



Braided Hearts - 6" block

This pieced and appliqued quilt block is based on the paper heart baskets woven by Scandinavian school children. It lends itself to several delightful arrangements for red and white quilts. There is no curved piecing, as the curved part of the heart is made using a facing technique; it is then stitched down by hand or machine.

Cutting for one 6" block (6½" unfinished):

Red - two 3" x 5" pieces; plus 1 strip 1½" x 13"

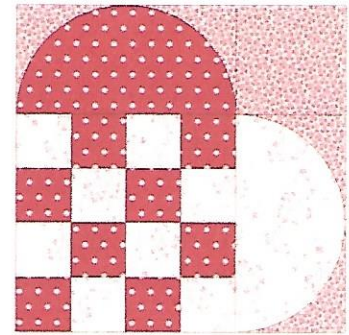
White - two 3" x 5" pieces; plus 1 strip 1½" x 13"

Red and white print (medium value, for background) - two 2½" x 4½" rectangles and one 2½" square

Trace two copies of heart top template onto plain white paper (tracing both inner stitching line and outer cutting line); cut out roughly, *outside* the outer lines. Center and pin one paper template on top of the two red fabric rectangles, with their right sides together. Stitch on inner line through all layers, just along the curved part, backstitching at both ends. Leave straight edge open for turning. Cut on outer line through paper and fabric together. Then, remove paper and using pinking shears, trim seam allowance slightly on just the curved edge (or, clip the curved edge). Turn right side out, making a smooth curve; press. Applique by hand or machine to one of the background rectangles, aligning straight raw edges and making sure curved edge is ¼" away from background edges on other 3 sides. Repeat with second paper template and white fabric.

Stitch the red and white 1½" strips together on one long edge, using ¼" seam allowance; press toward the red. Cut into eight 1½" sections. Combine these to make the checkerboard section of the block, alternating red and white as shown in block illustration at top of page.

Sew the 2½" background square to the right hand end of the red heart top. Join the white heart top to the side of the checkerboard, and join the parts together to make the block, as shown above.



(4 identical blocks ↓)

