



KZNQG MYSTERY SEW-ALONG

Designed by Sue Cameron for KZNQG

Fifth Instalment - 27 July 2020

Y-Blocks

This is the last block before we start putting the whole quilt together.

Please read ALL the instructions before you start.

There is no room to manoeuvre with the measurements of this block so **it is very important that you cut and make only one block first**. Measure it to make sure it is exactly $4\frac{1}{2}$ " before you cut and make them all.

If your test block is too small, there are a few things that you could check and then correct.

- Check the size of your seam allowances. Measure them with your ruler to make sure they are a quarter inch. Do not use the edge of your ruler to measure them. Use the space between the $\frac{1}{4}$ inch line and the $\frac{1}{2}$ inch line on your ruler. It will be more accurate. Adjust your seam allowance until you get it right.
- Check that you have cut out the triangles correctly. Measure the long edge of the smaller triangles. They should be the same size as the original squares ($5\frac{1}{4}$ "). With the larger triangles the two shorter sides should both measure the same as the original square ($4\frac{7}{8}$ "). Make sure that when you cut on the diagonal, you cut accurately from corner to corner.
- The next important thing to check is that you haven't stretched the bias edges that resulted from cutting the triangles. Bias edges are very prone to stretching so you need to be very careful with them.

To ensure that your quilt blocks turn out correctly, please use the method below. Do not use the quarter square triangle method to make these blocks. It will affect the design of the quilt.

Triangles are not that tricky if you follow these rules.

- The first rule is pin, pin, pin. Even if you don't like to pin, PIN!!!! Pinning is essential - rather over-pin than unpick.
- If you can get your hands on some spray starch, I would strongly advise you to use it for these blocks. Remember to allow it to soak into your fabric before you iron it. You may end up with a thin wafer on the top of your fabric if it doesn't soak in first. You will be dealing with bias edges and they do behave so much better if they are starched. Remember to starch your fabric BEFORE you cut it.



- As you're stitching towards the end of the seam, you will find that the triangle points will want to separate from each other. To help to prevent this, use a wooden skewer to hold them together as you feed them towards the needle. Your fingers cannot fit in the tiny space in between the toes on your quarter inch foot and your unpicker or a pin could break your needle.
- When stitching triangles, ALWAYS lay them out before you stitch them to make sure that they are oriented correctly. Most triangles in quilts have a right angle and two acute angles. The acute angles are the "skinny" ones. Always look for the right angle and make sure that it is in the correct position in the block.

Cutting

For a cot quilt, cut the following:

From the dark fabric, cut twelve $4\frac{7}{8}$ " squares then cut each of them once on the diagonal to make two triangles.

From the medium fabric cut six $5\frac{1}{4}$ " squares then cut each of them twice on the diagonal to make four triangles.

From the light fabric cut six $5\frac{1}{4}$ " squares then cut each of them twice on the diagonal to make four triangles.

For a lap quilt cut the following:

From the dark fabric, cut sixteen $4\frac{7}{8}$ " squares then cut each of them once on the diagonal to make two triangles.

From the medium fabric cut eight $5\frac{1}{4}$ " squares then cut each of them twice on the diagonal to make four triangles.

From the light fabric cut eight $5\frac{1}{4}$ " squares then cut each of them twice on the diagonal to make four triangles.

For a single bed quilt cut the following:

From the dark fabric, cut thirty-six $4\frac{7}{8}$ " squares then cut each of them once on the diagonal to make two triangles.

From the medium fabric cut eighteen $5\frac{1}{4}$ " squares then cut each of them twice on the diagonal to make four triangles.



From the light fabric cut eighteen $5\frac{1}{4}$ " squares then cut each of them twice on the diagonal to make four triangles.

For a queen size quilt cut the following:

From the dark fabric, cut fifty $4\frac{7}{8}$ " squares then cut each of them once on the diagonal to make two triangles.

From the medium fabric cut twenty-five $5\frac{1}{4}$ " squares then cut each of them twice on the diagonal to make four triangles.

From the light fabric cut twenty-five $5\frac{1}{4}$ " squares then cut each of them twice on the diagonal to make four triangles.

Method:

1. Lay the triangles out as in the diagram below. Pay attention to where the right angles are.



2. Pin and stitch the medium and light triangles together. Make sure that the light triangle is on top and that you feed the right angle into the machine first. After you have made your test block, you can chain piece these units starting with your leader scrap. Press to the medium triangle.
3. Pin and stitch the dark triangle to the light/medium triangle unit along the long sides of the triangles. Chain piece them. Press towards the dark triangle.
4. Measure all your Y-blocks, making sure that all the blocks are $4\frac{1}{2}$ ".

For a cot quilt, you will need 24 Y-blocks.

For a lap quilt, you will need 32 Y-blocks.

For a single bed quilt you will need 72 Y-blocks.

For a queen size quilt, you will need 100 Y-blocks.