

Sunflower Chains Butterfly Threads Mystery Quilt 2014

(printable version, larger quilt instructions in italics)

Yardage: Throw size, Queen size

Background 2 ½ yds (4 ½ yds)

Green fabric ¾ yd (1 ½ yds)

Yellow fabric ¾ yd (1 ½ yds)

Brown fabric ¼ yd (½ yds)

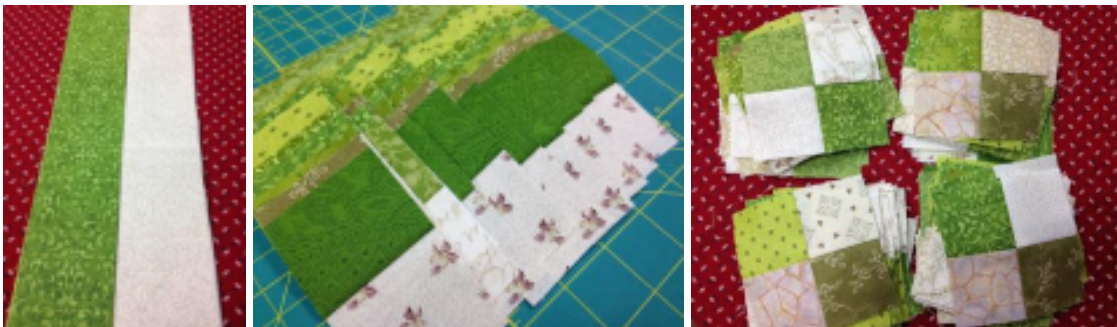
Step 1 Make 48 four patches from 2" squares or strips.

Use two squares of background fabric and two squares of green fabric for each block. These blocks will measure 3 ½" when they are assembled. (*Make 100 of the 4 patch units for the larger quilt.*)

NOTE: If you are using fat quarters or yardage, cut 6 strips of background and 6 strips of accent cut at 2" x 18 ½" (or 48- 2" squares of each fabric)

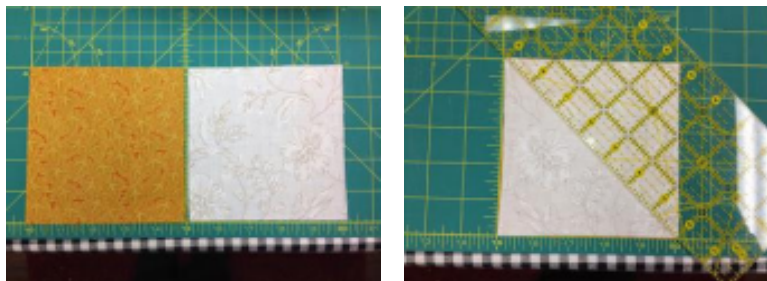
Queen Size: to make 100 four patches cut 12 strips of each

Sewing: Sew one background and one accent strip together lengthwise, press to the darker fabric, and subcut into 2" units. Flip and sew these units into four patches.



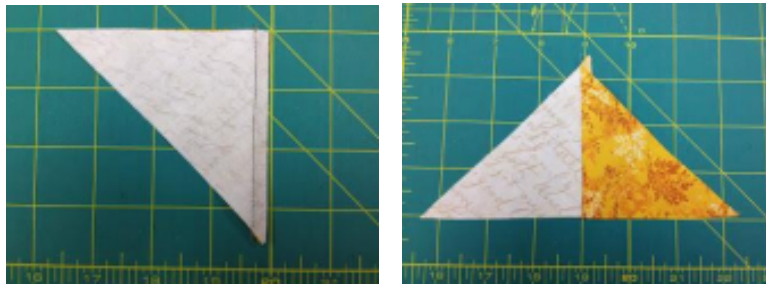
Step 2 Make 48 triangle shaped units.

Cut 12 squares 4.5" x 4.5" from the background fabric, cut the squares in half on the diagonal from corner to corner. Without moving them, cut them again on the opposite diagonal. This will create 48 identical triangles (4 from each square.) Repeat with yellow fabric. You will have another set of 48 triangles.



Sew the background triangles to the yellow fabric triangles. Be sure to keep the background fabric on the left, and the main fabric on the right. If you swap the fabric (left/right) that is fine as long as they are **all the same**. Sew them together in pairs along a short side. Place the yellow fabric right sides together on top of the background fabric and sew along a short side of the triangle. When the unit is open, it will look like a mountain with a vertical seam down the middle. If yours are the shape of a square, they are incorrect.

Queen Size: to make 100 triangle shaped units, cut 25 squares of each and follow the piecing instructions.



These units will be trimmed and added to future units in another step.

Step 3

Cut 12 squares 3 1/2 " (*larger size, cut 25 squares from the brown fabric.*)



Please note: This is the largest piece in the quilt, and it will be important to choose a fabric (or fabrics) that you really like. It's an opportunity to go with a larger scale print, or an interesting conversational print, plaid, or fussy cut design. I chose a medium scale brown. I also chose to use one fabric even though I have gone scrappy up to this point. You might want to do that as well. Please know that this quilt will look awesome if you use the same fabric as you did in the other steps, but it will also be fun if you change it up a bit.

Step 4

Make 20 nine patch blocks (*Make 36 for the larger size quilt*)

Cut 2" strips or squares from the accent fabric and the background fabrics. Cut a total of 200" in length (or 100 2" squares) of the accent fabric. Cut 160" in length (or 80 2" squares) of the background fabric. The number of strips you need to cut will depend on how long your pieces are. I used 18" strips and cut 12 strips of accent fabric and 10 strips of background, with leftovers. Sew the strips together in sets of accent/background/accent and half as many in background/accent/background. Once these strip sets are sewn, cut them into 2" segments.

Sew together into nine patches making sure the accent fabric is in the center and corners and the background fabric is in the middle of each side. These blocks will be 5".



Step 5

If using one fabric for your background you will simply cut rectangles from background fabric. This will be the last time we use this fabric. Cut 5" x 9 1/2" rectangles. For the smaller size quilt make 31 (*larger version make 60.*)

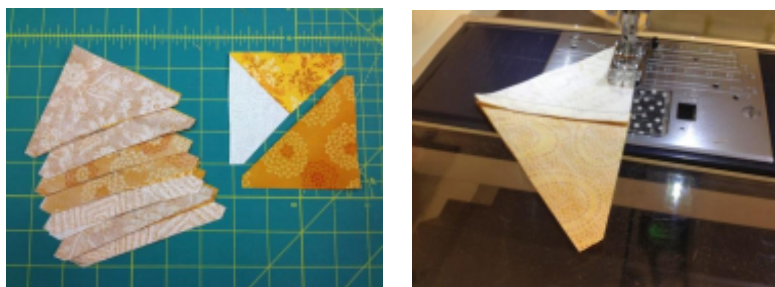
If using scrappy fabrics for your background you have a little bit more work to do, but it's not hard! You will be making strip units that will measure 5" x 9 1/2" when you are done. For the smaller size quilt you will need 31 units, and if you are making the larger version you will need 60 units. This is how you will cut and assemble each unit:



Cut 2" x 9 1/2" strips from the background fabrics. (93 for the small quilt, 180 for the large)

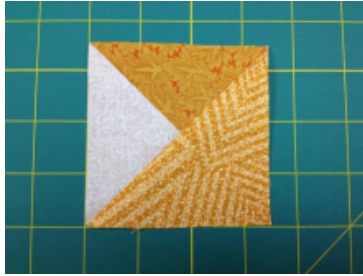
Sew these strips together lengthwise in sets of 3 to make your units. This completes all the steps needed using your background fabrics!

Step 6 This step uses the units from step 2. We will take those units and sew them to focus fabric half square triangles to make 3 1/2" squares. If you are making the small quilt, sew a total of 48 squares (*the larger quilt you will need 100.*)



I used 3 1/2" strips and cut my half square triangles from them using my tri recs ruler that I have used in previous steps. Or, you could cut 4 1/4" squares and slice them in half diagonally.

Place the unit from step 2 right sides together with the half square triangle and sew a quarter inch seam along the long side of the triangles as shown in the photo above. Press open with seams toward the triangle that was just added. Trim the square to 3 1/2" if needed. The units from step 2 should need to be trimmed as they were a bit oversize to accommodate for variations in piecing and pressing techniques. As long as your finished block is 3 1/2" square, you are fine.



Step 7

This step will require the units made in step 1, step 3 and step 6. We will be sewing the blocks together on this step.

Each block will require four step 1 (four patches), one step 3 (3 1/2" square piece of fabric) and four step 6 (units made of two focus and one background fabrics)



Lay out the four patches in the corners making sure the accent fabric is in the outside corner.

Lay out the fabric square in the center.

Lay out the step 6 units on the sides of the center piece.

If you are using all one fabric (instead of yellow and brown) your block will look like a star. If you are using scrappy or a contrasting fabric in the center, your block will look more like a flower. It is important that your four patches be turned exactly as shown in the photo. It will be important in the next step.



Smaller quilt: make 12 blocks

Larger quilt: make 25 blocks

Mystery Quilt Reveal!!!



Step 8 Once the blocks are assembled, arrange the blocks and strip sets into rows. Also arrange the nine patches and strip sets into rows. Sew the rows together as shown. The strip sets will be the sashing and the nine patches will be the corner stones. *(Larger size will have five rows of five blocks.)*

Now do you see why it was so important to have your four patches turned the right direction? If your four patches don't line up with your nine patches, your chains won't link properly.

I do hope that you enjoyed this little mystery of ours and are ready to get it all put together. Feel free to add borders if you like. I chose not to. Layer, baste, quilt and bind!

Enjoy every stitch!

Diane

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