

KZNQG Mystery Quilt
Sixth Instalment - 7 August 2020

Sue's Monologue

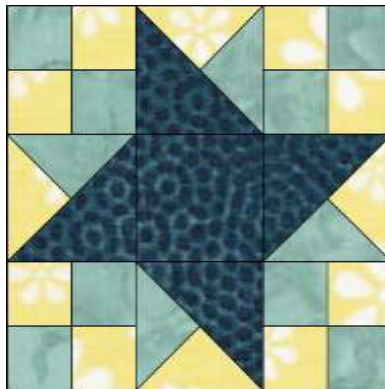
- At this point it would be a great idea to give your machine some oil. It has been working hard and could do with a treat! If you are unsure of how to do this, look at your manual or google your specific machine to get the instructions of how to do it.
- Remember to clear out the bobbin area with a brush to get rid of any fluff.
- Now would also be a great time to remove your foot plate from your machine and clear your feed dogs of any fluff.
- Never blow into your machine to get rid of dust or fluff as your breath is moist and could eventually damage your machine or cause rust. (You can say thank you to Mr. Google for that snippet of information!)
- Replace your needle. Needles are the cheapest part of making a quilt so do yourself a favour and change your needle.
- If your machine suddenly begins to sound like a tractor, it is time to change your needle.
- Remember that there are specific needles for specific purposes. You shouldn't use only universal needles for everything. They certainly have their place but are often not the best option.
- If you are stitching with fabrics that have a high thread count like hand-dyed or batik fabrics, use a microtex needle. When stitching with batiks and hand-dyes the needle often sounds as though it is hitting onto the fabric instead of gliding through the fabric. Use the smallest size needle that you can get away with. The thickness of your thread should determine the size of your needle.

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- Microtex needles are brilliant for raw edge machine appliqué as well. Microtex needles have a very sharp point and make a smaller hole in the fabric thereby helping to prevent fraying.
- If your machine is skipping stitches and everything else on your machine is perfect, change your needle to a stretch needle to see if it helps to solve the problem. A stretch needle has a bigger scarf (the little cut out section behind the eye of the needle) than other needles. When the needle is down, the scarf is the area where the bobbin thread and the top thread loop around one another to form a stitch. The bigger scarf allows more room for this to happen effectively.
- For general piecing and for quilting, my favourite needle is a titanium quilting needle. These are coated in titanium which is a very strong metal which helps the needles to stay sharp for longer. The coating goes through the eye of the needle. This provides a smoother surface for the thread to pass through the needle helping to prevent thread shredding.
- Another of my favourite needles is a jeans or denim needle. It is designed so that you get a very straight straight-stitch. This helps to keep your piecing more accurate and any topstitching looking great.

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Key Lime Pie Blocks



Cutting:

For a cot quilt cut the following:

From the dark fabric cut six $4\frac{1}{2}$ " squares

For a lap quilt cut the following:

From the dark fabric cut eight $4\frac{1}{2}$ " squares

For a single bed quilt cut the following:

From the dark fabric cut eighteen $4\frac{1}{2}$ " squares

For a queen size quilt cut the following:

From the dark fabric cut twenty-five $4\frac{1}{2}$ " squares

Method:

1. For each block you will need four Y-Blocks, four 4-Patch units and one plain dark $4\frac{1}{2}$ " square. If you are making a scrap quilt, try to get as much variation as possible in the fabrics in each block. Do not over-think it though!
2. Make sure that all your blocks are $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches square.

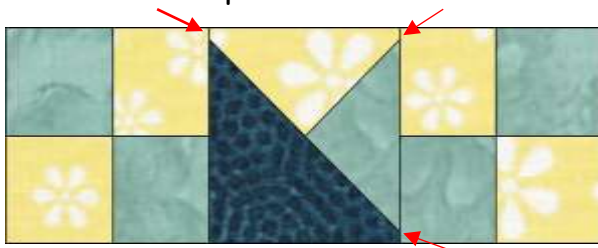
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3. For each Key Lime Pie block, lay out your blocks in 3 rows of 3 as follows.

Make sure that you orientate the 4- patch blocks correctly.



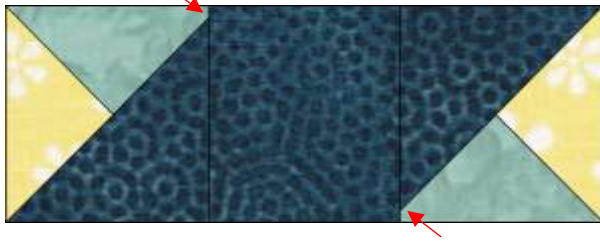
4. Pin and stitch a 4-Patch unit to either side of a Y-block as in the picture below. Make sure that the spaces between the triangle points and the edge of the fabric is exactly a quarter inch (see the arrows below). You may need to unpick and re-stitch to make sure that they are exact. If the spaces are less than a quarter inch, increase the seam allowance. If they are greater than a quarter inch, decrease the seam allowance. Press towards the 4 patch units



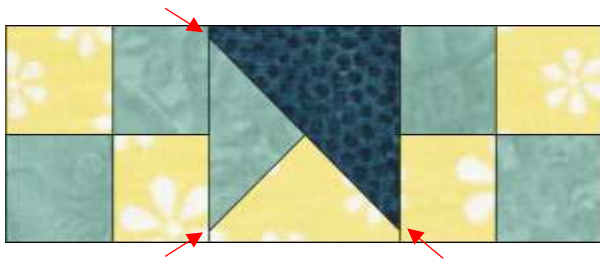
5. Pin and stitch a Y- block to either side of the plain dark square as in the picture below, again making sure that the spaces between the triangle points and the edge of the fabric are a quarter inch. Press towards the

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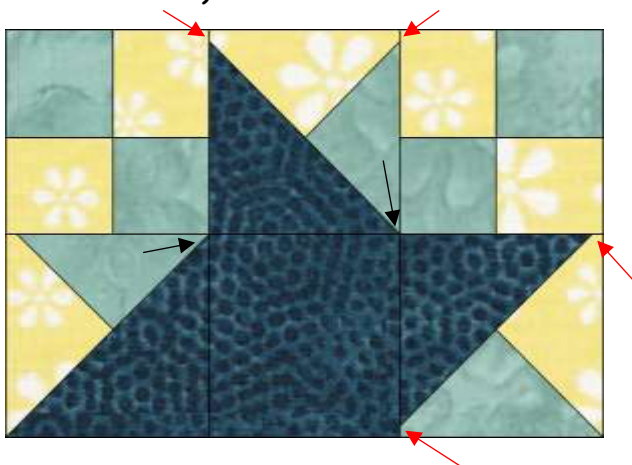
plain block.



6. Pin and stitch a 4-Patch block to either side of a Y-Block as in the picture below, again making sure that the spaces between the triangle points and the edge of the fabric are a quarter inch. Press towards the 4-Patch units.



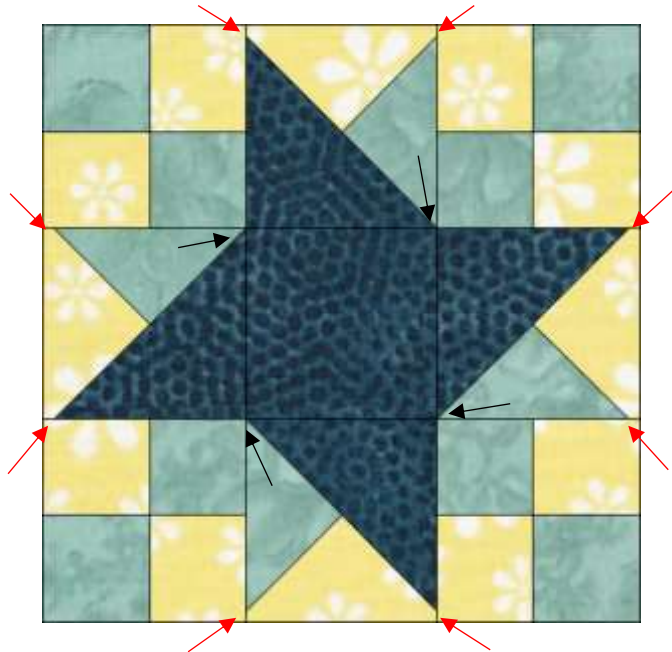
7. Pin and stitch the first 2 sets of three together, making sure that you butt your seams perfectly. The diagonal stitching lines made by the triangles should meet perfectly at the intersections (see the black arrows below). Make sure that the spaces between the points of the triangles and the edges of the fabric are a quarter inch (see the red arrows below). Press towards the 4-Patch/Y-Block unit.



8. Pin and stitch the remaining third of the block to the rest of the block, making sure that you butt your seams perfectly. The diagonal stitching

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lines made by the triangles should meet perfectly at the intersections (See the black arrows). Make sure that the spaces between the points of the triangles and the edges of the fabric are a quarter inch. See the red arrows below. Press towards the 4-Patch/Y-Block unit.



9. Repeat the process with all of the Y-Blocks, 4-Patch blocks and dark $4\frac{1}{2}$ inch squares. Your blocks should now measure $12\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

10. For the cot quilt you should have 6 Key Lime Pie Blocks.

For the lap quilt you should have 8 Key Lime Pie Blocks.

For the single bed quilt you should have 18 Key Lime Pie Blocks.

For the queen size quilt you should have 25 Key Lime Pie Blocks.