

dishes can wait

by rachel kerley



Freewheeling and funky (do people say that anymore?), Rachel's dish pile is a whole lot more attractive than the one in our kitchen sink. We love how the bright dish fabrics play against the subtle texture of her white-on-white background prints. And this is wide open to pretty much any appliquéd technique you care to use. Rachel prefers hand appliquéd, and that's how she made this quilt, but we're giving you a fusible alternative because that's how we roll sometimes. Still, what's the most important thing to know is that the charm of this quilt's design comes from the wonky shapes. There are no templates to work with here! We're giving you the basic dimensions of EACH piece and asking you to

overall materials:

- Background: assorted white prints (Rachel uses tonal prints with writing, flowers or graphic prints that read very light).
 - Dishes and bowls: 20 different scraps; (4) greens, (7) orange, (2) gold, (5) blue/aqua, (1) pink, and (1) multi-color
 - Binding: $\frac{3}{8}$ yard
 - Backing: $1\frac{1}{2}$ yard
 - Batting: 44" x 50"
 - Fabric glue stick or other fabric basting glue for applique,
 - Fusible webbing: 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ yards (optional).
 - Applique pressing sheet (This is optional, but highly recommended to keep your iron and ironing board clean. Parchment paper is a good alternative.)
 - 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " circle template
 - Fabric scissors (I know, right?).
- Optional, if you choose hand applique:
- Applique pins
 - Hand sewing needles
 - Matching thread for appliquéd fabrics

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skill level:
appliquéd virgins, this
one's for you.

finished size: 40" x 42"

wonky cut them as you see fit, and that is what will make this quilt all about you. It really is all about the playing, you know?

cutting instructions:

- Background: 6" strips from several different white prints; cut these into 6" x 3" rectangles, 6" x 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ " rectangles; 6" x 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ " rectangles; 6" x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " rectangles and 6" x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " rectangles.
- From green scraps, cut: (2) 2" x 14" rectangles; (1) 2" x 12" rectangle; (1) 7" square.
- From orange scraps, cut: (2) 4" x 7" rectangles; (1) 4" x 5" rectangle; (1) 4" x 6" rectangle; (2) 6" x 8" rectangles; (1) 2" square (which will become a 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " circle).
- From gold scraps, cut: (1) 5" x 9" rectangle; (1) 4" x 9".
- From blue/aqua scraps, cut:
(1) 4" x 5" rectangle; (1) 5" x 6" rectangle;
(1) 6" x 6" square; (1) 5" x 7" rectangle;
(1) 6" x 7" rectangle.
- From pink and multi-color scraps, cut:
(1) 2" square (for 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " circle) each.
- Binding: Cut (5) 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x WOF strips



fusing instructions:

NOTE: If you choose to hand-applique the dishes, then skip the fusible application here and instead add a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance around each shape listed below for turning under.

Fuse fusible webbing to wrong side of all pieces above (except binding strips) per manufacturer's instructions. When cooled, cut out the following shapes:

- From (2) green 2" x 14" rectangles and (1) 2" X 12" rectangle, cut out (3) plates.
- From (1) green 7" square, cut out (1) deep bowl.
- From orange rectangles, cut out (6) bowls, some deep, some shallow.
- From orange 2" square, cut out (1) 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " circle.
- From gold rectangles, cut out (2) shallow, long bowls.
- From blue/aqua rectangles and square, cut out (5) bowls.
- From pink and multi-color print, cut out (2) 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " circles.

piecing instructions:

1. Arrange the various sizes of background pieces in rows and sew together until you have a background measuring 42" X 44". This should be (8) rows of 8-12 pieces in each row. Sew the rows together to complete the back.
2. If hand appliquing: Arrange your plates and bowls on the background along with your circles. Pin or glue-baste in place and using a needle-turn method of hand applique, turn under 3/16" to 1/4" all around pieces and hand stitch in place with a blind hem stitch and matching thread.
3. If fusing: When satisfied with your layout, peel paper off of fusible and fuse pieces to background. Then, using a small zigzag stitch, or blind hem stitch and with matching thread, stitch around all fused pieces.
4. Layer, baste, quilt, and bind quilt. Hang on your wall for all to admire! (And maybe now you can go do wash those dishes that were waiting while you got your stitch on.) 



the dishes can wait, continued



Raised in Southern California, Rachel Kerley has always been a creative scamp. She's made jewelry and pottery, built college theater sets and designed her own clothes. A natural draftsman, Rachel moved to Portland, Oregon, and drew circuits on CAD for many years. She loves quilting as a creative outlet. She teaches at her LQS, sews with her girlfriends and spends time in her own home studio. She loves blending traditional techniques and modern design. Peek into her studio at 2ndavestudio.blogspot.com.