

2021 CQC Mystery Quilt: “Log Cabin Fever” Clue 4 by Dana Jones

This month, you’ll complete your quilt top. In addition to the sections you’ve already pieced, you’ll be adding three 1” borders and the final border. As indicated in Clue 1, you can make the final border any width you wish. Mine is 8” for two reasons: I wanted to use a border print that was in my stash and the 8” border enhanced, not overwhelmed the rest of the quilt top. A tone-on-tone or smaller print border could work as a wider border. The choice is yours.

Cutting Borders 1 and 2

Many of us are used to measuring through the center of the quilt top horizontally and then vertically to determine the length of borders. This technique is recommended for Borders 3 and 4 of this quilt but should not be used for Borders 1 and 2. Because this is a medallion quilt, you need to cut Borders 1 and 2 the lengths indicated here. The finished borders will be 1” wide so you can cut them 1½” wide. When working with such narrow borders, I prefer to cut them a bit wider and trim. That is how I’m calling out the cutting and piecing here.

From Fabric N, cut:

- 2 strips 2” x 16½”
- 2 strips 2” x 18½”
- 2 strips 2” x 42½”
- 2 strips 2” x 44½”

Set aside the rest of Fabric N for use in Border 3.

Joining Borders 1 and 2, Flying Geese Strips, and Nine-Patch Strips

Before you begin joining the parts of this quilt top, I recommend following Figure 1 to lay them out on a design wall, table top or other surface if possible. It will streamline your searching for the next piece to add.

To add Border 1, refer to Figure 1 then join the 2” x 16½” Fabric N strips to the sides of the joined log cabin blocks. Press the seams toward Border 1.



Figure 1

Join the 2” x 18½” Fabric N strips to the top and bottom of the joined log cabin blocks. Press the seams toward Border 1. Trim the Border 1 width to 1¼” all around.

Join an 18½” long Fabric H/I flying geese strip to each side of the quilt center. Be sure to note the direction the flying geese are pointing in Figure 1. Press the seam toward Border 1.

Join one of the 24½” Fabric H/I flying geese strips to the top of the quilt center and the other one to the bottom, again noting the direction the points are facing. The geese should be flying around the quilt center in one direction. Press the seams toward Border 1.

Join one of the 24½” nine-patch strips to each side of the quilt center. Referring to Figure 1, note the placement of the light and dark squares within the nine-patch blocks. Proper placement will create a continuous checkerboard horizontally and vertically around the quilt center.

Join one of the 36½” nine-patch strips to the top of the quilt center and one to the bottom, again noting the placement of the light and dark squares of the nine-patch blocks.

Join one of the 36½” Fabric L/C flying geese strips to each side of the quilt center, noting the direction the flying geese are pointing in Figure 1.

Join one of the 42½” Fabric L/C flying geese strips to the top of the quilt center and the other one to the bottom, noting the direction the flying geese are pointing in Figure 1.

To add Border 2, join a 42½” Fabric N border strip to each side of the quilt center. Press the seams toward Border 2. Press the seams toward Border 2.

Join one of the 44½” Fabric N border strips to the top of the quilt center and one to the bottom.

Trim the Border 2 width to 1¼” all around.

Put your quilt center on a design wall, table or floor. Check that the geese nearest the center of the quilt top are flying in the same direction and those further out are flying in the opposite direction. Next be sure the checkerboard created with the nine-patch strips has consistently alternating dark and light squares horizontally and vertically. If you see problems, decide now if you will correct them or are okay with your variation.

Completing the Quilt Top

Join a 44½” strip of pinwheel blocks to each side of the quilt center. Press the seams toward Border 2.

Join one of the 52½” strips of pinwheel blocks to the top of the quilt center and the other one to the bottom. Press the seams toward Border 2.

To add Border 3, measure the length of the quilt top vertically through the center. Do not measure on the edges as there may be some stretch there. Cut two Fabric N strips that measurement x 2”. Attach these strips to the sides of the quilt top. Press the seams toward Border 3. Measure the width of the quilt top horizontally through the center, including the side borders just added. Cut two Fabric N strips that measurement x 2”. Attach one of these strips to the top of the quilt top and the other one to the bottom. Press the seams toward Border 3.

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Trim the Border 3 width to 1¼" all around.

To add your final border — Border 4 — decide how wide you will make it then measure the depth of the quilt top vertically through the center. Cut two Fabric O strips that measurement x the width of border you've chosen. (My final border is 8" wide.) Attach these strips to the sides of the quilt center. Press the seams toward Border 4.

Measure the width of the quilt top horizontally through the center, including the side borders just added. Cut two Fabric O strips that measurement x the width of border you've chosen. Attach one of these strips to the top of the quilt center and the other one to the bottom. Press the seams toward Border 4.

Your "Log Cabin Fever" quilt top is complete. All that's left is quilting it or having it quilted then binding. I hope you've enjoyed this mystery-quilt journey, and I hope you will submit your creation for display at this year's Quilt-a-Fair Quilt Show in September. I especially hope your quilt will remind you of stress-free quilting time that countered the cabin fever that has faced us during a time of safer at home.



Mystery Quilt details. Quilting by Rita Meyerhoff.



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