



lunar zodiac quilt

QUILT ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS



#lunarzodiacquilt

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LUNAR ZODIAC QUILT

A collaboration between: WENDY CHOW (@the.weekendquilter), KATHY LOOI (@kathylooi55) and BERENE CAMPBELL (@happysewlucky)

NOTE FROM BERENE:

When we start a journey, we usually have a plan as to where we are going and how we are going to get there. However, if we are open to new ideas along the way, we may be taken somewhere altogether different, and, as a result, the adventure can end up being much more exciting. This quilt is a story about such a journey, and also about listening, learning and making new freinds.

It started in 2019 with a single pig block made into a pot holder as a hostess gift for a friend who had invited my family to Lunar New Year dinner at her home. Although not Asian, I am lucky enough to have a long time friend whose mum invites us to celebrate with their family each year. It is through these experiences that I have learned about her culture and their traditions. The fact that the pig was the first block is ironic as, in the legend of the Jade Emperor and the race, the pig came last, however, I digress. We'll get to that story a little later!

I designed the zodiac animal blocks each year for the next few years, each time using the sales as a fundraiser for the first month, supporting an organization that provides aid to seniors in Vancouver's Chinatown. I had no set plan for the blocks to become a quilt, however, this year I received a note from Kathy Looi, a quilter in Malaysia, asking me to finish the rest of the animal blocks. She was eager to complete her New Year celebration wall hanging. We chatted about it, she explained her enthusiasm for Lunar New Year, and I agreed to complete the set.

Kathy shared her knowledge about colour symbolism, the animal sequence, how best to lay the blocks out, and along the way a new friendship began. I told her that I thought the layout needed a focal point instead of just 12 zodiac animals. She suggested Wendy Chow's "Blessings" block. This was a brilliant idea so I reached out to Wendy to see whether she was up for a collaboration. Wendy was in!

Given that as a non-Asian the story of Lunar New Year was not mine to tell, I asked Kathy and Wendy to share a little of their wisdom and traditional stories. I hope that if these stories are about your heritage, that you enjoy their versions of them. Or if, like me, you did not grow up with these stories, that you enjoy learning about them to better understand the meaning and symbolism of Lunar New Year. Many thanks to both Wendy and Kathy, as well as our other two testers Amy Newbold and Christina Lee, for all their help pulling this project together.

A portion of the proceeds from the sale of the animal block patterns will again be a fundraiser for the first month, September 29 through October 31, 2022. The center "Blessings" block is sold separately from the animal blocks, and provides an opportunity to support Wendy, an Asian pattern designer in New York.

Let's continue to celebrate our differences, and all that we have to learn from each other.

♥ Berene

NOTE FROM KATHY:

For the first time a designer was contemplating a complete zodiac quilt - a theme close to my heart. Every year I would sew a wall quilt and the particular zodiac animal to usher in the new year, so this project was perfect. And so began my lovely journey with Berene. I am happy that I could contribute. I am happier still for new friends, because in essence, quilting celebrates friends and family.

Cheers, Kathy

NOTE FROM WENDY:

My family migrated to Australia in the early 1990s for a better lifestyle and upbringing. When I was growing up, my parents did their best to connect my sisters and me with our Asian roots through travel, Chinese classes on the weekends and food with the hope that we would do the same with our children one day.

As a designer and pattern writer, it brings me great honour to be able to share my culture and the significance of lunar new year through the art of quilting, and this opportunity would not have been possible without Berene and Kathy. Thank you ladies and the community for your continued support. I hope your lunar new year sewing will bring you and your loved ones a sense of joy and heartwarming memories.

*Happy quilting from,
Wendy.*

ABOUT THE PATTERNS:

This quilt is made from a combination of 13 patterns by two different designers (see page 4 for details). The instructions for each individual block is provided in their respective pattern. These instructions cover the assembly of the individual blocks into a quilt. Four layout options are provided.

OPTION 1:
SIZE: 41" x 41"

**BABY QUILT /
WALL HANGING**

This option has one Background colour for both the 福 (Fu) symbol and the animal blocks.



OPTION 3:
SIZE: 41" x 41"

**BABY QUILT /
WALL HANGING**

This option has the same piecing structure as Option 2, however the sashing is a different colour to the background of the animal blocks.



OPTION 2:
SIZE: 41" x 41"

**BABY QUILT /
WALL HANGING**

This option has a center square to place more emphasis on the 福 (Fu) symbol, with the animals arranged around this central feature.



OPTION 4:
SIZE: 52" x 52"

LAP SIZE QUILT

A larger version with additional outer borders creating an opportunity for some fun negative space quilting.



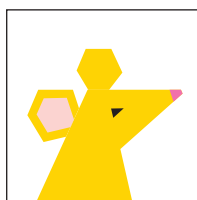
THE BLOCKS IN THIS QUILT

THE ZODIAC ANIMALS:

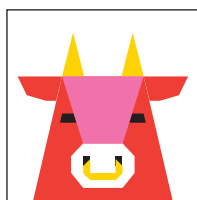
FINISHED ANIMAL BLOCK SIZE: 7½" x 7½"

The animal block patterns are available from Happy Sew Lucky, both individually and as a combo pack.

Available here: <https://www.etsy.com/shop/happysewluckyshop>



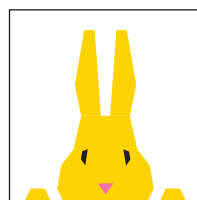
RAT



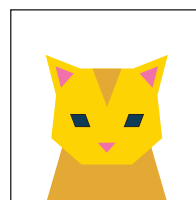
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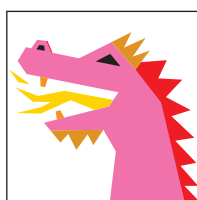
TIGER



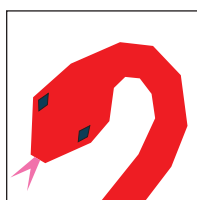
RABBIT



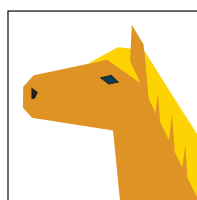
CAT



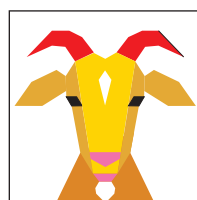
DRAGON



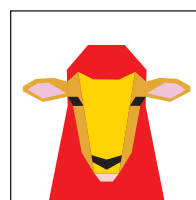
SNAKE



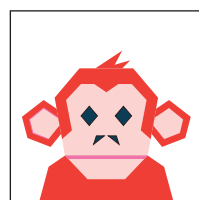
HORSE



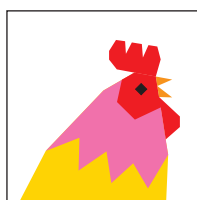
GOAT



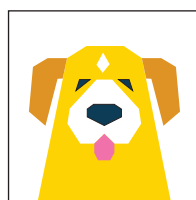
SHEEP



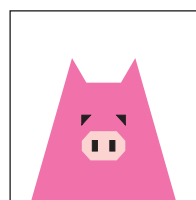
MONKEY



ROOSTER



DOG



PIG

NEW YEAR BLESSINGS MINI QUILT PATTERN:

FINISHED “福” BLOCK SIZE: 16½" x 16½" or 19½" x 19½"
depending on quilt option.

(Note: Finished block size in the New Year Blessings pattern is noted as 20" x 20". Block will need to be trimmed to fit the Lunar Zodiac quilt layout. More details provided in later step.)

The “New Year Blessings” mini quilt pattern is available from The Weekend Quilter.

Available here: <https://the-weekendquilter.com/collections/quilt-patterns>



QUILT SIZE:	Options 1, 2 & 3	41" x 41"	Baby quilt or Wall hanging
	Option 4	51" x 51"	Lap size quilt

SEAM ALLOWANCE: ¼"

MATERIALS REQUIRED

Yardages based on a 42" width of fabric. Additional fabric is required for directional fabrics.

- The yardages for the sashing and borders to assemble all the blocks into a quilt are provided below.
- An estimate for yardage is given for the total amount of Background fabric needed for 12 blocks, however, yardages are not provided for the animals themselves as this will vary depending on fabric placement and fabric efficiency of each maker.

New Year Blessings block Background	All options	½ yard
“福” character	All options	¼ yard or 1 FQ
Background for 12 animal blocks:	All options	1½ yards (Fat 8th per block)
Sashing & borders:	Option 1 & 4	⅔ yard
Sashing & borders:	Option 2 & 3	¾ yard
Outer exterior (red) border	Option 4 only	1¼ yards

Options 1, 2 & 3:

Backing	2¾ yards
Binding	½ yard (5 strips needed, assumed 2½" x WOF strips)

Option 4:

Backing	3½ yards
Binding	½ yard (6 strips needed, assumed 2½" x WOF strips)

COLOUR SYMBOLISM to consider when choosing fabric: by Kathy Looi

Colour plays an important role in Chinese culture and has retained this significance over centuries. Red is considered auspicious, representing prosperity and good fortune. As do yellow and green. During the annual Lunar New Year 15-day festival, red is the most popular colour worn and used in decorations, as it is believed that this colour will bring good fortune and ward off evil spirits. Yellow is also auspicious, representing prosperity, royalty and power. In ancient times, the Chinese emperors reserved yellow for their own exclusive use. Green is the symbol of health, fertility and harmony.

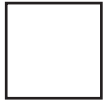
Unlucky colours for the Lunar New Year are white and black, and should therefore be avoided. White is the colour of mourning and worn during funerals by the mourners, whilst black is also associated with mourning and death.

Note: Lunar New Year is celebrated by a number of different Asian communities, each with its own traditions and colour symbolisms. If you are making the quilt for a person of different Asian heritage and are not familiar with their customs, it's a good idea to research the traditions and symbolisms of that community.

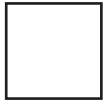
PLANNING & COLOURING PAGE

Colour the option of choice then paste a small swatch of each fabric selected in the boxes to help you keep track.
 Note that the animal block patterns each have their own planning page.

OPTION 1:



福



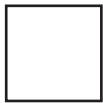
BACKGROUND



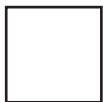
OPTION 2:



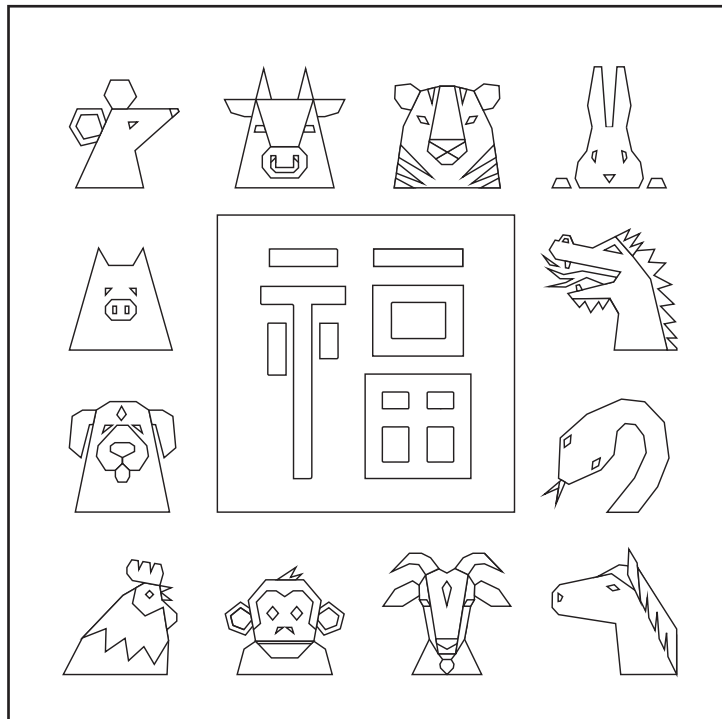
福



CENTER SQUARE

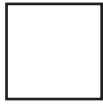


BACKGROUND

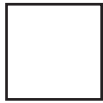


PLANNING & COLOURING PAGE

OPTION 3:



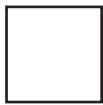
福



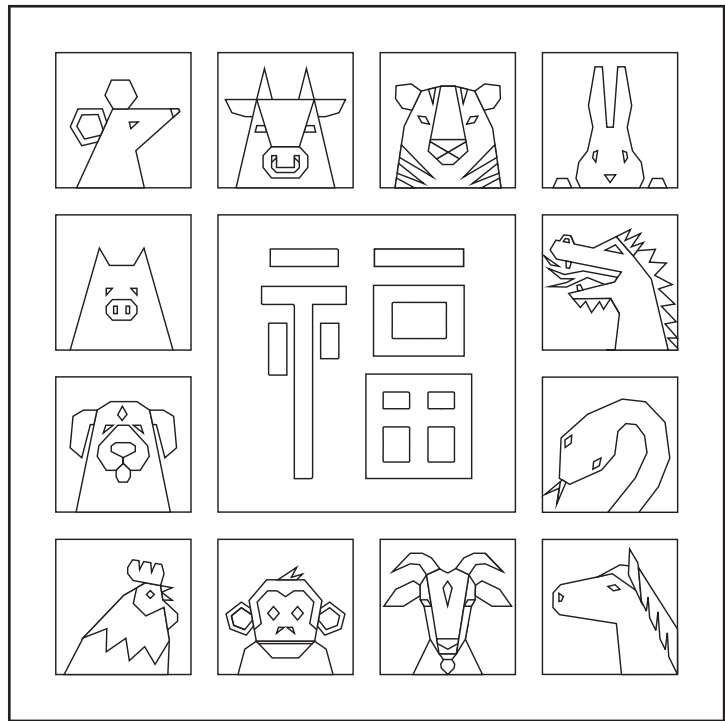
CENTER SQUARE



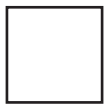
ANIMAL BLOCKS
BACKGROUND



SASHING & BORDERS



OPTION 4:



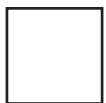
福



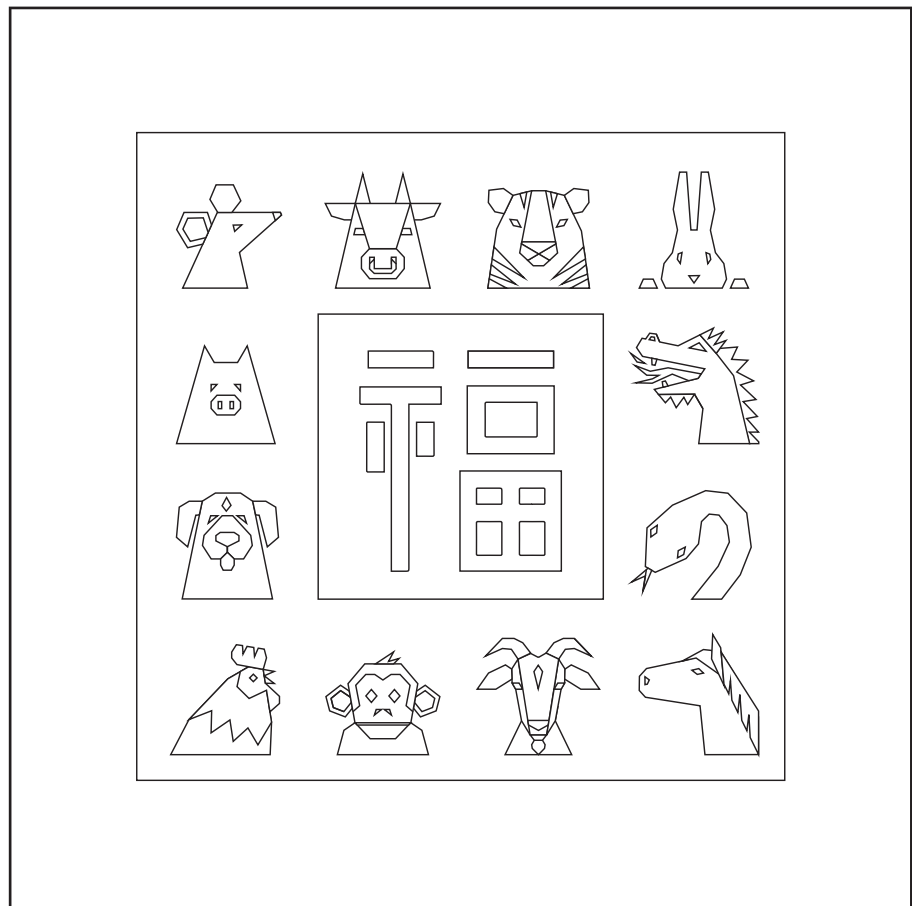
CENTER SQUARE



BACKGROUND



OUTER BORDER



THE LUNAR CALENDAR by Wendy Chow















Before we jump into the quilting fun, we thought we should share a little background into the significance of the lunar new year, the 12 zodiac animals associated with it and some resources on how you could support Asian owned businesses within the quilting community.

Unlike the Gregorian calendar where the first day of the year starts on January 1, the Lunar calendar follows the cycles of the moon and new year's day falls on the first new moon of the year. This usually takes place between January 20 and February 21 on the Gregorian calendar.

Each lunar year is characterised by a zodiac animal. There are 12 animals and the zodiac cycle repeats every 12 years. Your zodiac animal sign is based on your birth year. If your birthday happens to take place in January or February, take note of when your birth date falls relative to the lunar calendar in your birth year.

The legend behind the animals changes slightly by location. In China and Korea the 4th zodiac is a rabbit, while in Vietnam it is a cat. The 8th zodiac is a goat in China and Vietnam, and a sheep in Korea. All 14 animals are available to accommodate these options. Since both the collaborators on this project were of Chinese heritage, we focussed on the Chinese version of the legend, as well as Chinese colour symbolism.

What is your zodiac animal sign? Below are the 12 zodiac animals and accompanying birth years:

	ZODIAC ANIMAL	BIRTH YEAR
	RAT	1924, 1936, 1948, 1960, 1972, 1984, 1996, 2008, 2020
	OX	1925, 1937, 1949, 1961, 1973, 1985, 1997, 2009, 2021
	TIGER	1926, 1938, 1950, 1962, 1974, 1986, 1998, 2010, 2022
 	RABBIT / CAT	1927, 1939, 1951, 1963, 1975, 1987, 1999, 2011, 2023
	DRAGON	1928, 1940, 1952, 1964, 1976, 1988, 2000, 2012, 2024
	SNAKE	1929, 1941, 1953, 1965, 1977, 1989, 2001, 2013, 2025
	HORSE	1930, 1942, 1954, 1966, 1978, 1990, 2002, 2014, 2026
 	GOAT / SHEEP	1931, 1943, 1955, 1967, 1979, 1991, 2003, 2015, 2027
	MONKEY	1932, 1944, 1956, 1968, 1980, 1992, 2004, 2016, 2028
	ROOSTER	1933, 1945, 1957, 1969, 1981, 1993, 2005, 2017, 2029
	DOG	1934, 1946, 1958, 1970, 1982, 1994, 2006, 2018, 2030
	PIG	1935, 1947, 1959, 1971, 1983, 1995, 2007, 2019, 2031

THE STORY BEHIND THE ZODIAC ANIMALS by Wendy Chow

Now, you're probably wondering why these 12 animals and why do they appear in this particular order? There are many different variations of the legend of how the zodiac animals came to be but they all start with the Jade Emperor who called upon all the animals in the world to participate in the 'great race'. For their participation, the Emperor would assign them as a zodiac animal and their placement in the race would determine the order in which they would appear in the zodiac animal cycle. As you would have guessed, on the day of the race, 12 animals crossed the finish line.

The Rat finished in first place. With its cunning tactics it was believed the Rat convinced the Ox to give it a ride across the river. Without batting an eye or a thank you, it quickly made its way across the finishing line as soon as they got on land. Leaving the Ox to take second place.

The Tiger came in third place. Followed by the Rabbit in fourth place, who managed to finish the race by skipping on rocks and floating on logs along the river. Coming in fifth place was the Dragon. It fell behind because it took a little detour to help the local villagers from a life threatening event. Some versions of the legend say it was a flood. Some believe it was a fire.

Then comes the Snake in sixth place. Again, there are different beliefs around how the Snake made its place in the race. Some say, to conserve energy, the Snake wrapped itself around the Horse's leg. With the finishing line in sight, the Snake scared the Horse when it dismounted and slithered across the finishing line. This led to the Horse placing in seventh. Other versions of the legend believe the Emperor promised the Dragon its son could place after them. However on the day of the race, the Dragon's son never turned up and the Snake lied, claiming to be the Dragon's adopted son.

In eighth place was the Goat, followed by the Monkey in ninth and the Rooster in tenth place. Some believe the three animals cross the river together by a small raft and once across, the three dashed across the finish line. In other versions, the Horse and Goat arrived together. They were both very polite to each other and insisted that the other should go before them. To help with their decision, the Emperor assigned their placements instead.

Coming in eleventh place was the Dog. The Dog placed second last because it got distracted midway of crossing the river. It was more interested in splashing around, allowing the other animals to pass.

Finally, taking twelfth place was the Pig. There are a couple of versions to the Pig coming in last. The first one was, the Pig stopped along the way to get food, fell into a 'food coma' and took a nap before resuming. In another version, the Pig's home was destroyed by a wolf and it restored its home before joining the race.

The animals in the Lunar Zodiac quilt design are placed in sequence in a clockwise direction to honour the legend.



Each year Kathy makes New Year zodiac animals to decorate for her home



Wendy's family New Year's feast.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE 福 (Fu) QUILT BLOCK by Wendy Chow

The Chinese word that appears in the centre of the quilt project - 福 (Fu) - is the most popular and auspicious word used throughout the Lunar New Year celebrations. It means happiness, blessing and good fortune.

Many households decorate their homes with this word and keep it up all year long. These decorations are replaced every new year. Interestingly, people display this word upside down on their door or window with the belief that more blessings and good fortune has 'arrived'. This is because the word upside down pronounced in Chinese sounds like 'arrive'.



RESOURCES FOR SUPPORTING ASIAN BUSINESSES:



The Asian Sewist Collective is a group of people of Asian descent who sew! They live in different cities around the world and represent different Asian cultures and ethnicities. Their podcast explores the intersection of their identities and their shared sewing practice. Tune in to the podcast for guest interviews, deep dives on history and culture, and interesting discussions. <https://asiansewistcollective.com/podcast/>

In addition to their podcast, their website offers some great resources, including this list of Asian owned sewing businesses around the world:

<https://asiansewistcollective.com/api-shops/>



The Longarm League has just launched a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion list to increase the visibility of longarm quilting business owners from historically underrepresented groups (BIPOC, LGBTQIA and/or people with disability), and to promote diversity, equity and inclusion in the longarm quilting community. The list serves as a helpful starting point for those who wish to work with a longarm quilting business owned by underrepresented groups. <https://longarmleague.com/dei>



Wendy Chow, **@the.weekendquilter**, is an Aussie modern quilter and designer based in New York City, the author of *Urban Quilting*, *The Quilted Home Handbook* and a co-host of *Quilt Buzz* Podcast. Her designs feature bold, unique colour combinations and geometric shapes inspired by architecture, interior design and nature.

Support her business here: <https://the-weekendquilter.com/>



@Sewtopia is an Asian-run modern fabric store in Salt Lake City, UT, also offering in-person sewing events in locations around the US. The owner, Amy Newbold, is a frequent Happy Sew Lucky collaborator, and was a consultant on this project.

Visit Amy in her brick & mortar store in Murray, Salt Lake City, or online shop at:

www.sewtopia.com



Christina Lee **@SweetPotatoQuilts** is a quilt pattern designer in Boise, Idaho, and host of the Sweet Potato Quilt Club membership with interchangeable quilt blocks. She was a tester on this project.

Support Christina's shop here: <https://sweetpotatoquilts.com/>

PROJECT CHECKLIST - a little aid to help you stay on track.

-
- Choose quilt option. (see page 4).

 - Plan fabrics / colours (see page 7-8) and pull / order fabrics.

 - Cut sashing & borders (pg 13 - 17). Label and put aside for now.

 - Cut 福 (FU) quilt block fabrics & label.

 - Piece and prepare the center 福 (FU) quilt block.

 - Print templates for the 12 chosen animals. (See page 8 for info on Cat and Sheep)
Staple each animal block pattern together to stay organised. It's recommended to only cut out templates for one pattern at a time as you go, to prevent template mix ups.

 - Piece Rat block.

 - Piece Rat block.

 - Piece Ox block.

 - Piece Tiger block.

 - Piece Bunny or Cat block.

 - Piece Dragon block.

 - Piece Snake block.

 - Piece Horse block.

 - Piece Goat or Sheep block.

 - Piece Monkey block.

 - Piece Rooster block.

 - Piece Dog block.

 - Piece Pig block.

 - Prepare the animal panels and attach them to the center block.

 - Attach the borders pieces.

 - Option 4: Attach additional outer border pieces.

 - Baste & quilt

 - Bind & label
-

CUTTING INSTRUCTIONS

Cutting instructions are for the sashing and borders only. All blocks follow individual pattern instructions.

For Options 1, 2 & 3:

From sashing & border fabric cut:

(3) 2" x WOF strips

From these cut:

(12) 2" x 8" Label "A"

(4) 3½" x WOF strips

From these cut:

(2) 3½" x 35" Label "B"

(2) 3½" x 41" Label "C"

Additional cutting for Options 2 & 3 only:

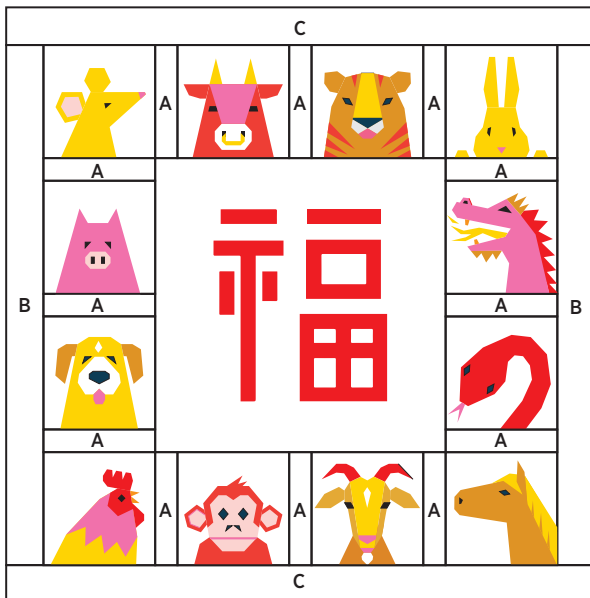
From sashing & border fabric cut:

(2) 2" x WOF strips

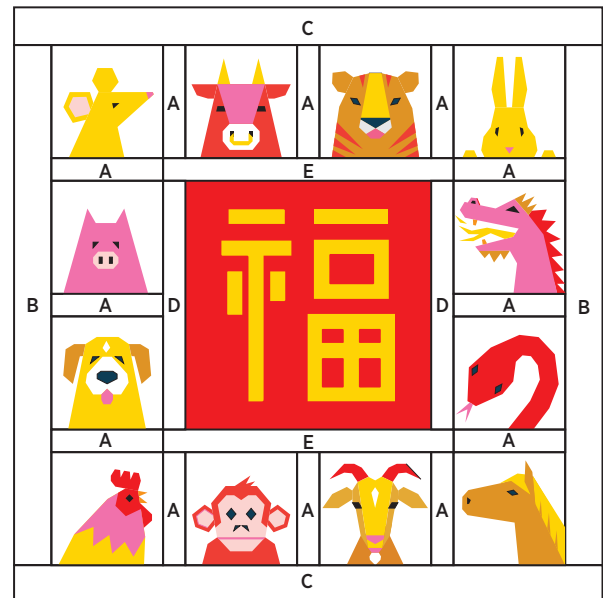
From these cut:

(2) 2" x 17" Label "D"

(2) 2" x 20" Label "E"



OPTION 1



OPTIONS 2 & 3

(Sashing and borders will be a different colour in Option 3)

CUTTING INTRUCTIONS cont.

For Option 4:

From sashing fabric cut:

(9) 2" x WOF strips

From these cut:

- (12) 2" x 8" Label "A"
- (2) 2" x 17" Label "D"
- (2) 2" x 20" Label "E"
- (2) 2" x 35" Label "F"
- (2) 2" x 38" Label "G"

From exterior border fabric cut:

Cut (5) 7" x WOF strips

From these cut:

- (2) 7" x 38" Label "H"

Cut one of the remaining 3 strips in half. Remove selvages from the two remaining strips. Stitch each half strip to a whole strip, then trim both to 53" long. Label these "J".



INSTRUCTIONS

Press seams after each step before going to the next step. Press seams toward sashing strips or the darker side.

Step 1: Prepare the center block

i) Make the New Year Blessings Mini Quilt block as per instructions provided in the pattern. This will be referenced as the "center" block for the remainder of the pattern.

ii) **Option 1:** Trim the center block down to 20" x 20" in size. **Skip to Step 2.**

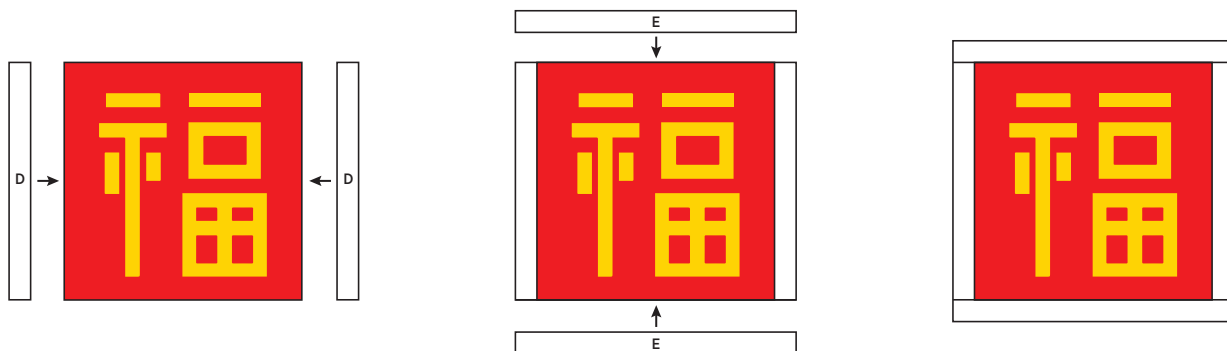
Options 2, 3 & 4: Trim the center block down to 17" x 17" in size.

(Tip: Save the off cuts for the piecing of the animal blocks.)

iii) **Options 2, 3 & 4:** Stitch a "D" piece to each side of the center block.

iv) **Options 2, 3 & 4:** Stitch an "E" piece to the top and bottom of the center block.

Size check: The panel should measure 18½" x 18½". Put this aside for now.

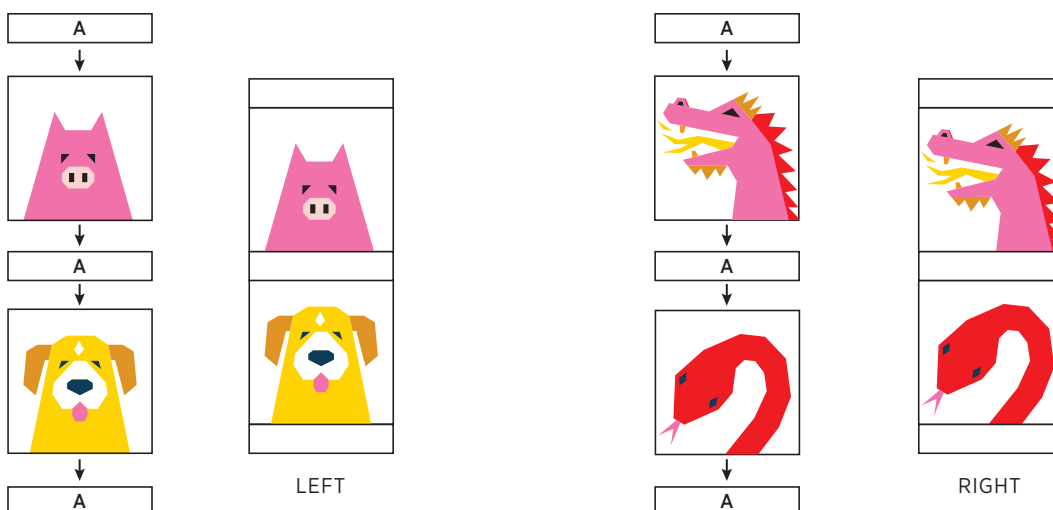


Step 2: Prepare the animal panels

i) Piece 12 zodiac animals. (See the note on page 8 about rabbit / cat and goat / sheep options. For the purposes of this pattern we have selected the Rabbit and the Goat.)

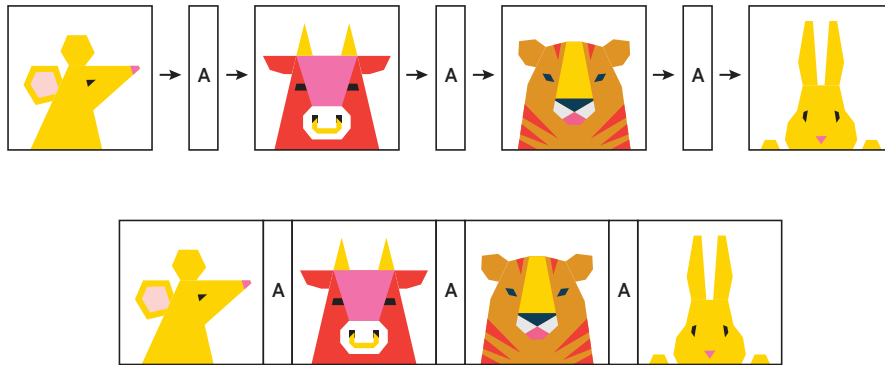
ii) The animals are arranged in sequence starting at the top left corner going around in a clockwise order. Create left and right hand side animal panels by stitching "A" pieces in between the following animal blocks in the sequence shown below. Note that there are "A" pieces on the top and bottom as well.

Size check: The panels should measure 8" x 20".



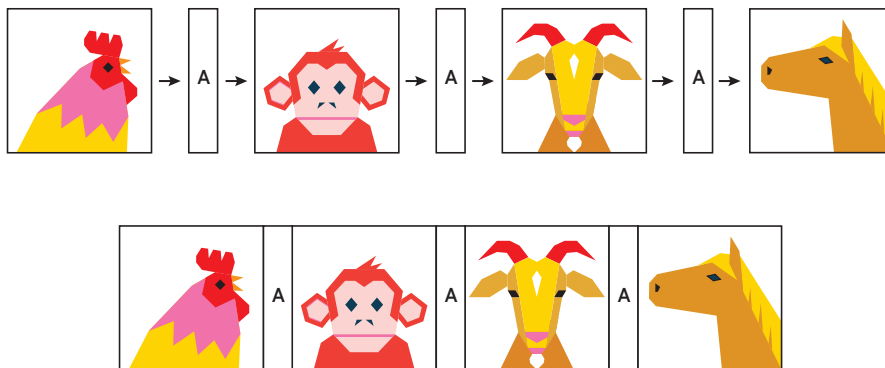
iii) Create top animal panel by stitching “A” pieces in between the following animal blocks in the sequence shown below. Note that there are *no* “A” pieces on the left and right hand sides of the panel.

Size check: The panel should measure 35” x 8”.



iv) Create bottom animal panel by stitching “A” pieces in between the following animal blocks in the sequence shown below. Note that there are *no* “A” pieces on the left and right hand sides of the panel.

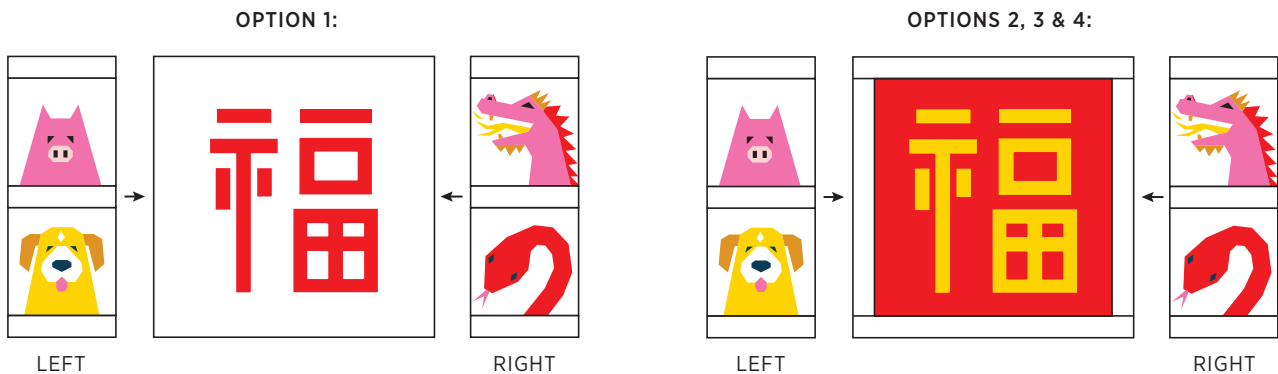
Size check: The panel should measure 35” x 8”.



Step 3: Attach the animal panels

i) Stitch the left and right hand side animal panels to the center block.

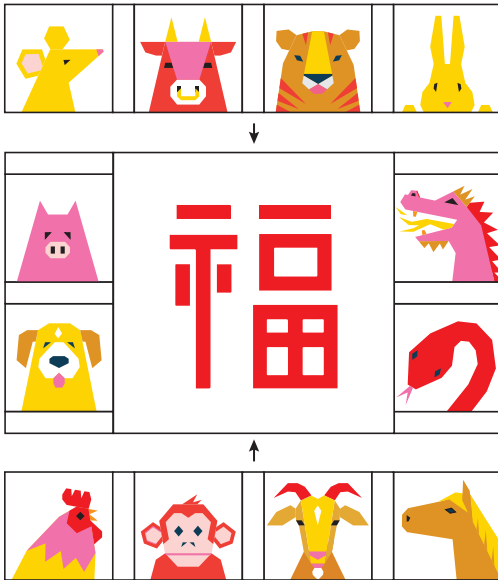
Size check: The panel should measure 35” x 20”.



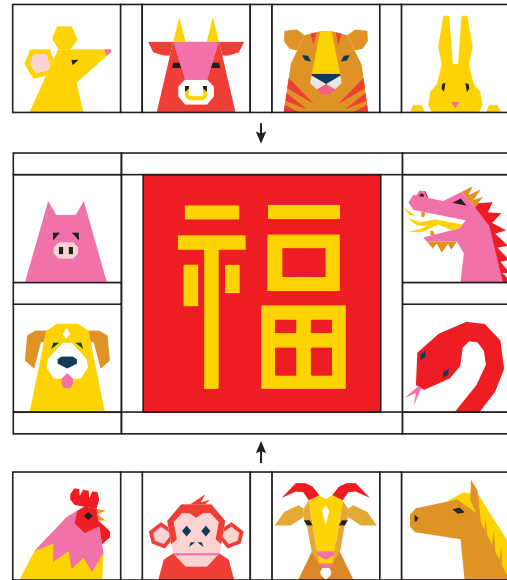
i) Stitch the top and bottom animal panels to the center block.

Size check: The panel should measure 35" x 35".

OPTION 1:



OPTIONS 2, 3 & 4:

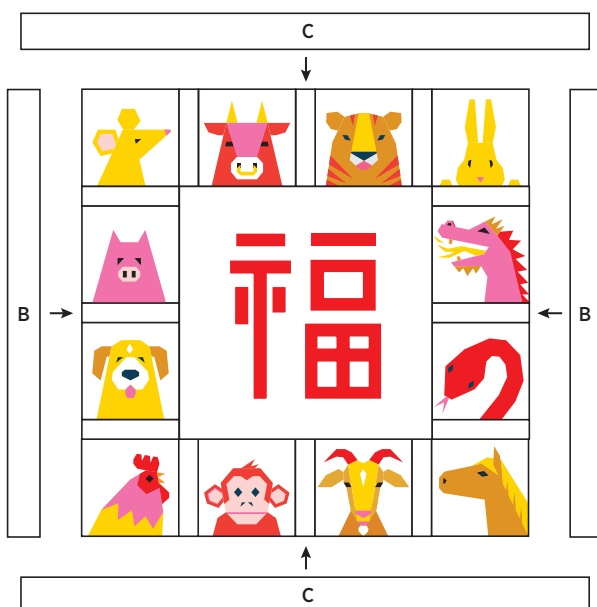


Step 3: Attach the outer borders:

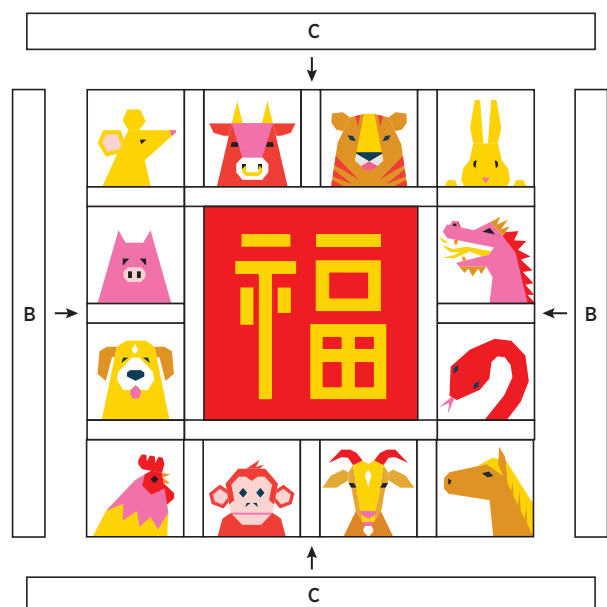
i) **Options 1, 2 & 3:** (Option 4 skip to Step 3-iii) Stitch a "B" piece to the left and right side of the quilt top.

ii) Stitch a "C" piece to the top and bottom of the quilt block. Congrats! Your quilt top is done!

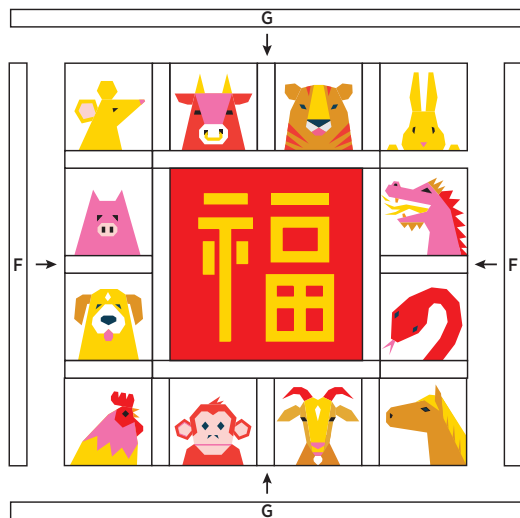
OPTION 1:



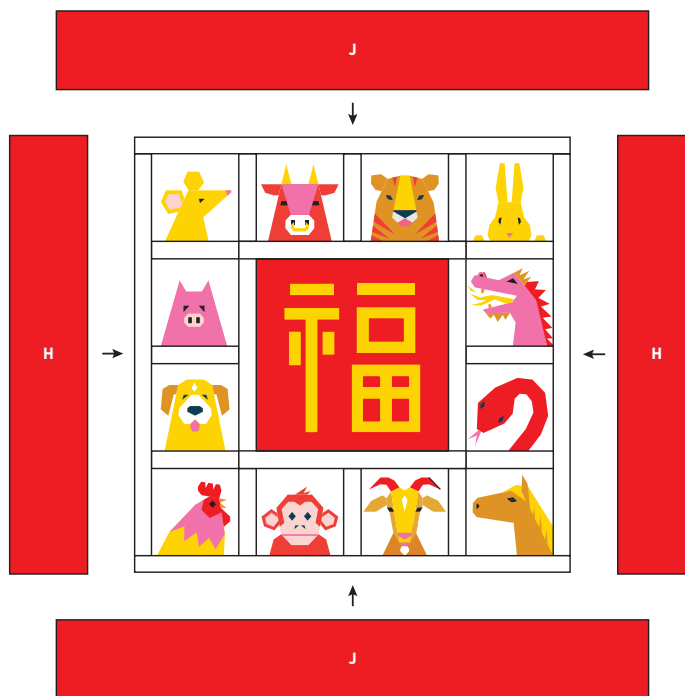
OPTIONS 2 & 3:



- iii) **Option 4:** Stitch an “F” piece to the left and right side of the quilt top.
 - iv) Stitch a “G” piece to the top and bottom of the quilt block.
- Size check:** The panel should measure 35" x 35".



- v) Stitch an “H” piece to the left and right side of the quilt top.
- vi) Stitch a “J” piece to the top and bottom of the quilt block. Congrats! Your quilt top is done!



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