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Geometric Quilt Block Pillow



Created by Erika Mulvenna

materials and tools

- Large scraps or fat quarters of 100% cotton quilter's fabrics
 - ◇ 1 large print fabric
 - ◇ 1 light solid or small print
 - ◇ 1 medium solid or small print
 - ◇ 1 dark solid or small print
- ½ yard of fabric for the pillow lining
- ½ yard of fabric for the pillow back
- Coordinating thread
- Universal or Sharp needle, size 75/11
- ¼" presser foot (BERNINA Patchwork Foot with Guide #57)
- Straight stitch foot (BERNINA Straight Stitch Foot #13)
- Overlock foot (BERNINA Overlock Foot #2)
- Rotary cutter and self-healing cutting mat
- Clear acrylic gridded ruler

Is that big, bold scrap of fabric staring at you? This quilt square is designed to let a large print fabric shine. This simple block is quick to make and easily stitched into a pillow. With a bit more fabric you can turn it into a placemat, or table runner. The perfect project for turning fabric scraps into something bold and beautiful.



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step one

- Accurate cutting helps avoid crooked, puffy, or uneven seams in your quilt block. Use a self-healing mat, a clear acrylic gridded ruler, and a rotary cutter to cut the pieces for your quilt block.
- Cut one of each pattern piece from the corresponding fabrics following the diagram on page 7.



- Self-healing mats come in different sizes. 24" x 36" is a good size to have, but if you don't have a dedicated sewing space or don't plan to use it often, try an 18" x 24" mat instead.
- Acrylic rulers also come in many shapes and sizes. A standard 6" x 24" ruler is a good start, and I've also found a 12½" x 12½" square ruler to come in very handy.
- Rotary cutters are measured by the size of the circular blade in millimeters. A 45 mm rotary cutter is perfect for making the kind of straight cuts needed for this project.

Cut from the corresponding fabrics:

- Piece #1: Light, 4" x 3"
- Piece #2: Dark, 4" x 5"
- Piece #3: Light, 4" x 2½"
- Piece #4: Large Print, 9½" x 9½"
- Piece #5: Light, 2½" x 9½"
- Piece #6: Dark, 14½" x 2½"
- Piece #7: Medium, 14½" x 3½"

- Use the grid on your cutting mat to help square up fabric pieces when needed, but when measuring to cut the pieces be sure to use the gridlines on the acrylic ruler. Hold the ruler firmly on top of the fabric, and use a steady, firm, pressing motion when cutting with the rotary cutter.

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step two

- Set your sewing machine for a straight stitch about 2.5 mm long.
- Attach a ¼" foot, such as BERNINA Patchwork Foot with Guide #57, to your sewing machine.
- The blocks will be sewn together using ¼" seam allowances following the diagram on page 8.

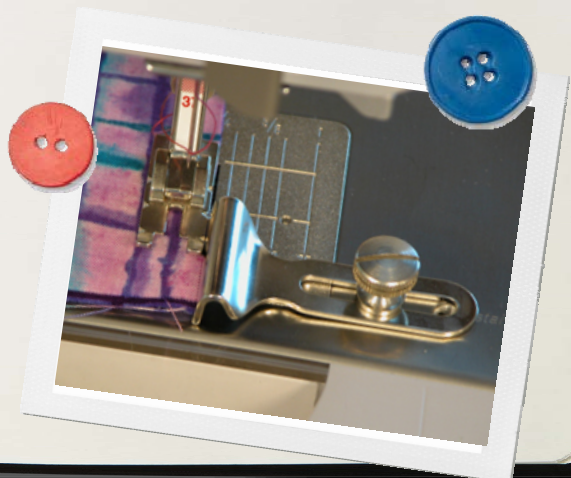


- *Stitching an accurate quarter-inch seam will help your block come together with nice, straight seams and avoid pieces not fitting together as you sew on.*

There are a few tools and tricks that can help you sew a successful quarter-inch seam:

- *Use a quarter-inch foot to help you keep the correct seam allowance width. The BERNINA Patchwork Foot #37 is designed specifically so that following the edge of the foot will create a ¼" seam allowance.*
- *BERNINA Patchwork Foot with Guide #57 is similar to #37, but adds a metal guide at the side of the foot to help you line up your fabric piece exactly at the edge of the foot.*

- *Attach a seam guide to the bed of your sewing machine along the ¼" seam allowance mark on your stitch plate, then place the edges of your fabric pieces against the guide as you sew.*
- *Alternatively, place a piece of blue low-tack painter's tape along the ¼" seam allowance mark on your stitch plate as a guide for your fabric.*



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step three

- Start by stitching piece #1 to piece #2 along one 4" side.
- Press the seam allowances to one side.
- Next, sew piece #2 to piece #2 along one 4" side as shown in the diagram; press after stitching.



step four

- Continue adding pieces to the block as pictured in the diagram on page X, pressing each seam as you go.

• Tip: When pressing seams, be sure to press down with the iron as opposed to „ironing,” or pushing the iron back and forth over the seam. Ironing can cause straight seams to go crooked. Pressing straight up and down with the iron will help your seams stay nice and straight.

step five

- Press all seams again from the back of the block when finished.



step six

- The finished quilt block should measure 14½" x 14½".



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step seven

- Cut one 14½" x 14½" square of fabric for the pillow lining.
- Cut two 11" x 14½" rectangles of fabric for the pillow back.



step eight

Create a 2" hem along one side of each 11" x 14½" pillow pocket pieces:

- Turn under 1" along one long edge; press.
- Turn under an additional 1"; press.



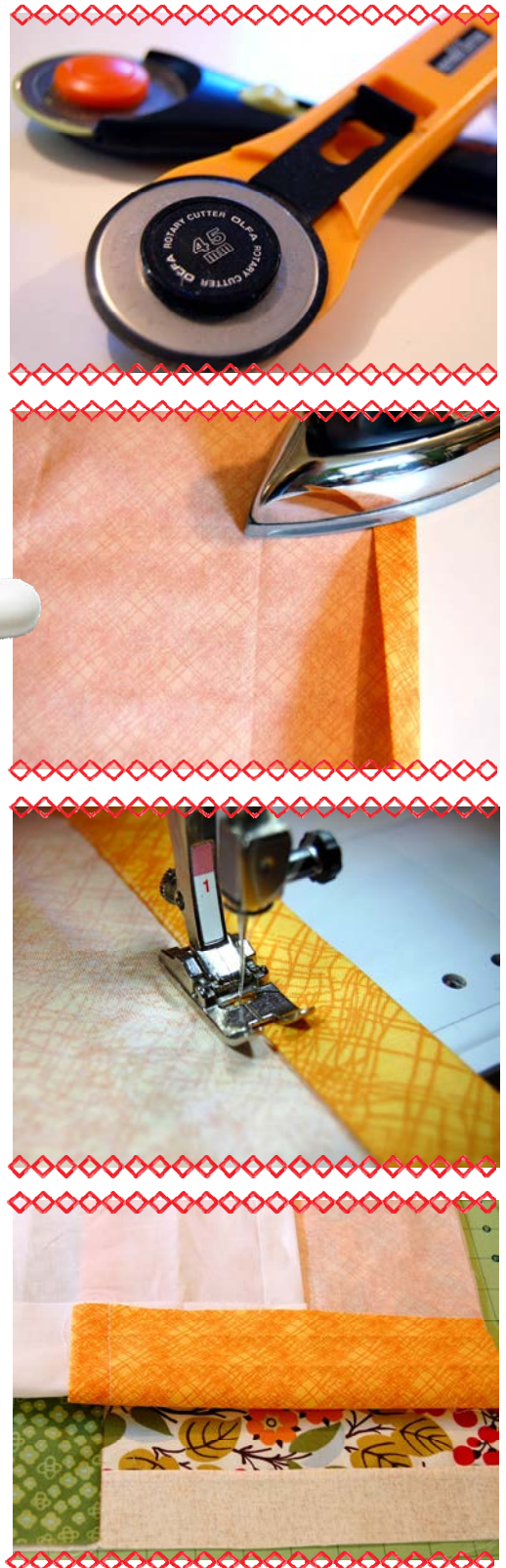
- Topstitch close to the inner edge of the folded hem with a straight stitch, using either a multi-purpose foot or a straight stitch foot.



step ten

Layer and pin the pieces of the pillow together:

- Begin with the 14½" square of white cotton for the lining.
- Add the finished patchwork block, right side up, matching all edges.



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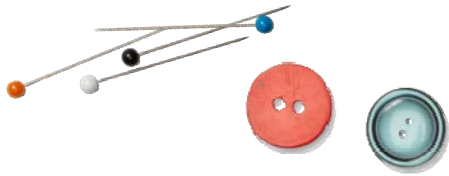
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step eleven

- Add one pocket pillow back, right side down, matching the raw edges. The finished hem will be about 5" from the other end of the pillow.
- Add the other pocket pillow back, right side down, on the opposite edge. The hemmed edges will overlap.
- Pin around all four edges of the pillow.

step twelve

- Set your machine for a straight stitch of 2.5 mm.
- Stitch around all four sides of the pillow using a ½" seam allowance.



step thirteen

- Trim all seam allowances to ¼".
- Attach an overlock or zigzag foot to your machine.
- Set your machine for a zigzag stitch and sew over the raw edges to keep them from unraveling.

step seven

- Turn the pillowcase right side out, gently pushing each corner from the inside to turn them.
- Insert the 14" pillow form through the opening in the back of the pillowcase. If needed, use a little fiberfill to help fill out the pillow corners.

• Tip: If some edges are slightly uneven or do not match even though they seem to be layered correctly, use your clear ruler and rotary cutter to trim a scant amount off the edges to straighten the edges before you sew them together.



• Tip: To help you stitch perfect ½" seams, attach a seam guide to your machine and set it ½" from the center needle position.

• Tip: The pin in the sole of the overlock foot helps keep the zigzag stitches nice and flat along the raw edges of the seam allowances.



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#1—Light
4" x 3"

#2—Dark
4" x 5"

#3—Light
4" x 2½"

**Geometric
Quilt Block**
**CUTTING
DIAGRAM**

#4—Large Print
9½" x 9½"

#5—Light
2½" x 9½"

#6—Dark
14½" x 2½"

#7—Medium
14½" x 3½"



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