

Ants, Welcome!

By Gina Colleen Hodges

Summer has arrived, and it's the perfect time for a picnic. So while the pinwheels are spinning and the sun is shining, pack a basket full of goodies, grab your favorite friends, and head on out. But don't forget your blanket and the smallest of picnic friends. Yes, the ants have arrived, and they would just *love* to join you for the feast and the fun.



Sewing Supplies:

- PFAFF® *quilt expression*™ 4.2 sewing machine or PFAFF® *expression*™ 3.5 sewing machine
- Perfect ¼" Foot with Guide for IDT™ System 821063096
- Stitch-in-Ditch Foot for IDT™ System 820542096
- Open Toe Appliqué Foot, 9mm 820213096
- Fabric A (blocks and binding) – 2 yards
- Fabric B (9 patch) – 1 yard
- Fabric C (pinwheels) – 1 yard
- Fabric D (pinwheels) – 1 yard
- Fabric E (backing) – 4½ yards
- Fabric F (9 patch) – ⅙ yard
- Fabric G (9 patch) – ⅙ yard
- Fabric H (9 patch) – ⅙ yard
- Fabric I (9 patch) – ⅙ yard
- Fabric J (9 patch) – ⅙ yard
- Fabric K (9 patch) – ⅙ yard
- Fabric L (9 patch) – ⅙ yard
- Fabric M (9 patch) – ⅙ yard
- Fabric N (sashings) – 1⅔ yard
- Quilt Batting – 80" square
- Robison-Anton 50 wt. cotton thread
- Robison-Anton 40 wt. rayon thread (black) for ants
- Quilting Thread

- Invisible Thread
- INSPIRA® Universal needles size 80 620098096
- 1" Bias Tape Maker
- Fabric Marking Pen
- Straight Pins
- Safety Pins
- Rotary cutter, mat & quilting ruler
- 6 ½" Square ruler
- Bloc-Loc 4½" half square triangle ruler (optional)
- Basting spray (optional)
- Iron & pressing surface
- Basic Sewing Supplies

Cut:

Fabric A:

1. Cut seven 6½" strips the width of the fabric.
2. Using the 6½" square ruler, cut each 6½" strip into 6½" square blocks for a total of 40 blocks.
3. Cut four 2½" square blocks.
4. Cut 8⅓ yards of 2" bias tape.

Fabric B:

1. Cut fourteen 2½" strips the width of the fabric.
2. Cut each 2½" strip into 2½" square blocks for a total of 205 blocks.

Fabrics C and D:

1. From each fabric, cut eight 4" strips the width of the fabric.
2. Cut each 4" strip into 4" square blocks, for a total of 80 blocks from each fabric.

Fabric E:

1. Cut two lengths of 2¼ yards the width of the fabric.
2. Cut one of those lengths in half lengthwise.

Fabrics F-M:

1. From each fabric, cut two 2½" strips the width of the fabric.
2. Cut each 2½" strip into 2½" square blocks for a total of 30 blocks from each fabric. **NOTE:** There will be some left over squares.

Fabric N:

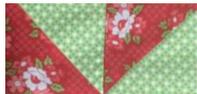
1. Cut four 2½" x 54½" strips.
2. Cut eight 2½" x 6½" strips.

Prepare:

1. On the wrong side of each Fabric C block, use a fabric marking pen to draw a diagonal line from one corner to the opposite corner.

Sew:

1. Thread machine with 50 wt. thread in needle and bobbin. Snap-on **Perfect ¼" Foot** and engage IDT™ system.
2. Select stitch **1 (straight stitch)**. Adjust needle position to **.3**.
3. Place one 4" square of Fabric C over one 4" square of Fabric D, right sides together.
4. Align foot guide with diagonal line and stitch down one side of the diagonal line.
5. Turn stacked squares around and place the foot guide over the diagonal line again and stitch down the opposite side of the diagonal line.
6. Repeat for remaining 39 fabric C/D block sets.
7. Using a rotary cutter and mat, cut all blocks on the diagonal line.
8. Set the seams by placing hot iron over the stitching lines. Open blocks and press the seams towards the darker fabric. There will now be 160 half square triangles.
9. Using the Bloc-Loc ruler or ruler of your choice, square all half square triangles to 3½" square blocks.
 - NOTE: Bloc-Loc rulers nestle into the seams to prevent the ruler from slipping, thus allowing for perfectly squared half square triangles to be cut.
10. Using the picture as a guide, place two half square triangles right sides together and



seam.

11. Repeat for the remaining half square triangles to create 80 P units.
12. Set and press seams toward the darker fabric.
13. Using the picture as a guide, place two P units right sides together and seam.



14. Repeat for the remaining P units to create 40 pinwheel blocks.
15. Set and press seams to one side.
16. Using the 6½" square ruler, square up all 40 pinwheel blocks.
17. Set pinwheel blocks aside for later use.

18. Seam together in the following order:
 - One fabric B 2½" square
 - One 2½" square selected from fabrics F-M
 - One fabric B 2½" square
19. Repeat to create 82 Q units. Set and press seams toward fabric B. Lay Q units aside.
20. Seam together in the following order:
 - One 2½" square selected from fabrics F-M
 - One fabric B 2½" square
 - One 2½" square selected from fabrics F-M
21. Set and press seams toward fabric B.
22. Repeat to create 41 R units.
23. Sandwiching the seams together, seam one unit Q to one unit R. Use picture as a



guide. NOTE: "Sandwiching the seams" means to place the seams flush to one another. Because the seams are pressed in opposite directions, this is easily achieved.

24. Using the picture as a guide, seam one unit Q to the bottom of the previous unit R.



25. Set and press seams in one direction.
26. Repeat steps 23 through 25 to create a total of 41 nine-patch blocks.
27. Using the 6½" square ruler, square up all 41 nine-patch blocks.
28. Seam together one row in the following order to create a T row:

- Nine-patch block
- 6½" fabric A square
- Nine-patch block

NOTE: See below picture as a guide.



29. Set and press seams toward the 6½” fabric A squares.
30. Repeat to create a total of 5 T rows.

31. Seam together one row in the following order to create a U row:
 - 6½” fabric A square
 - Nine-patch block
 - 6½” fabric A square

NOTE: See below picture as a guide.



32. Set and press seams toward the 6½” fabric A squares.
33. Repeat to create a total of 4 U rows.
34. Starting with a T row, seam a U row to the bottom of the T row, remembering to sandwich the seams.
35. Repeat step 34 three more times.
36. Seam together one T/U row combination to another T/U row combination (make sure rows alternate as follows: T, U, T, U).
37. Repeat step 36 for the remaining two T/U row combinations.
38. Seam the last remaining T row to the bottom of one of the T/U/T/U combinations.
39. Seam the T/U/T/U/T combination to the bottom of the T/U/T/U combination, making sure that the top and bottom rows both start and end with a nine patch block.
40. Set and press all row seams in one direction.
41. Set the completed center aside for later use.
42. Seam together in a row 9 pinwheel blocks. Set and press seams in one direction.
43. Repeat step 42 to create another pinwheel row.
44. Seam together in a column 9 pinwheel blocks. Set and press seams in one direction.
45. Repeat step 44 to create another pinwheel column.
46. Seam the following together to create top pinwheel row:
 - Pinwheel block
 - 2½” x 6½” fabric N strip
 - Row of 9 pinwheels

2½" x 6½" fabric N strip

Pinwheel block

47. Set and press seams toward fabric N strips.
48. Repeat to create a bottom pinwheel row.
49. Seam the following together to create a sashing row:
 - 2½" X 6½" fabric N strip
 - 2½" fabric A square
 - 2½" x 54½" fabric N strip
 - 2½" fabric A square
 - 2½" x 6½" fabric N strip
50. Set and press seams toward fabric A squares.
51. Repeat to create another sashing row.
52. Seam together the top pinwheel row to a sashing row, sandwiching the seams.
53. Set and press seams toward the sashing row.
54. Seam a sashing row to the bottom pinwheel row, sandwiching the seams.
55. Set and press seams toward the sashing row.
56. Seam together a pinwheel column to a 2 ½" x 54 ½" fabric N sashing strip.
57. Set and press seams toward the sashing strip.
58. Repeat steps 56 and 57.
59. Seam pinwheel/sashing columns to both sides of the completed center. NOTE:
pinwheels are on the outside edges.
60. Set and press seams toward the sashing strips.
61. Seam top sashing row to top of completed center, matching and sandwiching seams. Set and press seams toward the sashing row.
62. Seam bottom sashing row to bottom of completed center, matching and sandwiching seams. Set and press seams toward the sashing row.
63. Set picnic blanket top aside.
64. Seam together the long sides of the three fabric E backing pieces with the largest piece in the middle.
65. Set and press seams.

Quilt:

1. Snap-on **Stitch-in-Ditch** foot and engage IDT™ system.
2. Thread needle with invisible thread in the needle and quilting thread in bobbin.
3. Square picnic throw as needed. Place backing fabric right side down. Layer 80" square of batting on top of backing.
4. Layer picnic blanket top right side up on top of the batting.
5. Using safety pins, pin quilt sandwich together or use basting spray.
6. Stitch in the ditch to quilt the picnic blanket.

7. Snap-on **Open Toe Applique** foot.
8. Thread needle and bobbin with 40 wt. black rayon thread.
9. Using a fabric marking pen, mark the desired path for the ants.
10. Select **stitch #211**  on the PFAFF® *quilt expression*™ 4.2 sewing machine or **stitch #173**  on the PFAFF® *expression*™ 3.5 sewing machine.
11. Stitch ants along the marked path.



Finishing:

1. Thread needle and bobbin with Robison-Anton 50 wt. cotton thread.
2. Trim batting and backing to match the picnic blanket top, squaring up as needed.
3. Snap-on **0A foot**. Sew binding to front of picnic blanket, mitering corners as you go.
4. Turn binding to back side of blanket and either hand whip or topstitch the binding into place.

Now pack a picnic basket and go enjoy those lazy summer days!