

Part 1 - August 2020

This month we will gather our fabric, start sewing 4 patch filler blocks, and sew 12 - 4" (4½" unfinished) BowTie blocks.

Fabric

You don't need a lot of fabric for this quilt. It's only 40" x 60" which is less than 2 yards. That being said, I plan to make mine scrappy so I'll be using small pieces of lots of different fabrics. I've been experimenting with different "scrap systems" which will be ideal for this quilt.

You'll have plenty of fabric if you have:

2 yds of assorted lights/background (at least 1 piece needs to be approx 18" square)

2 yds of assorted mediums and darks.

Extra yardage if you are adding borders

Scrappy 2" (2½" unfinished) 4 patch filler blocks

Have you heard of Bonnie Hunter's leaders and enders concept. See

<https://quiltville.blogspot.com/2005/06/leaders-enders-whys-and-hows.html> for an in depth explanation.

Instead of using a folded scrap of fabric for the beginning or ending of chain piecing to prevent your machine from eating your piecing, use purposely cut squares of lights and darks to make units that can be sewn together for 4 patches. For our quilt, you can cut 1½" squares and keep them by your machine to feed in while you are piecing your main blocks.

For anyone that needs a tutorial on how to make a 4-patch block here's one

<https://fabric406.com/blogs/fabric406-blog/how-to-sew-a-basic-four-patch-quilt-block> (remember we are sewing 1½ " squares together)

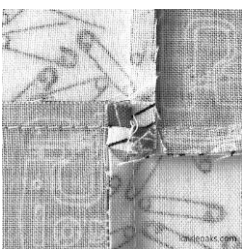
We will need 34 4-patch blocks in total. I would suggest that you start sewing them now and accumulate them over the next few months. So that means cut 136 1½" squares of lights and darks. I would cut more squares and sew more units so that you have options when pairing them.

As an alternative, I'm going to try this cool technique I found on line from Missouri Star Quilt Co.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MJCSoljKnqU> Jenny shows it using 5" charm squares. For our quilt we want to follow the same instructions but use 3" squares. If you use this technique you will need to cut 34 3" squares of lights and darks (17 each). Again, I'm going to make more to have options.

And, of course you can use 1½" strips sewn together then sub cut into 1½" units and paired up with other units for a 4-patch block. Whatever method you use you may want to spin your seams to flatten your block.

Here's a tutorial <https://cookingupquilts.com/how-to-spin-seams-for-a-flatter-quilt-block/>

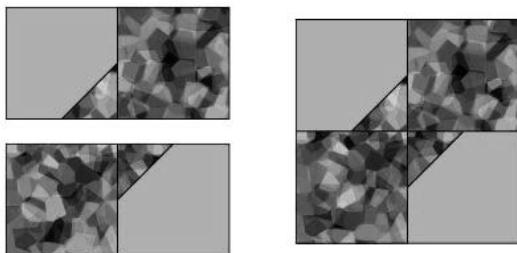
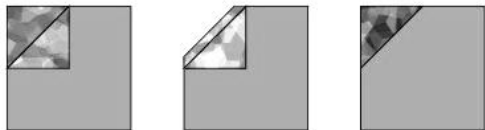


4" (4½" unfinished) Bow Tie blocks

For each block:

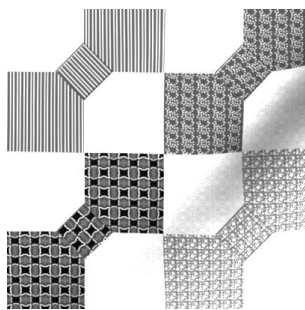
Background: cut two 2½" squares

Bow Tie Fabric: cut two 2½" squares; cut two 1½" squares



Sew with a scant ¼" seam allowance unless you are sewing on a marked line.

1. Draw a line from one corner to the opposite corner on the reverse side of each small bow tie square.
2. Align a marked bow tie square, right sides together, with one corner of a background square.
3. Sew a seam on the marked line from corner to corner. Trim away excess fabric from both layers 1/4 inch past the seam line.
4. Press as is to [set the seam](#) and then press the seam allowance towards the large square.
5. Repeat to sew the remaining small bow tie square to a corner of the remaining background square.
6. Arrange the pieced units and two bow tie squares into two rows as shown above. Sew components of each row together and press seam allowances towards the large bow tie square.
7. Sew the two rows together. Press.
8. Sew 4 blocks together like this and this



9. Leave the remaining 4 blocks as is