

Becky Sharp's Quilting.

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Half Square Grid method.

To make half squares using the grid method helps prevent the bias stretching and making the square an uneven size, the formula to make the square the correct size is to add a 7/8" to the size of the finished square, I find it is better to add a whole inch this way you can trim the square down to size and any sewing that is slightly off line will not make the finished square to small.

Work out how many completed half squares you will need for the pattern you are using, then divide this by half as you get two squares out of each section of the grid. For example for a pattern that requires 128 half squares divide that number by half you will need a grid that gives you 64 squares. If you need a large grid you may find it easier to break it down in to FQ's so that you would need a to make a grid 5 x 4 on each FQ this will need repeating four times to give you enough squares.

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IT IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT YOU NEED THE SAME AMOUNT OF FABRIC IN TWO COLOURS.

To make the grid take one of the two fabrics being used if one is light use that one, it may help to starch the fabric to help keep it in place, you can use spray starch, follow the directions on the starch, on the wrong side of the fabric draw a grid if the finished size of the square is 3" add 1" to make 4". Using a pencil and ruler and draw a line across the top of the fabric, make sure the fabric is straight, along the line mark off every 4", figure 1.

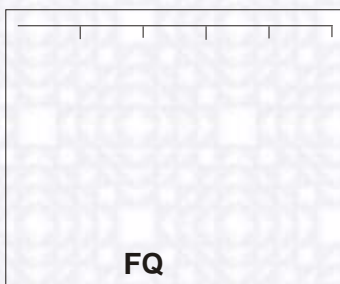
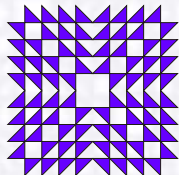


Figure 1



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On the left end of the line draw another line down again mark off every 4", figure 2.

Use the ruler to mark the bottom right corner measure from the right end of the top line measure down and mark the bottom right corner, figure 3, do not complete the line as you need to check from the bottom of the left line, when this is done you can draw the two lines to meet at the correct place, mark 4" along the lines. Figure 4.

Next connect the 4" marks to make 4" squares. Figure 5

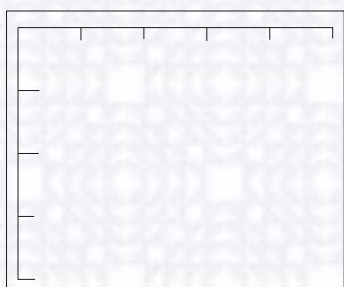


Figure 2

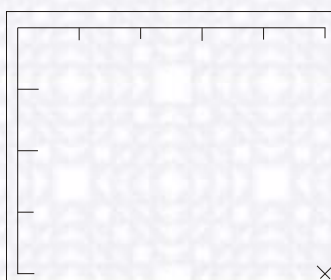


Figure 3

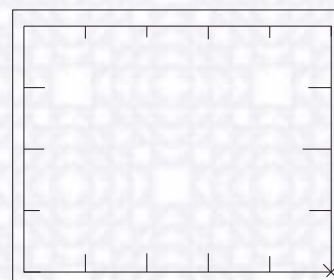


Figure 4

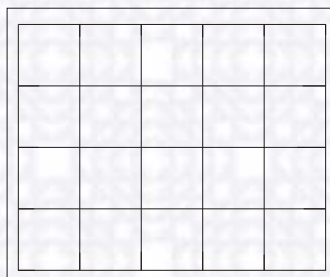


Figure 5

Now place the ruler across the diagonals and draw a line across, carry on until all the squares have a diagonal line across, figure 6. This will be the centre diagonal line.

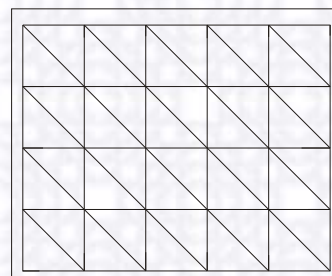
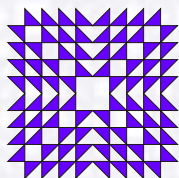


Figure 6

Next place the 1/4" line of a ruler along the centre diagonal line and draw a line parallel above this line figure 7, then place the 1/4" line of the ruler on the same centre diagonal line but this time so the line will be drawn below the centre line, continue to do the same with the rest of the grid, figure 8.



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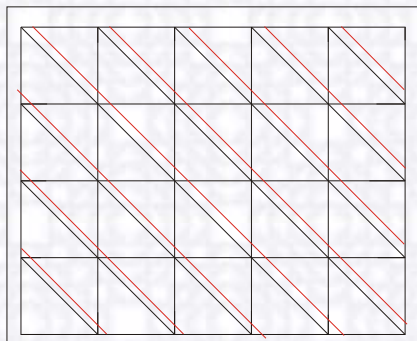


Figure 7

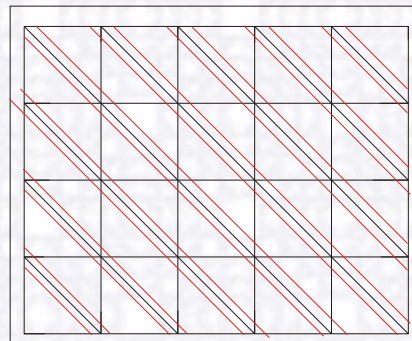


Figure 8

Next place the second fabric right sides together on the first fabric, starting from the centre pin in place, if you wish you can baste the pieces together.

Using a thread that blends with both fabrics sew along the diagonal grid lines that are on either side of the centre diagonals, the sewing lines in the diagrams are in red, go slowly to keep on the lines.

Once all the lines have been sewn you can cut the squares out, use a rotary cutter, ruler and cutting board, see sheet on using a rotary cutter, the cutting lines in the diagrams are in black, be careful as you cut because squares once they are sewn together may not lie in a straight line.

Press the seam under the darker of the two fabrics, then trim down to size if you need to, figure 9 shows two completed half squares you will get from one of the squares in the grid.

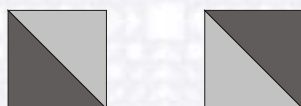


Figure 9