



Pattern of the Month February 2014

by Evelyn George

Braided Hearts Wall Hanging (or Table Runner)

For a project the size shown (approximately 14" x 38") you'll need:

Hearts - six different 5" charm squares in reds and pinks (or use scraps)

Background - approx. 5/8 yard assorted lights (or all one fabric)

Borders - three 2½" x WOF strips red

Binding - three 2½" x WOF strips pink

Backing and batting - approx. 18" x 42" each

Background: Cut a 6½" square and cut it in half once diagonally, making 2 triangles.

Cut remaining background fabric into 2½" strips; from these, cut:

6 - 2½" x 10"

6 - 2½" x 8"

12 - 2½" x 6"

Hearts: Cut one 2½" square and one 2½" x 4½" strip from 6 different reds or pinks, using the charm squares or scraps.

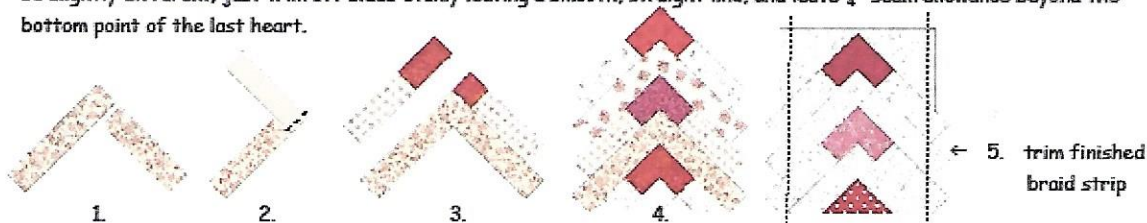
Sew a 6" strip of background fabric to one end of each square and each strip of heart fabric. Press seams toward background. →



The braid is built with the hearts upside down, adding the strips alternately to the right and left sides, alternating rows of plain and pieced strips to make the heart pattern. (Refer to the illustrations below. Use ¼" seam allowance throughout, and finger press each seam as you go, toward the strip just added.)



1. Begin with a 10" background strip on your left, at an angle as shown in figure 1, below. Lay an 8" strip of background to its right so they form an upside down "V".
2. Flip the right hand strip back over the left hand one at a right angle, right sides together. The upper end of the strip on the right should line up with the upper right side edge of the strip on the left. Stitch together as shown in figure 2, below. Open out and press.
3. A heart row comes next: first add the strip with a square, on the right; then add the matching strip with a rectangle, on the left, as shown, below. This makes the first heart (upside down, for now).
4. Continue adding plain rows alternating with heart rows until the last heart is added.
5. Finish by adding the two background triangles to the bottom of the last heart. Press. The finished braid strip is uneven on the edges and ends, and should be trimmed and squared up to approximately 10½" wide x 34½" long. Yours may be slightly different; just trim off sides evenly leaving a smooth, straight line, and leave ¼" seam allowance beyond the bottom point of the last heart.



Borders: Measure length of trimmed braid. Cut two red border strips that length. Stitch to sides. Press seams toward borders. Measure width of braid, including the two side borders you just added. Cut two border strips that measurement and add to top and bottom edges. Layer, quilt and bind in the usual manner. Add a sleeve for hanging, or use as a table runner.

You could also use this technique to make several longer rows, and connect them with sashing to make a quilt!