

IT'S A STASHBUSTING PARTY!

By Tara Kos

Fun project name, uh? I intend to only use fabric from my stash for this, and that means I can't really say how much fabric you'll need. Each step will have it's own fabric requirements, and the first few steps could easily be worked with a light, medium, and dark FQ. Let's get started!

Gather together a mixture of lights, mediums, and darks. This would look amazing fully scrappy . . . but you can keep it the same 2 or 3 fabrics within a particular border, and then switch up on the next border. Just make sure you put lights in the light spot, mediums in the medium spot, and darks in the dark spot.

BEGINNING BLOCK

We will start with a 9-inch square of light fabric.

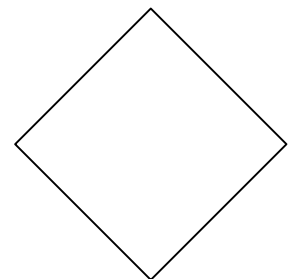
Also gather together several of those snippets & scraps that you've cut off of your fusible appliqué pieces. You know when you do fusible appliqué, after you've put the fusible paper on, then trim it to size, you have those little slivers of fabric with fusible on one side? Some people throw these away, I keep them in a shoebox. They can be used to create great works of art :) I know my son loved doing a block of his own, and so can you! If you haven't done fusible appliqué before, you can take a small scrap of fabric, put fusible on the back, and then cut out various shapes for your beginning block.

If you absolutely do not want to jump off this particular cliff, you can insert any 9" block of your choosing. Be sure it looks good set on-point. (This block will be trimmed to 8 ¾" before the next round, so you can use a smaller block, and add plain borders around it to make it the right size.)

Begin your artwork:

Set your 9" light square in front of you, on point.

Now, start placing your fusible scraps on the block in a pleasing manner. Or, just throw them down and see what it looks like! Be a child at heart and just let those colors fall where they may! Cut the larger pieces into smaller pieces if you'd like, or cut circles out of squares. Cut some triangles. Just have fun!



AFTER it looks the way you want it to look, make sure all the 'fusible' sides are facing **DOWN**. Double check ... when all the fusible sides are DOWN, you can set the pieces in place with your iron. Press straight down in one spot for a count of five .. lift straight up, and press in another spot for a count of five. Go around the block twice in this manner. Be sure you get everything pressed securely.

You can add stitching at this point if you wish. You can do this by machine or by hand, or wait until the quilting stage and stitch these down with your quilting. The choice is totally up to you.

Square this block to 8 ¾" inches.

1ST BORDER ROUND

In this round we are going to be making our on-point block “square”.

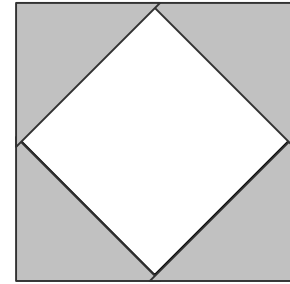
You will need:

Your center artwork block – 8 ¾” square.

2 squares of medium to dark fabric – 7 ½” x 7 ½”

Cutting and Sewing:

Cut the 7 ½” squares in half once, corner to corner (diagonally).



Sew two of these triangles on opposite sides of your center square. Press well.

Sew the remaining two triangles on the other two sides of your center square. Press well.

Do you have snippets left over? You can now add additional appliqué artwork in these four corners. (**See options below.) We will be trimming this piece to 12 ½” square, so be sure to mark where you will be cutting before you fuse the appliqué on. After you’ve put your appliqué on, you can then trim the square to 12 ½”. When you do the appliqué first before trimming, you will eliminate the scary feeling that the appliqué has made the square shrink!

You can place your 12 ½” ruler on the square, center it, and mark in pencil where you will be cutting later. Then proceed with your appliqué. This way you will know exactly where you can put your appliqué artwork, and exactly where you cannot!

Trim this to 12 ½” x 12 ½”.

*** Other options for the corner triangles ...

Option 1 – Use two orphan blocks which are at minimum 7 ½” unfinished. Cut them in half diagonally and then sew to your center artwork block.

Option 2 – Use a neat focus fabric for these triangles. You could choose colors for the scrappy fabrics from this focus fabric to pull the entire piece together. If you have enough of the focus fabric, you could also use this in the very final border (you will need 4 strips about 2 ½” wide x wof for the last border).

Option 3 – You could use a medium/dark fabric in a tone on tone or near solid would work well and would allow you to add an interesting quilting motif later.

2ND BORDER ROUND

For this border we'll be doing a ribbon border.

You will need:

(FQ or less) Light Fabric: 4 – 1 ⁷/₈" squares
16 – 4 ¹/₂" x 2 ¹/₄" (for paper piecing)

(FQ or less) Medium Fabric: 2 – 4" squares
16 – 5" x 2" (for paper piecing)

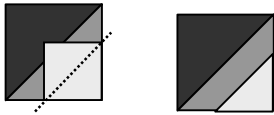
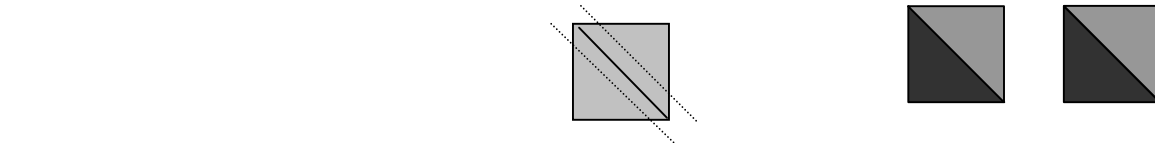
(FQ or just a bit more – you will need to be very frugal if you want to get this out of 1 FQ)

Cut the long strips first!

Medium/Dark Fabric: 2 – 2" x 18 ¹/₂" strips
2 – 2" x 21 ¹/₂" strips
2 – 4" squares
16 – 3 ³/₄" x 2 ¹/₄" (for paper piecing)

RIBBON BORDER

1a. Draw a diagonal line on the back of your Medium 4" squares. Place the Medium 4" squares, face to face with the Medium/Dark 4" squares. Sew ¹/₄" from each side of the drawn line. Cut on the drawn line. Press open carefully. Trim to 3 ¹/₂" square. Makes 4 HSTs.



1b. Draw a diagonal line on the back of the 4 – 1 ⁷/₈" light squares. Place one of these squares face-to-face on the Medium corner of the HST from 1a. Sew on the line. Press. Trim to 3 ¹/₂" square. After it's square you can trim out the extra bulk.

2. You can use either templates or paper piecing for the rest of the ribbon border. I suggest paper piecing.

Paper Piecing Directions: You will need 8 of the “up-left” square and 8 of the “up-right” square patterns. (Print 3 pages of the fpp templates on Page 5.) Template is intended for paper piecing and does not include a ¹/₄" seam allowance. Add a ¹/₄" seam allowance on all sides. This square, with the seam allowance, should measure 3 ¹/₂" x 3 ¹/₂". Be sure to check size as all printers are different and can give you slight variations.

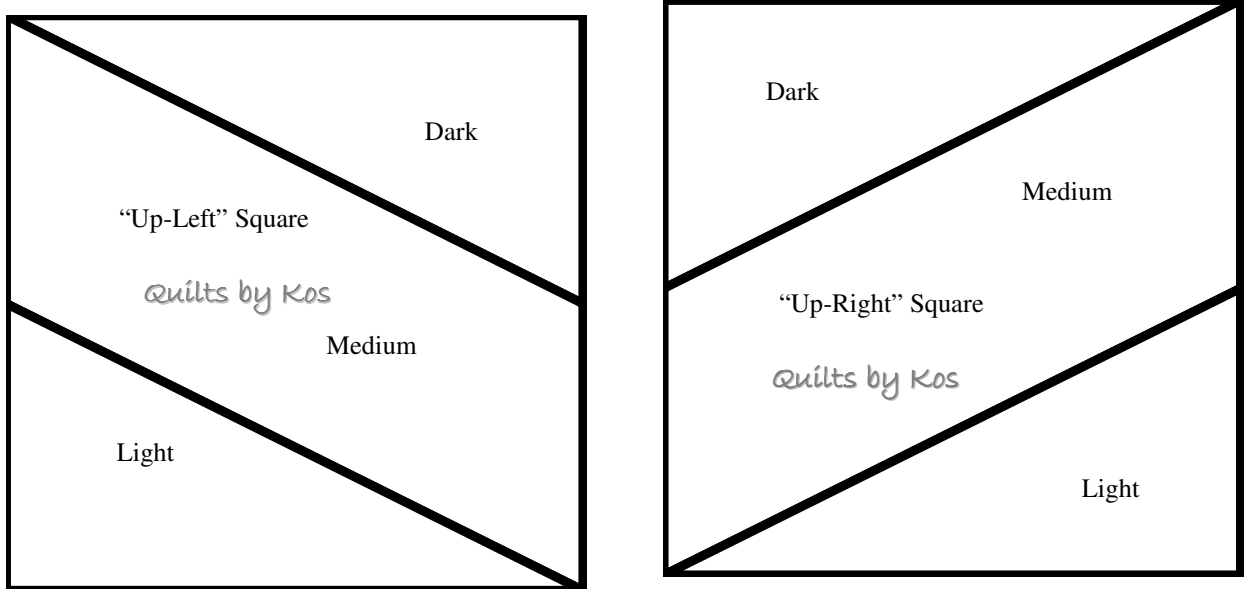
a) Turn your pattern, line side down on the table. Now lay your dark rectangle on top of the paper, covering the top section of the square, right side facing up. Pin in place. Hold this up to the light to make sure that the fabric will cover all of the dark section. b) Turn the paper & fabric over so the print side of the paper is UP. Fold the paper back on the line between the dark and medium piece. (A postcard or similar object works great to get this fold nice and crisp.) Trim the dark fabric ¹/₄" away from this folded line.

c) Turn the paper over again. Place a medium rectangle (right sides facing) on the dark fabric. Line up a long edge of the medium rectangle with the trimmed edge of the dark piece. Carefully

hold in place and take to the sewing machine. With paper side up, sew on the line. Use a smaller stitch than you would normally use.

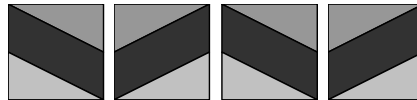
d) Remove pin and finger press carefully.

e) Repeat from Step b to add the light rectangle. Using the lines as your guide, trim $\frac{1}{4}$ " outside of the dark lines so the square is $3\frac{1}{2}$ " square. You can now carefully tear off the paper.

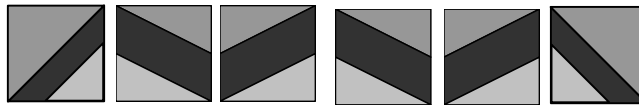


4. Sew the $3\frac{1}{2}$ " squares from step 2 to form four borders. Add the corner squares from step 1 to two of the borders.

You need two short borders →
Press seams open.



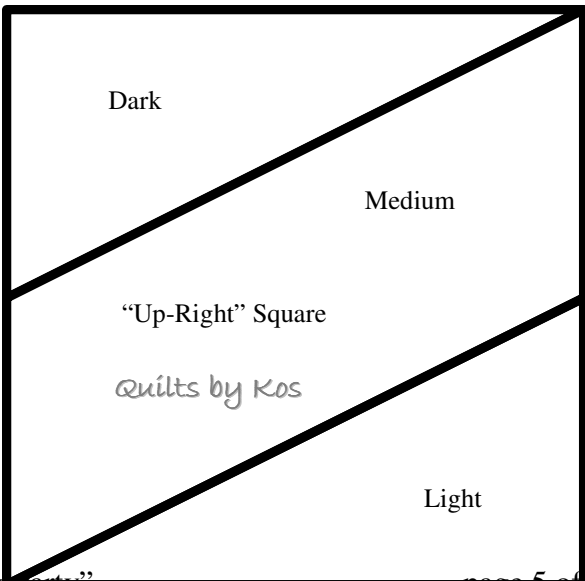
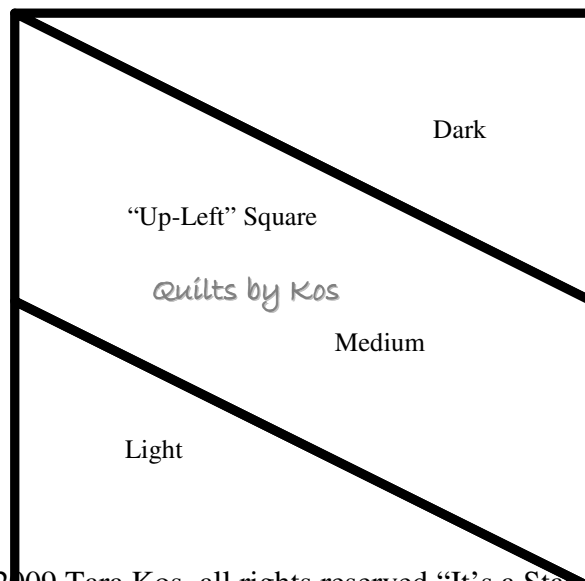
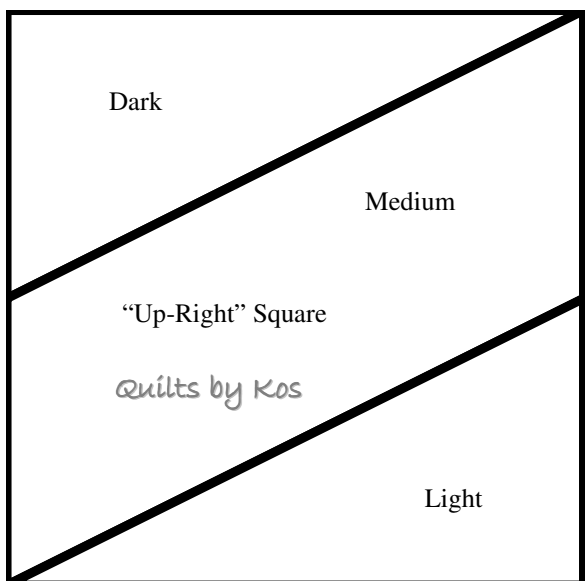
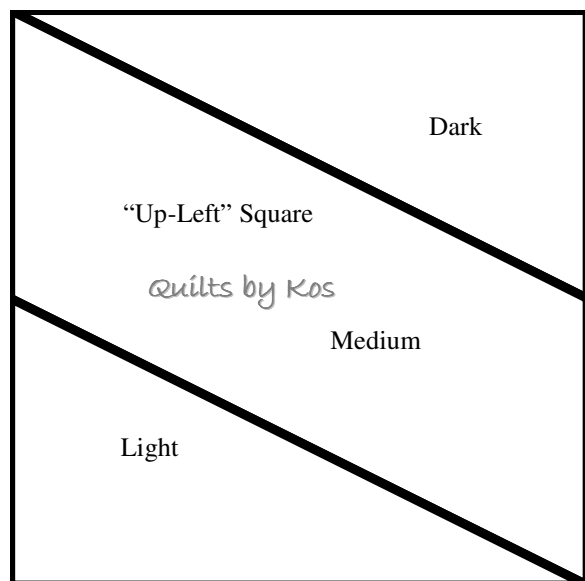
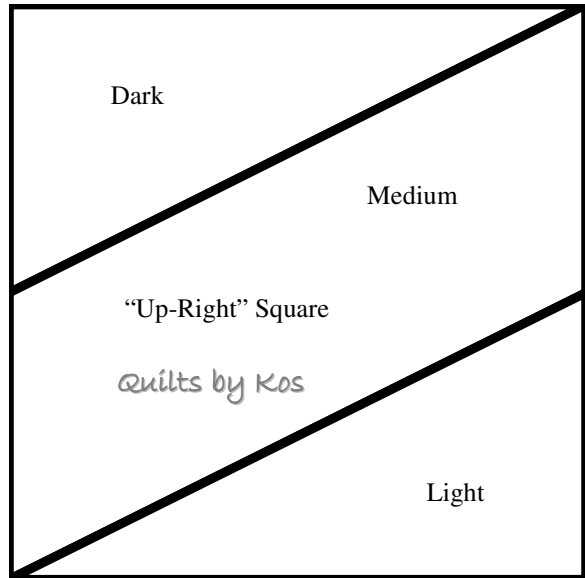
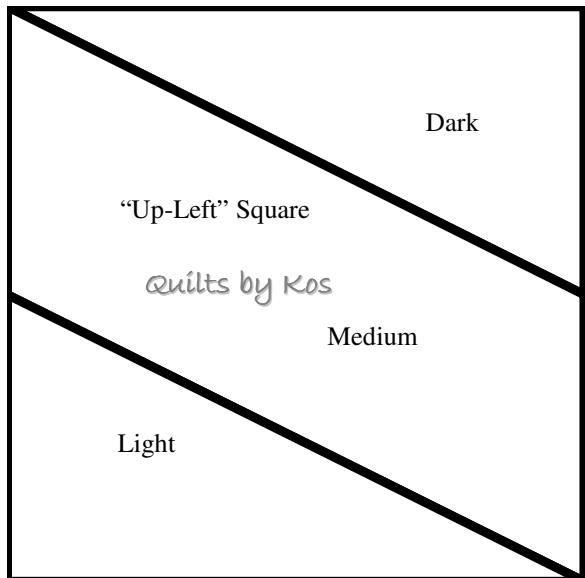
You need two long borders →



Press seams open, except, press the outside two seams towards the block from Step 1.

5. Sew the two short borders onto your center square, pressing seams towards the inside block. Then sew the two long borders onto your center block. Be sure the corner seams line up, use pins!
6. Sew the 2 " x $18\frac{1}{2}$ " dark strips to the top and bottom of your block. Press well. Then sew the 2 " x $21\frac{1}{2}$ " strips to the sides of your block. Press Well.

Trim to $21\frac{1}{2}$ " square if necessary.



3RD BORDER ROUND

For this border we'll be doing only the sides of the border, and completing the corners next time.

You will need:

Light Fabric 12 – 6 ½” x 6 ½” squares

Medium Fabric 12 – 1 ½” x 6 ½” strips
12 – 1 ½” x 7 ½” strips

Dark Fabric 12 – 1 ½” x 7 ½” strips

For your 6 ½” squares, you may want to cut them slightly larger, and then put an embroidery or appliqué on them. Or use some orphan blocks that you have sitting around. After adding any decoration that you want, trim them to 6 ½” x 6 ½”.

Sew a 1 ½” x 6 ½” strip to your 6 ½” square. If your 6 ½” squares are directional sensitive, you will need 3 blocks with the strip on the left, 3 blocks with the strip on the top, 3 blocks with the strip on the bottom, and 3 blocks with the strip on the right.



Sew the 1 ½” x 7 ½” DARK strip onto the blocks. You will need 6 oriented like “A”, and 6 oriented like “B”. See diagrams here:
Press Well.

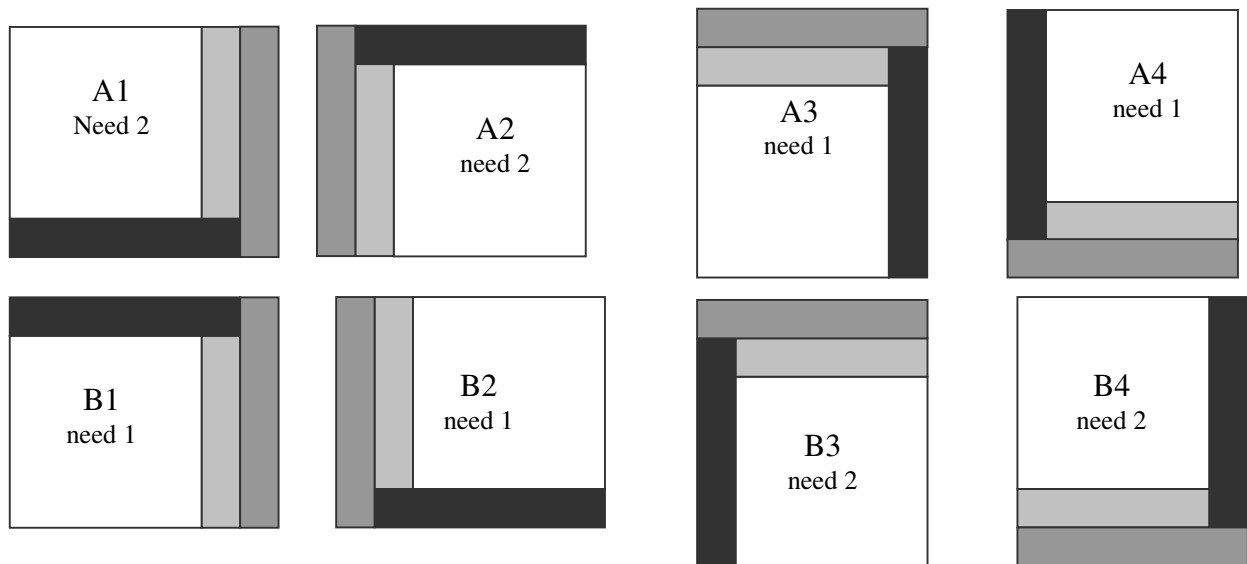
Be very careful about the orientation of the blocks when putting on the strips. It's especially important with the 1 ½” x 7 ½” medium strips if you have a directional 6 ½” square.



Sew on the 1 ½” x 7 ½” medium strips according to the diagrams.

The resulting blocks will be 7 ½” x 8 ½”.

All the A's are the same, except they are rotated. All of the B's are the same also, except for rotation.



4TH BORDER ROUND

For this border we'll be making corner squares out of scrappy HST units.

You will need:

Light Fabric: 32 – 3” squares (can be 24 of one type, 8 of another type)

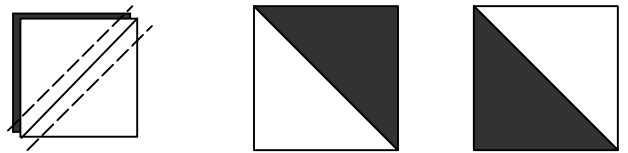
Medium Fabric: 32 – 3” squares (can be 24 of one type, 8 of another type)

Or you could use 64 - 2 ½” Medium/Light HST units.

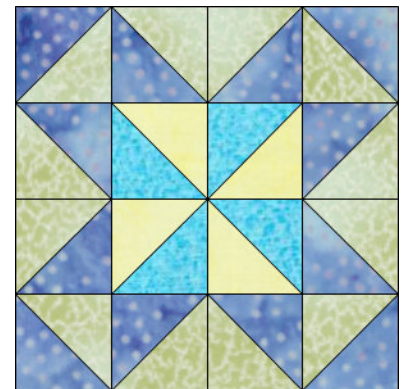
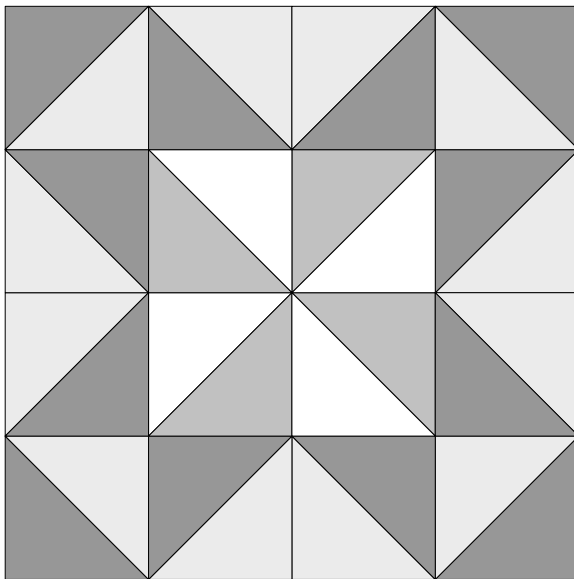
If using squares, draw a line diagonally on the back of the light squares.

Place a light square face to face with a Medium square. Sew ¼” on each sides of the line.

Cut apart on the line. Press. Square to 2 ½” x 2 ½”.



Arrange your HST units in four blocks, and sew in rows or in groups of four:



I've shown here an example in shades of gray ... and also one in color to give you an example.

You could do this totally scrappy, don't let me single colors restrain you. Use whatever lights, mediums, and darks that you want!

You will need 4 blocks. Square each to 8 ½” x 8 ½”.

5TH BORDER ROUND

Putting it all together.

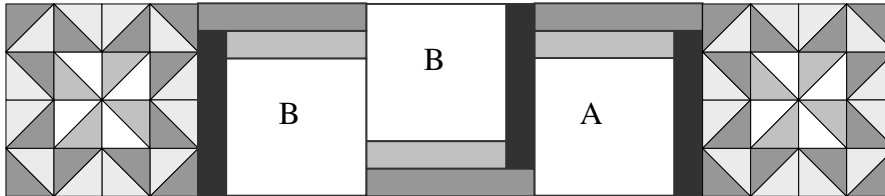
You will need:

Medium or Medium/Dark Fabric: 4 – 2 ½” x wof strips

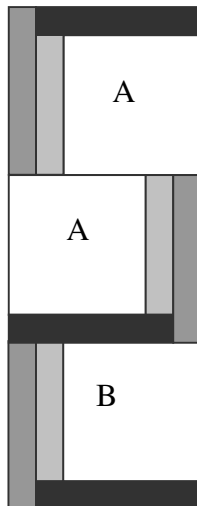
Your Blocks from Step 4 and Step 5.

Your Center Piece

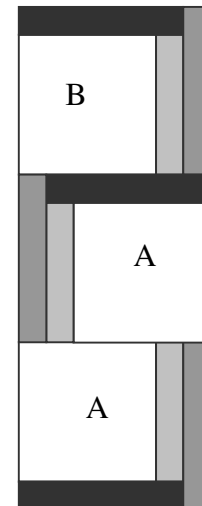
You will need 1 top border



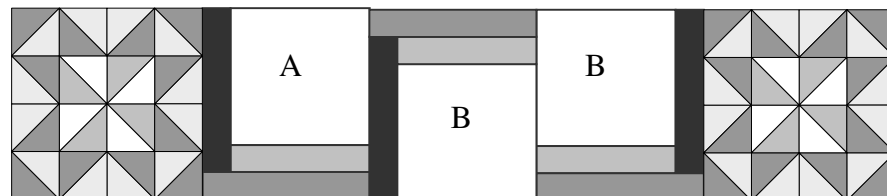
1 Left border



1 Right Border



And 1 Bottom Border



You can sew your left and right borders to your centerpiece, and then sew the top and bottom borders.

Press well between each addition.

Finally, measure your piece top to bottom and side to side through the middle of the quilt top. This should be 37 ½” x 37 ½”, but you should use YOUR measurement. Cut two border strips this length. Cut two other border strips that length plus 4” (41 ½” if your seams are exactly ¼”).

Press well, and quilt as desired. This is a great size for a table cloth, or a child’s quilt, or a nice wall-hanging. Be sure to share pictures!