



Between Charming Friends

Quilt Size: 31" x 36"

Inspiration: I made a larger version of this quilt that was designed by our sweet bloggy friend Darlene over at Quilting Daze Blog. I asked her if she'd mind I created a mini-version of the quilt for a fun little quilt along here at Charming Chatter, and she was so kind to share. And, that's how this little mini-quilt and the fun quilt along came to be. Big thanks again to Darlene for sharing her quilting goodness with us!



Fabric Requirements

2 Charm Packs or 84 precut 5" squares

1 1/4 Yards Light/Background Fabric (for background, inner border & binding)



1 1/8 Yards Backing

Cutting Instructions

Charm Squares

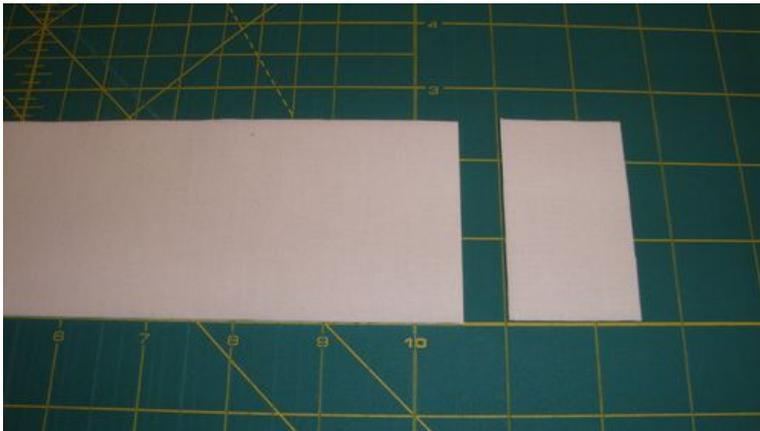
1. Cut all of your charm squares into 3 - 1 1/2" strips as follows:



for a total of 252 1 1/2" x 5" strips.

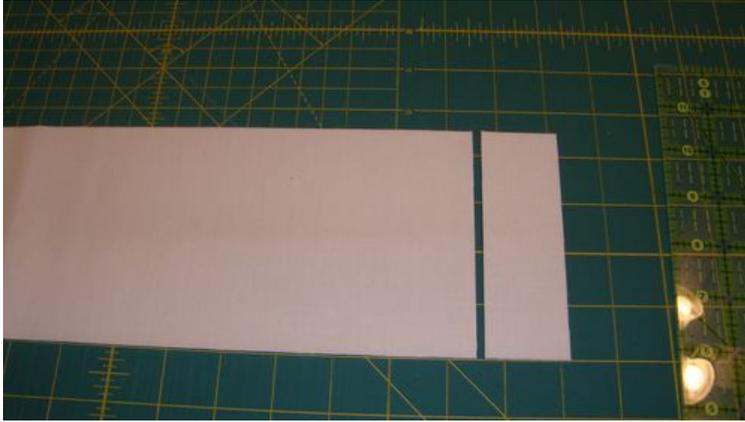
Background Fabric

2. From your background fabric, cut 1 strip 2 1/2" x WOF (width of fabric), and from that strip, cut 24 rectangles that are 1 1/2" x 2 1/2" as follows:

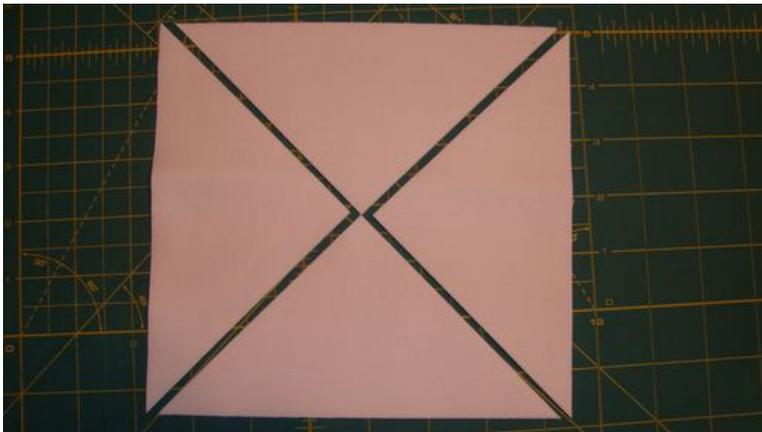


3. From the background fabric cut 1 strip 4 1/2" x WOF, and from that strip, cut 24 rectangles that are 1 1/2" x 4 1/2".



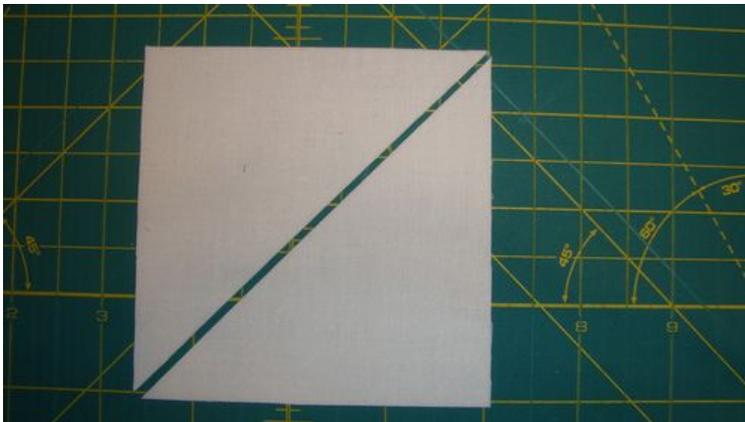


4. For your setting and corner triangles, cut 1 strip $6 \frac{7}{8}$ " x WOF, and from that strip cut 4 squares that are $6 \frac{7}{8}$ " each. Cut each square in half diagonally in both directions as follows:



to make 16 setting triangles (you'll have 2 extra).

From the remainder of your $6 \frac{7}{8}$ " strip, cut 2 - $3 \frac{5}{8}$ " squares. Cut those squares in half diagonally ONCE as follows:



to make 4 corner triangles.



5. For your inner border, cut 4 strips 1 1/2" x WOF.
6. For your binding, cut 4 strips 2 1/4" x WOF (for medium binding).



Piecing the Four Patch Blocks

1. Gather your 1 1/2" x 2 1/2" and 1 1/2" x 4 1/2" background rectangles. Select 16 medium/dark 1 1/2" x 5" strips that you cut from your charm packs.
2. Stitch one 1 1/2" x 5" strip to another, to make a strip set. Press seams toward the dark.



Make 8 strip sets.





2. Cut each strip set in 1 1/2" segments as follows:



You should have 24 sets of 2 patches.

3. Stitch one two patch segment to another as follows:



to make the four-patch center of your block:





5. Stitch one 1 1/2" x 2 1/2" background rectangle to each side of the block:



6. Stitch one 1 1/2" x 4 1/2" background rectangle to the top and one to the bottom of each block as follows:



Make 12 Blocks.





Easy Peasy - right?

Piecing the Sixteen Patch Blocks

1. Gather 108 medium/dark 1 1/2" x 5" charm square strips. I organized mine into



piles sorted by colors to make it easier to assemble my strip sets.

2. Stitch one 1 1/2" x 5" strip to another as you did above. Make 54 sets of two strips.

3. Stitch one set of two strips to another set of two strips as follows:





Make 27 strip sets of 4 strips each.



4. Cut each strip set into 1 1/2" segments as follows:



5. Stitch one strip of 4 squares to another strip of 4 squares as follows:





5. Stitch one set of two strips to another set of two strips as follows:



Make 20 blocks!



Assembling The Quilt Center

1. Gather your 20 - 16 Patch Blocks, your 12 - 4 Patch Blocks and your setting and corner triangles!



2. Lay out your quilt on the floor (or place it on a design wall) starting with a row of four 16 patch blocks, followed by a row of three 4 patch blocks . . . , as follows:



3. Label each diagonal row (I used #'s 1-8 on mine).

4. Stitch your diagonal rows of blocks together (be sure to leave your upper right hand and lower left hand corner triangles off at this point) as follows:



5. After your rows have been stitched together, add the upper right hand corner triangle to Row 1 and the lower left corner triangle to Row 8, as follows:



6. Stitch all of your rows together, and



now you have your quilt center completed! Give yourself a "Woot Woot!"

Adding The Inner Border

Since the quilt is on point - you'll need to do some measuring to make the borders fit your quilt!

1. Measure the length of your quilt at the center (mine measured approx. 27 1/2").



2. Cut two of your 1 1/2" background strips the length of the quilt. Stitch a 1 1/2" strip to each side of your quilt.
3. Measure the width of your quilt at the center (mine measured approx. 22 1/2").
4. Cut two of your 1 1/2" background strips the width of your quilt. Stitch one 1 1/2" strip to the top, and one to the bottom of your quilt as follows:



Assembling The Outer Border

1. Gather the remaining dark/medium charm strips.
2. Pile in stacks of 4, and cut a 1 1/2" square off of each strip as follows:



NOTE: There is no extra fabric, so do NOT trim off the pinked edges before you cut. This will give you a pile of 1 1/2" squares and a pile of 1 1/2" x 3 1/2" strips:



3. Gather 36 of the 1 1/2" squares to make your 4 corner 9 Patch blocks.

4. Lay out your four sets of 9 squares as follows:



5. Stitch the 3 rows of each set of blocks together as follows:





Press the seams for the center row in toward the center square. Press the seams for the top and bottom row out, away from the center square.

6. Stitch the 3 rows together to make your block



Make 4.

7. Gather your 1 1/2" x 3 1/2" strips.

8. Measure the length of your quilt, rounding to the nearest 1/2" (i.e. if the length is 29 5/8" - round it to 29 1/2").



9. Stitch together 2 rows of 1 1/2" strips by the number of inches of the length (in the example above that would be 29 strips).



10. Measure the width of your quilt, rounding to the nearest 1/2" as above (mine rounded to 24 1/2").

11. Stitch together 2 rows of 1 1/2" strips by the number of inches of the width as above.



Fudging Your Seam

I'm not sure what the technical term is for this - but, I call it "Fudging My Seams". Since the quilt is on point, it doesn't measure in inches exactly. This is how I fix it without putting in an odd sized piece - or doing too much stretching and pulling.

1. If you rounded up on your measurements, then you'll need to "shrink" your border a bit to make it fit.
2. Stitch your border pieces together - and at several seams (depending on how much you rounded up), you'll need to go back and make your seams a little wider than 1/4"





The gold seam is 1/4" - and the white seam is just a couple of needle titches wider.

3. So, do a few seams - measure. If it is still too long, do a few more, and so on, until the border measures the same length as the length of your quilt.

4. If you rounded down on your measurements, you'll need to "expand" your border a bit to make it fit.

5. You'll need to make several seams (depending on how much you had to round down) a couple of needle titches less than 1/4".



The gold seam is the 1/4" and the white is a scant 1/4".

6. I'd suggest you do this as you assemble the rows of your border. You can always add a row of stitches to tighten them, but if you make the border too short to begin with - you'll have to hang with your seam ripper - and seriously - who wants to hang with their seam ripper!

7. Stitch together so that the border measures the same size as your quilt side.

8. Stitch the longer of your two border rows to each side of your quilt (mine were 29 pieces):





9. Stitch a 9 Patch block to each end of the top and bottom borders.

10. Stitch the top and bottom borders to the quilt - and



Quilt as desired and bind.

Voila, a very charming little quilt to brighten your home or to share with your Charming Friends!

