

## THE \$3.31 QUILT - PROJECT OVERVIEW

I am so thrilled to be bringing you this year's **CQA/ACC Mystery Quilt!** I knew that for this project I wanted to do something undeniably Canadian and I'm NOT sorry about it!

The **\$3.31 Quilt** is inspired by ... well, it's a MYSTERY, so all will be revealed at the end. The super sleuths among you may have the mystery solved by the time you reach the final instalment. The actual inspiration will be shared at the final step, the sixth instalment.

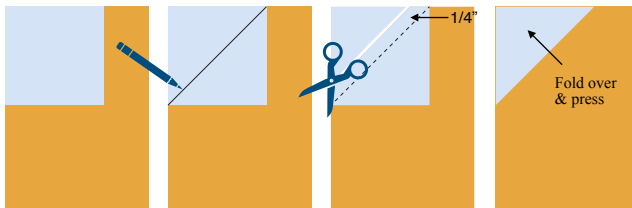
Trust me, it's going to be a fantastic adventure that you don't want to miss!

This quilt can be made in two sizes: lap size (approx. 56" x 73") and queen size (approx. 90" x 90").

The blocks are all traditionally pieced (no paper piecing). Techniques explored will be traditional straight piecing, the Stitch & Flip technique, two-at-a-time HSTs (half-square-triangles), eight-at-a-time HSTs, point matching and diagonal piecing with template trimming.

All dimensions provided in this pattern include the 1/4" necessary for your seam allowances. Test your 1/4" seam allowance before starting your quilt. Make sure that when you sew with this seam allowance, no more than 1/4" is lost from your pieces. Depending on how you sew, you may want to use a *scant* 1/4" seam allowance (meaning slightly less than 1/4") to stay accurate in the size of your blocks. You will find more information on this later in this overview.

As mentioned, the **Stitch & Flip Technique** is heavily used in this project (see image below). To do this, place the piece you wish to stitch & flip in the corner of the larger piece you intend to join it to, *right sides together*. Draw a line from one corner to the other in the direction you intend your final seam to appear, and stitch directly on that line.



Once stitched, trim the excess fabric 1/4" away from your stitch line on the side closest to the corner. This will become your seam allowance. Flip over your fabric and press to complete. I suggest you ***press all of your seam allowances open*** to reduce bulk when piecing.

## MATERIALS NEEDED

In the material needed list, I have listed the Kona cotton solids I used in my quilt. I encourage you to use any fabrics of your choice! The quilt will look best, however, if you use a consistent background fabric for the entire quilt. All materials needed are based on a width of fabric (*WOF*) of at least 42”.

LAP SIZE (56” x 73”)	
<b>Background</b> <i>Kona Shark</i>	3.25 metres
<b>Light Brown</b> <i>Kona Cobblestone</i>	0.3 metres
<b>Medium Brown</b> <i>Kona Sable</i>	0.5 metres
<b>Dark Brown</b> <i>Kona Coffee</i>	0.5 metres
<b>Beige</b> <i>Kona Latte</i>	0.25 metre
<b>White</b> <i>Kona White</i>	0.25 metre
<b>Light Grey</b> <i>Kona Silver</i>	0.25 metre
<b>Medium Grey</b> <i>Kona Shitake</i>	0.5 metres
<b>Dark Grey</b> <i>Kona Charcoal</i>	0.2 metres
<b>Black</b> <i>Kona Black</i>	2” x wof
<b>Red</b> <i>Kona Terracotta</i>	0.4 metres

QUEEN SIZE (90” x 90”)	
<b>Background</b> <i>Kona Shark</i>	6 metres
<b>Light Brown</b> <i>Kona Cobblestone</i>	0.3 metres
<b>Medium Brown</b> <i>Kona Sable</i>	0.5 metres
<b>Dark Brown</b> <i>Kona Coffee</i>	0.75 metres
<b>Beige</b> <i>Kona Latte</i>	0.5 metres
<b>White</b> <i>Kona White</i>	0.4 metres
<b>Light Grey</b> <i>Kona Silver</i>	0.25 metre
<b>Medium Grey</b> <i>Kona Shitake</i>	0.5 metres
<b>Dark Grey</b> <i>Kona Charcoal</i>	0.4 metres
<b>Black</b> <i>Kona Black</i>	0.1 metres
<b>Red</b> <i>Kona Terracotta</i>	0.5 metres

*You will also need either template plastic or tracing paper for certain blocks. A combined size of 10” x 15” should suffice.*

## CUTTING TIPS

Cutting for this project must be precise. I've included some of my favourite tips for successful cutting. Every month, cutting guide fabric layout guides will be provided to help you make the most of your fabric!



1 - If you have a large amount of fabric you are cutting from, break it down into manageable pieces. For example, if you have 4 metres of fabric for your quilt, but the block you are working on only requires 0.5 metres, cut that 0.5 metres from your yardage before cutting your pieces. This will make your fabric much easier to manage! Every month, the exact yardage needed to create each block will be provided to help you manage your fabric.

2 - Press your fabric before you cut your pieces, not after. What I mean here, is if you are cutting your fabric and you notice a wrinkle running through the piece you are cutting, press it out before you cut. Pressing your piece after it is cut could distort the shape of your piece.

3 - Give yourself a 'fresh' edge. Before you make that first cut, make sure the edge you are measuring from is a straight, crisp cut. Sometimes the cuts made by your local quilt shop may not be straight, or sometimes that cut can stretch and get distorted during bagging, travel or storage. Don't take a chance, just give yourself a 'fresh' edge.

4 - Use your ruler whenever you can as opposed to relying on the lines of your mat. This one is mostly for saving time. What I mean is, when you are making a cut that is more narrow than the width of your ruler, just use your ruler to measure out your cut. This will save you the time of adjusting the fabric on your mat to line up with its lines. When the cut is going to be wider than your ruler, use the lines on your mat.

5 - Line up your ruler on the half inch mark when you can. What I mean by this, is to measure over from the edge of the ruler in a way that the edge of your fabric doesn't land under one of the thick printed 1" interval lines. This will allow you to have a better visual of where the edge of your fabric is landing to give you more accurate cuts.

## **PIECING TIPS**

### **Seam Allowance**

Most quilt patterns will call for you to sew with a 1/4" seam allowance. There are some instances where an inaccurate 1/4" seam allowance wouldn't matter much, as long as you were always sewing with the same inaccurate seam allowance.

You will definitely want to make sure you are sewing with a precise 1/4" seam allowance. When you are completing a block that may have 12 different pieces sew together in a row, being off just 1/16 of an inch on your seam allowance could equal out to 3/4 of an inch on the total width of your block.

### **My favourite way of setting up a 1/4" seam allowance on my machine**

- attach your favourite presser foot
- adjust the position of your needle so that the distance between your needle and the right side of your presser foot measures 1/4"
- cut 3 1" strips of fabric (the length doesn't much matter)
- sew these 3 strips together in a row, lining up the raw edges of the pieces you are sewing together with the right edge of your presser foot
- press the seams open
- if your seam allowance is a perfect 1/4", then that middle strip, once sewn, should measure a perfect 1/2"
- if it DOES NOT measure a perfect 1/2", adjust your needle position and retest until it does
- make a note of your needle position so that you do not have to retest your seam allowance every time you sit down to sew

### **Stitch Length**

When I am precise piecing, I always shorten my stitch length from 2.5 mm to 2.0 mm or even 1.8 mm. This will help with a couple of things; your stitch will be stronger, and you will reduce bulk in your seams, as you will not have to secure them by stitching back and forth at their beginning and end points.

## **Press Your Seams Open**

Unless it is otherwise stated in the pattern, I recommend you press all of your seams open while producing any of my blocks. There are often places in my blocks where there will be a lot of seams meeting up in the same place, this will help to reduce bulk and allow the block to lay flat.

## **Press After Each Step**

This one is pretty self explanatory, but by pressing after every step, you will be better able to properly line up your pieces when you stitch them together.

## **Use Measurement Guides**

In my patterns, after every step, I provide measurements of what your unit should measure. If you want to be sure you are staying on track, take the time to compare the dimensions of your block-in-progress by comparing it to the given measurements. If you are off, you may be able to backtrack a bit, or trim down your piece (depending on the piece).

You will notice that I often use the **Stitch & Flip Technique** in my patterns. It is important to note that when you stitch & flip a smaller piece to a larger piece, the size of the larger piece should not change, therefore after a stitch & flip step in my patterns, no measurement guide is provided.