

2020 Mystery Quilt – Step # 5

By Kathleen Tracy

Here are the directions for putting the center part of your quilt together. Please read through all of the directions before you begin. Make sure to cut your pieces accurately and take your time when sewing together with a scant $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam. Choose a fabric for your inner border that is not too busy and will be a nice contrast between the scrappy blocks and the outer border (which we'll begin working on next month).

Cutting

From a fabric for the inner border, cut

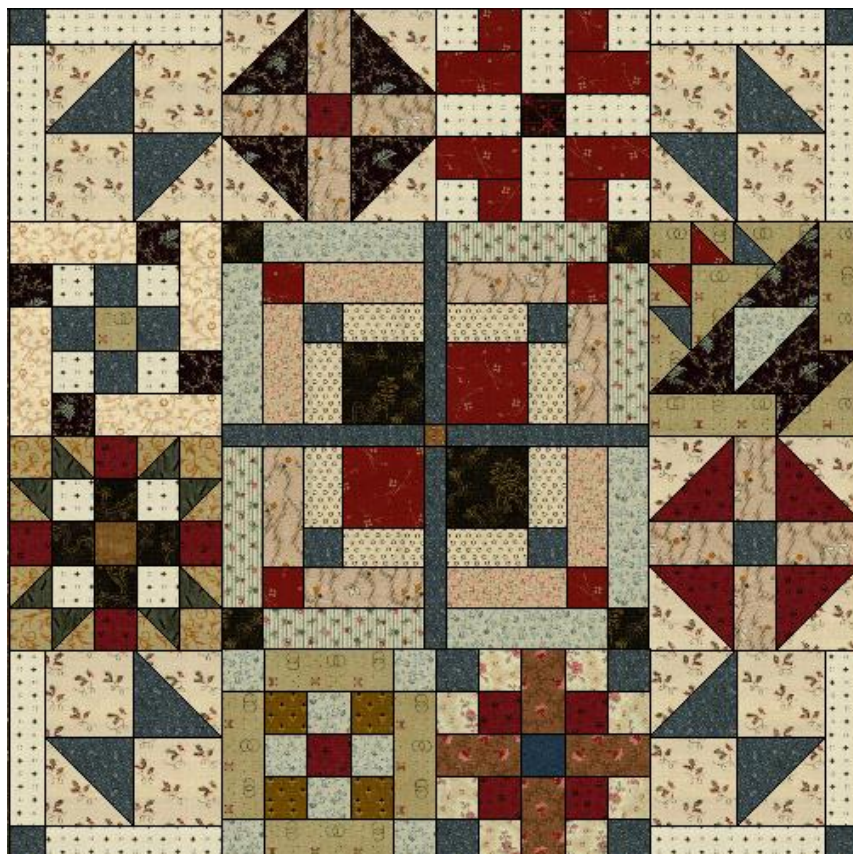
4 strips, $1\frac{1}{2}$ " x $20\frac{1}{2}$ "

From a coordinating fabric (or scraps) for cornerstones, cut

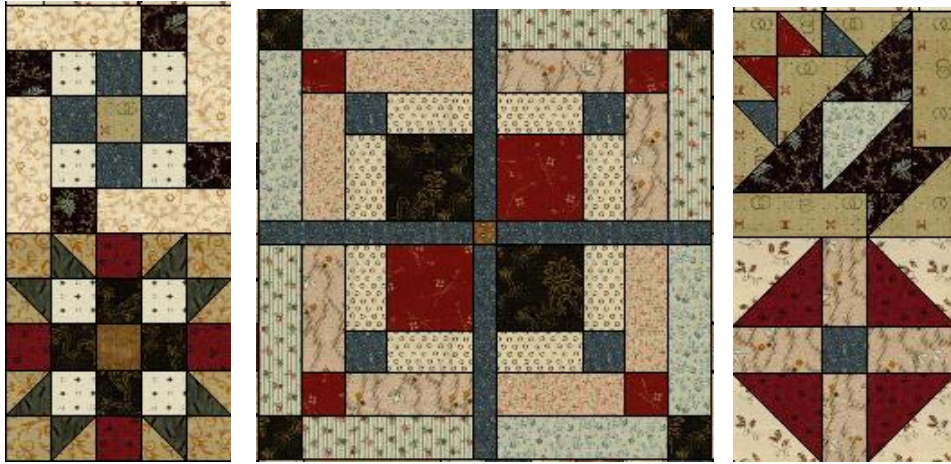
4 squares, $1\frac{1}{2}$ " x $1\frac{1}{2}$ "

Directions

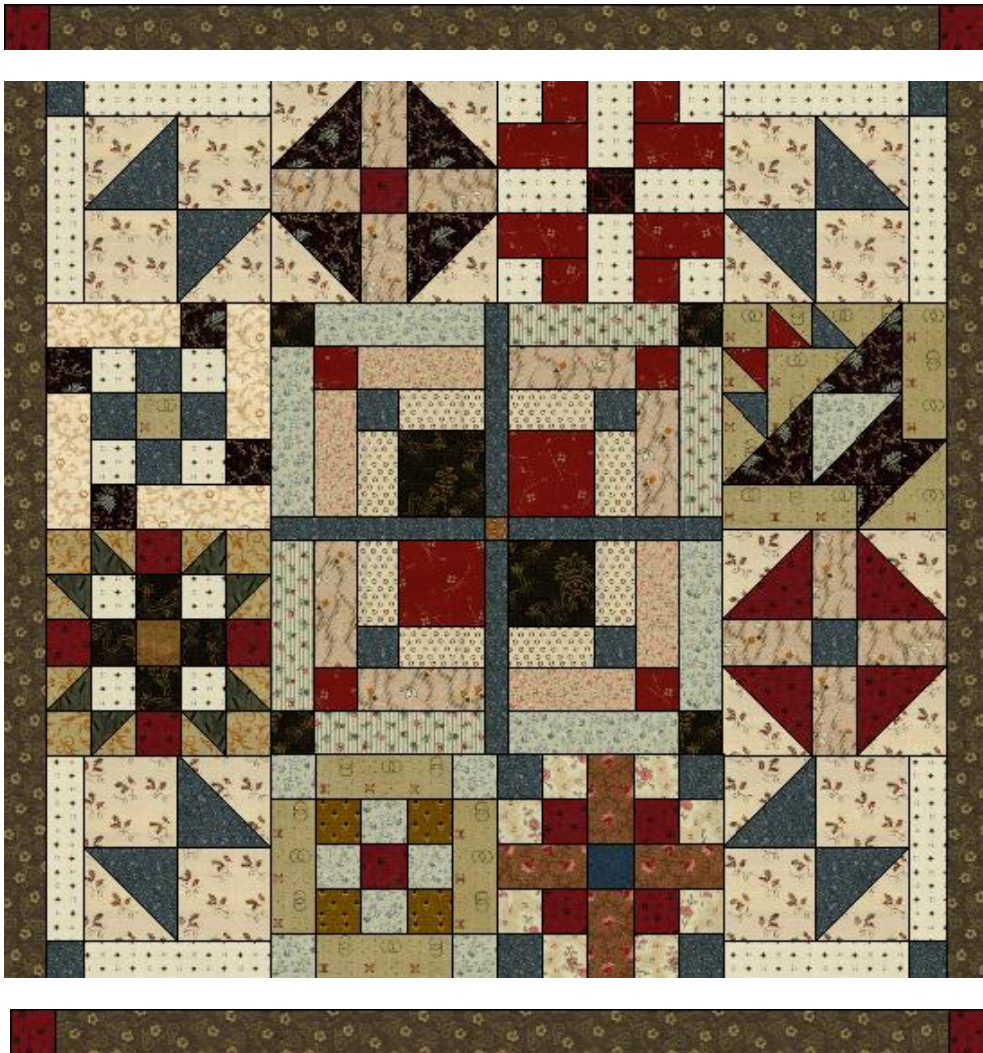
1. You will set all 12 of the 5 " x 5 " blocks around the center part that you made in the first two steps. These blocks can be set any way you like. But use the blocks with sashing in the corners as shown. Then play around and arrange the remaining blocks in a pleasing pattern.



2, Sew the blocks together in three rows as shown, again making sure to place the blocks with the sashing in the corners. Then sew the rows together. Your top should measure 20 ½" x 20 ½".



3. Sew the two inner border strips to the sides of the quilt.
4. Sew the 1 ½" cornerstone squares to both ends of the remaining border strips. Sew these to the top and bottom of your quilt top.



We'll work on some applique for the outer border in May. We'll also use the 3" x 3" blocks you made in the previous steps and add them to the border. In the meantime, think about how you would like to do your applique and choose a background for it. I am using a lighter print for my background so the applique will show up nicely. But choose whatever you like. You can use several different light prints for a scrappy look. Or, if you decide to do your applique in wool, choose a print that will go with that. You will need 2 background strips that measure about 3 ½" by 14" which will be trimmed down a bit when the applique is done. Then, choose some scraps for stems, leaves and flowers. I'll give you the shapes next time.

As I mentioned in the directions for the last step, you may choose not to do the applique if you're not comfortable with it. Choose some pretty fabric instead and the quilt will still look nice. More to come in May!