

Beyond Sock Monkeys ~ My Quilting Adventures

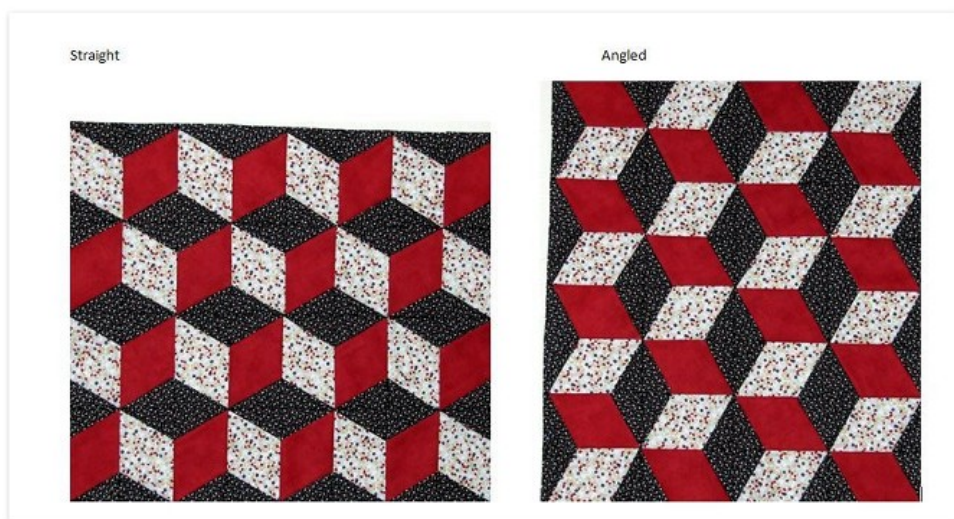
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3 – D Blocks using the Y-Not technique

As mentioned in my post, I found a quilt pattern on the web by Rebecca McCreary called [Y-Not Tumbling Blocks](#). She developed a cutting technique that allows you to piece tumbling blocks without Y-seams. I took that technique and made a small sample to see how I liked using it. There are a couple of differences between what I made and how she planned and made her quilt.

1. I wanted my blocks to stand up straight. So when I followed her pattern, that made the dark color end up on top. She preferred her dark to be on a side, therefore turned her quilt blocks to accomplish that. The result is her blocks slant in a downward angle. I didn't catch that at first. This made me realize that if I preferred the straight blocks and wanted the top to be light or medium, I would need to sew my strip sets together in a different order.



2. I did not make large strip sets as in her pattern since I was testing this out. I also didn't stagger the edges of my strips since I was making small sets. I can see the logic to staggering the edges when you make larger sets. If you did not, there would be a lot of waste. I made my two strips sets as follows:

Set A = dark strip, medium strip, dark strip

Set B = dark strip, light strip, dark strip

To achieve blocks with a **light** top, you need to sew a light, dark, light set, then a light, medium, light set

Strip Sets

Cutting Strips:

Dark strips = 2 3/8" x width of fabric

Light & Medium strips = 3 1/2" x width of fabric

Sew one dark strip on each side of a medium strip, then one dark strip on each side of a light strip to get your sets. Press the seams on the light set towards the dark, and on the medium set towards the medium fabric.

Cut the light strip as follows:

Line the 60 degree line on your rotary cutting ruler with the bottom of your strip with the ruler leaning to the left:



Cut Light Strip 2

After making this first cut, flip your strip so that the cut edge is now on the left.

Cut Light Strip 3 Flip

Line the 60 degree line of your ruler with the bottom of the strip, at 3 1/2 inches from the edge, to cut a 3 1/2 inch strip.

Cut strip 3 half inches

Continue cutting 3 1/2 inch strips from the strip set.

Cut Light Strip 5

Using the medium strip set, make your first cut using the 60 degree mark on your ruler but the ruler should lean to the right, opposite of the way you cut the light strip.

Cut Medium Strip 1

Cut Medium Strip 2

Flip your strip so that the cut edge is on the left then begin cutting 3 1/2" strips like you did on the light strip set only in the opposite direction.

Cut Medium Strip 3 FlipCut Medium Strip 4

Take the medium and light 3 1/2 inch blocks and lay them out horizontally on your cutting board. We are now going to cut off the ends to make them into rectangles.

3 D Strips 0173 D Strips 020

We will cut off each end at a 90 degree angle leaving 1/8 of an inch from the edge closest to the center strip. I found that I had a mark on my ruler that was 1/8 inch long (at the half inch point in the center of my one inch sections) and just touched it to the edge of my center strip for a nice cut, like so:

Cut Strips eighth inch

Cut off one end, flip the strip, then cut off the other end. Do this on the light and medium blocks. Your rectangles will equal about 3 1/2 inches by 5 1/2 inches.

Cut Rectangle 1

Lay a light set and a medium set together to make a V shape.

Rectangles together

Place them right sides together and line up your points by nesting your seams. Since you pressed them in opposite directions when making the strips, the seams should bump up together nicely. Sew them together using a 1/4" seam allowance.

Nest Seams



Rectangles Sewed together 2

Press your sewn seam towards the medium fabric. Sew the rest of your rectangles into pairs to make more blocks. Then sew your blocks together in horizontal rows the width that you desire, making sure that you keep the blocks all going in the same direction.

Row 1

Join your rows together, flipping alternating rows so that your points face each other. Again, you should be able to nest your seams because you pressed them all towards the medium fabric and are flipping alternating rows over.

Points Facing

Here's the basic result. I ended up adding some more rows/blocks to the ends to make it bigger, but you get the picture!

StripBlocks

I hope my sewing and cutting tips help if you decide to try out this technique.

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9 thoughts on "3 - D Blocks using the Y-Not technique"



Mary Hacker
January 21, 2016 at 12:29 pm

Yahoo!!! Gotta Do! Your stand up version looks better to me.

Reply ↓



denmck Post author
January 21, 2016 at 5:35 pm

Hope you have fun with this!

Reply ↓



Maria Liccien
January 19, 2016 at 9:24 am

Excelente explicación. Felicitaciones y gracias por compartirlo

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denmck Post author
January 21, 2016 at 6:41 am

Bienvenido!

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Cindy
January 8, 2016 at 10:00 am

Tried this method after doing the y method and this was a breeze compared to sewing all those ys! Thank you.

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denmck Post author
January 8, 2016 at 5:36 pm

Have fun with it!

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becca
August 11, 2015 at 1:09 pm

How wide are the strips of fabric in the strips?

[Reply ↓](#)



denmck Post author
August 12, 2015 at 6:38 am

Cutting Strips:

Dark strips = $2 \frac{3}{8}$ " x width of fabric

Light & Medium strips = $3 \frac{1}{2}$ " x width of fabric

Is that what your were asking?

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lallee
July 25, 2015 at 5:30 pm

Have always wanted to make a building block quilt but hated the Y technique as found it too fiddle. Will now try this method of cutting and sewing and maybe finally get the quilt I want to make. Thank you for such a clear tutorial. Always love to learn new techniques.

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