

NAME QUILT FOR A NEW BABY
CH #193

Edya Arzt, z'l
Central New Jersey Branch

Nothing is more gratifying to make and more gratefully received by the parents of a newborn than a home-made, hand-made quilt containing baby's Jewish and English names. If the quilt is reversible, the Jewish name can be placed on one side, the English name on the other.

The standard size of a crib quilt is usually 36" x 48". Any light-weight cotton fabric may be used and stuffed with polyester batting, which comes either in a pre-measured package or on a roll which can be cut to order. The easiest form of decoration for the quilt is applique, and the most efficacious fabric to use is felt. It is easy to cut into shapes and does not ravel. In addition, one can purchase squares of felt in a wide variety of colors in any local novelty or craft shop. Different kinds of trim in the form of ribbons, rosebuds, sequins, tiny artificial fruits or flowers are also recommended to complete the quilt.

You may make both sides of the quilt out of either the same or contrasting fabric. In either case, the top eighth of the quilt is turned over, and this is where the name is embroidered (see diagram). If you do not "quilt" the entire coverlet, stitch a border 2 to 3 inches in, around the entire piece, to hold the batting in place, using small, even running stitches. If desired, stitch a 1/8" ribbon along the seam and attach rosebuds in the four corners.

You may place any picture or design you desire in the center of the quilt. A good source for pictures is a child's coloring book or story book. Or you may choose a picture relevant in some way to the baby and its family. (My Australian granddaughter's quilt has a kangaroo on one side and her parents' cat, Bessie, on the other.

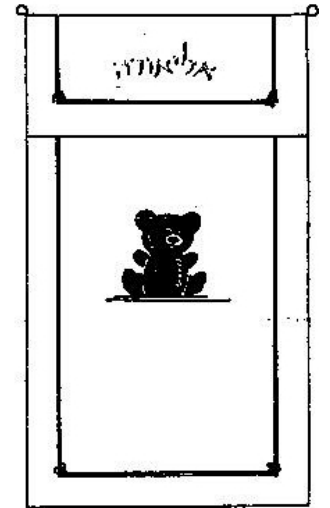
The letters of the child's name may be cut from felt or from iron-on patches. You will find iron-on English letters in a craft or sewing shop, but you will probably have to create your own Hebrew letters. For a suitable Hebrew alphabet, see CH#176, Soft Sculpture Hebrew Letters or VT#130, Hebrew Lettering Guide.

MATERIALS:

2 lengths of fabric, each 40" x 52", either the same or contrasting
cotton or polyester batting, 36" x 48"
felt squares for applique of designs and letters
ribbon, flowers, etc., as desired
English and Hebrew letters

PROCEDURE:

1. Cut the fabric to size. Determine the picture you wish to use.
2. Cut the designs and/or pictures you plan to use out of felt squares (not the names yet)
3. Allowing for the seams and for the fold-over, place the pictures as desired, and stitch to the right side of each fabric length.



4. Putting right sides together, stitch both sides of the quilt together on 3 sides. Lay the stitched-together quilt flat, place the batting on top and turn inside out. Stitch the open end (which should be the bottom of the finished quilt) closed with tiny overcasting stitches.
5. Measure off and mark a line, all around, 2" to 3" from the edges of the quilt. Stitch down through the entire quilt. Decorate with 1/8" ribbon if desired (see above) and ornament as desired.
6. Now determine where you will fold over the top. Cut out the letters of the baby's Hebrew name and stitch to one side. Do the same on the other side for the English name. Why not stitch the name on before sewing the quilt together? You certainly can. However, I prefer to complete the quilt at my leisure before the baby is born, which leaves only the names to be added, so that the quilt is ready to be used in time for the *brit milah* or *simchat bat*.

Finally, when baby has outgrown the quilt, attach 2 rings (as indicated in the diagram) and make it into a wall hanging.

