

Union Jack Rag Quilt



Finished Size: Approx 37" x 45"

Requirements:

32 flags (16 for each side)

16 pieces of wadding/batting of flannel fabric for inside the quilt, each 9.25" x 11.25"

Method:

Cut out your flags, leaving a 1/2" border on each side of each flag. Cut your wadding into 16 pieces, each measuring 9.25" x 11.25". You should end up with 32 flags and 16 wadding pieces.

Lay out the first 16 flags, moving the flags around until you are happy with the pattern. Place the remaining 16 flags on top.



Take the first pair of flags from your quilt, place one piece in front of you so you are looking at the wrong side (the back of the fabric). Place your batting in the middle, so that there is a 1/2" border around it. Place the second piece of flag fabric on top, so that you are looking at the right side, and making sure the corners of the two pieces of flag fabric line up, pin together.

You now need to sew these pieces together, traditionally, for a rag quilt, you would sew diagonal lines across each quilt sandwich, making a cross, but due to the nature of the flag pattern, we chose to sew in the white spaces as indicated on the image below (middle bottom image), we did this as it fitted the flag pattern, but also as these white spaces are quite large, so are forgiving if the two pieces of flag aren't completely lined up.



Repeat the last two steps with all your fabric pairs, you will end up with 16 'sandwiches'.

One side of your finished quilt you will have a traditional seam between pairs of flags, on the second side the join between each pair of flags will be 'ragged'. Lay your pieces back out in your desired pattern, so that the side you want the rag finish to be on, is on the bottom.



Take the first two fabric sandwiches and put together so that the sides you want the traditional join on are facing each other. Pin together and sew a 1/2" seam down one vertical edge (the seam will run along the edge of the batting in the middle of each quilt sandwich and along the edge of each flag). Open up and you will see that the raw edges are on the front of the quilt pieces sewn together, on the back the two flags should be lined up, and there should be no white space visible between them.



Go back to your quilt pieces and add the next sandwich to the chain, always remembering to place the pieces together so that the sides you want the traditional seam on, are touching. Continue until you have completed one row.

Place this row to one side (or back in your pretend quilt quilt on the floor!) and start the next row. Continue this process until all your squares are sewn into rows.

At this point you need to start snipping the raw edges to create the rag look. Snip at regular intervals along the raw edges between the flags you have sewn together, taking care not to cut into the seams.

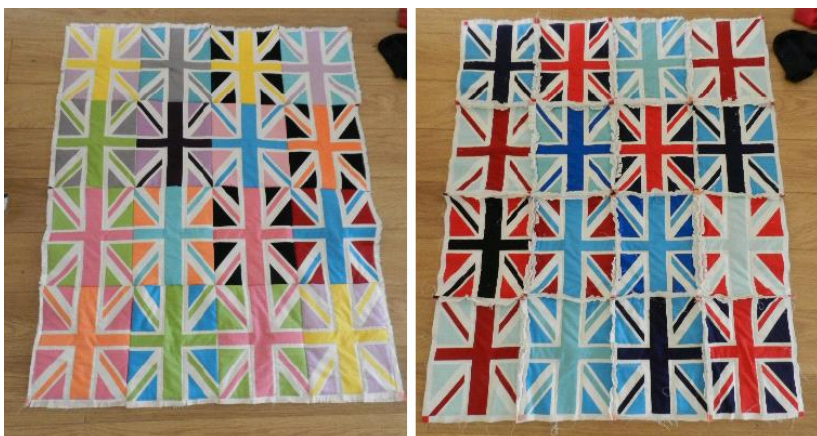


Now you need to sew the rows together. Take the first row and place the second row on top, so that the sides you want the traditional seam on are touching (you will be looking at the side with the raw/rag edges between flags). Pin together, taking care to make sure the joins between squares line up. Then sew a 1/2" seam as before.

Open up and check that the rag edges are where you expected them to be! Add the rest of the rows in the same way. Snip all the raw edges along the seams just sewn.



Now sew a 1/2" top seam around the outside of the quilt and snip into the raw edges, on all sides, at regular intervals, taking care not to cut into the seams.



Now put your quilt in the washing machine, once washed tumble dry it, the tumble dryer action will create the fluffy edges on the squares.

You have finished your quilt!



Fabric used: [Riley Blake Union Jack fabric](#), [Sew Simple super soft bamboo batting/wadding](#).

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