
    b. Your total sets of 5 strips may vary depending on the number of prints and solids you are using for your project. (For the Halloween example, there were 4 sets of 5 strips used)
    c. You could always cut 2.5” pieces and piece them together individually. This method saves time and frustration with piecing small squares.
3. Set the machine up with a center needle stitch (1-03) and attach the ¼’ piecing foot of choice.
4. Stitch the 5 strips together using a 1/4” seam allowance.
5. Repeat for all other set of strips
6. Once sewn, press the seams all to one side.
7. Cut the strips into 2.5” strips and set aside.





8. You will need to have 40 strip sets to sew together for your Bow and the Tail pieces

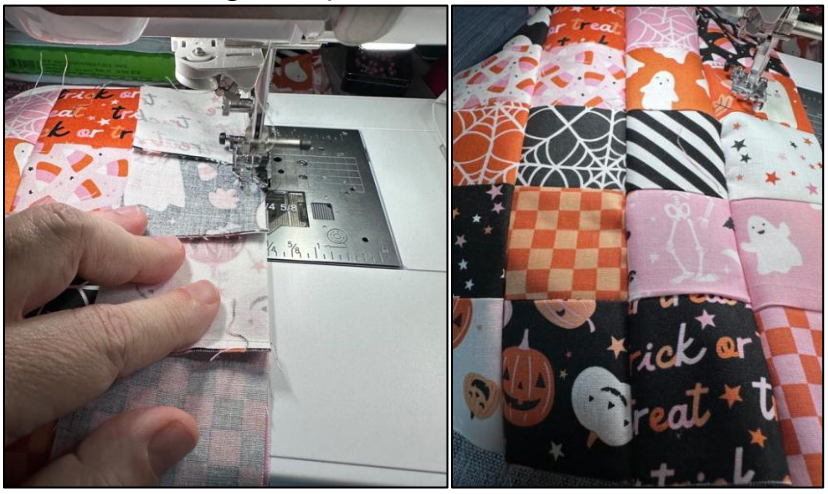
9. For the Bow Tail – Sew 21 rows together in a consistent pattern.



10. For the Bow – Sew 19 rows together in a consistent pattern.



11. Once rows are stitched together, press the seams.

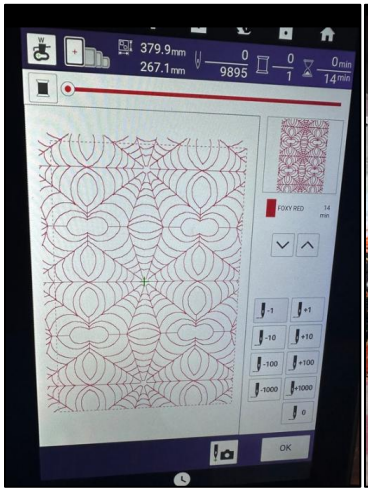


12. Cut a piece of batting for each panel that extends about 1" – 2" around the fabric pieces. Do not attach the backing at this time.
13. Layer the pieced Bow and Tail pieced separately with a piece of larger batting.
14. Quilt as desired. Here are some options for ways to quilt. **(See more details below)**
    a. Stitch in the ditch between the seams
    b. Stitch ¼" from the seams on all sides to highlight
    c. Use a Walking Foot or Digital Dual Feed foot to straight line quilt
    d. Use the StitchSync Regulation™ to free motion quilt your fabric
    e. Use Embroidery Edge-to-Edge designs to quilt the fabric
    f. If using the Radiance or other Baby Lock Embroidery machine with IQ Designer, quilt the layer using a decorative fill or stipple fill.
        i. The Baby Lock Design Suite Fill sand Motif Collections are a fun way to quilt these projects

15. Once quilted, square up the Bow and Tail pieces
    a. These should end up approximately 10.5” X 42.5” for the Tails (21 rows) and 10.5” x 38.5” for the Bow piece

For the **Halloween Bow**, IQ Designer was using the spider web fill from the Baby Lock Design Suites Holiday Collection #2 Fills and Motif designs. These custom fills can be used on the Radiance, Solaris Vision or Solaris with Upgrade Kit 2 and Palette.

To create the fill background, the fabric and batting for the Tail and Bow pieces were first baste stitched around to secure the layers. Then the layers were hope using the new 10 5/8” x 16” Magnetic Hoop for the Radiance. In IQ Designer, the Image scan feature was used to be able to see the quilted fabric on screen. Using the Shapes key, a no-sew rectangle was selected and resized to fill an area of the patchwork fabric. The spider web fill was added inside that shape and then adjusted in the IQ Stitch Settings to adjust as desired. For this, the size was increased and the thickness changed to the lighter setting. Save the image and bring it over to embroidery.






Re-scan using the Camera scan feature and to ensure placement. Touch Embroidery and stitch out the fill. Once completed, re-hoop the fabric, re-scan using the Camera scan feature and move the design. NOTE: Since this was such a busy pattern, I did my best to align the decorative fill, but it was easily hidden with the fabrics used.

For the last re-hooped section, you may have to repeat the IQ Designer step to create a smaller rectangle shape with fill. This will vary depending on how big you make your quilting sections. Since the Tail and Bow pieces are varied in length, this may also cause you to need to adjust your shapes.



If you were wanting to be super precise, the Pattern Connectivity feature could also be used to help connect these quilting patterns together. Also, the stipple fill may be a more forgiving fill to use for quilting your project.

For the **Fall Bow,** a straight stitch was stitched ¼" from either side of the seams. This created a fun checked quilting pattern.

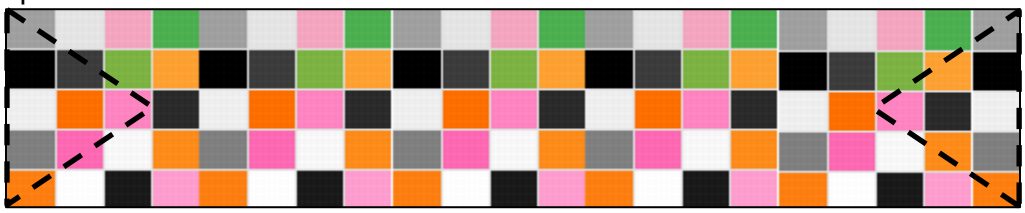


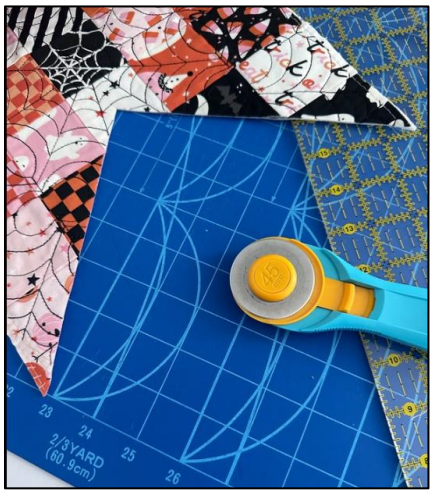
The sky is the limit on how you want to quilt your project! Just know that you have options!

Adding Backing to the Bow and Tail Pieces

1. Now that your fabric is quilted and trimmed, gather your backing pieces.
2. For the Tail piece, we need to trim a section out to create the tails. Mark the center of each of the short sides about 5.5" up on each side and mark.
3. Draw a diagonal line form the corner of each of the short ends inward to the center marked point. This will create the notched look for your Tail.
4. Trim along the marked lines.

5. Repeat on both sides.





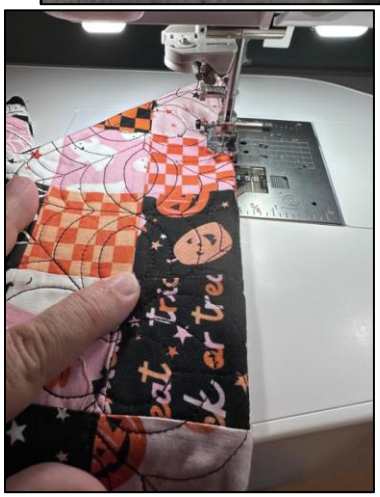
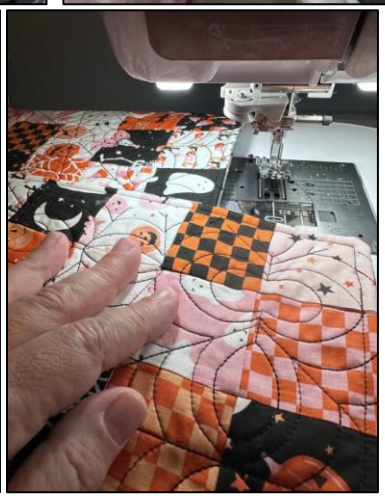
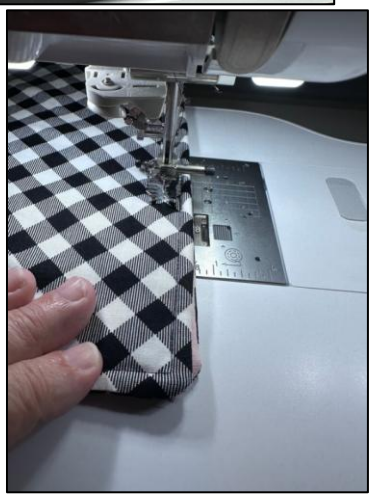
6. Trim the backing piece to the size of your quilted tail.
7. Place the backing and the quilted Tail right sides together and pin in place.
8. Sew along the edges leaving a 5-6” opening along one of the long sides.
9. Trim the Tail ends to help with bulk.
10. Turn panels inside out and press.



11. Fold in the edges of the opening, press and pin or clip in place.
12. Top stitch around the entire panel, enclosing the turned opening along the way.
13. This piece will become the Tails of your bow. Set this aside.
14. For the Bow panel, you will follow a similar process with the smaller piece.

15. Cut the backing fabric to match. Pin the backing and quilted piece right sides together.
16. Stitch around the edges, leaving a 5-6” opening along the long side.
17. Trim corners, turn inside out and then press the layers.
18. Fold in the edges of the opening, press and pin or clip in place.
19. Top stitch around the entire panel, enclosing the turned opening along the way.

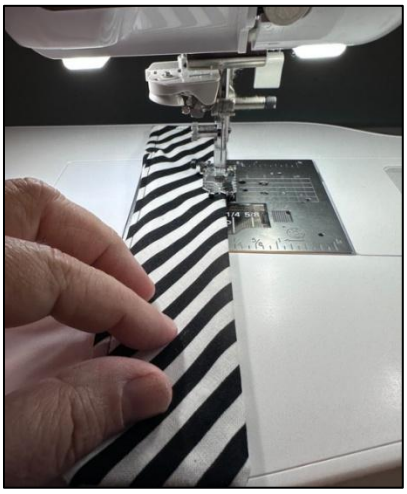


20. Once stitched, fold the Bow piece in half with right sides together with the short edges lined up. Stich along that end with a ½” seam allowance.
21. Press the seam open and flip the tube to the right side.
22. Set aside.
23. Note: Another option would be to sew the quilted bow piece together into a tube. Then stitch the backing into a tube. Both stitching along the short edges of the fabric pieces. Place the two tubes, right sides together and stitch all the way around leaving an opening. This may result in less bulk at the center of the bow piece when putting the finished Bow and Tail pieces together.

Creating the Bow Center

1. For the Bow Center band, you will need 2 strips cut 2.5” x 9.5” along with a 2.5” x 9.5” batting strip.
2. Fuse the batting to one of the fabric strips and place the fabric strips right sides together.
3. Sew around the edges using a ¼” seam allowance and leaving an opening along the edge to turn inside out.
4. Trim corners, turn inside out and then press the layers.
5. Fold in the edges of the opening, press and pin or clip in place.
6. Top stitch around the entire bow center, enclosing the turned opening along the way.
7. Now you are ready to put the bow together.



Putting the Bow together

1. For both the Bow and the Tail pieces, we want to find the center point. Tuck and fold the layers together at that center point.
2. You may need to play with this to get the desired look to achieve the right folded look.
3. Align the center points and then place the Bow piece on top of the tail piece.
4. While holding the layers together at the center point, use 2 zip ties to secure the two quilted fabric pieces together. Space them apart about 1.5”. Remember that the center piece is about 2” wide finished.
5. Cut away the excess portion of the zip ties.
6. Once aligned as desired, place the Bow center piece around the zip ties.
7. Use a hot glue gun to secure the center piece around the zip tied area.
    a. You could also hand tie these if desired.
    b. A ribbon can also be added to provide a hanging loop while putting the center around the bow.
    c. Another zip tie could be used as a hanger as well once it is all assembled.



Enjoy your new bow and let the obsession begin! Here is the other example done for fall. This was using 15 different fabric strips (some repeated) to create a 3 strip repeat rather than 4 like the Halloween bow. You can also try changing the widths of your strips to make a larger patchwork look for your bow. I found some pre-patchworked fabrics to make a plaid flannel holiday bow. In addition, use old pieced quilts or purchase pre-quilted fabrics or upcycled coverlets to turn into bows. Another layer of backing could be added to finish pre-quilted fabrics or you could bind the raw edges for finish any cut edges.



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