

# Nino's Favorite Cat Cave



...and Naz likes it too!



Nino loves to sleep in it morning,  
noon, and night.

# Nino's Favorite Cat Cave

Quilt Designed by Sue Tucker, Studio 180 Design

Project Size: Small through Large Cat

Every cat loves a cave, so here's one you can make for your furry friends. I hope yours love it as much as mine do!

## Fabric Requirements

Based on 40" of usable fabric.

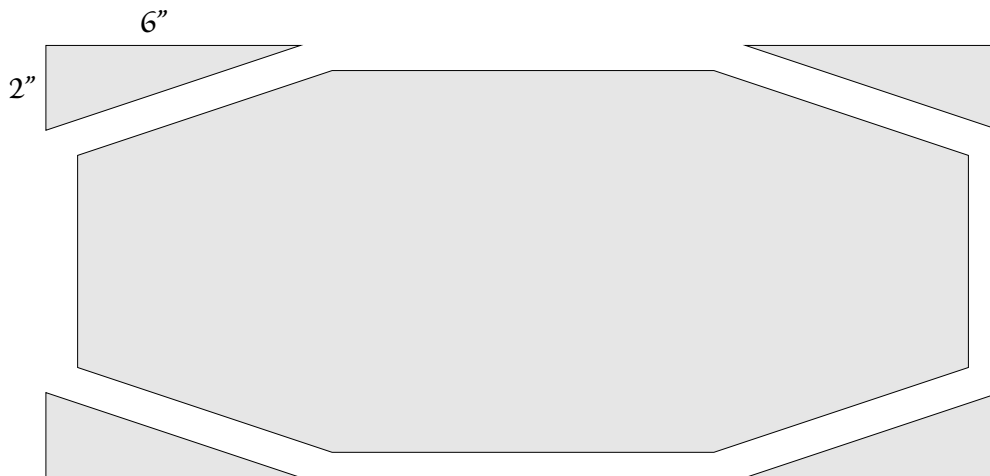
Materials
Paper to make the pattern - 9" x 21" (newsprint, freezer paper, brown paper all work)
6 fat quarters or quarter yards
Fabric for binding - enough for 75" of bias binding cut 3½" wide
Batting to equal 6 fat quarters
Pellon 70 Peltex Ultra Firm - 1¾ yards

## Instructions

### Make the Pattern

**Step 1 - Cut** a 9" x 21" rectangle from paper.

**Step 2 - Mark.** On the short sides of the rectangle, make a mark 2" in from all 4 corners. On the long sides, make a mark 6" in from the corners. Position a ruler between the marks on either side of one of the corners. Cut along the edge of the ruler to cut off the corner. Repeat for all 4 corners. Your pattern should look like this:



### Cut the Pieces

You will cut 2 pieces from each of the 6 fat quarters or quarter yards. I used one piece for the exterior and one for the interior.

**Step 3 - Fold** each fat quarter or quarter yard in half, so it's about 9" by 21". If your folded rectangles aren't quite 9" wide or 21" long, you may need to adjust the pattern a little to fit. Don't worry about this, the design is very forgiving and the cats will love it regardless!



**Step 4 - Position** the pattern on the folded fabric. Use pins or pattern weights to hold the pattern in place and cut out two pieces from each fat quarter. You will have a total of 12 pieces. Separate them into two piles of 6 pieces, one for the interior of the cat cave and one for the exterior.



**Step 5 - Cut** 12 pieces of batting using the pattern.

**Step 6 - Cut** 6 pieces of Peltex using the pattern. Position the pattern crosswise on the Peltex, then cut. If your Peltex is a little narrower than the pattern (it could be up to an inch), just center the pattern across it so the same amount of pattern hangs over both sides. During construction, the Peltex won't go all the way to the edge of the section, but that won't make any difference in the final cave.

### **Construction**

The cat cave is constructed of two parts—the exterior and the interior—which are then put together and bound. Both parts are made up of 6 sections of fabric and batting. The interior sections also include Peltex for structure.

### **Construction Hints:**

- A. I used a walking foot for this project from start to finish.
- B. I back tacked both ends of all stitching to secure it, even the “quilting” line I did to secure the batting to the fabric. There is so much manipulation of the pieces during construction that the stitching tends to come out.
- C. Pressing is a little tricky when you are assembling the inner sections because you are sewing through 6 layers – 2 each of Peltex, batting and fabric, and the seam is curved. If you have a pressing ham or sleeve roll it will help with your pressing. A 9” piece of 2” x 4” wood wrapped in a tea towel or batting will work too. I pressed both straight ends of the seam first, then the center part, and finally the curves between the straight seams as best I could.
- D. I like using binding clips instead of pins to secure the sections together when I’m sewing the seams. Long daisy pins also work well. It’s a lot of bulk for regular pins.



## Construct the Exterior

**Step 7 - Take** one of the piles of 6 fabric pieces and lightly press them in half lengthwise with the right-side in. Unfold the pieces.



**Step 8 - Layer** each of the fabric pieces right side up over a piece of batting. Align the edges. Pin the pieces together. I used two large daisy pins about 4" in from the short sides.



**Step 9 - Following** the pressed-in fold line, stitch a single line along the length of the fold, securing the batting to the fabric.

**Step 10 - Lay out** your 6 fabric/batting sections in the order you'd like them to be in the final cave.

**Step 11 - Stitch.** Take the first two sections and stitch the long seam between them using a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam. I use 4 clips at the ends and "corners" to secure the sections together prior to sewing. When you get close to the corner, just round it, don't worry about stopping and pivoting. Repeat with sections 3 and 4, and then again with sections 5 and 6.





**Step 12 - Press** the seams open. Pressing at this point is not difficult, although a pressing ham or sleeve roll will help.

**Step 13 - Position** your 3 sewn pieces the order you want them in the final cave. Stitch the two long seams between the pieces, leaving the final seam unsewn at this point. Press the two seams open. Stitch the final seam and press open. Turn it right side out.

**The exterior of your cat cave is now complete!**

### Construct the Interior

The interior is constructed the same way as the exterior, so follow the instructions for the exterior above, with the following changes:

- In step 8, add the Peltex to the sections when you are layering. The Peltex goes down first, then the batting, then the fabric.
- In step 11, sew the seams with a 3/8" seam.
- Step 12 is where the pressing gets a little tricky. See note C above in Construction Hints.
- In step 13, accordion the sections along the quilting line to keep them out of the way of sewing. You can see an example in the photos below. They show you my prep for the final seam – small clips to align the 3 layers of each individual section, and then clipping the edges together. I used bigger refrigerator clips to clip the two sections together at this point. You can also see how I “accordioned” the other sections to make it easier to manage. The sections naturally want to fold along the center quilting line, so I just went with it.



- Also in step 13, once you have completed all of the seams, do not turn it right side out – leave it right side in.



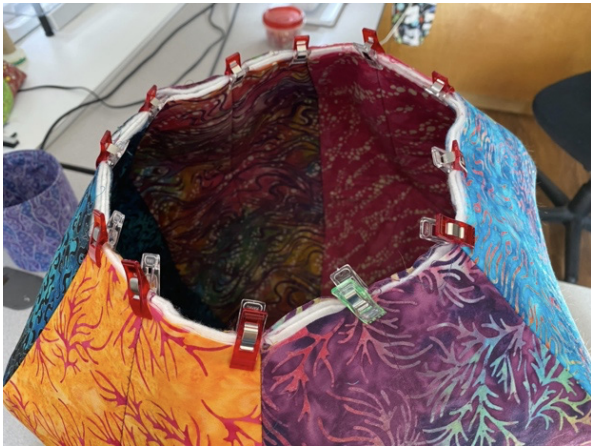


## Final Assembly

**Step 14 - Assemble the Sections.** Gently fold the interior along the quilting lines in the middle of the sections so it fits inside the exterior. Be sure the fabrics are positioned where you want them and slip it inside the exterior. Align the seams as best you can, then “pop open” the interior. It’s a fairly tight fit.



**Step 15 - Working** on one side, align the opening and the seams. This may be a little bit of a challenge but with a little manipulation will fit. Try collapsing one or more of the interior sections along the quilting lines to help. Secure the edges with binding clips, then zig zag or straight stitch the edges together to hold it in position for the binding. If you have a free arm machine, it’s easiest to stitch on the outside. If not, stitch on the inside. Repeat on the other opening. The alignment will be a little tougher this second time around because the outside will seem too short, but it will fit. Again, collapsing the interior sections will help.



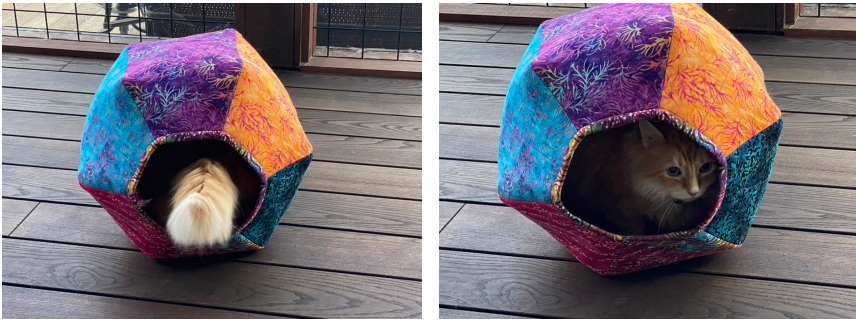
**Step 16 - Cut** fabric for bias binding at  $3\frac{1}{2}$ ". That’s not a typo. The edge is very bulky, and I recommend sewing on the binding with a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam, so you’ll need the extra width. Bias binding gives a better finish in this project than straight of grain. The openings are about 30", so you’ll need about 75" of binding for both openings.

**Step 17 - Sew** the binding on the exterior of the openings with a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam. This works best if you have a free arm machine with a walking foot. I don’t, so used a friend’s. Finish as desired, by hand or machine.





Finished cat cave, wrong end of cat; right end of cat.



They don't care if it's completed or not.



Is this for meeeee????



Sleeping, contented cat.

We hope you have enjoyed making your own version of *Nino's Favorite Cat Cave*, and we hope you consider sharing a photo of your project either on Instagram ([#NinosFavoriteCatCavePattern180](https://www.instagram.com/#NinosFavoriteCatCavePattern180)) or on our Gallery page!

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