

A Harvest of Festive Placemats



A project for learning basic piecing and quilting.

by Pioneerlady at Pithyponderings.com

Making the Square Placemat into a Rectangle

by Pioneerlady at Pithyponderings.com



After constructing the 12" block (it will measure 12.5" square), add a 3.5" strip to the left and right side of the block.

Then add a 2" strip to the top and bottom of the block.

Depending on the accuracy of your seams, the strips you will need should be,

(2) 3.5" x 12.5" and (2) 2" x 18.5"

Add batting and backing.

You can either bind the block or you can place right sides together, sew around the outside (leaving an opening), then turn rightside out, and hand sew the opening closed.

Basic No-gizmo Quilting

When budgets are tight,
the desire to learn
is the only requirement.

Determination, Patience, and Enjoyment - these are the only universal requirements for quilting, though people will tell you differently.

I don't believe in rules other than sound construction. If the seams are strong, and the fabric is good, then imperfections are just part of the learning process.

I have used really inexpensive fabrics, really expensive fabrics, and a great deal of middle-of-the-road fabric. I understand from experience the pros and cons of each type of fabric. If you are on a budget, try for middle-of-the-road. Inexpensive fabric (or in better terms, CHEAP) will disappoint you. There are great places to purchase middle-of-the-road fabric on a budget.

As someone who loves scrappy quilts, and hates throwing away fabric, I must admit that there are some fabrics that really do not work well in a quilt. So, when it comes to fabric, chose fabrics that seem to be of similar quality and fiber content. In the long run, you will be happier with the results.

On the topic of seams:

1/4" seams are really important, but consistent width seams are essential. Most patterns are designed with 1/4" seams built in, but for really basic blocks, the edge of the sewing foot can be used - the final measurements of the block will just be a little off from the pattern. So it is best to identify how to make a 1/4" seam early on. There are sewing machine feet that are made with a 1/4" seam allowance.

Scant 1/4" seams - you will see this term pop up. It just means that the desired seam allowance is just a tiny bit narrower than 1/4" - think the width of the thread shy of 1/4" (about 5 millimeters).

Metric - 20th century quilting patterns seem to originate using inches rather than metric. Therefore all the modern equipment seems to be in inches.

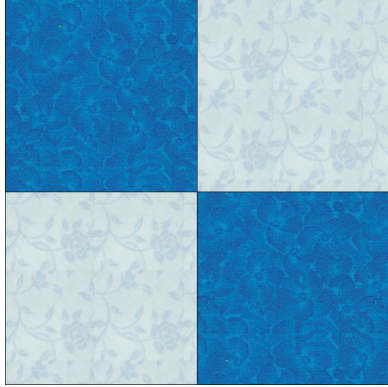
Basic patterns, such as these, are friendly to the novice. As long as construction is solid, try to avoid 'imperfection frustration'.

When budgets are tight, buy only the essentials. These patterns can be made without rotary cutters, cutting mats, or special rulers. That said, I would recommend one small quilter's ruler that will help you identify that all important 1/4".

Fabric - while piecing blocks can be done with any fabric, quilting cotton is preferred for a few reasons. Quilting cotton is 100% cotton fabric. It will press well, holding the crease and making for flat seams. Quilting cotton comes in many grades, and over time you will learn to feel the difference in thickness and quality. Thinner fabric may wear out faster than a denser fabric. Quilting cotton holds up well to a 1/4" seam allowance. If you use a more open weave like a flannel fabric, homespun-type fabric, or other fashion fabrics, you might need to use 1/2" seam allowance to avoid having your seams weaken as the edges of the fabric fray.

Pressing to one side - in most cases, 1/4" seams should be pressed to one side rather than pressed open. There are exceptions, but they are usually for more complicated blocks when many seams will meet up.

Basic Four Patch



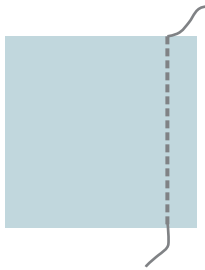
Cut (2) dark squares $\frac{1}{2}$ inch larger than desired finished measurement.



Cut (2) light squares $\frac{1}{2}$ inch larger than desired finished measurement.



Place right sides of fabric together.

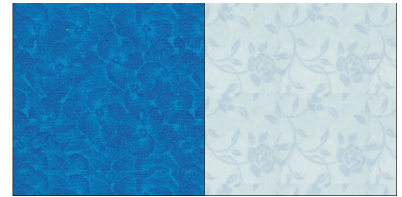


Sew seam $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from edge.

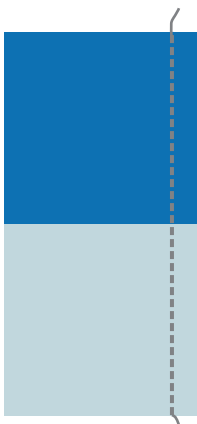
Back stitching is not required.

Make two segments.

Press open the blocks. Press seams to the dark fabric. *Do not press seams open.*

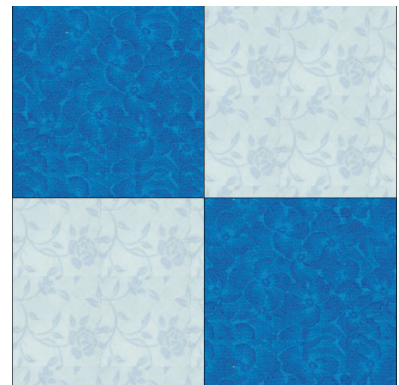


Place right sides of block segments together.

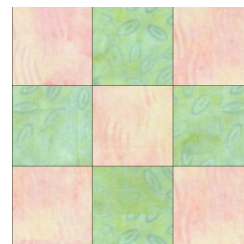


Sew seam $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from edge. *Back stitching is not required.*

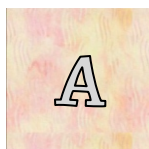
Press open the block. *Do not press seams open.*



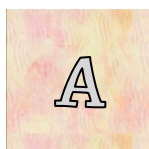
Nine Patch



All seams $\frac{1}{4}$ inch.



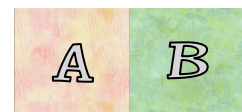
Cut five squares of color A and four squares of color B. To determine size of the squares, divide the finished size of the block by 3. Then add $\frac{1}{2}$ inch to that measurement.
(A 12 inch block would require nine $4\frac{1}{2}$ inch squares.)



With right sides together, sew three A squares to three B squares.

Open units and press.

(You will have two AB units and one BA unit after rotating one unit.)



Add one A square to the end of AB unit forming strip 1.



Repeat with second AB unit forming strip 2.



Add one B square to the end of BA unit forming strip 2.

Open units and press.



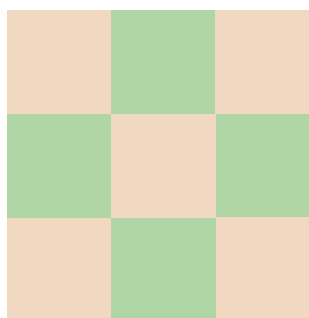
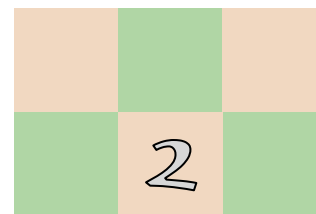
Sew strip 1 to strip 2.



Sew strip 3 to strip 2.



Press entire block. Block will measure $\frac{1}{2}$ inch larger than finished block measurements.





Trip Around the Block

Three Color Variation

Finished block 12" x 12"

Materials needed:

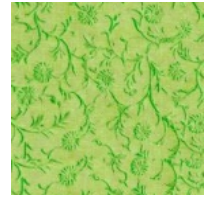
1/8 yard each

green, purple & peach



Cut (6) 3 1/2" x 3 1/2" peach squares

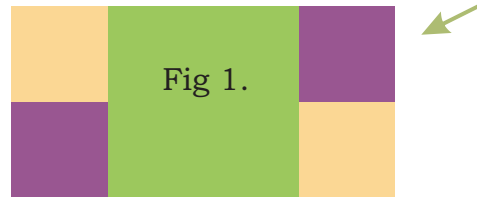
Cut (1) 6 1/2" x 6 1/2" green square



Cut (6) 3 1/2" x 3 1/2" purple squares

Sew (6) peach/ purple units.

Apply two units to the sides of the center block as shown in Figure 1.

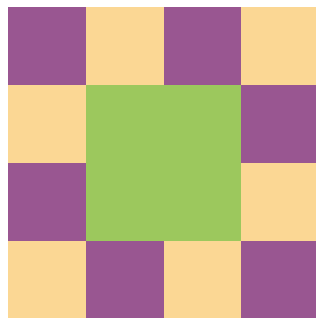
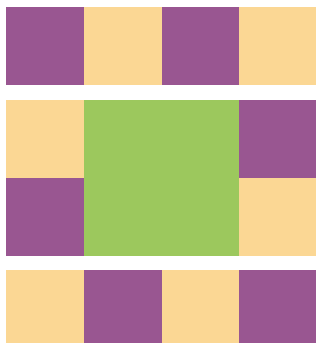


Sew two sets of peach/ purple units together.

Make two of these peach/purple/peach/purple units.



Apply the peach/purple/peach/purple units to the top and bottom of the block.






Corn in the Wind



Finished block measures 12" x 12"

Materials needed:

-  *1/8 yard green*
-  *1/8 yard gold*
-  *1/8 yard light brown*



Cut (4) 3 1/2" x 6 1/2"



Cut (4) 3 1/2" x 6 1/2"



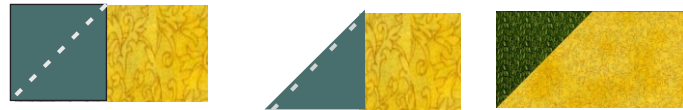
Cut (8) 3 1/2" x 3 1/2"

Draw a diagonal line from corner to corner on wrong side of the squares.

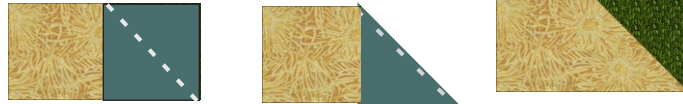


Place one square over rectangle, right sides together, matching corners.

Sew ON diagonal line.



Trim away excess fabric leaving approx. 1/4" seam allowance.

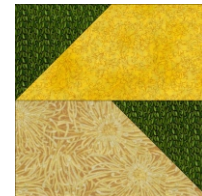


Press open seam.

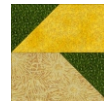
Repeat for other rectangle.

Sew the two segments together using 1/4" seam allowance.

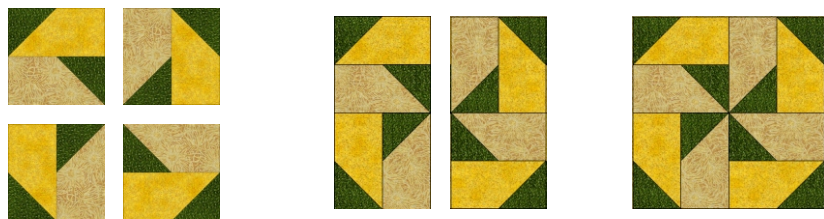
Press open.



Assemble (4) of the following unit.



Then assemble block.



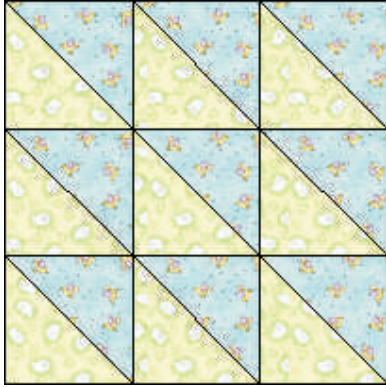
Wild Geese

Finished block measures 12" x 12"

Materials needed:

1/8 yard light

1/8 yard medium



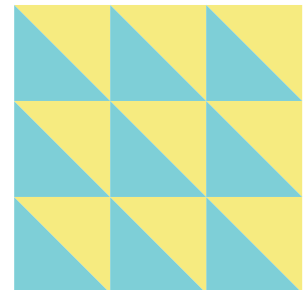
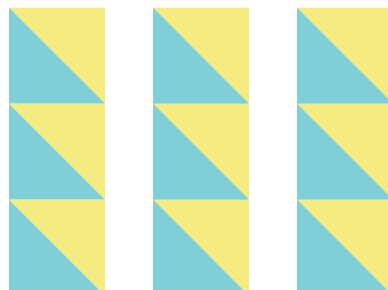
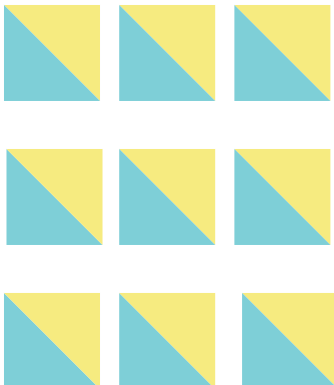
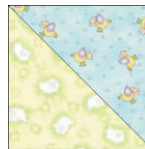
Cut (9) 5"x5" squares of the medium fabric.



Cut (9) 5"x5" squares of the light fabric.

This block may not measure 12.5" x 12.5" perfectly unless you trim the half-square triangles down to 4.5" x 4.5" squares after constructing them. This is easier to do with a quilting ruler.

Assemble (9) *Half-Square Triangles*.



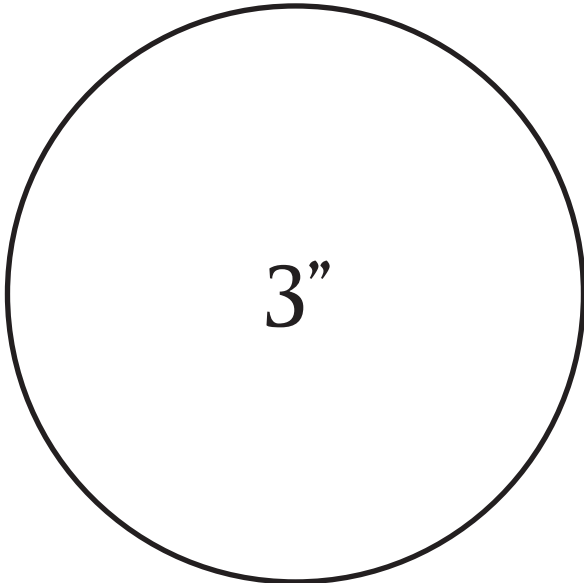
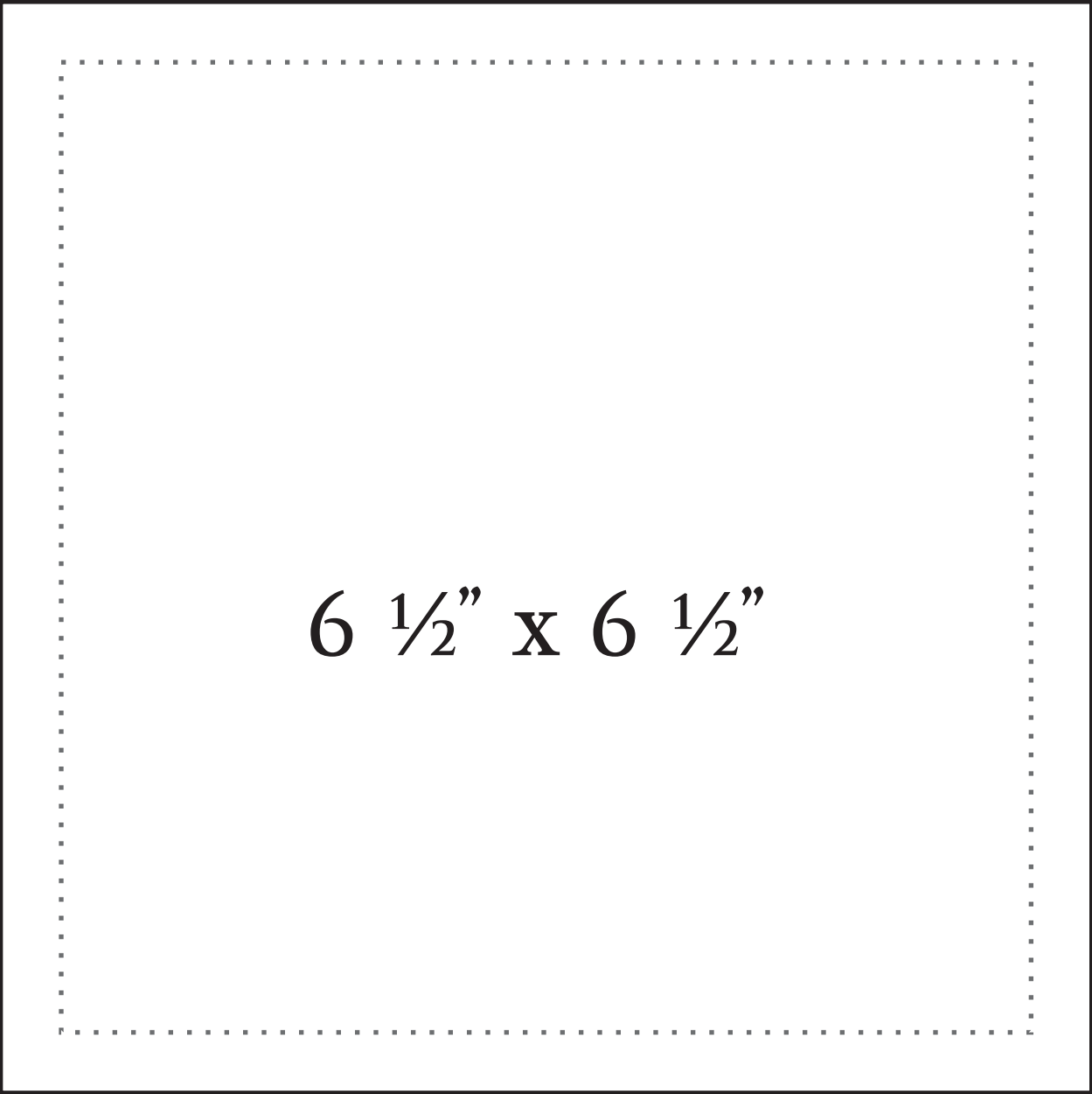
Templates



4 1/2" x 4 1/2"



5" x 5"





5 1/2" x 5 1/2"

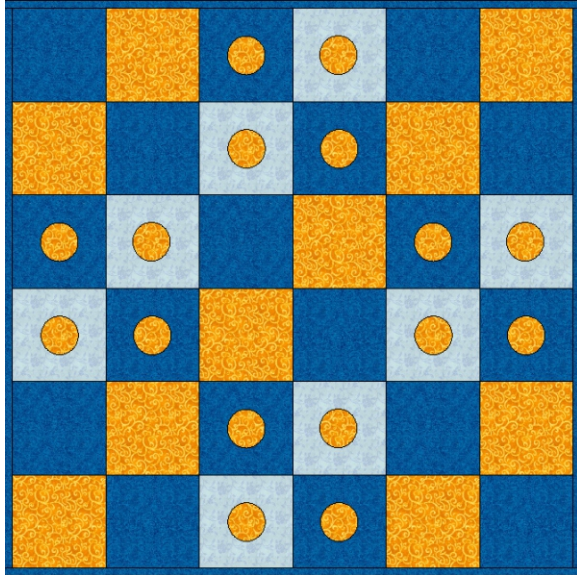


3 1/2" x 3 1/2"

Bonus Project

Four Patch Fun

Seeing Spots



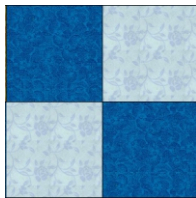
½ yard light blue

¾ yard orange

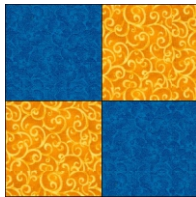
1 yard dark blue, includes binding

1 ½ yard backing fabric

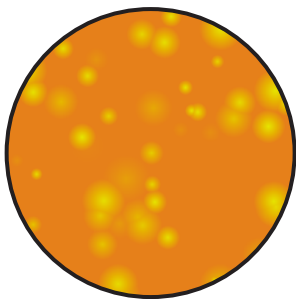
Use the 6 ½" square template.



Cut (8) 6 ½" x 6 ½" squares light blue
Cut (8) 6 ½" x 6 ½" squares dark blue
Assemble (13) light blue / dark blue blocks



Cut (10) 6 ½" x 6 ½" squares orange
Cut (10) 6 ½" x 6 ½" squares dark blue
Assemble (12) orange / dark blue blocks



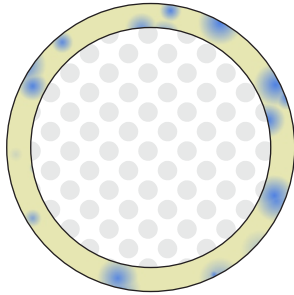
Cut (16) 3" circles.

Hand or machine sew spots on the light blue/dark blue Four Patch blocks before assembling the quilt top.

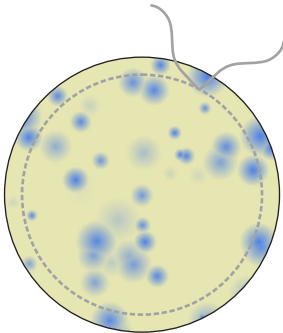
by *Pioneerlady* at *Pithyponderings.com*

Making the Spot

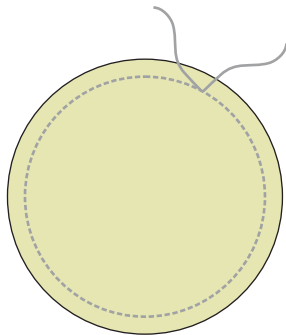
This technique will make a rough edged spot. For precision spots, other techniques should be used.



Cut your circle $\frac{1}{2}$ inch larger than the desired finished size by cutting $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from the edge of the template.



By hand, sew a running stitch around the circle $\frac{1}{4}$ inch in from the edge. Leaving tails on the thread and making no knots.



From the wrong side of the circle, pull the threads slowly drawing in the edges. This will make a "rough" circle or spot.

