

Kathleen Tracy's 2020 Mystery Quilt – Step #1


Welcome to another fun Mystery quilting adventure for 2020. Here's how the Mystery will work: Each month from now until June I'll give you directions to make a block or a portion of the quilt. And then in July I'll show you how to put the whole quilt together when the "Mystery" is revealed. The patterns are free and you can find them in the group Files. All you need to do is download the .pdf and print out the pages, gather up your scraps and start sewing!

I'm planning this as a scrap quilt using 1800s reproduction prints or, as they are sometimes called, "Civil War" fabrics. Each of my blocks will be made using lots of different prints because you know I love a good scrappy quilt. When I make a scrap quilt I often focus on a few different colors that I love and then mix those with lots of other colored prints. If you're new to making scrappy looking quilts, here's a suggestion: when you choose your fabrics for the first couple of blocks, repeat some of the same colors in the other blocks that will be introduced later or select colors that will coordinate with those for the rest of the quilt. This will set the tone for the quilt and bring it all together at the end. If you don't like scrappy quilts, make your quilt using just a couple of your favorite colors and just match the blocks. Of course, you can ignore all of my suggestions and just go with the flow. It's your quilt and you should make it any way you like.

I think many of you can easily sew this from your stash or scrap basket and perhaps use a few additional fat quarters or quarter yards. You will need some fabric other than scraps in the coming months for things like borders. Sometimes, buying a couple of new pieces of fabric will inspire and motivate you and "liven" up the project. The finished quilt will be about 30" x 30".

The blocks will be simple and even if you're a beginner you shouldn't have any trouble. If you are a beginner or new to making "smallish" 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. You can find tips on making small blocks in the Quiltmaking Basics section of any of my books.

Happy New Year!

-Kathy 

Step 1 – You will be making 4 of one block and 12 of another

Block 1 Finished size: $4\frac{3}{4}" \times 4\frac{3}{4}"$

Materials:

Scraps of light prints or shirting prints

Scraps of medium or dark prints

Cutting:

From the medium or dark prints, cut

1 square, $2\frac{1}{4}" \times 2\frac{1}{4}"$

3 squares $1\frac{1}{2}" \times 1\frac{1}{2}"$

From 3 different light or shirting prints, cut

2 rectangles, $1\frac{1}{2}" \times 2\frac{1}{4}"$

2 rectangles, $1\frac{1}{2}" \times 3\frac{1}{4}"$

2 rectangles, $1\frac{1}{2}" \times 4\frac{1}{4}"$

Make Block # 1

(You will make 4 blocks total)

1. Sew a $1\frac{1}{2}" \times 2\frac{1}{4}"$ light print rectangle to the side of the $2\frac{1}{4}"$ square.



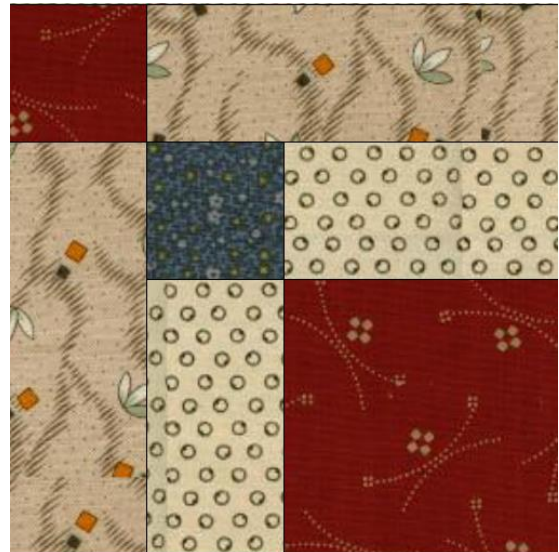
2. Sew a $1\frac{1}{2}"$ square to the end of a $1\frac{1}{2}" \times 2\frac{1}{4}"$ rectangle



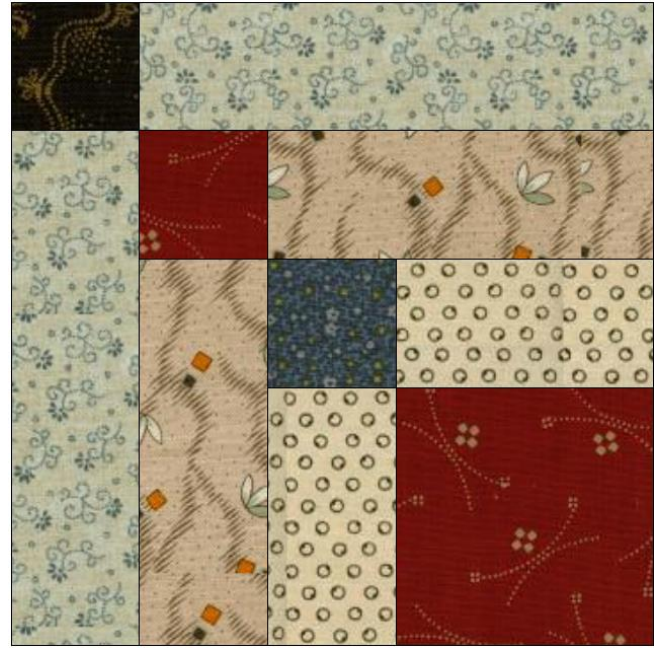
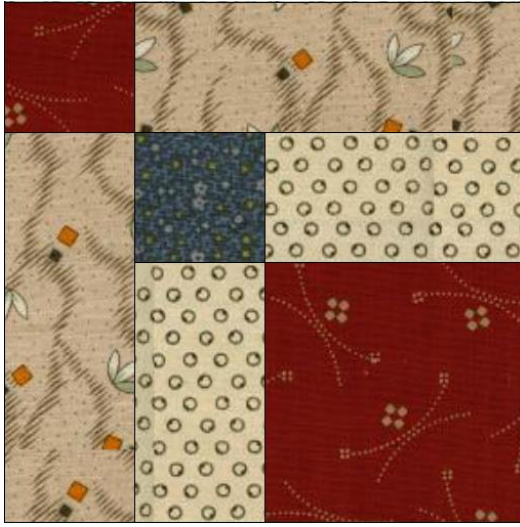
3. Sew the unit from step 2 to the top of the unit from step 1.



4. Add the next round of matching rectangles in the same manner, adding a rectangle to the side, sewing a square to end of the other rectangle and then sewing the unit to the top.



5. Sew the remaining 2 rectangles and 1 ½" square to the unit from step 4. The block should measure 5 ¼" x 5 ¼". Make 2 blocks using the same colors.



Make 2

6. Follow the directions above and make 2 more blocks using different colors for a total of **FOUR BLOCKS**. The blocks should measure $5\frac{1}{4}'' \times 5\frac{1}{4}''$ now and will finish at $4\frac{3}{4}'' \times 4\frac{3}{4}''$ when sewn into the quilt.



Make 2.

Block 2 (half-square triangles) Finished size: 3" x 3"

Cutting:

From 6 different light or medium prints, cut

6 squares 3 7/8" x 3 7/8"

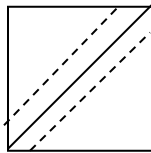
From 6 different medium or dark prints, cut

6 squares 3 7/8" x 3 7/8"

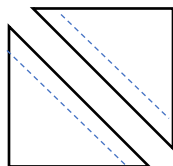
Make Block #2

(You will make 12 half-square triangles total)

1. Pair up a light or medium print square with a medium or dark print square. Draw a diagonal line from corner to corner on the wrong side of the lighter square.



2. Layer the marked square on top of the other square, right sides together. Stitch ¼" away from the line on both sides. Cut on the drawn line. Press open toward the darker fabric to make two half-square triangle units. Be careful not to stretch or distort the pieces while pressing. Trim the dog ears at the corners. Units should measure 3 ½" x 3 ½" now and will finish at 3" x 3" when sewn into the quilt. Make **12 half-square-triangle units** and set aside to use in a later step. It may help to keep all the blocks and pieces for this quilt together in a plastic zip-lock bag and then store it where you'll be able to find it each month.



Make 12

