

2021 Mystery Quilt - Step 1

By Kathleen Tracy

Happy New Year! Welcome to another little quilting adventure for 2021. We'll be making a very simple and scrappy quilt that will measure about 25" x 25" when done. Each month through April, we'll work on a different part of the quilt and then begin to put the whole quilt together after that when the "Mystery" is revealed. All you need to do is download the .pdf pages and print them out. You'll find the files for the patterns in the Facebook Small Quilt Lovers group files, the Groups.io Files or files on my website on the Mystery Quilt page at www.countrylanequits.com The patterns will remain in the files until the end of 2021.

I'm planning this as a scrap quilt and am using 1800s reproduction prints for my quilt. Of course, you may make your quilt with any type of fabric you like; choose the colors you love. The blocks will be fairly simple to make so even if you're a beginner you shouldn't have any problems. Since small blocks often require a little bit of practice and patience, take your time when sewing. If you're in either of the online groups, it may help to read the file "Sewing Small Blocks for Small Quilts." Let's get started

Please read through the directions before you begin.

Materials

For Step 1, Choose four focus fabrics in four different colors of medium or dark prints. Scraps or fat eighths will do. Choose a selection of four lighter prints to go with the medium or dark prints.





Make 32 Half-square triangles. Finished block size: 2" x 2"

Cutting

Cut **16 squares**, 2 7/8" x 2 7/8", from **four** different medium or dark prints (i.e., cut 4 squares from each different colored print: 4 x 4 = 16)

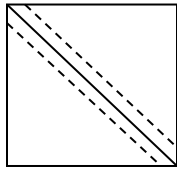
Cut **16 squares**, 2 7/8" x 2 7/8", from **four** different light prints (i.e., cut 4 squares from each different light print: 4 x 4 = 16)

If you prefer not to go "scrappy" you can use the same light print for making all blocks. Your choice.

Make the Block

Layer the 16 light print squares with the 16 medium or dark print squares, right sides together. Follow the directions below to make **32 half-square-triangle blocks** that measure 2 1/2" x 2 1/2" (these will **finish** at 2" x 2" in the quilt when you sew them together). You will have a total of **32 blocks** in matching sets of eight.

1. Draw a diagonal line from corner to corner across the back of each light print 2 7/8" square. Layer each light print square with a 2 7/8" medium or dark print square, right sides together, with the lighter square on top. Stitch 1/4" away from the line on both sides. Cut along the drawn line. Flip open and press seams toward the darker fabric.



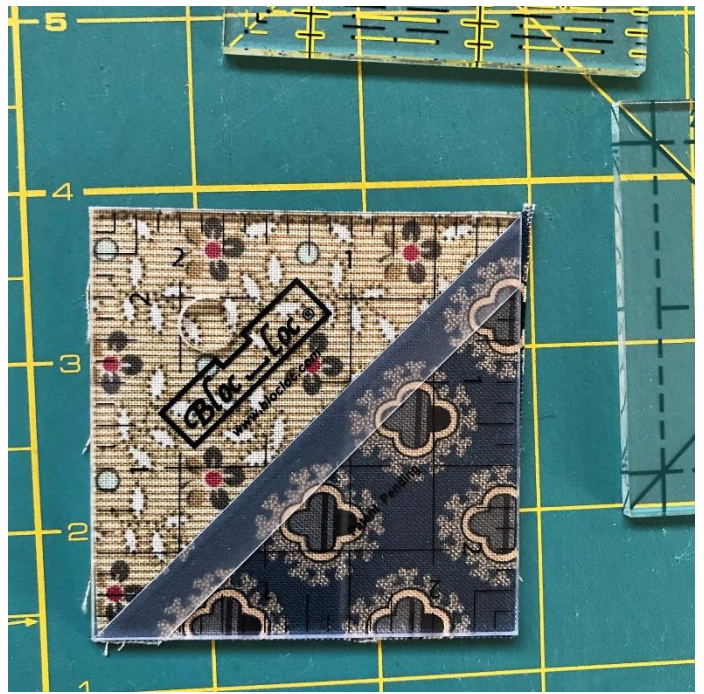
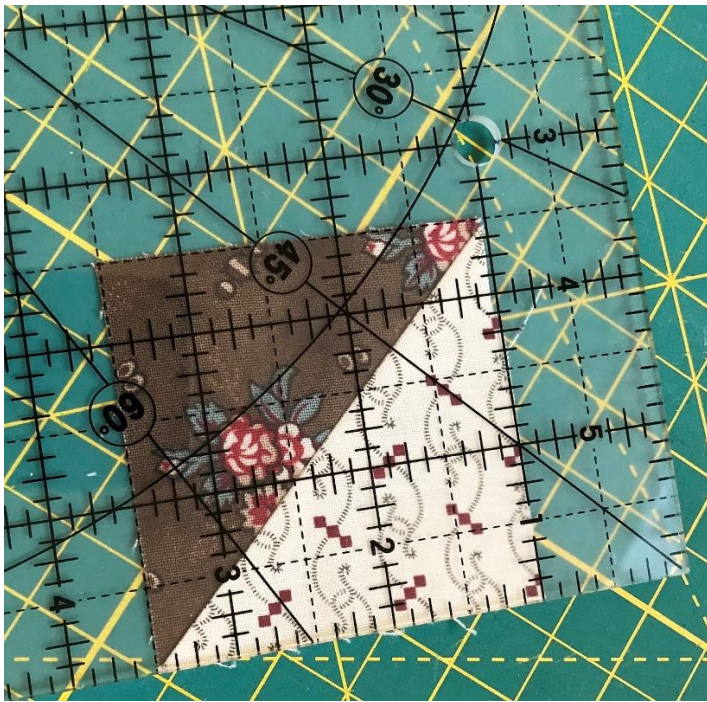
Make 32 half-square triangle blocks in matching sets of 8.

Here's a tip: I use a Quilter's Rule Quick Quarter tool to mark my squares. (find one at Joann, Amazon.)

After marking, layering and sewing, I like to press my half triangle square units open one side at a time to stabilize the fabric before I cut them apart. It helps keep the blocks from getting wonky and out of shape. If you cut and sewed accurately, when you measure your blocks they will require minimal trimming. Try it!



Press one side open. Turn and flip the other side and press. Then cut apart on the line. Trim to 2 ½" .



That's it for this month. I told you it would be simple . . . Set your blocks aside in a zip-lock bag for safekeeping and come back next month for Step 2.

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