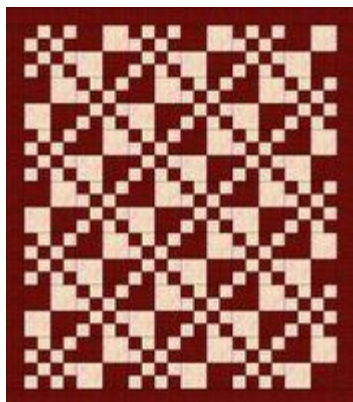


Not so Top Secret Project

www.AlyciaQuilts.blogspot.com

Finished size 57 x 66



Well Here it is Drawn out in EQ. Notice that it is a two color quilt. So there are many ways to do this. You can choose just two colors (**OPTION ONE**), You can choose two colors for the 4 patches, two other colors for the 16 patches and yet another for the border (**OPTION TWO**)... or you can do it like I did and choose Fat Quarters in two colorways. (**OPTION THREE**)



Fabric & Cutting

Yardage Requirements:

OPTION ONE:

Two Color Option

Dark: 2 3/8 yards

Light: 1 5/8 Yards

OPTION TWO:

5 Color Option

Dark #1: 7/8 yards

Dark #2: 3/4 Yard

Dark #3: 3/4 Yards

Light #1: 7/8 yard

Light #2: 3/4 Yards

OPTION THREE:

Fat Quarters

Dark FQ's: 9 total

Light FQ's: 6 total

Cutting:

OPTION ONE (two color option)

Darks:

Cut: 11 ~ 2 1/2 Inch Width of Fabric Strips (WOF)

5 ~ 4 1/2 inch WOF Strips

6 ~ 4 1/2 inch WOF strips for Outer Border

Lights:

Cut: 11 ~ 2 1/2 in WOF Strips

5 ~ 4 1/2 in WOF Strips

OPTION TWO (5 color option)

Dark #1: Cut 11 ~ 2 1/2 inch WOF Strips

Dark #2: Cut 5 ~ 4 1/2 inch WOF Strips

Dark #3: Cut 6 ~ 4 1/2 inch WOF Strips

Light #1: Cut 11 ~ 2 1/2 inch WOF Strips

Light #2: Cut 5 ~ 4 1/2 inch WOF Strips

OPTION THREE (Fat Quarters)

Cut these lengthwise so you will get 21 or 22 inch long strips.

Darks:

- * Take 4 FQ's, Stack them up and cut 1~ 4 ½ strip, and 5~ 2 ½inch Strips all 22 in long
- * Take 1 FQ and cut 3 ~ 4 ½in strips and 1 ~ 2 ½inch strip.
- * Take 4 FQ's , Stack them up and cut 4 ~ 4 ½inch strips from each - set aside 12 of the 4 ½inch strips for the border.

Lights:

- * Take 4 FQ's, Stack them up and cut 1~ 4 ½ strip, and 5~ 2 ½ inch Strips all 22 in long
- * Take 1 FQ and cut 3 ~ 4 ½ inch strips and 1 ~ 2 ½ inch strip.
- * Take 1 FQ and cut 4 ~ 4 ½ inch strips from each.

Step 1—16 patch Block:



We are going to take all of the 2 ½ inch strips and sew them together. Take One Dark Strip, place it pretty side up. Take one light strip place it pretty side down on top of the dark. This is called faced together. Place them under your sewing machine and using ¼ inch seam sew the strip together.

I like to chain sew, so I will sit and sew all of the 2 ½ strips together at one time. I stitch to the end of one strip, then slightly lift the presser foot and slip the next strip under it. Then I keep stitching until the end of that row.

Now you have to look at the picture sideways - because blogger loves me and I can't seem to get it rotated right... no matter what I do to it. But this is my pile of 2 ½ strips all stitched together.

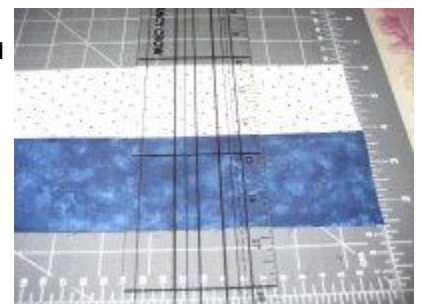


After I have all of them stitched I go and clip the threads between and take them to the ironing board to press. On my quilt I pressed all the seams towards the dark fabric. I do this so that when it comes time to quilt it, the seams are hidden under the dark fabric and you don't get any shadowing on the quilt. But - you also need to understand I am not the perfectionist that I probably should be, so if they don't go this way — it's alright.. really. Just take a deep breath and smile!



So once you are done pressing them all, you lay the strips out on your cutting mat.

When I first starting quilting I did one strip at a time, now I am a little bit more confident with the rotary cutter and will do up to 4 strips at a time. I layer the strips, then I trim off the end of the strip so it is even. Then I place my ruler every 2 ½ inches and slice the pile. Essentially I



am cutting 2 ½ by 4 ½ strips. *I took a picture just in case this doesn't make sense.*

*On the Width of fabric strips you should be getting 16 pieces per strip. On the Scrappy FQ option you should be getting 8 pieces per strip.

* when you are all done cutting these pieces you should have 168 pieces... just in case you are one to count pieces (grin).



So that is what we will do for today. If there are better ways to explain or describe what I am trying to describe - let me know. In my brain it makes sense... but sometimes the words don't come out just right. One good thing is that I will be there when I am teaching it to the Ladies Group and the Guild. So that is always a benefit .

Step 2

On we continue with the 16 patch block.

You need to take your Dark and Light little two patches and place the right sides together, opposite colors together. I put mine together and make sure they are matching at the middle seam. In my head this makes them more square, and if I have to trim I am not messing up the center seams.

Again - I chain piece. I put them thru the machine and just let the pile grow in the back. Then when I am done I go clip them and take them to the ironing board. Press them with the seam to one side.

Then we will sew one 4 patch to another 4 patch - to make the top half of the block. Again I chain piece. This chain piecing is usually where I pop in a quilting DVD - my new favorite that I picked up at MQS is a quilting DVD from Kimmy Brunner (<http://www.kimmyquilt.com>)... and if I want to drive the men outside I put in a chick flick — I watched "Someone Like You" while I was testing my first one. It was So so....



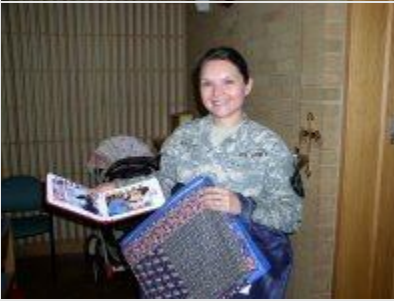
So after you have all the 4 patches sewn to another 4 patch you get well - this pic below (is it an 8 patch?) Again — take them to the ironing board and press the seams to the left or the right.



Then we join the 8 patches to another 8 patch and voila - your 16 patch is all sewn. After you have sewn these all together - head back to the ironing board and press this seam. You should have 21 ~ 8 ½ inch 16 patch blocks when you have finished this step.

It is a lot of fun to see the enthusiasm for the Quilt of Valor project grow. It really makes my heart happy. I know that the look on the soldiers faces when they received there quilts is truly priceless. I have received numerous emails from "our" soldiers telling me what the quilt means to them — and it makes

me so glad!

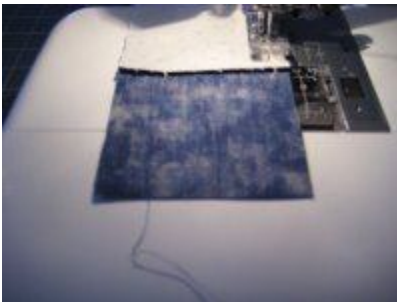
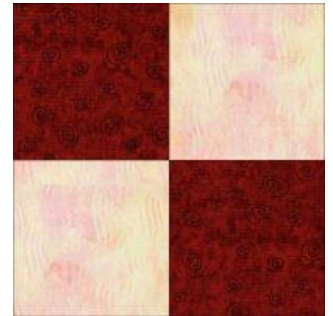


Look at this face... Doesn't she look happy?
Have a great day! Enjoy your quilting!

Step 3 — The 4 Patch Block:

This is the easy block and it goes together rather quickly. Step 1: Sew your Dark Strips to your Light Strips, right Sides together. Take then to the ironing table and press them. I press mine again towards the dark side.

Then take the strips to your cutting table and cut them into 4 ½ inch sections. With 22 inch Fabric — you will get 4 sections per strip set, with the WOF you should get 9 sections per set.



Take the sections and sew them into the 4 patches. With mine I got 22 Blocks. You only need 21 blocks. So I am going to save mine and if you feel like sending your extra block along with your quilt I will put them into another one. But if not — you can use this as a label, or incorporate it into the backing.

So now you should have 21— 4 patch blocks and 21—16 patch blocks.

Step 4 — The Last Step

Now you are going to take your blocks and put them into rows. I am a pretty random sew'er . So I made a pile of 16 patches and a Pile of 4 patches and sewed 3 sets of them together. I then would take those to the ironing board, press them and then sew them into a strip. I am SURE there are many more ways to do this — but this way brings on the Instant Gratification that I like!!



Your rows should be 6 blocks wide. After all the rows are done (you should have 7) , I turn them every other direction and start sewing the rows together. And Voila — there is the center of the top!

Remember those 4 ½ inch strips you cut for the border? Well again — I am sure there are many ways to do this... but how I do it is:

I measure the center of the quilt vertically, then I sew the strips together to

make this length and apply those borders. Then I press and do the same thing vertically. If for some reason the center is less than the edges of the quilt - this gives me a chance to ease in the fullness for a more square look. That said I AM NOT the quilt police, and therefore am not perfect (I just pretend to be in front of my sons!).



So What do you think? Won't it make a nice Quilt of Valor?

Someone asked about Pieced Backings (but their return email was not turned on) I LOVE Pieced backings. I think they add a lot of interest to the quilt and I love wide backs too... (I'm simple)

If you are so inclined to send me the top or the finished quilt to deliver to the soldiers - I would love it! My Address again is:

Alycia Quilts
31544 Hwy 34
Kersey CO 80644