Disappearing Quilt Blocks

This is a collection of information I found when researching disappearing blocks. All links were verified when the PDF was created. Links are subject to change by the site owner without notice.

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Disappearing 4-Patch Blocks

Disappearing 4-Patch - Even Cuts

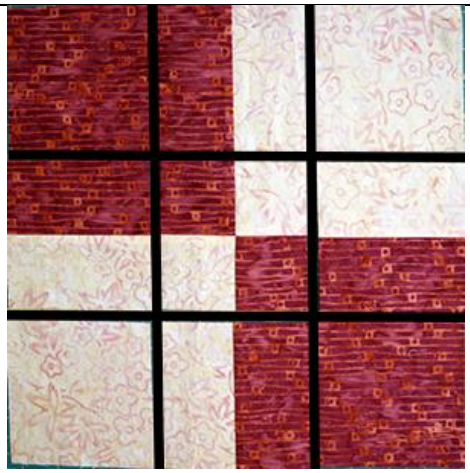
https://questioningquilter.com/2021/03/07/the-magic-of-disappearing-blocks/

Refer to the Block Cutting Chart document to determine the (1) size of initial squares and (2) where to cut for your desired final block size.

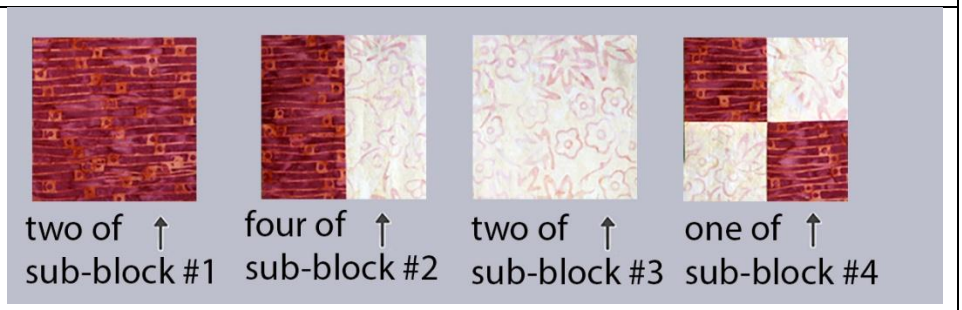
<table>
<tr>
<td>Measure from the center seam.

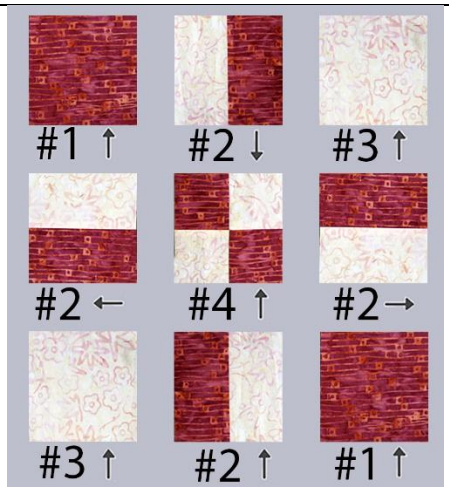
Make a cut, then rotate the mat 90 degrees.

Measure from the center seam and cut again.

Repeat until you've made 4 cuts.</td>
<td>
Example: 6-inch 4-Patch block

Cut 1 inch away from center seam

Creates nine 2-inch squares</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This creates 9 sub-blocks.</td>
<td>
</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Position/rotate and arrange the sub blocks as shown here and sew together.

Note: The same thing works with Disappearing Hourglass Blocks and Disappearing Pinwheel blocks.</td>
<td>

</td>
</tr>
</table>

Note: Final disappearing 4-patch block will be about 1 1/2 inches smaller than the simple 4 patch.

Disappearing 4-Patch - Uneven Cuts #1

Narrow Center Piece

https://chock-a-blockquiltblocks.blogspot.com/2012/04/disappearing-4-patch.html

Create the 4-patch with 2 to 4 light and dark fabrics cut into 7 1/2" squares.

Cut 5 1/2" in from each side of the block.

OR 1 3/4" away from the center seams.



Swap the left center unit with the right center unit.

Swap the top center unit with the bottom center unit.

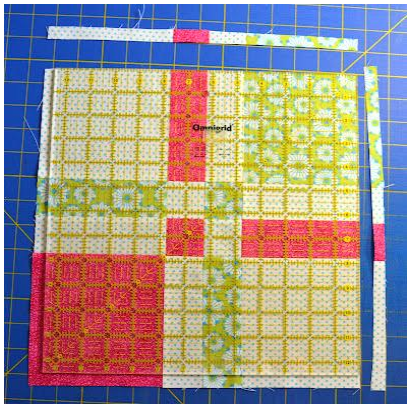
Sew together in 3 rows. Press seams in rows 1 and 3 to the **inside** and seams in row 2 to the **outside**.





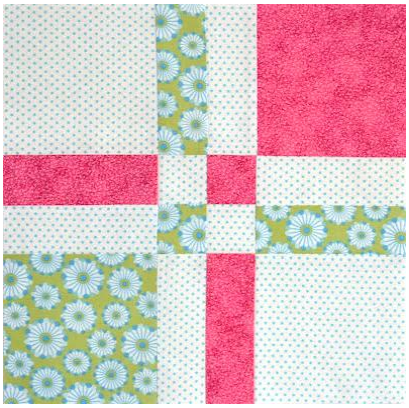
Sew rows together and press seams to the outside.

Square up the block. Place the ruler on the 6 1/4" lines on the center seams, both vertical & horizontal and trim top and right sides.



Turn the block and square 2 remaining sides to 12 1/2".

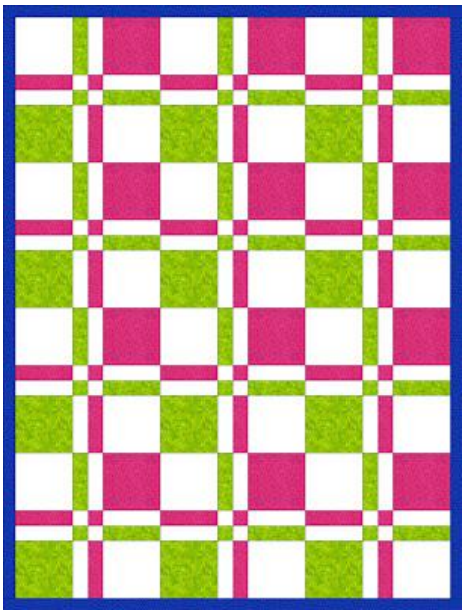
12" FINISHED Block

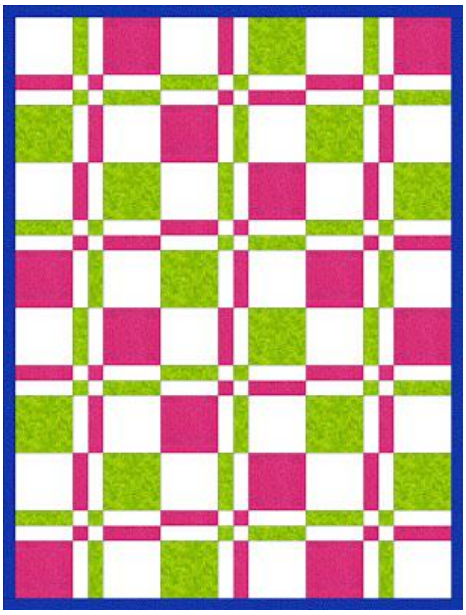


Uneven Cuts #1 Examples

Left: Blocks placed side by side (Same color - horizontal; Alternating color - diagonal rows).

Right image: Rotate every other block (Alternating color - horizontal; Same color – diagonal).





Scrappy blocks...



8 1/2" x 8 1/2" unfinished block with 2 fabrics

5″ squares to create 4-patch

Cut 1" from the center seam on all 4 sides

Rotate the center "4-patch" 90 degrees CW

Swap the corner pieces. Sew together.



https://katecollerandesigns.com/exploring-quilting-basics-how-to-make-the-disappearing-4-patch-block/

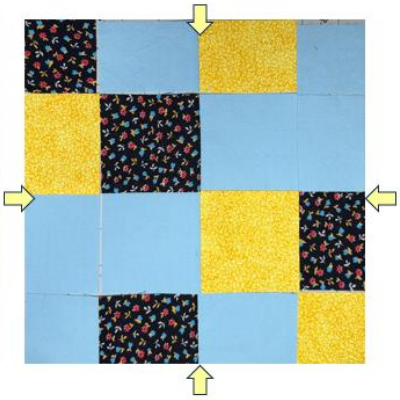
Disappearing 4 Patch Quilt Block Variations by Sew Easy by Sandy:

Disappearing 4 Patch Quilt Block Variations | Easy Quilt Patterns Made From Scraps

Wide Center Piece

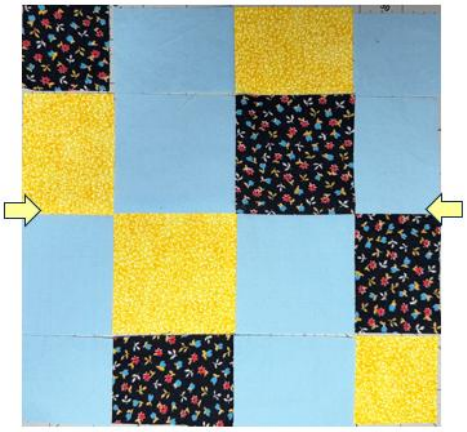


- Four 5” squares
- Cut 2 3/4” from center in all 4 directions

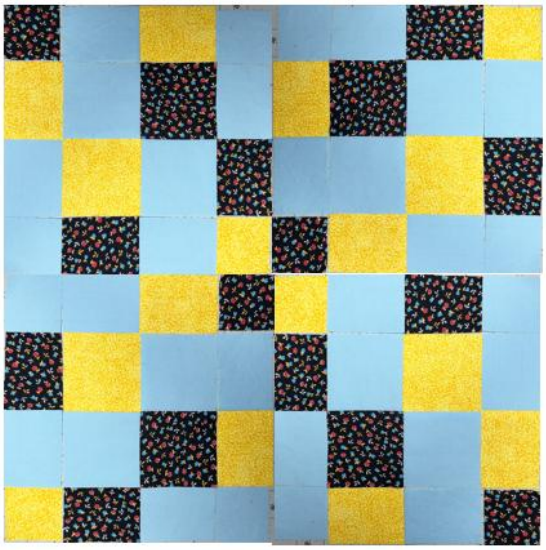


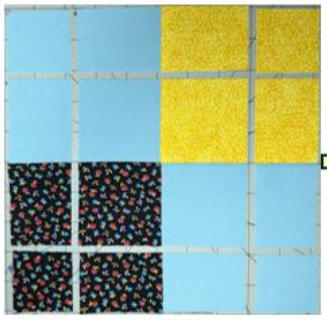
Rotated and/or moved 4 rectangles





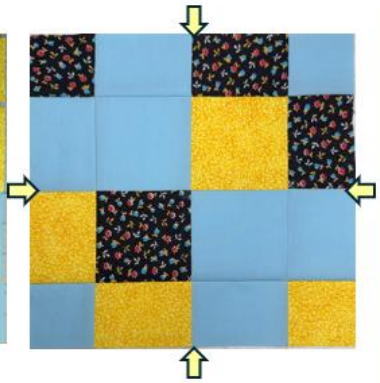
Then moved 4 corner squares and 2 side rectangles





Four 5” squares

Cut 2 3/4” from center in all 4 directions



Rotated and/or moved 4 rectangles (Top to bottom; left to right)

Moved all corners CW

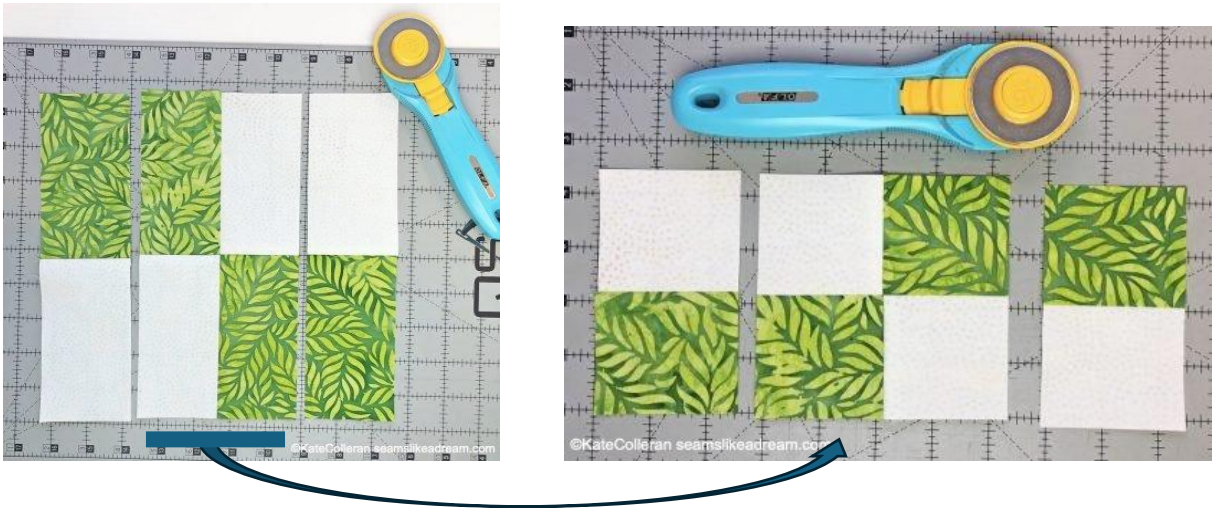


Disappearing 4-Patch – Uneven Cuts #2

https://katecollerandesigns.com/exploring-quilting-basics-how-to-make-the-disappearing-4-patch-block/

Create a 4-patch block using 5″ x 5″ squares. Cut a strip 2 1/2” wide from each side (or 2 1/4" from center seam) and set those rectangles aside.

Rotate only the center unit. Cut a 2 1/2” wide strip from each side (or 2 1/4" from center seam).



Arrange the pieces as shown here.

Sew the 3 pieces in the center row together.

Add the top and bottom rows, which are longer than the center row. Match up the centers of the rows. Once the block is sewn, trim the top and bottom rows.

The block should measure 8 1/2” x 8 1/2” unfinished.



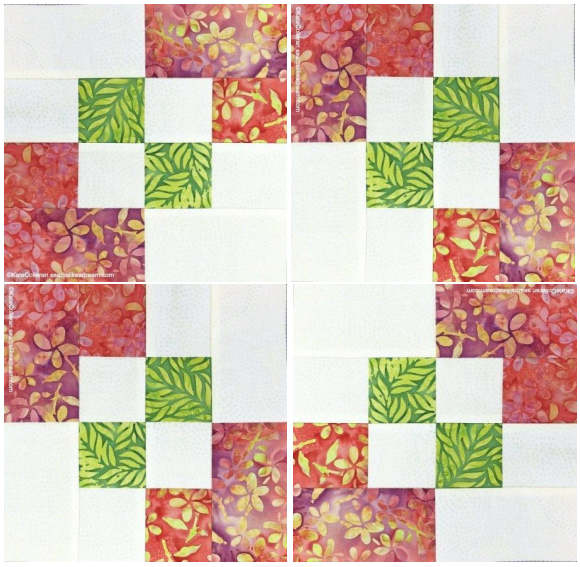
Fun Variation: sew 2 4-patch blocks using different dark fabrics. After cutting each block, swap pieces to create 3-color blocks.

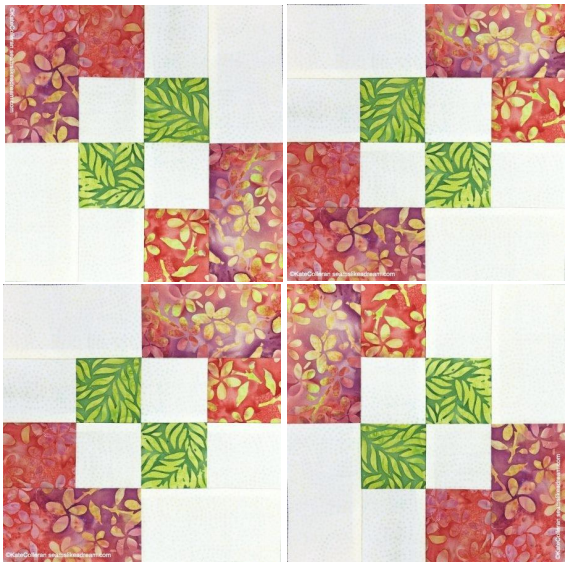


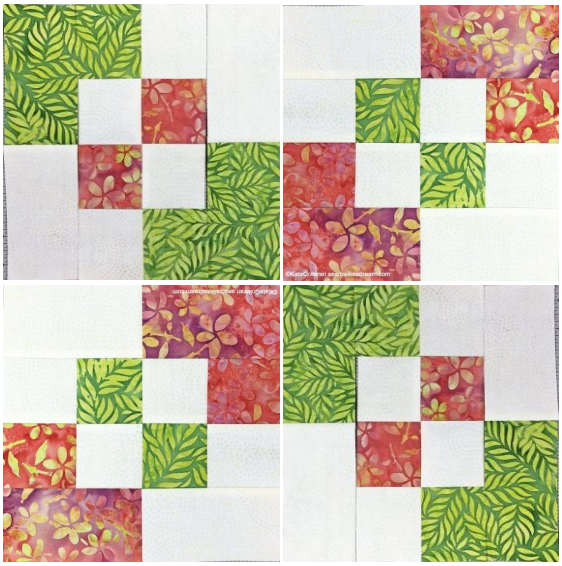


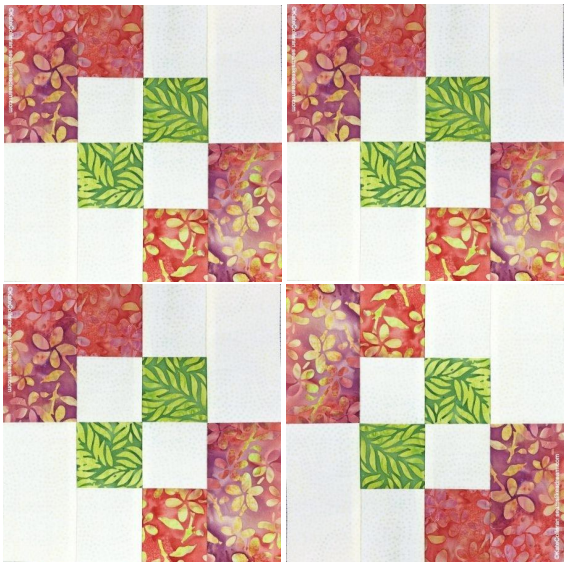


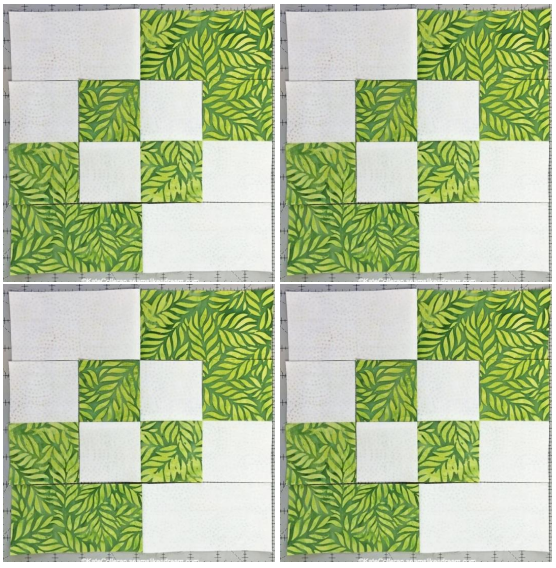
Layout Variations











~11 1/2" x 11 1/2" block unfinished

Follow same method as described above, but with these changes:

Make 4-patch block with 6.5" squares.

Cut 3" in from the left and right sides.

Cut 3" in from the top and bottom of only the center piece.

Switch up your pieces.

Disappearing 4-Patch – Criss-Cross

https://www.patchworkposse.com/4-patch-disappearing-quilt-block-criss-cross/

Create 4-patch using 5″ x 5″ squares (9 1/2" 4-patch). Mark 2″ from each corner on both sides, for a total of 8 marks.

Line up your ruler with 2 of the marks on opposite corners and cut a diagonal line, about 1 1/4″ from the center of the block.



Line your ruler up on the other side of the block center, and cut. Turn block 90 degrees and make the last 2 diagonal cuts.



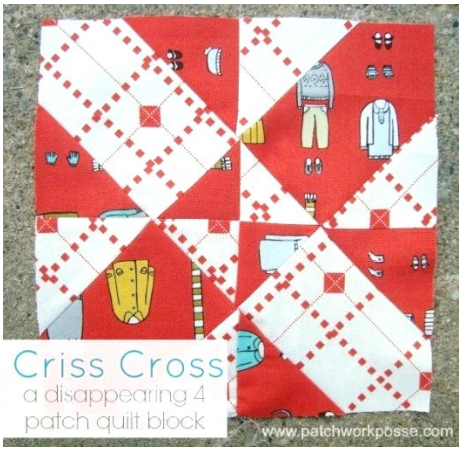
Move pieces to alternate Light and Dark fabrics, making whatever pattern you want.



Sew 3 pieces together to form 3 rows.

Sew a corner piece with 2 triangles (repeat with each side).

Sew the other 2 corner pieces with the center piece.



Sew these rows together and square up the block (~8″ x 8″ unfinished)



Disappearing 4-Patch – Uneven 9-Patch Block

Use 5" squares to create 9 1/2" 4-Patch block. It's best with 2 lights and 1 to 2 darks.

- Unfinished block size: 9"; Finished block size: 8 1/2"

https://www.facebook.com/ThePolkadotChair/reels/













Alternating Dark Block – Other Dark Fabric is in Center

For a 3 color 4-patch: Rotate the 4-patch so the other dark block is in the upper right corner (the original dark block is now in the lower left corner). Follow the same cutting instructions.





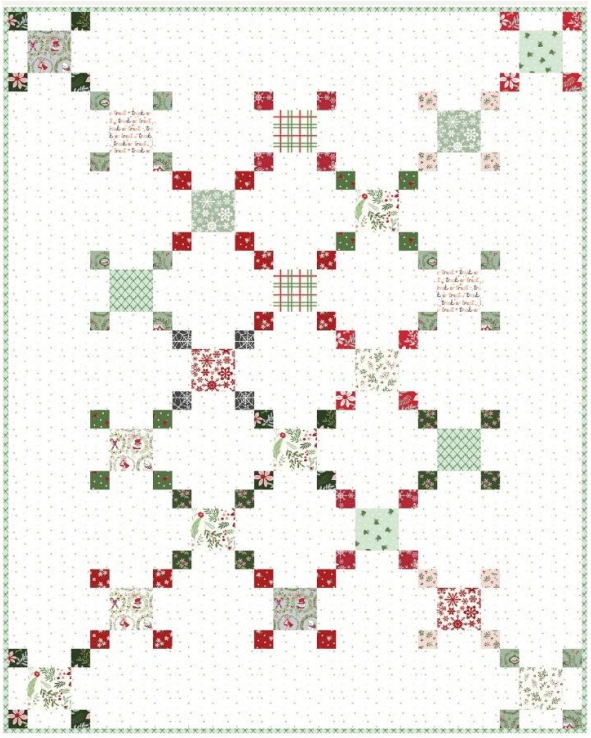
Alternating Block – Light Fabric is in Center

Rotate the 4-patch so one of the light blocks is in the upper right corner (it doesn't matter which one).

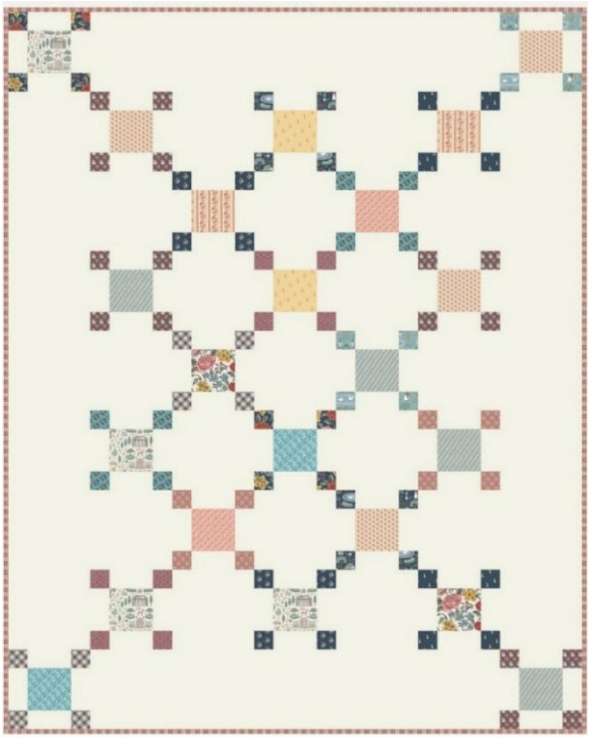
Follow the same cutting instructions.



[The Polkadot Chair Pattern for Uneven 9-Patch Quilt]



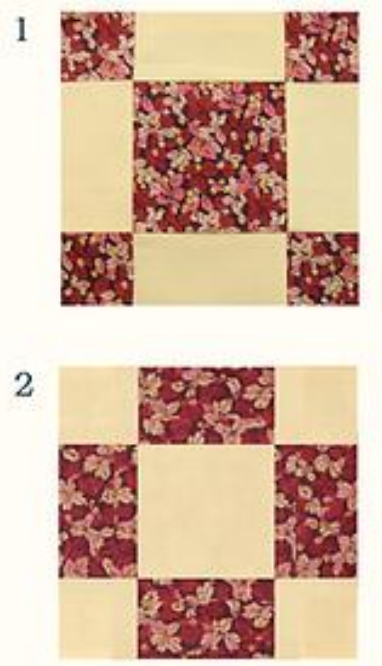
EXAMPLE USING MISTLETOE & HOLLY FABRIC BY RILEY BLAKE

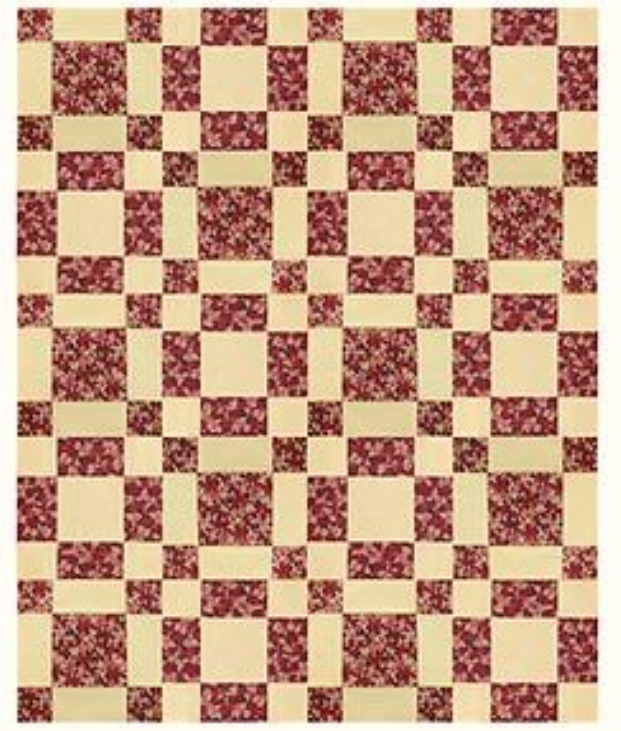


EXAMPLE USING EMMA FABRIC BY RILEY BLAKE

https://www.whatkimberleymakes.com/post/how-to-sew-an-uneven-9-patch-quilt-block-tutorial-easy-step-by-step-guide-for-beginner-quilters

Create uneven 9-patch where some blocks begin with Fabric A dominant and others with Fabric B (as described in the Alternating Block section on the previous page).





Disappearing 9-Patch Quilt Blocks

Disappearing 9-Patch Block – Even Cuts

Disappearing Nine Patch Terms

- The original nine-patch quilt block= "parent block"
- The four equal sections cut from parent block = "daughter blocks"

Create the 9-patch parent blocks using desired square size. Cut the parent block in half in vertical and horizontal directions to create the daughter blocks. Arrange the daughter blocks to create the desired pattern.

Refer to these web sites and the Block Cutting Chart document for guidelines on determining block sizes.

https://ilovequiltingforever.com/disappearing-nine-patch-quilt-patterns/

https://www.thesprucecrafts.com/disappearing-nine-patch-quilt-2821751

Self-sashing and setting squares

Create parent block with:

1 same center fabric (setting squares)

4 same fabric squares (sashing color)

4 random fabric squares

Arrange daughter blocks so small squares form a vertical/horizontal pattern

https://obsessivelystitching.blogspot.com/2010/05/disappearing-nine.html

https://www.joscountryjunction.com/disappearing-nine-patch-tutorial/





Self-sashing and setting squares – Diagonal pattern

Create parent block with:

1 same center fabric

4 same light fabric squares

4 random dark fabric squares

Arrange daughter blocks so small squares form a diagonal pattern

https://jordanfabrics.com/pages/disappearing-nine-patch





Use the same parent block (same 9 fabrics) to make all daughter blocks

Create parent block with:

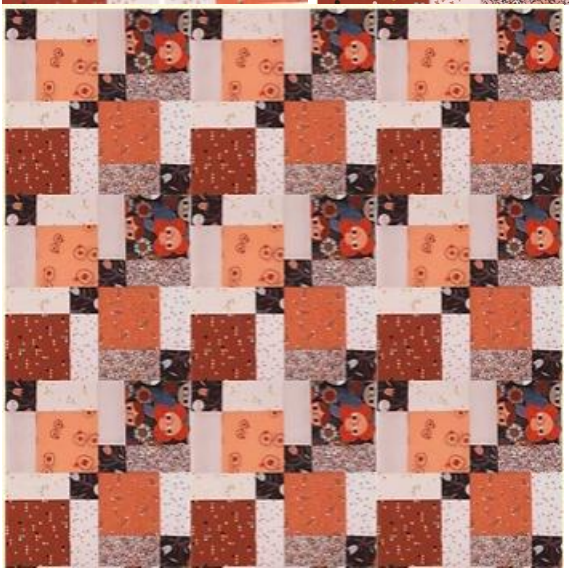
1 same center fabric

8 random fabric squares (but use the same ones for every block)

https://www.whatkimberleymakes.com/post/how-to-sew-a-disappearing-9-patch-quilt-block







Use 3 fabrics for each parent block to make all daughter blocks

Create parent block with:

1 same center light fabric

4 same medium fabric squares

4 same dark fabric squares

https://frommycarolinahome.com/2014/07/11/a-new-variation-on-disappearing-nine-patch/

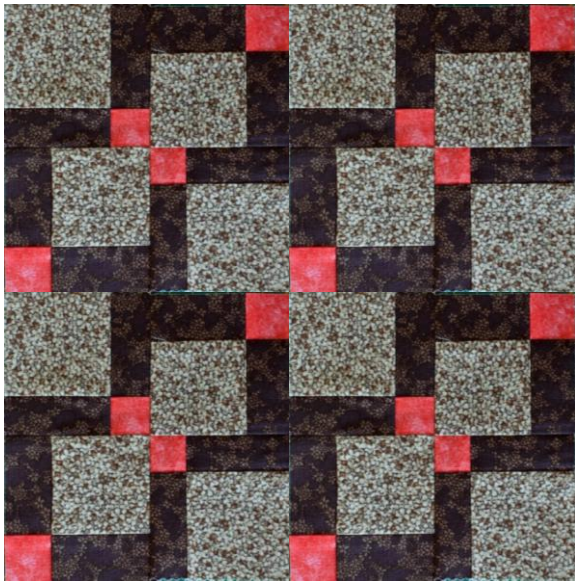






Variation of 3-Fabric Design





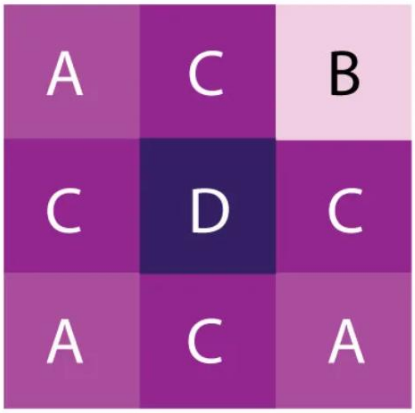
https://chickenscratchny.com/disappearing-nine-patch-variations/

Disappearing 9 Patch Heart Block

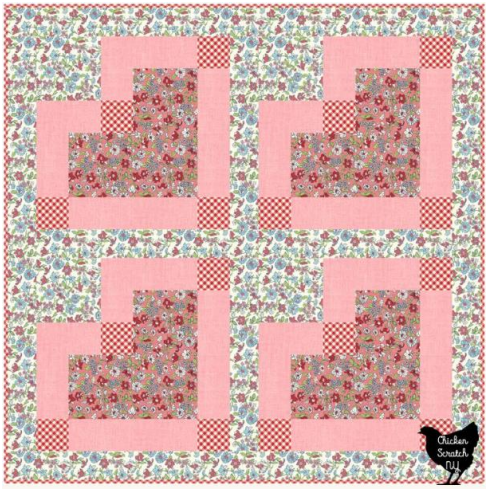
For each heart:

- [A] 3 squares (inside of heart)
- [B] 1 square of background fabric (same as the border or sashing around the block)
- [C] 4 squares (long pieces in the heart outline)
- [D] 1 square (small pieces in the heart outline)

If you want a solid outline around the heart, make the center square [D] the same color as [C].





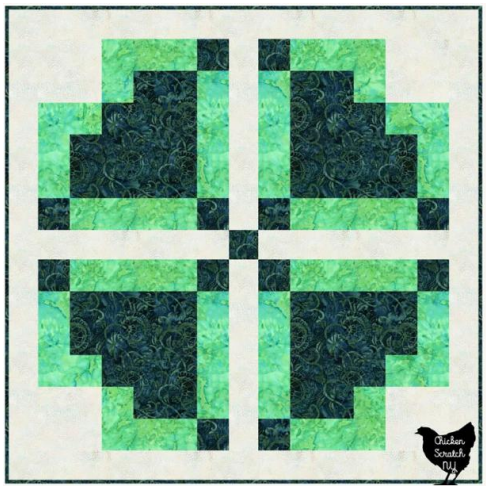


https://chickenscratchny.com/disappearing-9-patch-heart-block/

Disappearing 9 Patch Shamrock

The clover version of the wall hanging is made almost the same as the heart. The only differences are the rotation of the blocks and the addition of a single cornerstone in the center. To get this look, use the same fabrics for the A & D Squares and add a cornerstone to the center of the sashing.





(Same link as above, scroll down: https://chickenscratchny.com/disappearing-9-patch-heart-block/)

Use 9 random fabrics for each parent block to create a very scrappy pattern https://leahday.com/blogs/free/disappearing-9-patch	

Double Disappearing Nine-Patch – Method #1



Make a simple nine-patch block using 5-inch squares.

Cut into 4 pieces -- the traditional horizontal and vertical cuts.

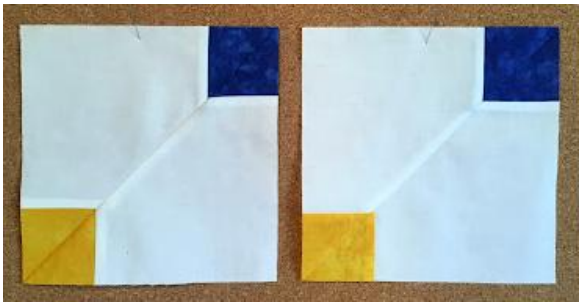
Then cut each quadrant on the diagonal.

Sew the opposite inner triangles (with pink corners) together to create two 6.5-inch blocks – with reverse colors on the top.

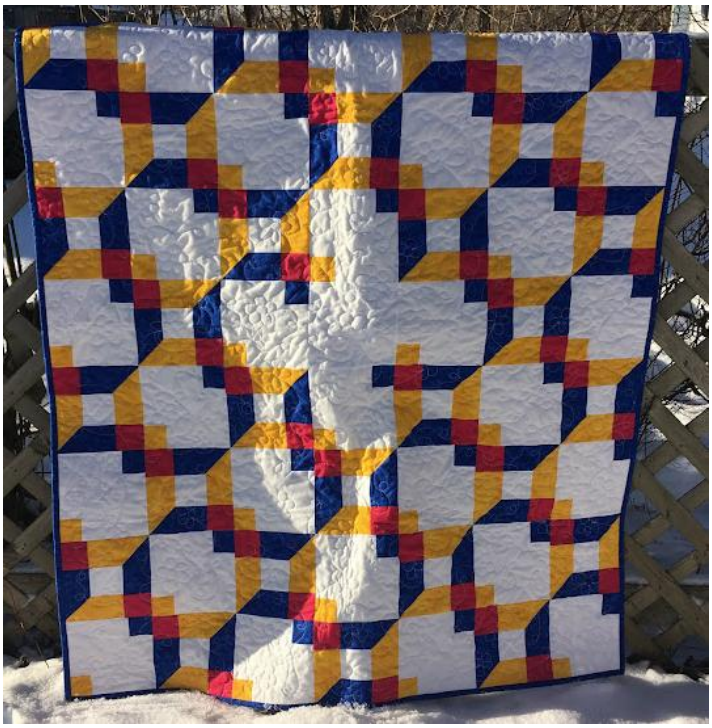
Sew the opposite outer triangles together to create two 6.5-inch blocks – with a little bit of color in the corners.







The layout is alternating blocks. (The white center in the image is due to operator error.)



https://anjaquilts.blogspot.com/2019/02/turnabout-patchwork-double-disappearing.html

Double Disappearing Nine-Patch – Method #2

https://www.afewscraps.com/2011/08/double-disappearing-nine-patch.html

https://www.afewscraps.com/2014/07/double-disappearing-nine-patch-improved.html

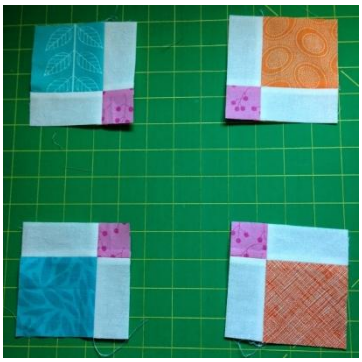




Materials for a 10" finished block with this layout:	3" small squares: 9 total - 5 colors, 4 background 4" big squares: 5 total - 1 color, 4 background

Make the first 9-patch block with the small squares. Whatever color is in the middle will end up in all four of the final block-units. The others will be cut apart from each other in the next step.

Cut the block down the middle in both directions. Spread the blocks out, keeping their orientation to the center. Use the larger squares to make a new nine patch block. Cut that block down the middle in both directions. Rearrange and sew together.









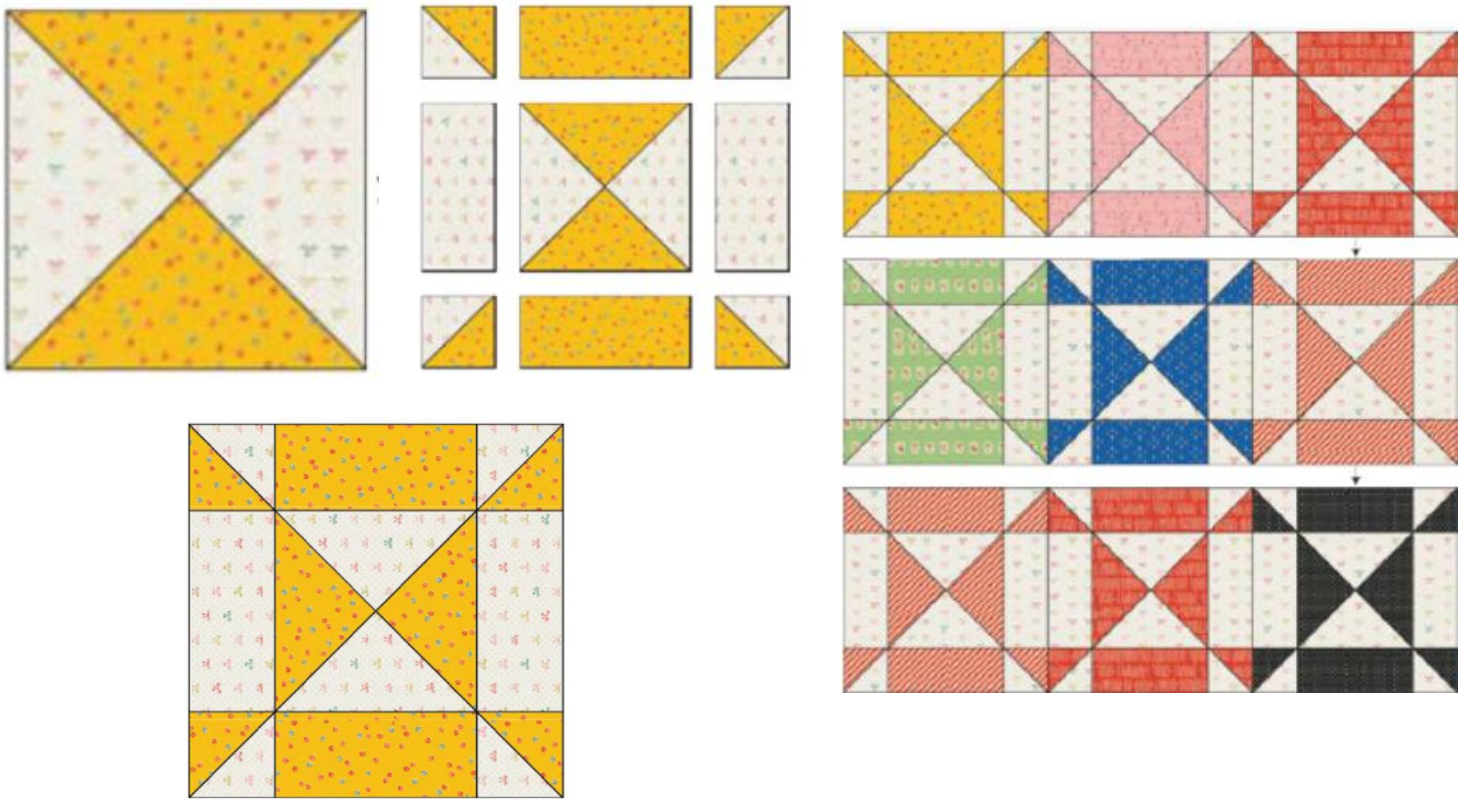




Disappearing Hourglass

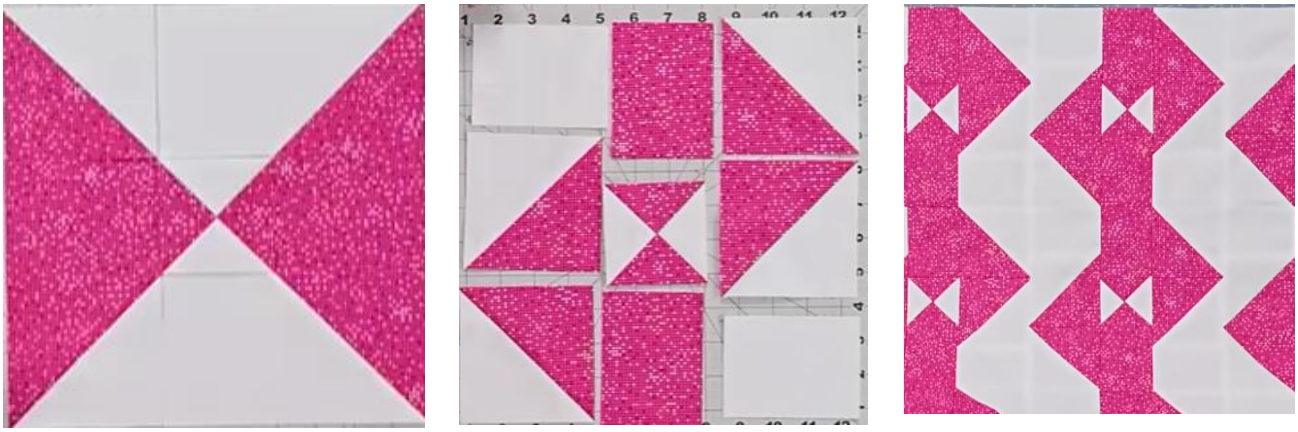
Disappearing Hourglass - 4 Quarter Square Triangles (QST)

https://liveartgalleryfabrics.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/Faceted-for-Minimo.pdf



Giant Disappearing Hourglass Quilt Block

Sewing Parts Online: Giant Disappearing Hourglass Quilt Block



- 13" squares used to make 11" hourglass block
- Cut 1 1/2" from centerline in all 4 directions

Disappearing Hourglass - 4 Half Square Triangles (HST)

https://questioningquilter.com/newsletter-march-2021-disappearing-hourglass-moroccan-tiles/

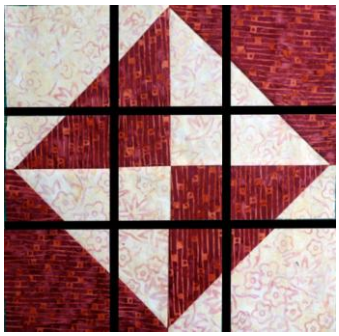
https://questioningquilter.com/tag/disappearing-hourglass/



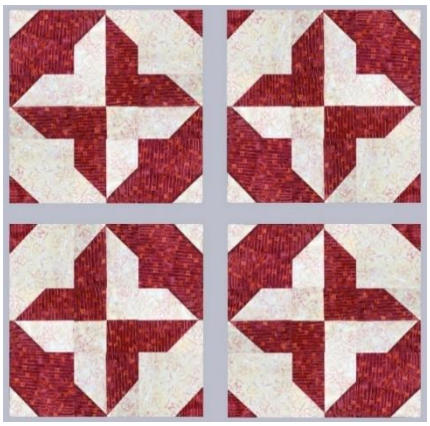
Moroccan Tile

- Sew 4 HST into an hourglass block.
- Cut block into 9 equal squares (1/3 width of block).









Missouri Star – Disappearing Hourglass 2

https://diyjoy.com/easy-disappearing-hourglass-2-quilt/

Cut block for Moroccan Tile and rotate as described. ALSO rotate the center block 90 degrees.

Press out row seams to the outside and the middle row to the center for easier seam nesting.



Make a Disappearing Hourglass Crazy Eight Quilt with Jenny Doan of Missouri Star (Video Tutorial)

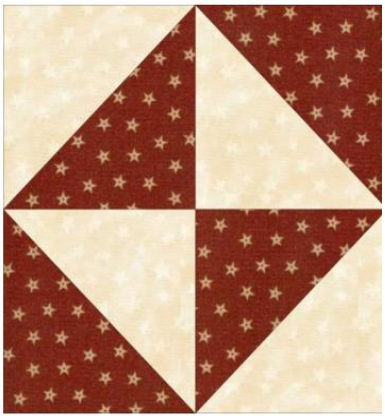
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a124Y6Ho51o&t=3s

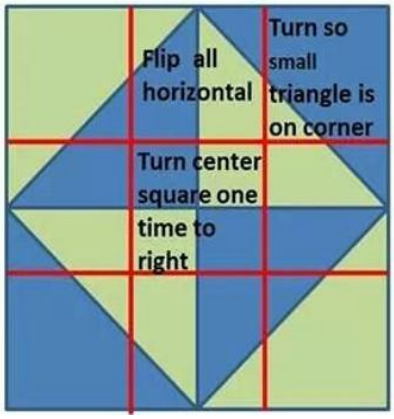
She shows an interesting and efficient way to do chain piecing when sewing the cut pieces together.

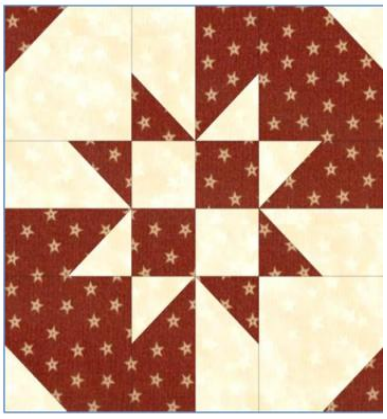
Layout Variation

https://www.hobbystash.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Disappearing-Hour-Glass.pdf

Missouri Star Quilt Co.: https://quiltingtutorials.com/tutorial/disappearing-hourglass



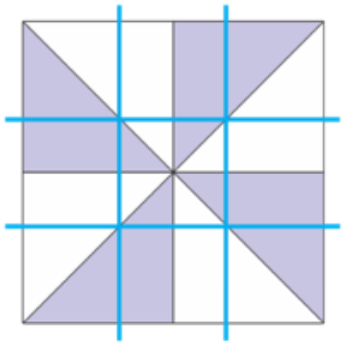


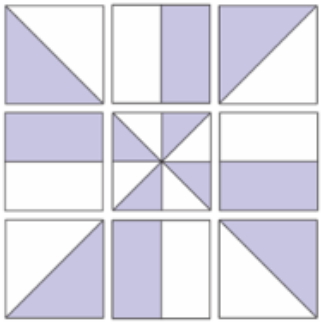


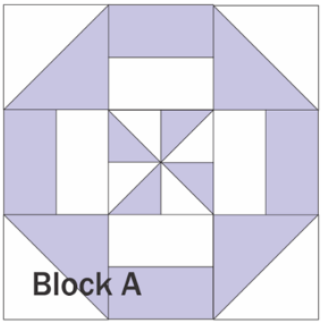


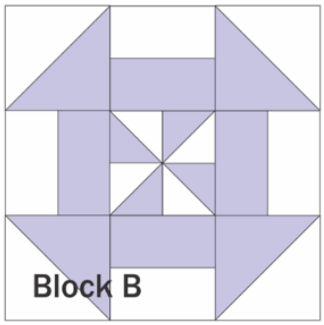
Disappearing Pinwheel

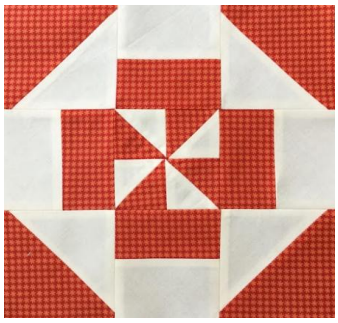
- Make a 4-HST pinwheel block
- Cut the "parent" block into 9 equal parts
- Rearrange the "daughters" as desired

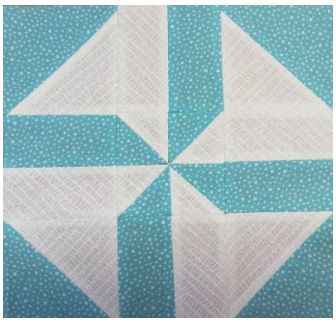








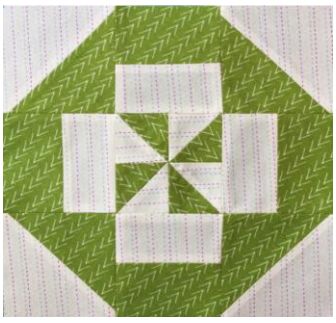


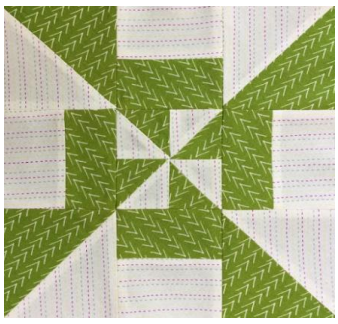
















Source: https://teresadownunder.com/2024/08/14/how-to-make-16-disappearing-pinwheel-quilt-block/

Friendship Star/Illinois Road

Use Layer Cake to make the Pinwheel block and trim to 8 1/4 inches. Trim 2 3/4 inches off all four sides (1/3 of full block).



Turn each outside block 90 degrees – clockwise.



Trade places with each pair of blocks, starting in the lower right corner of the picture, (which is the upper left corner as you would be looking at it while doing this). Keep the orientation the same as it was (don't rotate...just swap).



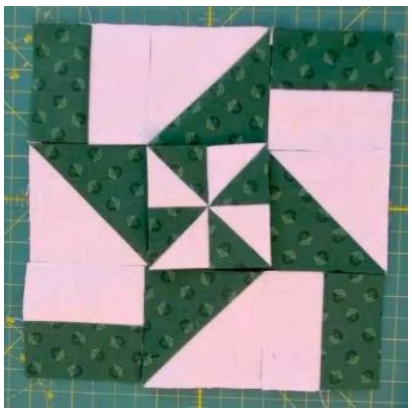






Whirly Gig

Make the Friendship Star/Illinois Road block. Rotate only the side bars pieces outward along the HST edges.





Source: Missouri Star

[Disappearing Pinwheel 3 & 4: Easy Quilting With Layer Cakes!]

How to Make Half Square Triangles (HST) Without Bias Edges

“2 at a Time” HST chart

Finished HST	Unfinished HST	Starting Squares
x	x + 1/2	x + 7/8 (or 1")
1	1 1/2	1 7/8
1 1/2	2	2 3/8
2	2 1/2	2 7/8
2 1/2	3	3 3/8
3	3 1/2	3 7/8
3 1/2	4	4 3/8
4	4 1/2	4 7/8
4 1/2	5	5 3/8
5	5 1/2	5 7/8
5 1/2	6	6 3/8
6	6 1/2	6 7/8

Assumes the finished HST are sewn with a 1/4″ seam allowance on all sides.

4 at a time Half-Square Triangle (HST)

Source: https://lynsavenue.com/en-us/blogs/tutorials/how-to-make-half-square-triangles-hsts-using-the-4-at-a-time-method

Before you begin

Unfinished size = HST size before it's sewn in quilt, plus ½" seam allowance (¼" on each side).
Finished size = HST size after it's sewn into a quilt minus the ½" seam allowance.
For example, a 7 ½" unfinished HST will become 7" finished.

Quilt Math

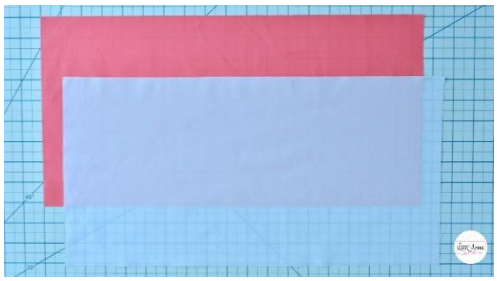
Take the size of the unfinished HST, and add ¾". This will make up the vertical (shorter) sides of the rectangle. Take this number and double it to give you the size of the horizontal (longer) sides of the rectangle.

Using the 7 1/2" unfinished HST example, this is what the calculations will look like;

7 1/2" + 3/4 = 8 1/4" (vertical side); 8 1/4" + 8 1/4" = 16 1/2" (horizontal side)

8 1/4" x 16 1/2" = the size of the starting rectangle to make four (4) 7 1/2" HSTs-at-a-time**.**

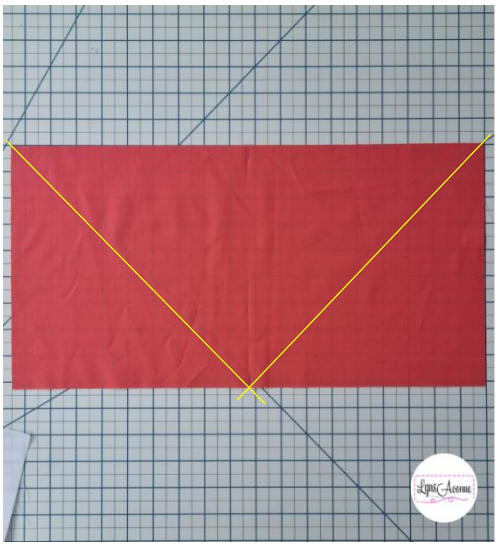
Make HSTs.

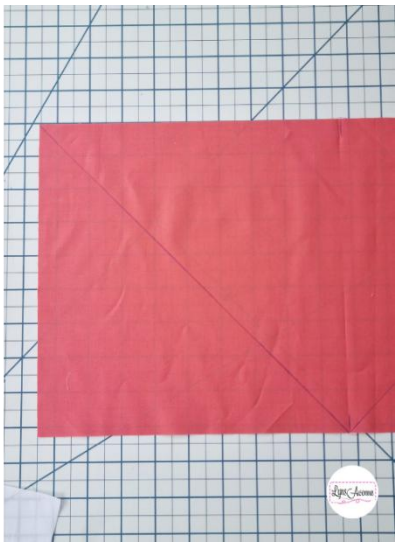


1. Pair two (2) 8 1/4" x 16 1/2" rectangle pieces together, RST.

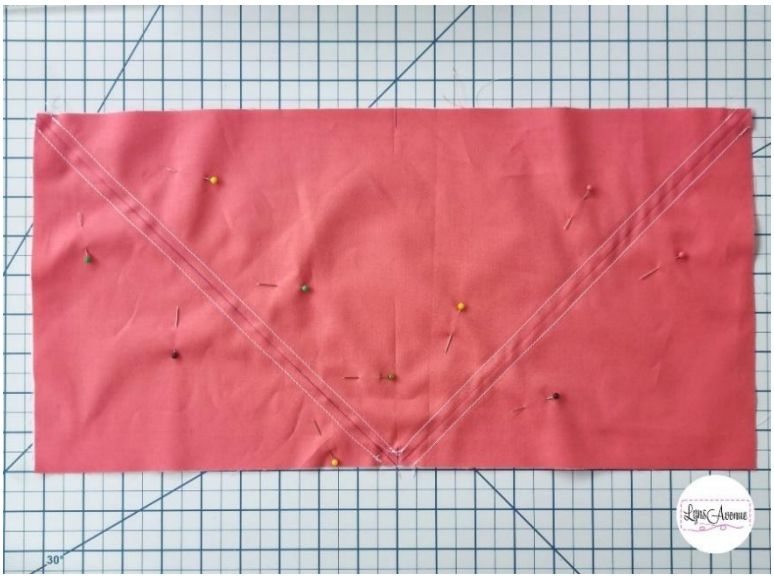
2. Fold one of the pieces in half, WST, and finger press the top and bottom of the fold to mark the center. On the wrong side, draw a line down the marked center (picture below only shows marks on the top and bottom, this works too).

3. Draw diagonal lines starting from the top left to bottom right and bottom left to top right, of the marked center line.

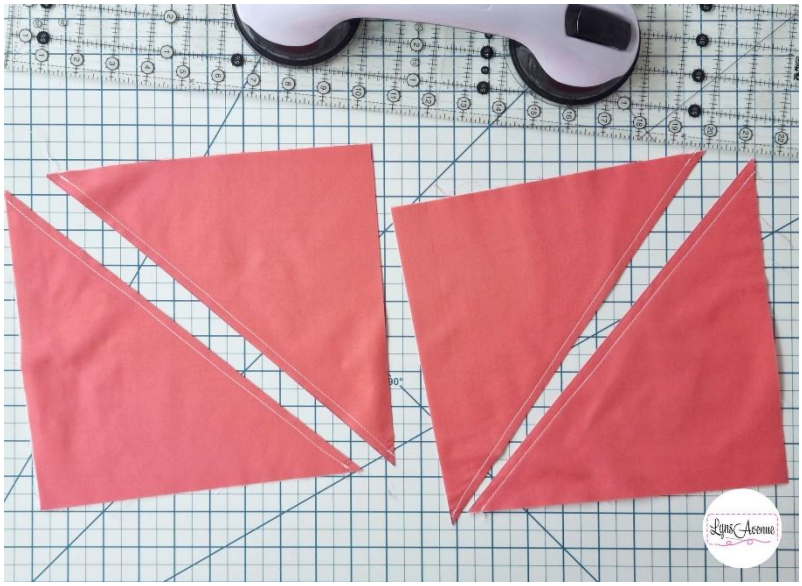


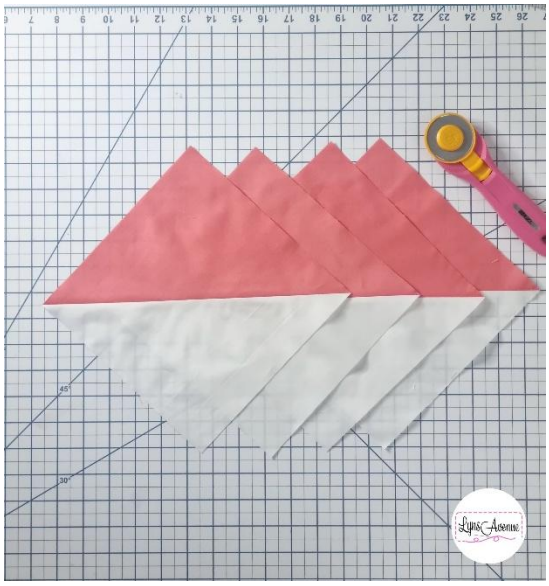


4. Pin and sew a 1/4" seam allowance on both sides of each diagonal line. For the inside seams, stop at center line (do not cross into the other side of centerline).



5. Cut along the drawn lines to produce 4 HST.





“8 at a Time” HST Size Chart

Finished HST	Unfinished HST	Starting Squares
x	x + 1/2	(x + 7/8) x 2
1	1 1/2	3 3/4
1 1/2	2	4 3/4
2	2 1/2	5 3/4
2 1/2	3	6 3/4
3	3 1/2	7 3/4
3 1/2	4	8 3/4
4	4 1/2	9 3/4
4 1/2	5	10 3/4
5	5 1/2	11 3/4
5 1/2	6	12 3/4
6	6 1/2	13 3/4

Assumes the finished HST are sewn with a 1/4″ seam allowance on all sides.

1. Lay 2 fabric squares right sides together. Draw 2 diagonal lines, from corner to corner, on the back of the lighter colored square. The lines intersect at the center point, forming an X.
2. Sew 2 seam lines on either side of each diagonal lines (for a total of 4 seams). Each seam line should be 1/4″ away from the drawn lines.
3. Cut along each of the diagonal lines, and then again along the vertical middle and horizontal middle lines.
4. Press the seam allowances toward the dark side (or whatever your preference.) Using a ruler, trim the HSTs to their unfinished size.



https://slightlybiasedquilts.com/2021/02/all-about-half-square-triangles-how-to-make-them-without-bias-edges.html

https://www.catsandquilts.com/post/half-square-triangle-hst-methods-tips-when-to-use-each

https://quiltler.com/half-square-triangle-calculator

Disappearing Block Size Measurements

4-Patch, Hourglass, or Pinwheel

For the Disappearing Pinwheel Blocks, and many of the Disappearing 4-Patch and Hourglass blocks, the cuts MUST divide the block exactly into thirds (i.e., all 9 sub-blocks must be square). This chart lists with cutting instructions for these blocks.

The cut sizes below are for the initial squares or sewn Half Square Triangles (HST).

* The squares of fabric for the Half Square Triangles need to be cut 1/2″ larger.
EX: for 5 1/2″ HST, cut 6″ squares, sew them into HST, and then trim to 5 1/2″.

Disappearing 4-Block Sizes			
Cut Size Initial Square or Half Square Triangle *	**4-Block Size: 4-Patch, Hourglass, or Pinwheel Before Cutting**	**How far to cut from center seam**	**Finished Block Size**
2 1/8″	3 3/4″	5/8″	2 1/4″
2 1/2″	4 1/2″	3/4″	3″
2 7/8″	5 1/4″	7/8″	3 3/4″
3 1/4″	6"	1″	4 1/2″
3 5/8″	6 3/4″	1 1/8″	5 1/4″
4″	7 1/2″	1 1/4″	6″
4 3/8″	8 1/4″	1 3/8″	6 3/4″
4 3/4″	9″	1 1/2″	7 1/2″
5 1/8″	9 3/4″	1 5/8″	8 1/4″
5 1/2″	10 1/2″	1 3/4″	9″
5 7/8″	11 1/4″	1 7/8″	9 3/4″
6 1/4″	12″	2″	10 1/2″
6 5/8″	12 3/4″	2 1/8″	11 1/4″
7″	13 1/2″	2 1/4″	12″

Disappearing 4-Block Sizes			
Cut Size **Initial Square or Half Square Triangle ***	**4-Block Size: 4-Patch, Hourglass, or Pinwheel Before Cutting**	**How far to cut from center seam**	**Finished Block Size**
7 3/8″	14 1/4″	2 3/8″	12 3/4″
7 3/4″	15″	2 1/2″	13 1/2″
8 1/8″	15 3/4″	2 5/8″	14 1/4″
8 1/2″	16 1/2″	2 3/4″	15″
8 7/8″	7 1/4″	2 7/8″	15 3/4″
9 1/4″	18″	3″	16 1/2″
9 5/8″	18 3/4″	3 1/8″	17 1/4″
10″	19 1/2″	3 1/4″	18″

Some Disappearing Block designs don't need to be cut into perfect squares - the “Charm Pack Friendly” blocks. 5″ for using charm pack squares and 4 1/2″ for when charm pack squares are used to create Half Square Triangles.

Charm Pack Friendly Blocks			
Initial Square or Half Square Triangle	**4-Patch, Hourglass, or Pinwheel Before Cutting**	**How far to cut from center seam**	**Finished Block**
4 1/2″	8 1/2″	1 3/8″	7″
5″	9 1/2″	1 5/8″	8″

Sources:

The Magic of Disappearing Blocks:

https://questioningquilter.com/2021/03/07/the-magic-of-disappearing-blocks/

Cutting Chart for Disappearing Blocks: https://questioningquilter.com/chart/

https://www.scrapish.com/disappearing-4-patch.html

9-Patch Blocks

You can use squares of any consistent size to assemble the parent nine-patch blocks for a disappearing nine-patch quilt.

- The original nine-patch quilt block= "parent block"
- The four equal sections cut from parent block = "daughter blocks"

Disappearing 9-Patch Block Sizes		
Parent Block made with Cut Square Size	**Finished Daughter – Size (Square)**	**Finished Quilt Block Size – (4 Daughter squares)**
3-1/2"	4-1/4"	8-1/2"
4-1/2"	5-3/4"	11-1/2"
5"	6-1/2"	13"
5-1/2"	7-1/4"	14-1/2"
6"	8"	16"

Calculate the Daughter Size for Any Parent

Multiply the finished size of each square in the 9-patch parent by 3 to find the parent block's finished width and height.

Divide the result by 2.

Subtract 1/4" to calculate the finished size of each daughter.

Use a quarter-inch seam allowance to sew all seams.

Source: https://www.thesprucecrafts.com/disappearing-nine-patch-quilt-2821751

- The Spruce Crafts web site also provides calculations for strip piecing.

https://quiltler.com/nine-patch-quilt-block

9-Patch Calculator:

https://quiltcalchub.com/calculators/nine-patch-calculator/

Hourglass Block (with QST)

Starting Squares = Hourglass Block Finished Size + 1 1/4 or 1 1/2 inches

1 1/2 inches gives a bit more flexibility in sewing

Hourglass Quilt Block Math Chart				
Hourglass Quilt Block Finished Size (inches) (A)	To Finish With Minimum Trim Add 1 1/4 and Start With 2 Squares (inches) (B)	To Finish Oversize Add 1 1/2 and Start With 2 Squares (inches) (C)	To Trim Hourglass Block/Units to Unfinished Size (inches) (D)	Square Up Using Ruler Measurement Lines (inches) (E)
1 1/2	2 3/4	3	2	1
2	3 1/4	3 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/4
2 1/2	3 3/4	4	3	1 1/2
3	4 1/4	4 1/2	3 1/2	1 3/4
3 1/2	4 3/4	5*	4	2
4	5 1/4	5 1/2	4 1/2	2 1/4
4 1/2	5 3/4	6	5	2 1/2
5	6 1/4	6 1/2	5 1/2	2 3/4
5 1/2	6 3/4	7	6	3
6	7 1/4	7 1/2	6 1/2	3 1/4
6 1/2	7 3/4	8	7	3 1/2
7	8 1/4	8 1/2	7 1/2	3 3/4
7 1/2	8 3/4	9	8	4
8	9 1/4	9 1/2	8 1/2	4 1/4
8 1/2	9 3/4	10**	9	4 1/2
9	10 1/4	10 1/2	9 1/2	4 3/4
9 1/2	10 3/4	11	10	5
10	11 1/4	11 1/2	10 1/2	5 1/4
10 1/2	11 3/4	12	11	5 1/2
11	12 1/4	12 1/2	11 1/2	5 3/4
11 1/2	12 3/4	13	12	6
12	13 1/4	13 1/2	12 1/2	6 1/4
*Charm Pack, **Layer Cake				scrapish.com

Source: https://www.scrapish.com/hourglass-quilt-block.html