Spectacular Solar System

Quilt Designed by eQuilter

74" x 66"

Skill Level: Confident Beginner   **Finished Quilt Size:** 74" x 66"

Please read all instructions before beginning. Pre-washing NOT recommended.
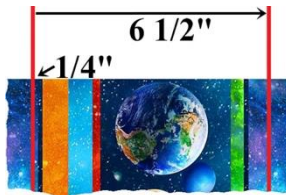
Yardages and Cutting

WOF is width of fabric from selvage edge to selvage edge. Remove as little fabric as possible when removing selvages and squaring strip ends.

Solar System panel
- Fold in half side to side, matching the ends of the row of planet squares from layer to layer. Measuring from the fold, trim to 21 1/4" wide. Unfold and press.
- Trim bottom edge 1/2" below the row of planet squares, then trim the panel to 34 1/2" tall, removing excess from the top edge.
- Panel should measure 42 1/2" wide x 34 1/2" tall.

1 3/4 yards border stripe
- Cut 4 strips 6 1/2" x WOF, first cutting 1/4" out from the orange stripe along 1 edge of a planet stripe and then cutting 6 1/2" from there as shown. Trim to 2 strips each 62" and 54".

3/4 yard blue/purple stars
- 8 strips 2 1/4" x WOF for binding.

1 1/4 yards multicolor ombre
- 8 strips 5" x WOF.

1 1/2 yards black solid
- 4 strips 2" x WOF; trim to 2 strips each 42 1/2" and 37 1/2" for panel framing.
- 6 strips 2" x WOF for inner border.
- 7 strips 3" x WOF for outer border.

5 yards 44/45" backing fabric OR
7 yards directional backing fabric
- 2 strips 90" x WOF   OR
- 3 strips 82" x WOF directional fabric

OR
2 1/4 yards wide backing fabric
- 1 piece 90" x 82"

Batting
- 1 piece 90" x 82"

Completing the Quilt

Use a 1/4" seam allowance for all stitching. Press seams as directed. Refer to the exploded quilt diagram as needed.

1.   Sew the 2" x 42 1/2" black strips to the top and bottom of the panel. Press seams toward the strips. Stitch the 2" x 37 1/2" strips to the sides to complete the 45 1/2" x 37 1/2" framed panel. Press seams toward the strips.

2.   Center and sew 54" border stripe strips to the sides of the framed panel with the orange stripe toward the center, beginning, ending and locking stitches 1/4" from the corners of the panel center. Repeat with the 62" strips on the top and bottom. Miter corners using your favorite method, checking to be sure that all corners lie flat and stripe sections match. Trim mitered corner seams to 1/4" and press open. Press border seams toward the border strips.

3.   Sew the 2" x WOF black strips short ends together to make a long strip. Press seams to one side. Cut into 2 strips each 60 1/2" and 49 1/2". Stitch the shorter strips to the sides of the quilt center and the longer strips to the top and bottom. Press seams toward the strips.

4.   Trim 2" off the yellow end of 4 ombre strips. Trim the remainder of each strip to 30 1/2", removing excess from the deep blue end. Join 2 strips on the yellow ends to make the 5" x 60 1/2" top strip. Press seam to one side. Repeat to make a the bottom strip. Sew the strips to the top and bottom of the quilt center. Press seams toward the strips.

5.   Trim 10" off the yellow end of 4 remaining ombre strips. Trim the remainder of each strip to 31", removing excess from the deep blue end. Join 2 strips on the red/orange ends to make a 5" x 61 1/2" side strip. Press seam to one side. Repeat to make a second strip. Stitch the strips to the sides of the quilt center. Press seams toward the strips.

6. Repeat step 3 with the 3" x WOF black strips to complete the top, cutting 2 strips each 74 1/2" and 61 1/2".

7. If using 44/45" backing fabric, remove the selvage edges from the backing pieces. Join the pieces on the long edges with a 1/2" seam allowance. Press seam(s) open. Trim to make the 90" x 82" backing piece.

8. Layer the quilt top with the backing and batting pieces.

9. Quilt as desired. Trim batting and backing even with the top.

10. Join the blue/purple stars binding strips on the short ends with diagonal seams to make a long strip. Press seams open. Press the strip in half along the length with wrong sides together.

11. Bind the quilt edges using your favorite method to complete the quilt.