

Four Patch Doll Quilt Sew-Along

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Free Patterns, Ideas and Inspirations

All compliments of SewingMamas.com



Finished Quilt size- 20" x 15 1/2 "

Select your fabrics:



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Easy- choose 12 different coordinating fabrics. You'll need just one 5" square of each. Or just use 4 fabrics and all of the 4 patches will be identical.

Easier- -choose 1 fabric for a solid block instead of a 4 patch. This would be a great way to use a novelty 😊 You'll need 12- 4" squares

You will also need a setting block or background fabric. 1/3 yard should be plenty. It's time to think about what you would like to use for your binding and backing also.

You'll need about 80-90" of 2 1/4" strips for the binding. That means two strips the full width of the fabric.

For the batting, you could use Warm and natural or any other thin batting OR flannel works really well in doll quilts, too.

The backing and batting pieces will need to be about 20"x 25"

Cutting and sewing the 4 patch squares

Cut your 5" squares into quarters or 2 1/2" squares. Lay one square on top of another with right sides together and chain piece all of them into sets of two. (Chain piecing just means that you don't want to cut your thread between squares, just keep on sewing, keeping the pieces close to each other. It will save time and thread 😊)

NOTE: If you are only using 4 fabrics, only cut your 5" squares in half and then sew those short strips, right sides together, to another strip. Then press open and cut in half perpendicular to your seam. This will save you a little bit of time.

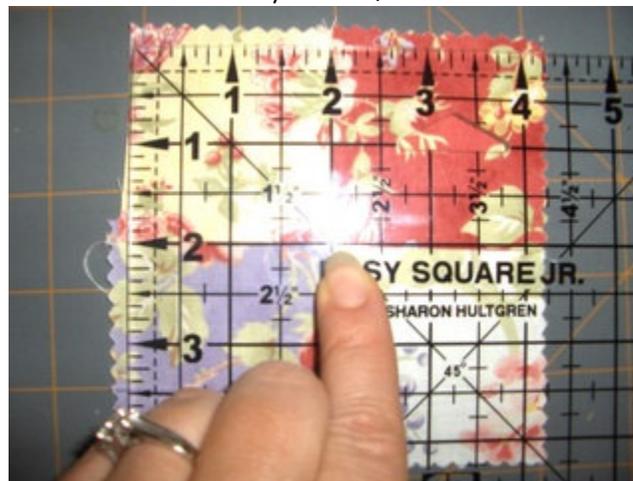


Cut the threads that connect them and press open, pressing the seam to one side or press seams open if you prefer. Usually in quilting, if you press to the side, you'll want the fabric pressed to the side of the darker fabric. This way the darker fabric won't show through the front.

Take the sets of two and sew them to another set of two. Chain stitch these, too! It's more important to match up that middle seam than it is to match the edges. We'll do some trimming to get our blocks nice and straight.



Now you have your 12 Four Patches! We'll take them to the cutting board and square them up. Using the middle seam as a guide to mark your center, trim up the block to 4" Make sure you don't just trim the excess off of one side, but all four!



OK, that's all for part one. I'm going to post a questions thread, also so feel free to ask anything you need.

Ok, we've got our 4 patches sewn. We'll start working on the background.

Cut 6 -4" squares of the background fabric

Then we will cut the triangles for the sides:

Cut 3 -7 3/4" squares

Cut the squares into quarters diagonally

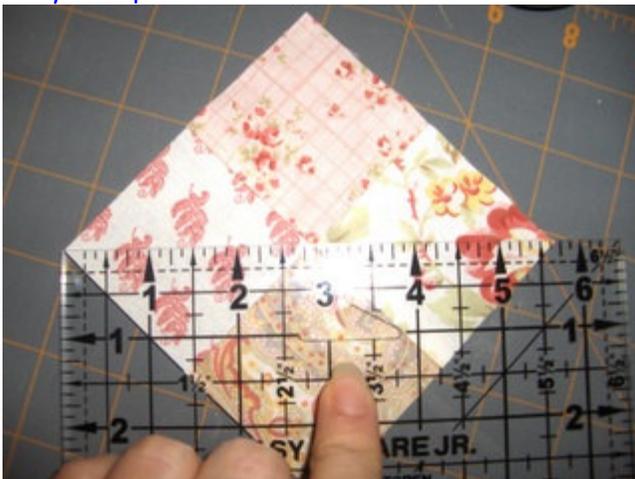
Lay these triangles around the edges of the quilt.



Here's a little extra info 😊 You can make this quilt in any size and to figure out what size to cut your side triangles, you need this formula:

Count how many side triangles you need. Then divide that number by 4 rounding UP to the nearest whole number.

Then take your block and measure it across the diagonal. Add 2" to that measurement. That is the size you want to cut your squares.



Next we will cut the triangles for the corners.

Cut 2- 5 1/2" squares of background fabric.

Cut into half diagonally.

Yep, there's a formula for this, too. Take the measurement of your blocks (not diagonal this time) and add 1 1/2".

Now we get our first glance of how it will all look together. Lay out the blocks and triangles on your work area. The triangles will overlap, don't worry.



Now, it's time to sew them in diagonal rows. Don't worry about the corner triangles yet. Take the top right diagonal row and sew the 4 patch and two triangles together. Make sure that you match up the bottom of the triangle to the 4 patch. I like to keep the quilt laid out, rather than picking up all the rows at once. It helps me keep things in the right order.



Continue sewing all the diagonal rows together.

Next, sew the rows to one another, making sure that you match up the seams rather than the edges. You can see in the picture below that the points of the triangles stick out a bit.



Time to add the corners. Center each corner triangle, right sides together, using the center seam of the 4 patch to place it. Sew together. Trim off all of those little points sticking out.



The top is pieced!! Next post will be quilting and binding

Ok, the top is done! Now go ahead and square up your quilt however you would like (I, of course, don't mean make it a square, but make sure all edges are straight and the corners are 90 degrees)

The next step will be to layer the quilt, batting and backing.

Take your backing fabric and cut it 2" bigger than the quilt top on all sides and then do the same with the batting/flannel.

Next layer your fabrics, backing right side down then batting then quilt top right side up, just like you want it to be when it's finished. Make sure your fabrics are all nice and flat but not pulled out of whack.



You'll need to make sure that your layers don't shift during the quilting. I use a basting spray for doll sized quilts. You can also use safety pins and pin all the layers together about every 3" or hand baste. To hand baste just use really huge stitches, start in the center of your quilt and stitch outward to the perimeter. You'll kind of end up with a sunburst pattern.

Here is a walk-through for pin-basting.

<http://crazymomquilts.blogspot.com/2007/09/one-way-to-baste-quilt.html>

Now it's time to quilt.

I used a free motion stipple on this quilt or you could quilt in straight lines with a walking foot. Whatever fits your style.

Whichever method you choose, it's best to start in the middle of your quilt (or start at one edge and stitch to the middle right away) This ensures that you don't end up with lots of extra fabric puckering in the middle

To free motion in any pattern, you'll need a darning foot for your machine, lower your feed dogs and then start meandering. Make sure that you take a couple of stitches before you start moving your fabric. This secures your stitches. Practice, Practice, Practice on a couple of layers of flannel!!

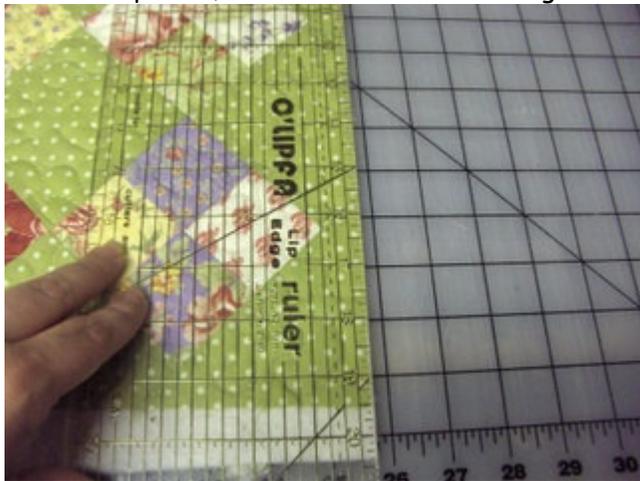
If you want to learn from the VERY BEST, watch this video. This lady wins shows and awards all the time for her awesome machine quilting.

<http://www.needlepointers.com/displaypage.aspx?ArticleID=30992&URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.taunton.com%2fthreads%2fpages%2ftvt035.asp>

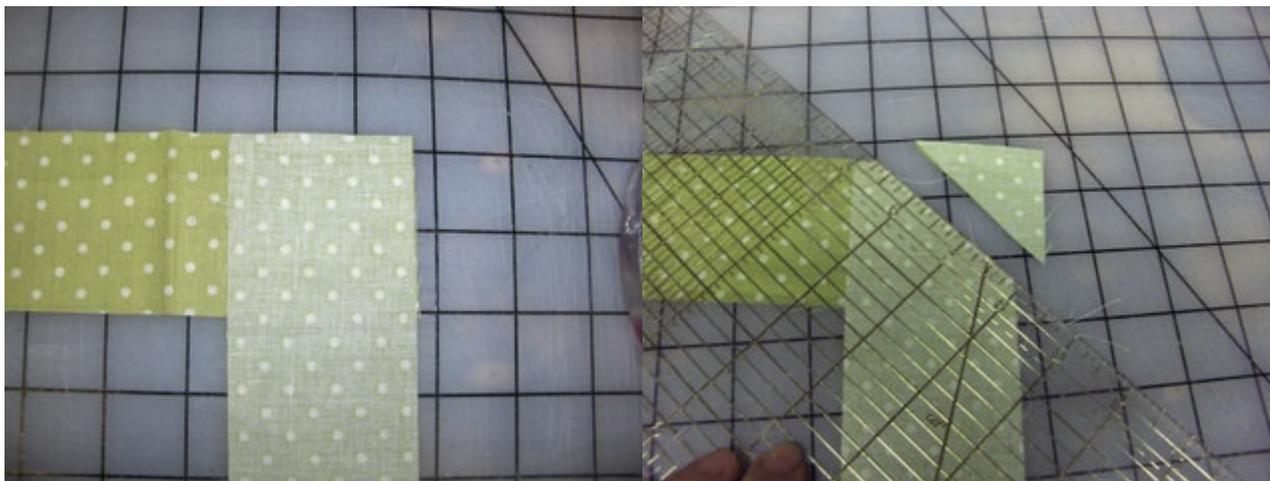
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Easier than free-motion (although a doll quilt is a great way to get your feet wet with free-motion) would be to do straight stitching. Just mark your stitching lines with a disappearing ink fabric pen, put your walking foot on your machine and follow your lines. If you don't have a walking foot, you'll just have to work a little harder at keeping you layers from shifting.

Once it's quilted, cut off the excess batting and backing.



Next we'll need to cut the binding. Cut about 90" of 2 1/4" strips of your binding fabric. I cut these on the straight of grain. Sew your binding together at the short ends. Place two binding at a 90 degree angle, right sides together and sew from top left corner to bottom right. Cut off extra fabric.



Now you have one long binding piece. Iron this in half lengthwise, wrong sides together.



Now, starting at the middle of one of the sides and leaving about a 4" tail start sewing the binding to the quilt, raw edges together, using a 1/4" seam allowance. Sorry about this fuzzy pic.



When you get to the corner, stitch up to 1/4" from the edge and remove from under your needle. Now take the fabric and fold it back away from the quilt. Then fold it back straight across the quilt, right where you want it to go next 😊 I'm so glad I have pictures. I can't explain this very well!



Start stitching again 1/4" away from the corner.

When you get to the starting point, leave about 4" in between your start and finish. Lay your quilt out flat and match up the ends of your binding and trim 1/4" up from the quilt. Open up your fabric strips and sew, right sides together, the two pieces together. Fold them again and stitch them down to the quilt. Please look at this link for pictures of this process.

<http://www.needlepointers.com/displaypage.aspx?ArticleID=31521&URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.quiltingworks.com%2fhowto%2fbinding-101.htm>

Now take your binding and wrap it around to the backside and hand stitch it down.

You're done! Don't forget to sign and date it somewhere!