

## *Pattern for Fluer d' Lis Quilt*

I made this, using a full sized comforter as stuffing. To make for a smaller or larger sized quilt, simply add or subtract diamonds. Likewise, you can use as many fluers as you'd like too. These instructions are for a full-size quilt. For queen, king or twin, you will need more fabric. Always get more than you think you'll need, just in case.

For this layout, you will need enough fabric to cut out 18 blue fluers, 18 gold fluers, 70 blue diamonds, 10 short half blue diamonds, 63 full gold diamonds, 14 long half gold fluers, 9 short half gold fluers, and 2 quarter fluers. See pattern layout picture for more details. You will also need backing fabric the size of the finished quilt. It may be necessary to sew several pieces of fabric together to accomplish this. If you do not have a comforter or duvet, you will need batting in your choice of thickness in the appropriate finished size, i.e. twin, full, queen or king.

Once you finish cutting everything out you can start appliqué-ing the fluers onto the diamonds. I used the machine and chose a satin stitch to entirely enclose the edge of the fluers. If you wanted, you could also use a very small gauge straight stitch. This would result in frayed edges and a nice rustic look. Some more modern machines have a lot of decorative stitches for appliqué so you can attach the fluers any way you want. Regardless of stitch used, make sure to place the fluer absolutely in the middle of the diamond.

Then, starting with the whole diamonds, sew each diamond to each other, following the layout chart. Always add diamonds for size to the edges, not from the center. Sew using between a  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch and  $\frac{1}{2}$  seam allowance. The neater you sew, the better the results will be, however for the most part, this is a forgiving pattern. This can be done on the machine as well. I sewed the quilt in strips, alternating gold and blue diamonds and then sewed the strips together etc. Make sure to press after each joining because it helps make joining bigger sections together easier. Trimming tips and intersections is optional but makes the seams press flat better. I used satin for my quilt so I reinforced the stitches with a zig-zag stitch, essentially sewing the entire thing twice. I did not snip tips as I wanted a lot of fabric back there to prevent tears at the seams. Make sure to place appliquéd diamonds in the center working towards the edges in whatever arrangement you'd like. I used a diamond arrangement similar to what's pictured in the layout diagram.

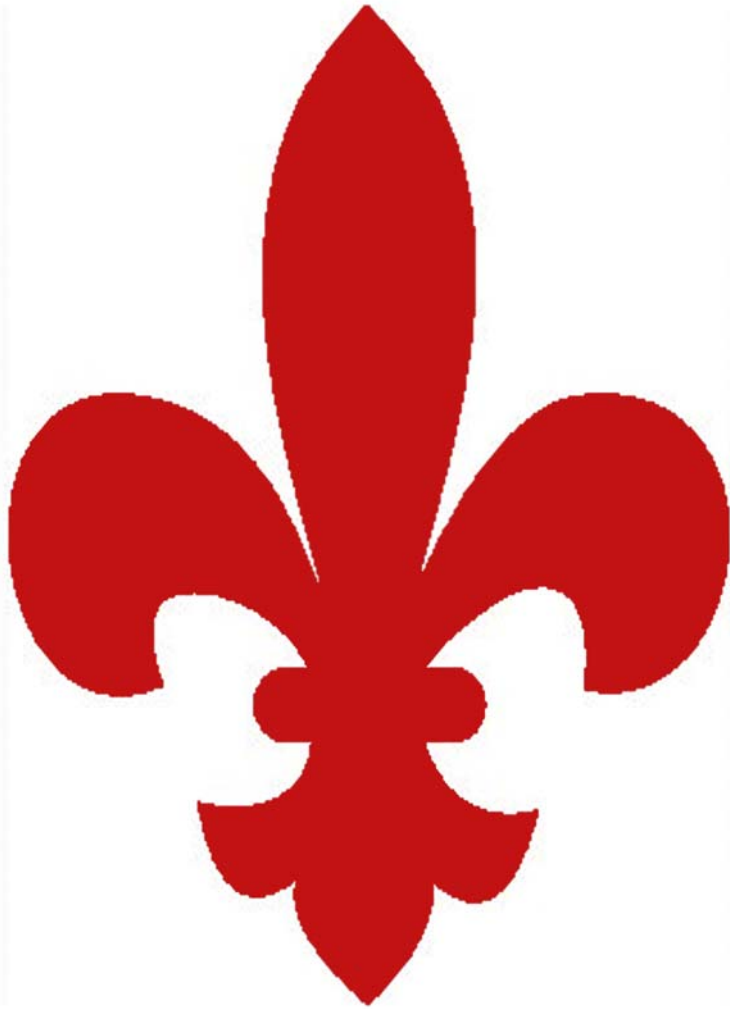
Once you've sewn all the diamonds together and press all the seams down, you are ready to sew to the backing fabric. I used black broadcloth. I sewed a few panels together to get a piece big enough to accommodate the comforter. I sewed the diamond piece to the broadcloth (right sides facing each other and inside) making, essentially, a big pillowcase, leaving an opening in one side big enough to stuff the comforter in. Carefully I stuffed the comforter in, making sure all the corners of the comforter were completely inside the fluer/broadcloth casing. To accomplish this, I laid the entire thing down on the living room floor so I could see if it was smooth or not.

If you have a nice quilting table, that's great. I do not so I use my living room floor. There are many ways to quilt. Quilting means simply that you are passing a needle through two layers of fabric with something in the middle. You can quilt a decorate pattern that follows the seams on the quilted side which will result in a diamond stitch pattern on the back. You can tie-quilt, which is what I did, which means at every intersection, I tied the layers together using embroidery floss and double knots. This is quick and easy but sort of cheating if you're a purist. Or, you can stitch a design that is completely unique. Since there are appliqués on this quilt, I wouldn't do that but rather stick to the other two methods.

When you're done with that, you can hand stitch the opening closed using blind stitches. I left mine open and used ribbons to tie the opening closed.

And that's about it. Having made the quilt in satin, I can tell you that if you plan on using the quilt it will get messed up (it's my husband's favorite). Thankfully, mine took on a nice worn look and seems to weather life, cats and the washing machine ok. I think this would be stunning in velvet but soft fabrics are harder to work with, especially with the appliqué. For a nice everyday quilt, try cotton or a cotton blend. Because of the appliqués, I would stick to dry cleaning.

Pattern pieces follow on the next few pages.



### **Diamond Pattern for Fluer d' Lys Quilt**

**To create pattern piece, fold pattern paper in quarters, place this pattern with red triangle's 90 degree corner in corner of folds. Cut edges off and unfold. You should have a diamond shape if done correctly.**

**As an alternative to pattern paper, you can also use glossy magazine covers. The paper is sturdy and it's creative recycling.**

Layout Diagram

