

# DESIGNING MINIMALIST QUILTS

NICOLE NEBLETT



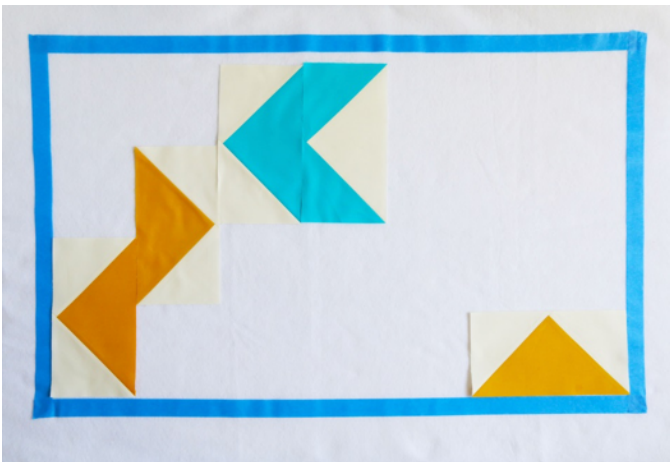
When it comes to designing minimalist quilts, less is more. Minimalist quilts have the fewest design elements possible for maximum design impact. While there are many ways to design a minimalist quilt, I'd like to share one technique that I find makes the design process easy. This technique involves adding negative space to a design layout.

You'll need:

- A design wall
- Painter's tape
- Pieced blocks (the number of blocks is up to you, but a good number to start with is 9 blocks)
- Background fabric (quantity depends on the size of the quilt you want to make)
- Regular sewing supplies (thread, sewing machine, rotary cutter, cutting mat, etc.)

Instructions:

1. Decide on the size quilt you want to make. Mark the outline of the quilt on a design wall using painter's tape.
2. Start with basic blocks. These could be squares, rectangles, and/or half-square triangles, etc. I used flying geese blocks, but you can use whatever type of block you would like.
3. Place the blocks in the center of the marked area.
4. Separate the blocks, moving them around the marked area until you are satisfied with the design. As you separate and move the blocks around, you will be "adding" negative space. Consider removing some of the blocks to make the design more minimal. I like to leave my blocks on the design wall for a few days and reposition them every now and then.



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5. When you are satisfied, visually divide the layout into sections. Measure the space around the blocks to determine the size of the background fabric needed. Be sure to add  $\frac{1}{4}$ " on all sides for the seam allowances.
6. Sew the blocks to the background fabric to complete the top.



Keep in mind that what is "minimal" to one person may not be minimal to another person. Have fun discovering what minimalism means to you!

## ABOUT NICOLE NEBLETT

[mamalovesquilts.com](http://mamalovesquilts.com)

## UNDERWRITTEN BY:

**JANOME**  
WHAT'S NEXT

**flatter**  
by **soak**

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# JANOME MC6700P

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- Stitch at speeds up to 1200 stitches per minute
- Superior Feed System Plus includes bobbin thread feeding lever
- New higher output motor makes sewing through thick materials a breeze
- Professional Grade Foot and Needle Plate
- Superior needle threader
- Maximum 9mm stitch width
- Precise needle positioning with 91 needle positions
- Automatic thread cutter
- One step needle plate conversion for switching needle plate instantly and easily
- 3 LED lights
- Large, easy to use foot controller
- Convertible free motion quilting foot for easy quilting



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