

Quilt-Along-With-Me!

Part One: Block Prep & Piecing

Pattern & Series by Amanda from 3and3quarters.net



For Part One you will need enough fabric to make four 23" (58.5cm) *Father's Choice Blocks*. For my quilt blocks, I've chosen to use only two fabrics. However you may use more than one fabric for each block. Measurements for either choice are listed below.

If you're making the blocks with just two fabrics you will need:

- At least 1.2m (1.1yd) of two contrasting fabrics*. I chose a dominant all-over print fabric paired with a white solid homespun fabric.

*Fabrics are 112cm wide.

If you would like to make the blocks with more than one fabric you will need:

- At least two Fat Quarters (or 0.5m/0.7yd) of each fabric per block.

Measurement & Cutting Instructions:

To piece just one block you will need to cut:

From the print fabric –

- x9: 5" squares
- x4: 5½" squares

From the white fabric –

- x8: 5" squares
- x4: 5½" squares

If you are using two fabrics for all four blocks you will need to cut:

From the print fabric –

- x5: 5" strips across the width of fabric (WOF) and then crosscut into 36 5" squares.
- x3: 5½" strips across the WOF and then crosscut into 16 5½" squares.

From the white fabric –

- x4: 5" strips across the WOF and then crosscut into 32 5" squares.
- x3: 5½" strips across the WOF and then crosscut into 16 5½" squares.

How to make the Half-Square Triangles (HST):

- Using a lead pencil and ruler, mark a line down the centre of each of the white 5½" squares.
- Pair each of these with a printed 5½" square, right-sides together (RST) and pin in place.
- At the sewing machine, sew a ¼" seam to the left of the pencil line. Chain-stitch each pair through until you come to the last one.
- Remove the stitched squares from the machine, turn them around and sew a ¼" seam along the other side of the line until you reach the end.
- Remove the chained squares from the machine and snip the threads that join them.
- Next, with a ruler and rotary blade, cut the squares in half along the pencil line, resulting in 32 HST units (or 8 HST units if you're only making one block).
- With a medium-to-hot steamy iron, open out the HSTs, pressing the centre seam to the darker side of fabric.
- Use a set-square to trim each HST down to a perfect 5" square.

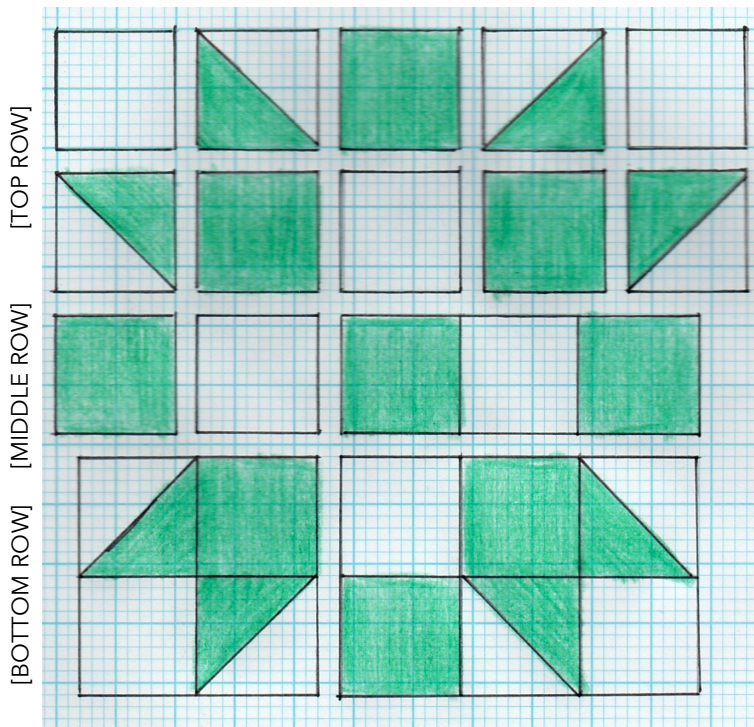
Layout:

- Use the photo on page 1 as a reference when laying out the units.
- Each block consists of - x9: 5" print squares, x8: 5" white squares and x8: HST units.

Piecing the block together:

The method you use to piece this block together is completely up to you. If you feel comfortable piecing it row by row or pair by pair I very much encourage you to do it the way you know best!

The way I like to piece this block is by dividing it up into manageable sections where I piece them together separately and then bring them all together to finish the block.



I find by doing it this way, I have more control on placing the seams* the right way, resulting in beautifully nested seams and joins that sit nice and tight to each other.

* All seams are a 1/4".

- To begin, take a corner section (which is made of two HST units, one print square and one white square) and piece them together into a four-patch unit (use the diagram as a guide for the correct layout). Repeat for the other three corner sections.
- TIP: Press the first centre seams away from the HST units to eliminate any excess bulk. Press all other seams to the darker side of fabric.
- Next, sew together the two squares that separate the corner sections in the top and bottom rows. Press the seam towards the darker side of fabric.
- Piece together each row. Press the centre seams in the top and bottom rows inwards and the seams in the middle row outwards from the centre.
- Lastly sew each of the rows together, pressing the seams towards the middle row.
- If you need to, trim the block so that it measures 23" (58.5cm) squared.
- Make four blocks in total.

This is only part one of six videos that will make up my Quilt-Along-With-Me series. Once the series is finished, the full pattern will be available for you to download and print off for free from my blog.

If you have any questions, feedback, completed blocks or ideas to share with me, feel free to send me an email to the following address:

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Happy Sewing, Friends!

Amanda.

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