

GENERATION
Quilt. Sew. Live. Breathe.

Q

playdate

**scandinavian
christmas love**

by felicia brenoe

Felicia says, “As a child growing up in Norway in the ‘70s and ‘80s, I was surrounded by Marimekko curtains and potato-stamped linen table runners. Christmas was dominated by bright red and lots of natural materials: Pine cones, moss, linen, burlap and lots of lit candles to potentially set everything on fire. Hearts were the main symbol in our decorations and almost every holiday decoration was hand-made.

“When making a set of holiday placemats and a breadbasket for my modern American-Norwegian family, I wanted to bring in the feel of my childhood Christmas. The Cherry red, when mixed with hot pink and purple jewel tones, sends a nod to the fearless color mixing of Marimekko. Add the texture and color of natural linen to the mix and we have the ingredients for a rather Scandinavian looking holiday table.”

overall materials

Note: Except for the background fabric, all fabrics are from Michael Miller Fabrics’ Cotton Couture solids. The fabrics’ Cotton Couture name is listed first.

- 2 yards Cherry (deep red)
- 1/4 yard Violet (deep purple)
- 1/4 yard Fuchsia (deep pink)
- 1/4 yard Jewel (red-purple)
- 1/4 yard Berry (medium red-pink)
- 1 yard background fabric (Felicia used Robert Kaufman Fabrics’ Essex cotton/linen blend in Linen.)
- 1/2 yard fusible webbing for applique
- permanent marker
- batting leftovers or a small craft pack for placemats
- 1/2 yard heavyweight fusible interfacing, such as C&T Publishing’s Fast-2-Fuse
- 1/2 yard fusible stabilizer
- silicone or Teflon non-stick ironing sheet (These are sheets that prevent fusibles from fusing to your ironing surface. The fusibles peel away from the silicon sheets once they are cool. We use the Bear Thread Applique Pressing Sheet—available on Amazon.com—but there are other brands available.)

**designed and made by
felicia brenoe**

placemats finished size: 20” x 14 1/2”

**breadbasket finished size:
7 1/2” square x 3 1/2” tall**

skill level: super simple!!

placemats:

cutting instructions

From the Cherry fabric, cut:

- (2) 5 1/2” x WOF strips. Then cut (4) 5 1/2” x 14” rectangles.
- (8) 2 1/4” x WOF strips for binding.
- (4) 18” x 24” rectangles for backing.

From the Essex Linen, cut:

- (1) 14” x WOF strip. Then cut (4) 9 1/2” x 14” rectangles.
- (2) 2 1/2” x WOF strips. Then cut (4) 2 1/2” x 14” strips.

From the Fuchsia, Cherry, Violet, Berry and Jewel fabrics, cut:

- (1) 2” x WOF strip from each. Then cut each in half to create 2” x approximately 20” lengths.

From the Jewel, Berry, Violet and Cherry fabrics, cut:

- (1) 1 1/2” x WOF strip from each. Then cut each in half to create 2” x approximately 20” lengths.

applique and piecing instructions

1. From the solids 20” long strips, sew a strip set in this order:

- 2” Fuchsia
- 2” Cherry
- 2” Violet
- 1 1/2” Berry
- 1 1/2” Jewel
- 2” Fuchsia
- 2” Cherry
- 1 1/2” Violet
- 2” Berry
- 1 1/2” Cherry
- 2” Jewel

2. Press seams in one direction. The strip set should measure 14 1/2" wide.
3. Cut from the strip set (4) 4 1/2" x 14 1/2" pieced strips.
4. Sew placemat tops together from left to right along the 14 1/2" sides in this order:
 - 5 1/2" x 14 1/2" Cherry strip
 - 9 1/2" x 14 1/2" Essex Linen
 - 4 1/2" x 14 1/2" strip pieced unit
 - 2 1/2" x 14 1/2" Essex Linen
5. For the applique hearts, trace (12) large hearts on the paper backing of the fusible webbing. Roughly cut out the shapes leaving about 1/4" outside the traced line.
6. Remove unmarked paper backing from the heart shapes. Place webbing side down on the wrong side of fabric. (Felicia used Violet, Jewel and Berry for her hearts.) Following manufacturer's instructions, iron in place.
7. Trim each heart on the traced outline.
8. Remove other paper backing and line up hearts on the Cherry strip on the placemat top. Fuse in place.
9. Using a blanket stitch or satin stitch, sew along each heart's edge.

getting it together

1. Piece binding strips together, end-to-end. Press in half lengthwise.
2. Cut (4) pieces of batting at 18" x 24".
3. Layer and spray baste backing, batting and placemat top. Quilt as desired. (Felicia used straight vertical lines randomly spaced for the Essex Linen sections and quilted meandering hearts on the strip pieced units. Each heart was outline stitched along its edge.)
4. Bind each placemat as you would a quilt. There will be leftover binding to use for the breadbasket.

for the breadbasket: outside basket

1. Cut a 14" x 14" square from the heavyweight fusible interfacing.
2. Cut a 15" x 15" Essex Linen square.
3. With the pressing sheet on the ironing surface, place the heavyweight fusible interfacing on top of it and then the Essex Linen square on top of the

interfacing. (The Linen will overhang about a 1/2" all around.) Follow manufacturer's instructions to fuse the fabric to the interfacing. This usually requires a very hot steam setting.

4. When cool, peel the pressing sheet from the interfacing. Then carefully trim the fabric flush to the edges of the interfacing.
5. On the interfacing side of the square, use a rotary to mark a 3" square in each corner. Cut each square out.
6. With a contracting thread, sew randomly spaced straight lines across the basket, first in one direction, then the other. In the basket's middle, there will be a crisscross pattern.
7. At each corner of the basket, line up the two cut edges, fabric sides together, and sew together using a 1/4" seam allowance and backstitching at each end. Turn the basket right side out.

lining

8. To make the lining, cut a 14" x 14" square from both the Cherry fabric and the fusible stabilizer.
9. Following manufacturer's instructions, fuse stabilizer to wrong side of fabric.
10. As with the basket, mark and cut out a 3" square from each corner of the fabric/stabilizer square. This creates the basket liner's sides.
11. For the applique hearts, trace (12) small hearts and (1) extra large heart on the paper backing of the fusible webbing. Roughly cut out the shapes leaving about 1/4" outside the traced line.
12. Remove unmarked paper backing from the heart shapes. Place webbing side down on the wrong side of fabric. (Felicia used Violet, Fuchsia and Berry for the small hearts and Jewel for the extra large heart.) Following manufacturer's instructions, iron in place.
13. Trim each heart on the traced outline.
14. Remove other paper backing and line up hearts on the Cherry lining following the picture. Fuse in place.
15. Using a blanket stitch or satin stitch, sew along each heart's edge.
16. At each corner of the lining, line up the two cut edges, fabric sides together, and sew together using a 1/4" seam allowance and backstitching at each end. Turn the basket right side out.

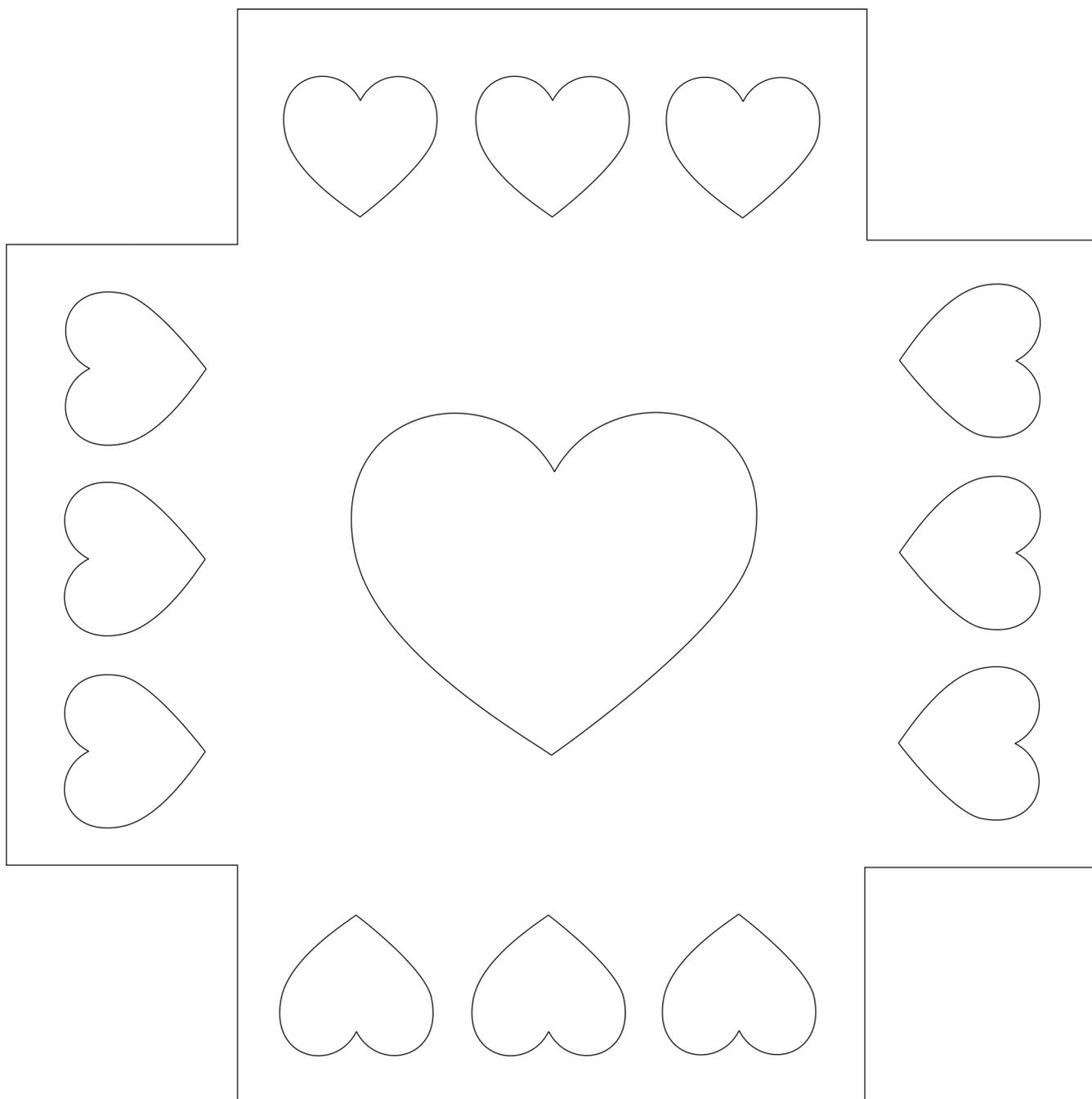
getting it together

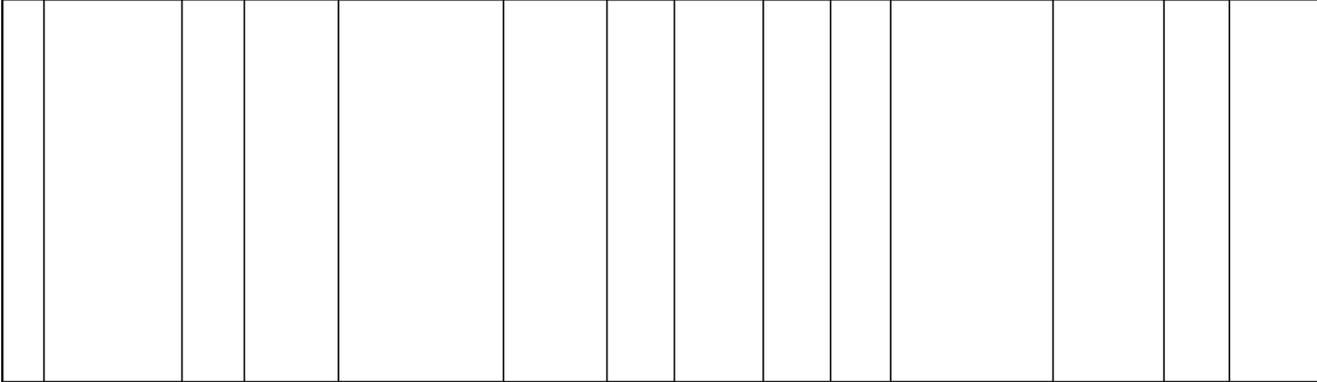
1. Insert the basket liner into the basket, matching sides and seams. When it's completely together, iron each side where the fold line is for the side.

- This will make the basket look crisp and finished.
2. Binding the basket's raw edge as you would a quilt, sew the binding to the basket's outside and hand stitch to the lining.

Basket Pattern

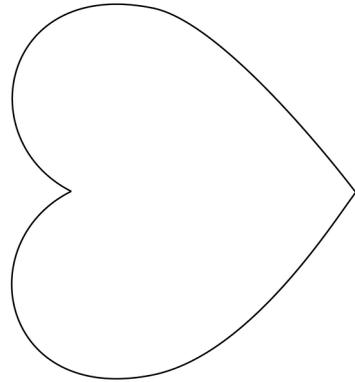
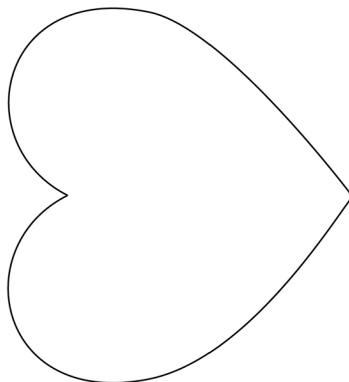
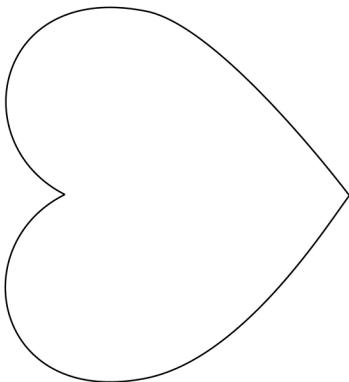
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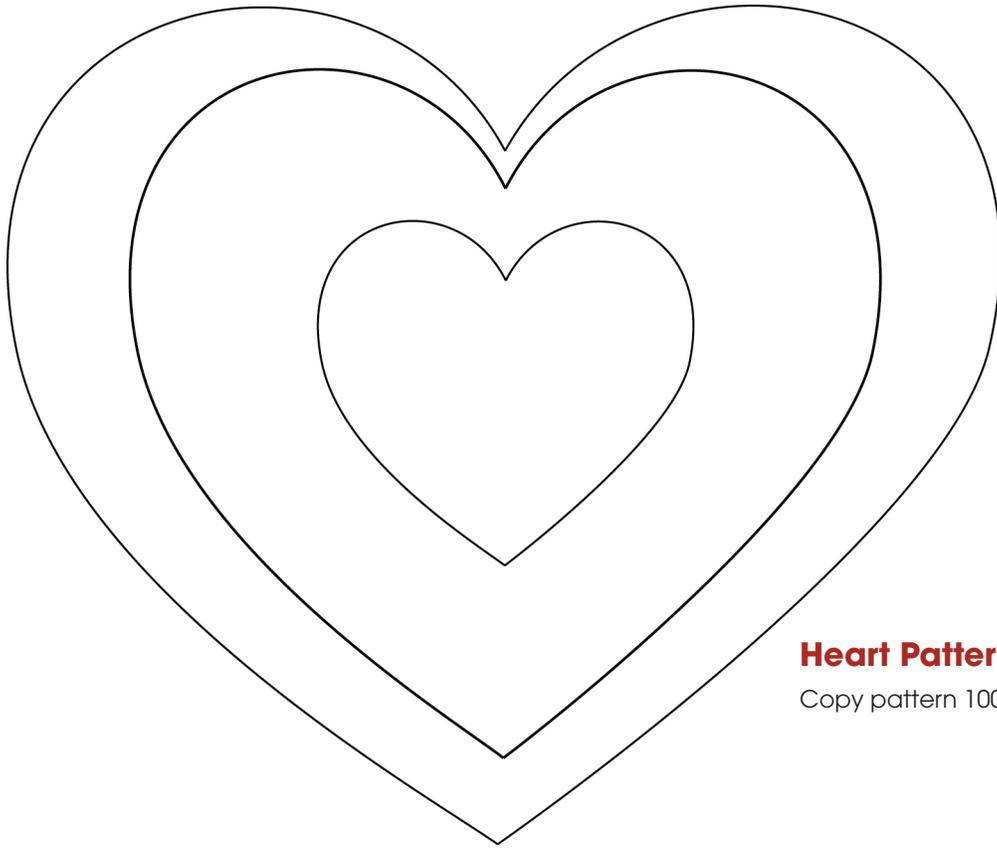




Placemat Pattern

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Heart Pattern

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Born and raised in Norway, Felicia Brenoe started hand sewing at night while camouflaging as a biology student during the day. After graduate school and several years of academic teaching she quit her job to pursue her dream of becoming a full time quilt designer. Her designs are strongly inspired by her love for nature and exotic travel, as well as by her Scandinavian upbringing. She often looks to historic textiles for inspiration. Felicia lives in Chandler, Arizona, with her husband, daughters, and two spoiled cats. Learn more about her work at www.feliciasworld.com