

February Mudsock Block of the Month - Drawing in March, 2019

Judy Ireland, presenter

Please read everything before you begin!

“Disappearing 4-Patch”—Makes 2 blocks that are not identical; 8 1/2” square unfinished

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VVSeeoXs6pc> gives a 2 min.tutorial; click your cursor within the video to stop/start; once fully loaded you can click on the line at the bottom of the video to back up or advance the tutorial. It goes really fast!!

Fabrics needed: 8 5” squares—4 white or white-on-white **and 2 each** of 2 prints in fresh greens and warm blues; think “Spring!” Also, consider contrasting scales (sizes) of the motifs in your 2 prints and contrast in the background colors of the prints

Use a **“scant 1/4” seam** for more accurate piecing, especially in blocks that have lots of pieces in them. This is different on every machine. It allows for the “turn of the cloth” when pressing because fabric has dimension that sucks up width—think of folding cardboard and the depth of the fold. Here’s a tutorial: <https://www.diaryofaquilter.com/2011/10/quilting-tip-scant-14-inch.html>

Remember: you want to give as good as you want to get. Strive for that 8 1/2” square!

Assemble the block with the prints in the center 4-patch contrasting with the prints turning the corners (see illustration). Generally, press seam allowances toward the darker fabric. Press seams in opposite directions when joining so they “nest” into each other to make a cleaner seam on the front. When using white fabric this can be a “judgement call.”

Assemble each 4 patch w/2 squares of one print and 2 white blocks. Orient both blocks on cutting surface white square in upper left (UL).

Then make your cuts, mix the pieces and resew to get 2 coordinating but not identical blocks.

Step by Step directions— (I recommend a practice block if this technique is new to you)

- 1) Lay out 2 4-patch blocks each w/2 white squares & 2 matching print squares, white in UL.
- 2) Put RS (right sides) tog by flipping right blocks onto left column blocks and sewing the center seam on each. Set the seams with a press, open and press flat.
- 3) Complete the 4-patch by seaming the top and bottom pairs tog. Press open.
- 4) Cut 2 1/2” strip from R & L sides of the 4-patch; use a smaller cutting mat or rotating mat that can be turned easily so you don’t have to move the fabric as much
- 5) Turn center 1/3 of the block 90 degrees and cut 2 1/2” strips from each narrow end. Set all aside. Repeat for 2nd set of 5” squares, white square in UL position
- 6) Lay out one block using both prints w/one print turning the corners and the other in the center 4-patch. BE SURE the whites DON’T form large blocks in 2 corners of final block

- 7) Using the shorter strips on opposite R & L sides of the center 4 patch, match seams and sew RS tog, press carefully
- 8) Add longer cut strips to the top and bottom of the rectangle matching seams carefully; stitch and press
- 9) Fold top and bottom strips toward center of the block and trim excess fabric from the R & L sides of the block; press and trim if necessary to get an 8 1/2" raw edge measurement
- 10) Repeat for the 2nd block. You should have 2 coordinating blocks

Once you have 4 or more blocks, you can play with the layout for different effects.

This makes a great scrappy quilt, especially if using one constant fabric or color for the "neutral" squares and varying all others

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