

WAQA January 2020 BoM: St Louis 16 Patch Block – the strip piecing way

This month's Block of the Month is based on a 16 patch block using contrasting colourways. Each kit has fabric to create 2x 8 ½" blocks. One in a "Black & White" high contrast theme and the other block in a "tonal contrast colour".

LINKS: excellent tutorials with directions and picture. (N.B. using 3 ½" strips to make 12 ½" blocks – so not the same measurements as our kits)

<https://country-threads-chicken-scratch.com/uncategorized/the-16-patch-tutorial/>

and here (N.B. using full width of fabric jelly rolls)

<http://poppymakes.blogspot.com/2013/04/16-patch-quilt-block-tutorial.html>

PLEASE CHECK YOUR PRESSED ¼" SEAM SIZING BEFORE YOU START. With 6 lines of stitching, a fat or skinny seam will mean that the block will not line up when put into the quilt top. I learned this the hard way!! My first trial block was only 8 ¼" square! all because of just 1.5mm on each seam. I did some unpicking ☹ and... adjusted my needle position incrementally, testing until I got my first pair sewn, pressed and measuring 4 ½" 😊 . Maybe now I understand the phrase of "a scant ¼" seam"!!

Strip piecing instructions

1. Sew the long 2 ½" paired strips together, press to the darker side
2. Cut the lengthwise strip unit in half (minimum length of 10 ½ ") *[NB: some kits already have short lengths of fabric ~10 ½"—so join those strips and ignore this step].*
3. Sew the 2 pairs together, press seam in same direction.
4. Cut 4 x 2 ½" slices across your pieced fabric.
5. Turn alternate slices for checkerboard effect and sew the 2 pairs together.
6. Check they come to 4 ½" wide, then sew those 2 pairs together. Pinning where the seams nest together, ensures beautifully matching points. Press all seams in the same direction. And you are done! 😊 Thank You!
7. If your block is a bit smaller or bigger than 8 ½" please do not trim. We will work out design layouts to make use of similar sized blocks.