

2021 Mystery Quilt - Step 2

By Kathleen Tracy

Please read through all of the directions before you begin.

All scrap quilts are not alike, with just any old fabrics thrown together. In the coming months, you'll get some practice using color and contrast in making scrappy quilts. Here's what works for me: I like to make my scrap quilts using a "controlled scrappy" method so the blocks are clearly defined and don't get lost in a mess of colors and prints. This takes a little planning, so take your time choosing fabrics. I don't often pair bold, busy prints with other busy prints. Likewise, if I pair mostly small or dull prints with other small prints, there won't be much contrast in my quilt. Go for a balance of both within your blocks and occasionally add a bold print for a little spark. I realize this may not work for everyone. I know some of you might be bolder than me, LOL, so in the end, do what pleases YOU and make your scrap quilt the way you prefer with the fabrics you love.

This month, we'll be making **16 four-patch blocks** that coordinate with the 32 half-square triangles made in Step 1.



Make 16 four-patch blocks in four different colors. Finished block size: 2" x 2"

Materials

For Step 2, choose scraps of four different medium or dark fabrics. Then, choose a selection of four lighter prints to go with the medium or dark prints. Each color set will coordinate with one set of the half-square triangle sets you made in Step 1 of our Mystery. Make sure there is a bit of contrast between the colors used in the last step. In other words, don't pair up blue four patches with blue half-square triangles. It's fun to play around with different fabric combinations and see what goes with what. See the picture of my triangles and four-patch blocks below.

Cutting

Cut **32 squares**, $1\frac{1}{2}'' \times 1\frac{1}{2}''$ from **four** different medium or dark prints (i.e., cut 8 squares from **each** different colored print: $8 \times 4 = 32$)

Cut **32 squares**, $1\frac{1}{2}'' \times 1\frac{1}{2}''$ from **four** different light prints (i.e., cut 8 squares from **each** different colored print: $8 \times 4 = 32$)

If you prefer, you can use the same light print for making all of the blocks. Your choice.

Make the Block

1. Sew one light square to a medium or dark square. Then sew 2 units together to make a four-patch block. Trim to $2\frac{1}{2}'' \times 2\frac{1}{2}''$ (Blocks will measure $2'' \times 2''$ when **finished in the quilt**).



Make 4 blocks from each color - 16 blocks total in matching sets of 4. (See photo above.)

This is what your finished blocks for the 2021 Mystery should look like so far with the half-square triangles and four patches paired up. See you next month when we'll spice it up a bit!

