

Pieced Border Blocks

You'll need the following to create 52 Pieced Border Blocks:

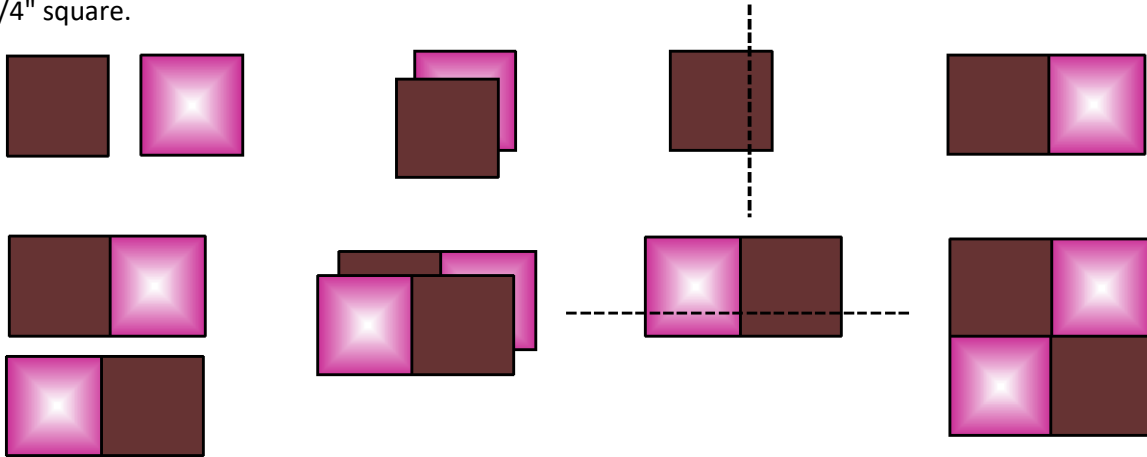
Dark

3 7/8" squares - 104 cut once on the diagonal
2 5/8" squares - 104

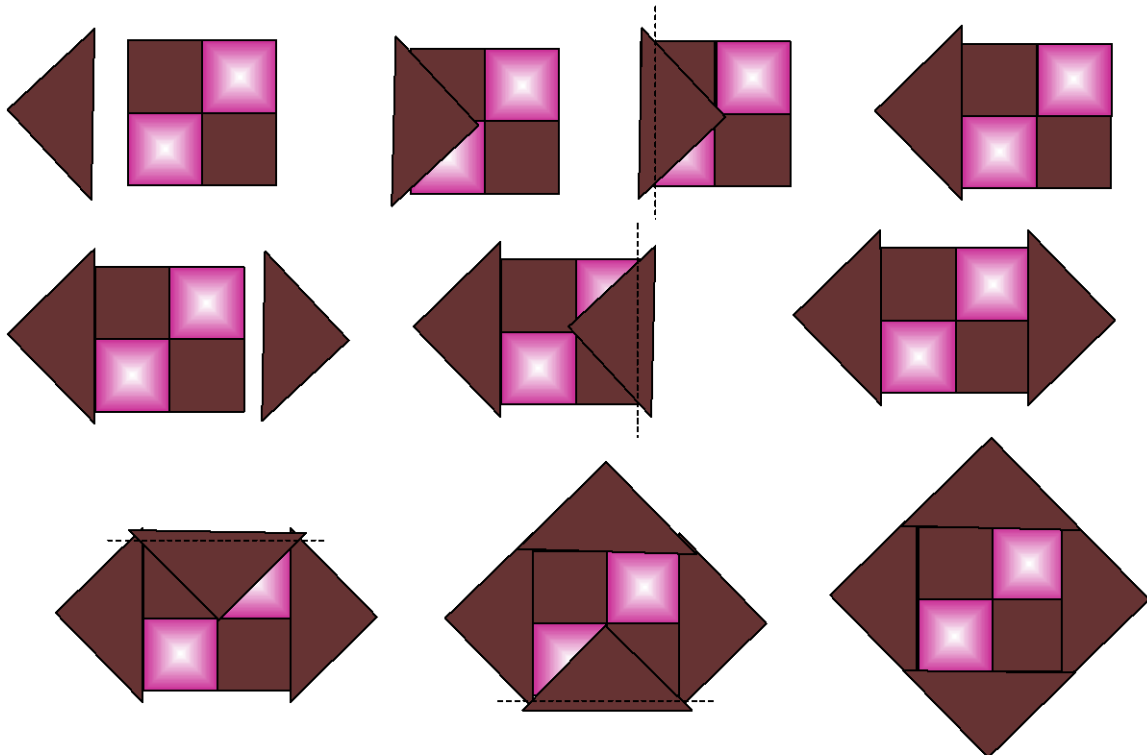
Scrappy - (I am using 6 colors)

2 5/8" squares - 104

Layer a Dark square with the Scrappy squares, right sides together and sew. Press seam allowance toward the Scrappy color. Create 104 units measuring 2 5/8" x 4 3/4". Layer these units with the Dark squares opposite the Scrappy squares, right sides together. Sew down the lengthwise edge as shown in the diagram. Press seam allowance to the side. These units should measure 4 3/4" square.



Layer the Dark triangles on the heart units right sides together, as shown in the diagram. The triangle will have a bit extra sticking out on both sides of the heart units. When you can, use the center line of the units to line things up. Sew and press the seam allowance toward the triangles. Take care not to stretch them. Continue on the opposite side as shown and then the remaining two side. Your Pieced Border blocks should measure 6 1/2".

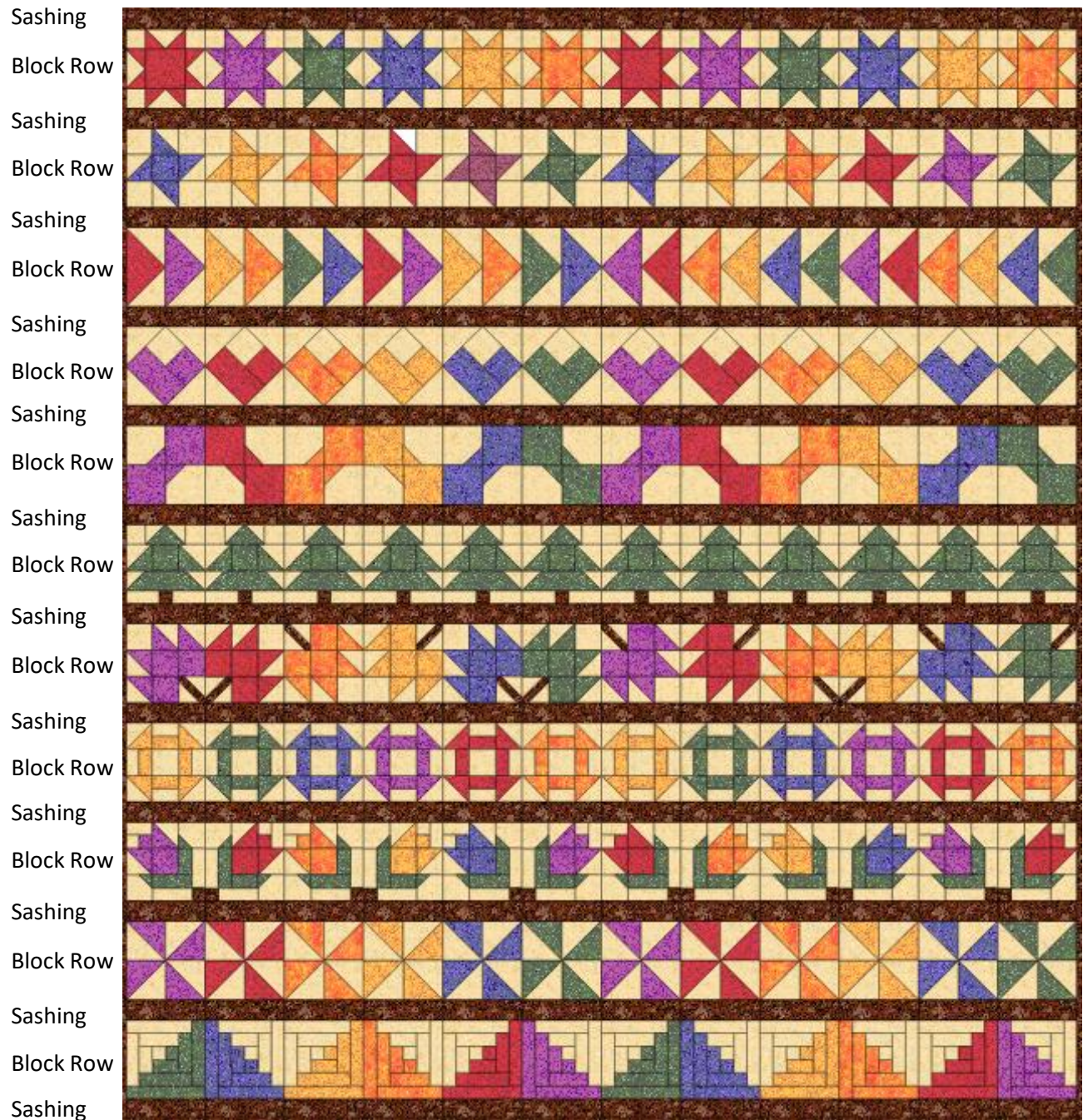


Sashings

You'll need the following:
Dark 2" strips – 24

You will need to piece your 2" strips to make them long enough to go between the rows. The rows should measure 72 1/2" long. Before piecing and trimming the strips to size, measure all your rows. Use the average length of rows to determine how long to make your strips.

Determine the layout of your quilt rows. Add a sashing strip between each row, including the top and bottom.



Pieced Border

You'll need the following to create the Pieced Border:

Pieced Border Blocks – 52

6 1/2" Dark Squares - 4

Decide on the color layout for your Pieced Border Blocks. Create two strips of 12 blocks and 2 strips of 14 blocks. Add a 6 1/2" Dark square to each end of the 14 block strips.

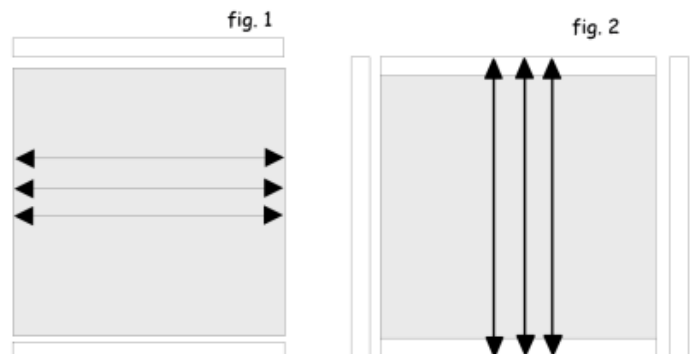


Add the 12 block strips to the top and bottom of the quilt. Press the seam allowance to the side. Take care not to stretch your strips. Next, add the remaining two strips to the sides of the quilt. Press the seam allowance to the side.

If you decide to add another border to your quilt, measure your quilt top horizontally across the middle, in three different areas (fig. 1) to determine the length you need for the top and bottom border. Use an average of the three measurements. Piece the border strips to make them long enough (if needed). Add the top and bottom border to the quilt. It may be helpful to pin the strip to the quilt and ease in as needed. Of there is a big difference, you may want to take a moment and remeasure and repress the quilt top. Better to take the time now rather than forcing the border on and not like the results.

Once you have added the border, press the seam allowance to the side. Measure the quilt top vertically to include the top and bottom borders you just added (fig. 2). Once again measure it in a couple of different areas and take the average of these measurements to determine the length needed for the side borders. Piece the border strips to make them long enough. Add them to the sides of the quilt. Press the seam allowance to the side. Repeat the process with any remaining borders you want to add.

Your borders are less likely to be “wavy” or “ruffly” when done this way, rather than adding the border strip and cutting off the extra.



Now you are ready to layer your quilt top, batting and backing. Your backing may need to be pieced to make it large enough. Wide backing fabrics are available which can eliminate the need for piecing your backing fabric. As you layer them, try to keep them as free from wrinkles as possible. Taking the time now to make sure things are flat will result in a nicer finished quilt. Make sure there are at least 4 inches extra all the way around to compensate for shifting that may occur during the quilting process. I actually prefer 8 inches extra on all sides. It makes it easier to load onto the quilting machine. If you are sending your quilt out to be machine quilted, please talk with the quilter to see what they need you to do.

If you are going to hand quilt or chine quilt on your regular machine, you will need to baste your quilt layers together. You can baste your quilt in a few different ways -- long stitches (called basting stitches), a basting gun, or safety pin basting. Use the technique you are comfortable with. Baste your layers together to keep them from shifting as you are quilting.

Next you need to decide how to quilt it. You could hand quilt, machine quilt, tie it, or a combination of techniques. There are many books available that go into great detail regarding the quilting process. Once the quilting is complete, bind as desired - separate binding, bringing the back up and over the raw edges, prairie points, etc. Don't forget to add your label. Your label should include your signature, the date and any other information you feel is important.

