# * <br> MISSOURI STAR <br> <br> $4 \times 4$ 

 <br> <br> $4 \times 4$}
quilt pattern for $21 / 2^{\prime \prime}$ strips
$70^{\prime \prime} \times 78^{\prime \prime}$


Stunning quilts with impact don't have to be difficult to make! Make 4-patches using our strip-piecing technique, and you will have stacks and stacks of them done easily and quickly. Toss in a few $412^{\prime \prime}$ squares and you'll have this quilt finished in no time flat!

## 1 cut

From the background fabric, cut:

- (7) $4 \frac{1}{2} 2^{\prime \prime}$ strips across the width of the fabric - subcut each strip into $41 / 2^{\prime \prime}$ squares. Each strip will yield 8 squares and a total of 56 are needed.
- (4) $21 / 2$ " strips across the width of the fabric. Set aside the remainder of the fabric for the inner border.


## 2 sew

For this quilt, we will be making 2 separate blocks and alternating them as we lay out the quilt and sew the rows together.

## 3 block a - 16-patch

Make a strip set by sewing 2
contrasting $21 / 2^{\prime \prime}$ print strips together lengthwise with right sides facing. Open and press the
seam allowance toward the darker fabric. Make 14 strip sets and cut each into (8) 5" increments. 3A

Mix up the $5^{\prime \prime}$ pieces and sew 8 into a row. Alternate the lighter squares with darker squares to make a pieced strip. Make 14. 3B

Fold over the first block of the strip. Measure $2^{112} 2^{\prime \prime}$ from the outer edge of the seam line and cut. You will have (1) 2-patch and (1) 4 -patch. Continue folding and cutting to make 4-patches. When you reach the end of the strip, you will have enough fabric left to cut 1 more 2 -patch. Sew the (2) 2-patches together to make a 4-patch. Each strip will yield (8) 4 -patch units and you need a total of 112. 3C


3B


3C


## 4 block construction

Select (4) 4-patch units. Sew them together into a 4-patch formation as shown to make a 16-patch block.
Make 28 and set aside for the moment. 4A

Block size: 8" finished.

## 5 block b

Sew a background $21 / 2^{\prime \prime}$ strip to a print $2 \frac{1}{2} 2^{\prime \prime}$ strip along the length with right sides facing. Open each and press the seam allowance toward the darker fabric. Make 4 and cut each strip set into $21 / 2^{\prime \prime}$ increments to make 2-patch units. Each strip set will yield 16 and a total of $\mathbf{5 6}$ are needed. 5A


Sew a $21 / 2^{\prime \prime}$ print strip to a contrasting $21 / 2^{\prime \prime}$ print strip along the length with right sides facing.

Open each and press the seam allowance toward the darker fabric.

Make 4 and cut each strip set into $21 / 2$ " increments to make 2-patch units. Each strip set will yield 16 and a total of 56 are needed. 5B

Sew a print/print 2-patch unit to a background/print 2-patch unit together as shown to make a 4-patch. Make 56. 5C

## 6 block construction

Sew a 4-patch unit to a $41 / 2^{\prime \prime}$ background square. Make 2. 6A

Sew the 2 sections together into a 4-patch formation as shown to complete the block. Make 28. 6B

Block size: 8" finished.

## 7 arrange and sew

 Lay out the blocks in rows. Each row is made up of 7 blocks and 8 rows are needed. Block A and Block B alternate. Refer to the diagram on page 5. Notice that beginning with Row 5 , the blocks alternate differently. After the blocks have been sewn into rows, press the seam allowances of the odd-numbered rows toward the right and the even-numbered rows toward the left to make the seams "nest."Sew the rows together to complete the center of the quilt.

## 8 inner border

Cut (7) $21 / 2^{\prime \prime}$ strips across the width of the fabric. Sew the strips together end-to-end to make one long strip. Trim the borders from this strip.


5B


5C


6B


Refer to Borders (pg. 6) in the Construction Basics to measure and cut the inner borders. The strips are approximately $641 / 2^{\prime \prime}$ for the sides and approximately 6012" for the top and bottom.


## 9 outer border

Cut (7) $51 / 2^{\prime \prime}$ strips across the width of the fabric. Sew the strips together end-to-end to make one long strip. Trim the borders from this strip.

Refer to Borders (pg. 6) in the Construction Basics to measure and cut the outer borders. The strips are approximately $681 / 2^{\prime \prime}$ for the sides and approximately 7012" for the top and bottom.

## 10 quilt and bind

Layer the quilt with batting and backing and quilt. After the quilting is complete, square up the quilt and trim away all excess batting and backing. Add binding to complete the quilt. See Construction Basics (pg. 6) for binding instructions.

## additional resources

visit our online store: contact us via email: come see us:<br>check out our video tutorials:<br>www.missouriquiltco.com info@missouriquiltco.com 114 north davis street hamilton, missouri 64644 youtube.com/missouriquiltco

## Construction Basics

## general quilting

- All seams are $1 / 4$ " inch unless directions specify differently.
- Cutting instructions are given at the point when cutting is required.
- Precuts are not prewashed; therefore do not prewash other fabrics in the project.
- All strips are cut width of fabric.
- Remove all selvages.


## press seams

- Use a steam iron on the cotton setting.
- Press the seam just as it was sewn right sides together.
This "sets" the seam.
- With dark fabric on top, lift the dark fabric and press back.
- The seam allowance is pressed toward the dark side. Some patterns may direct otherwise for certain situations.
- Follow pressing arrows in the diagrams when indicated.
- Press toward borders. Pieced borders may demand otherwise.
- Press diagonal seams open on binding to reduce bulk.


## borders

- Always measure the quilt top 3 times before cutting borders.
- Start measuring about $4^{\prime \prime}$ in from each side and through the center vertically.
- Take the average of those 3 measurements.
- Cut 2 border strips to that size. Piece strips together if needed.
- Attach one to either side of the quilt.
- Position the border fabric on top as you sew. The feed dogs can act like rufflers. Having the border on top will prevent waviness and keep the quilt straight.
- Repeat this process for the top and bottom borders, measuring the width 3 times.
- Include the newly attached side borders in your measurements.
- Press toward the borders.


## binding

find a video tutorial at: www.msqc.co/006

- Use $212^{\prime \prime}$ strips for binding.
- Sew strips end-to-end into one long strip with diagonal seams, aka plus sign method (next). Press seams open.
- Fold in half lengthwise wrong sides together and press.
- The entire length should equal the outside dimension of the quilt plus 15" - 20."


## plus sign method

- Lay one strip across the other as if to make a plus sign right sides together.
- Sew from top inside to bottom outside corners crossing the intersections of fabric as you sew. Trim excess to $1 / 4^{\prime \prime}$ seam allowance.
- Press seam open.


find a video tutorial at: www.msqc.co/001


## attach binding

- Match raw edges of folded binding to the quilt top edge.
- Leave a 10 " tail at the beginning.
- Use a $1 / 4^{\prime \prime}$ seam allowance.
- Start in the middle of a long straight side.



## miter corners

- Stop sewing $1 / 4$ " before the corner.
- Move the quilt out from under the presser foot.
- Clip the threads.
- Flip the binding up at a $90^{\circ}$ angle to the edge just sewn.
- Fold the binding down along the next side to be sewn, aligning raw edges.
- The fold will lie along the edge just completed.
- Begin sewing on the fold.



## close binding

MSQC recommends The Binding Tool from TQM Products to finish binding perfectly every time.

- Stop sewing when you have 12 " left to reach the start.
- Where the binding tails come together, trim excess leaving only $21 / 2^{\prime \prime}$ of overlap.
- It helps to pin or clip the quilt together at the two points where the binding starts and stops. This takes the pressure off of the binding tails while you work.
- Use the plus sign method to sew the two binding ends together, except this time when making the plus sign, match the edges. Using a pencil, mark your sewing line because you won't be able to see where the corners intersect. Sew across.

- Trim off excess; press seam open.
- Fold in half wrong sides together, and align all raw edges to the quilt top.
- Sew this last binding section to the quilt. Press.
- Turn the folded edge of the binding around to the back of the quilt and tack into place with an invisible stitch or machine stitch if you wish.


## $4 \times 4$

PAT2042

SAMPLE QUILT
Aunt Grace Baskets of Scraps by Judy Rothermel for Marcus Fabrics

QUILT SIZE
$70^{\prime \prime} \times 78^{\prime \prime}$ finished
block size
8" finished

QUILT TOP
1 roll of $21 / 2^{\prime \prime}$ print strips
$13 / 4$ yards background - includes inner border

OUTER BORDER
$11 / 4$ yards

BINDING
$3 / 4$ yard

BACKING
5 yards - vertical seam(s)

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