Pixie stix ‘n skittles

Top finishes at 96” x 96”

To make the quilt pictured:

You need:

- About 3 3/4 yards of various bright scrap pieces in order to cut 2” squares from
  (Note: If you are buying yardage (instead of using scraps just lying around) for cutting these - a fat
  quarter will yield roughly 99 2” squares. So you would need 12 fat quarters for the squares. Since fat
  quarter sizes seem to vary, I’d err on the side of buying 15 or so—plus the variety would be nice.)
- 1 1/3 yards of various bright scraps in order to cut the 2.5” strips from (rail fence blocks)
  (if you are buying yardage for these instead of pulling scrappy pieces from your stash, note that each
  2.5” cut will yield 6 strips. You will need 42” of yardage for these rail fence colorful pieces.)
- 6 ¾ yards of white
- ½-5/8 yards for the binding (I use 2.5” scrappy strips from my bag of 2.5” strips if I can)
Cut:

- From the bright scraps:
  1184 - 2” squares of various colors. A big variety makes a better looking quilt. I tried to stick with colors of sherbet or cotton candy. (My quilt is all upcycled fabrics purchased here in Poland).
  100 – 2.5”x6.5” strips of colorful for the centers of your rail fence blocks
  12 – 2.5” squares for the “corner rail fence” (that’s my term, BTW) blocks
  12 – 2.5”x4.5” strips of color for the “corner rail fence” blocks (use the same as the squares – i.e. you need a set of these last two for each block)

- From the white fabric:
  1184 – 2” squares for the checkerboard blocks
  212 – 2.5”x6.5” for the rail fence blocks
  12 – 2.5” squares for corner rail fence blocks

Make blocks:

*Note: All blocks should finish at 6.5”x6.5” before sewing into the quilt top. Use ¼” seams throughout.*

- Checkerboard blocks:
  Using your 2” white squares and your 2” colorful squares, sew them together in a checkerboard, in a 4x4 format as pictured. Press towards the colorful squares.
  You can sew them together individually or use a strip piecing method as shown on the next page(s).
How to strip piece:
I used strip piecing, meaning that I sewed white 2” strips to colorful 2” strips and in the format white/colorful/white/colorful, pressed, and then sliced off strip sets.
Here are some pictures demonstrating how I constructed this block using strip piecing:

1. Sew 4 strips together white/colorful/white/colorful

2. Press towards the colorful.

3. Stack a couple of strip sets on top of each other.
4. Cut off 2” segments.

5. Remove the 2” segment sections. Continue to cut until strip sets until you run out of fabric.

6. Do this many times with a wide variety of fabrics. I stacked them in groups of 10 and then groups of 100. You will need 594 strips like these if you are doing it this way.
7. Take them to your machine and stack strip on top of another, making alternating the colors as pictured below and trying not to have similar colors together. This is much easier to do if you are using many different scraps.

Here are some sets after I sewed 2 strips together. No picture but for the final step, sew two of these together to get the full checkerboard.

I like to watch baseball while I sew because you don’t really need to watch it. If something exciting happens, they always replay it, so I can look up and see what I only heard the first time. 😊 My preferred teams in order: Tampa Bay Rays, Toronto Blue Jays, New York Yankees, Seattle Mariners, etc. I can watch a lot of teams, however, and enjoy ‘em. (This has nothing to do with strip piecing, BTW!)
Make 148. Make sure you mix and match your bright fabrics for an interesting look when sewn together.

- Rail fence blocks: *Please note: Rail fence blocks are made using 2.5” strips and NOT 2”.*

How to make:
Sew 2 white 2.5”x6.5” strips to one 2.5”x6.5” colorful strip, placing the whites on each side of the colorful strip as pictured above. Press well.

(Note: I pressed half with the color towards the white and half with the color to itself. This helps in nesting the seams. I know it is not normally done—that is, pressing the colored fabric towards the white— but if you want to nest your seams, you should do it. If you press yours seams open, then this isn’t necessary, of course.)

Make 100. Use a variety of colors for that middle rail!
• Corner rail fence blocks: *Please note: The “corner rail fence” blocks are made using 2.5” strips and NOT 2”*

A. Sew one 2.5” white square to a colorful 2.5” square, and then another 2.5” white square like this:

B. Sew one 2.5” white square to a 2.5”x4.5” strip (matching colors to row 1 in pt. A above.).

C. Using the above two strips plus a white 2.5”x6.5” strip, sew the three strips together to make a block that looks like this:

• **Make 12.** Don’t forget to use a variety of colors, in other words, don’t make all your corners the same colors for interest.
How to make this quilt:

1. After making all the blocks as directed above, **start by laying out rail fence blocks** following this diagram. Put one corner block as this layout shows and then lay out 14 rail fence blocks, nesting seams. At the end of 15 blocks, put the other corner block. Sew together. That is row 1.

2. **For rows 2-3 – lay it out according to the diagram**, sew together and then go ahead and attach those two rows to your row 1.

3. **For rows 4-16, follow the diagram**, continuing to place either rail fence or the checkerboard squares in order. Sew each row of blocks together and then add that newly finished row to the top so far.
4. Press well.
5. **Sandwich**, using whatever type of batting and backing you prefer (I use poly batting, mostly, as that is what I can get here in Poland without having to take out a bank loan for a quilt this size). 😊
6. **Quilt** as desired. I did crosshatching in the checkerboard and a straight stitch echoing the seamlines of the rail fence.

   Congratulations!

   Your quilt is finished!

   Enjoy!

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