

2023 Small Quilt Sew Along

By Kathleen Tracy

Happy New Year! Welcome to another little quilting adventure for 2023. We'll be making a very simple and scrappy quilt this time using simple little Shoo Fly blocks that measure 3" x 3" (finished).



This will be a scrap quilt and I am using 1800s reproduction prints for my quilt. You may make your quilt with any type of fabric you like; choose the colors you love. The blocks will be easy to make and once you get going I guarantee you will not want to stop at one. If you're a beginner or new to making small blocks, it may help to read the file "Sewing Small Blocks for Small Quilts" that's in the group Files. Small blocks often require a little bit of practice and patience. But this is also how you improve your skills. Take your time to cut and sew carefully. You can also find tips on making small blocks in the Quiltmaking Basics section of any of my books.

You'll have a few different options (see below) for making your quilt. You can choose to make as many blocks as you like. Make your quilt with or without borders, sashing or setting blocks, as shown in some of my examples. It will be YOUR quilt, so choose the fabrics you love, browse through the examples I've shown and then take some time to think about how you will set your blocks.

Materials

You'll need assorted scraps of fabric in light, medium and dark prints for each block.

Cutting

For each block, choose two fabrics.

From a light print, cut

2 squares, 1 7/8" x 1 7/8"

4 squares, 1 1/2" x 1 1/2"

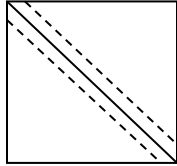
From a medium or dark print, cut

2 squares, 1 7/8" x 1 7/8"

1 square, 1 1/2" x 1 1/2"

Make the Shoo-Fly Block

1. Layer two matching light print squares on top of 2 matching medium or dark print squares, right sides together. Draw a diagonal line from corner to corner across the back of each light square. Stitch $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the line on both sides and cut on the drawn line. Flip open and press seams toward the darker fabric. Make four half-square triangle units. Trim each unit to $1\frac{1}{2}$ " x $1\frac{1}{2}$ ".



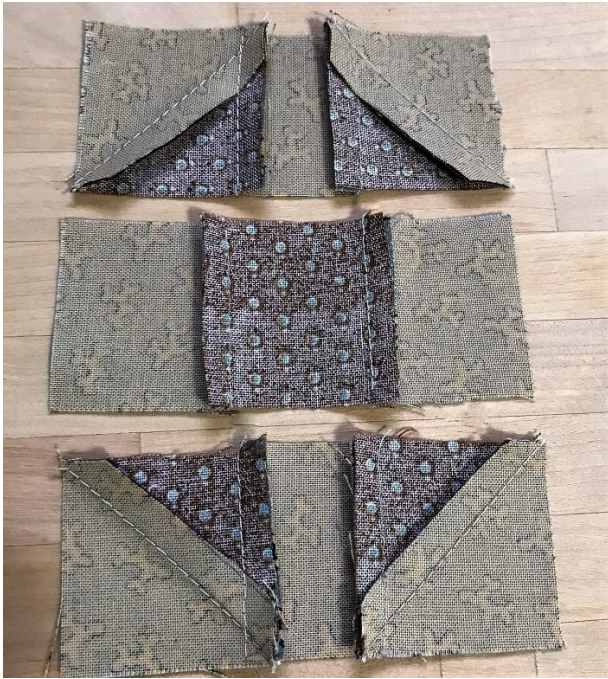
Make 4.

2. Arrange the four HST (half-square triangle) units together with the four matching light print squares and the matching medium or dark square as shown. Sew three units together into three rows. Sew the rows together to make the block. Decide on a setting for your blocks and then make as many blocks as you like for your quilt.



Tip: Here's how to press the seams

Press top and bottom row seams toward the center. (See photo.) The seams in the middle row will be pressed outward. Butt the seams against each other as you sew the rows together. (I always pin here at the seam intersections.) When you're finished sewing the units together, press the row seams open. Dab a few drops of water on the seam as you open it with your fingers or a stiletto. Press open.



Here are some ideas for setting your blocks. Be creative and play around with your fabrics.



Make 10 blocks and cut ten 3 1/2" setting squares. Cut a 1 1/2" border with four 1 1/2" corner squares or cut two 1 7/8" squares to make 4 half-square triangles for corners as seen in second quilt.



Make 5 blocks. Cut 3 ½" setting squares



Make 20 blocks and set them without a border.

Make 9 blocks. Cut 12 sashing strips 1 ¼" x 3 ½" and four 1 ¼" squares for cornerstones.



Make a 3-block runner. Cut 1 ¼" x 3 ½" sashing strips.