

Quilted Message Board

Create a quilted message center for every room in the house

by Sue Bleiweiss

This quilted message board goes together pretty quickly and is a great addition to any kitchen décor but is easily customizable to go into any room of the house. Think about creating one for the kids' room to hang on the door or for the office or studio.

Start by cutting a piece of quilt batting a few inches larger than you want your finished message board to be. My finished message boards have a finished size of 15" x 20", so I started with a piece of quilt batting measuring 20" x 25". Fuse a layer of Mistyfuse to one side and set the batting aside while you prepare the fabric strips.

You can cut your fabric strips any width you like but I prefer to cut them 2" to 2 1/2" wide by a little longer than my quilt batting's width of 20".



If you prefer, you could use a solid piece of fabric or different shapes to cover your batting. Once you have cut all your strips, lay them on the batting wrong side against the side that you have applied the Mistyfuse. Make sure that you overlap the strips by at least 1/4" to 1/2". →

Supplies

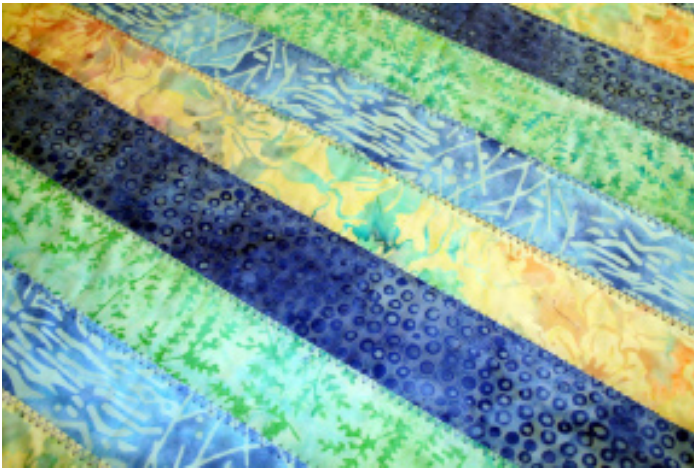
- Quilt batting
- Fabrics
- Mistyfuse
- Chalkboard cloth (see resources page)



Quilted Message Board *continued*

After you have all your strips in place, iron the surface to fuse them to the batting. Now fuse a layer of Mistyfuse to the other side of the batting surface and fuse a single piece of fabric to this side. This will be the backside of your quilted message board.

Sew along the edges of the strips on the front side of the message board surface to secure the raw edges in place. I like to use a zigzag stitch for this but a straight stitch works just as nicely or, if you prefer, you could use a decorative stitch.



Once you have finished stitching the strips, press the quilt well and trim it to measure 15" x 20". Set it aside while you make the pocket.

To make the pocket I fused some strips of fabric to a piece of white cotton measuring 11" x 13". I added some stitching along the raw edges of the strips to secure them down and then trimmed the piece to measure 10" x 12".



Fold the pocket piece in half to make a piece measuring 5" x 12" and press it well. Place the pocket with the folded edge at the top about 2 1/2" from the bottom edge and stitch along the sides and bottom edge.



You can leave your pocket as one large pocket or, if you prefer, sew in some channels to create several smaller pockets. To do this I zigzag stitched over the previous stitching on the pocket piece.

Now it's time to add the chalkboard! Cut a piece of chalkboard fabric measuring 8" x 10" and stitch it to the quilt top approximately 2" or so from the top edge. →



TIP

To help keep the chalkboard fabric from slipping around while you sew it in place, use a glue stick to apply some glue to the backside of it before you place it on the quilt top. Keep the glue away from the edges so you don't end up stitching through it.

Quilted Message Board *continued*

TIP Do not let the iron touch the chalkboard fabric! Once you apply heat to it you won't be able to write on it.

To make a pocket for the chalk cut a piece of fabric 2" x 4", fold it in half and press it well. Stitch the pocket along the sides and bottom edge to the quilt top just to the right of the chalkboard.



Now all that's left to do is bind your quilt using your favorite binding method. To bind mine, I cut strips of fabric 1 1/2" x 22". I had previously applied Mistyfuse to the back of this fabric before cutting these strips. Starting with the sides first, I placed the strips right sides together along the edges and sewed using a 1/4" seam allowance. I trimmed the excess from the top and bottom and folded them to the backside of the quilt and fused them in place. Then I repeated the process for the top and bottom edges of the quilt.



You can add a hanging sleeve to the back of your quilt or use a decorative clothes hanger like I've done with mine. Fill your quilted message board with paper, pens and chalk and it's ready to hang!