

Row of the Month Optional Finishing Suggestions

Now that you have all the Row Patterns and most of the rows complete, you are probably wondering how you will put all your rows together to make your quilt. Let the fun begin as you let your creativity guide you!

In this final installment, I have a few suggestions to help you along your way. They are purely suggestions which you can choose to use or not. This is completely up to you.

While all the rows you have made are looking very good, you may want to join the rows together with some alternate/filler rows: Sashing; Checker Board; Half Square Triangles; or Quarter Square Triangles (Hourglass Blocks). If you would like you may use any other blocks you desire in your alternate rows, eg. Nine Patch. You may also want to use some of these elements in your border.

All the blocks that we have used were designed to fit in a 42" finished width row; 7 blocks for each row, which means the blocks finished at 6". It is nice to use a factor of 6 when deciding on blocks for your alternate/filler rows: 6", 3", and 2" finished blocks work well. All these sizes will multiply nicely into 42. As an example, a 5" finished block does not factor into 6 or 42, and would not be a good choice.

I will give you some guidelines below on making Half Square Triangle Blocks (3" finished); Checker Board Filler Row using 2" finished squares; and Quarter Square Triangle Blocks (aka Hourglass Blocks) (3" finished).

If you wish to use sashing between your rows, I recommend using either 1", 1.5" or 2" finished strips. The size you decide upon depends on the finished look you would like, or even the finished size of the quilt you would like. These sashing strips are great to use between the pieced rows as they eliminate the need to deal with seams from the different rows as you sew your rows together. The sashing also gives some space between the rows, giving a nice effect, as your eye has somewhere to rest.

Happy Stitching Everyone!
Irene



Half Square Triangles:

These instructions are to make one 3" x 3", finished, Half Square Triangle (HST). To make a 42" long row, you will need to make 14 HSTs.

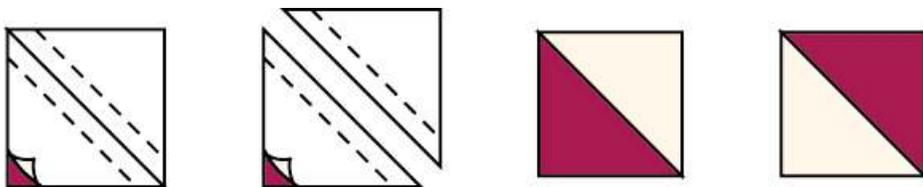
Refer to Row #1, Step #1, for more detailed instructions on how to make HSTs.

Cutting Instructions: (To make *Two* HST Blocks)

Fabric	Number to Cut	Size to Cut
A	1	4" x 4"
B	1	4" x 4"

Piecing Instructitons:

1. Draw a diagonal line on the wrong side of Fabric A 4" x 4" square.
2. With right sides together, place the Fabric A square on top of the Fabric B square, lining up all edges.
3. Sew 1/4" on either side of the drawn line.
4. Cut along the drawn line.
5. Open the triangles into HST blocks, pressing the seam to one side.
6. Trim to measure 3.5" x 3.5".
7. Sew 14 units in a row. Your row will measure 3.5"x 42.5".



Here are a few links to some on line tutorials on making HSTs:

<https://www.diaryofaquilter.com/2014/02/half-square-triangle-short-cuts-and.html>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GIu7xViG79k>



Quarter Square Triangles (Hourglass Block):

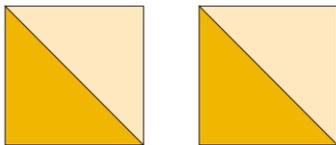
These instructions are to make one 3" x 3", finished, Quarter Square Triangle (QST). To make a 42" long row, you will need to make 14 QSTs.

Cutting Instructions: (To make *Two* QST Blocks)

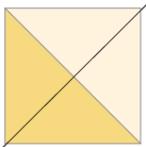
Fabric	Number to Cut	Size to Cut
A	1	4.5" x 4.5"
B	1	4.5" x 4.5"

Piecing Instructions:

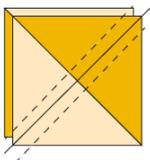
1. Using the Fabric A and Fabric B squares, make two HST units as previously described.



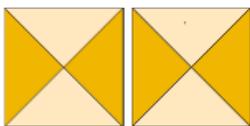
2. On the back of one of your HST units, draw a diagonal line, perpendicular to the seam line.



3. Place this HST unit, right sides together on top of the other HST unit. Making sure that opposite colours are aligned. Also ensure that the seams of the two HST units nest together.
4. Sew 1/4" on either side of the drawn line. Cut along the drawn line.



5. Open the 2 units into QST blocks, pressing the seam to one side.
6. Trim each unit to measure 3.5" x 3.5".
7. Sew 14 units in a row. Your row will measure 3.5" x 42.5".



Here is a link to a on line tutorial on making QSTs:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6OSaONmFsw0>



Checker Board:

These instructions are to make a 42" long Checker Board.

There are two options to make your Checker Board: Controlled Checker Board using 2 fabrics; A Scrappy Checker Board using an assortment of fabrics you have used in your quilt.

Remember to use a scant 1/4" seam.

Controlled Checker Board:



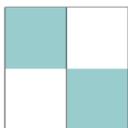
1. From Fabric A cut two 2.5" wide strip, width of fabric (WOF) or 43" long.
2. From Fabric B cut two 2.5" wide strip, WOF or 43" long.



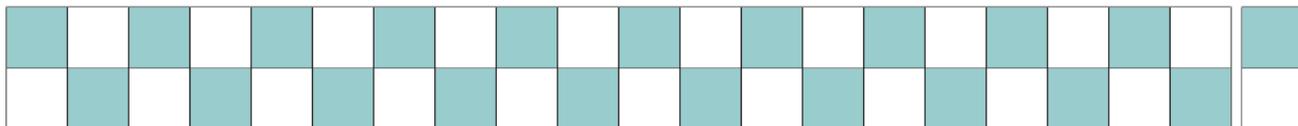
3. With right sides facing, sew one Fabric A strip to one Fabric B strip, along one long edge. Repeat for second set of strips.



4. Press seam toward the darker fabric.



5. Subcut into 2.5" units (two patch units). You will need a total of 21 two patch units.



6. Sew 2 units together to make a four patch, as indicated in diagram below. Make 10 four patches.
7. Sew 10 four patches together, adding the final two patch unit at the end.
8. Your row will measure 4.5" x 42.5".



Checker Board (continued):

Scrappy Checker Board:

1. From assorted fabrics, cut 42 squares, each 2.5" x 2.5"
2. Arrange these squares into 2 rows, each row with 21 squares. Arrange the square in a pleasing layout.



3. Sew the first row of 21 squares together. Press all seams to the left.
4. Sew the second row of 21 squares together. This time pressing all seams to the right.



5. Place the first row on top of the second row, right sides together. Align the seams. You will find the seams nest together. Pin where seams meet.
6. Sew these two rows together. Press seam to one side.



7. Your row will measure 4.5" x 42.5".

