

Treasure Amidst the Bric-a-Brac

Most of us have way more trinkets and whatnots than we know what to do with or have room to display. Quilts, on the other hand, are never clutter. This one reminds me of how quilts can tie the threads of our lives and friends together. We can never have too many quilts or too many friends.

THE SUSPECTS

Your suspects will be cut from fabrics identified in the cutting list. For suggestions on fabric selection, see Identifying Your Fabrics on pages 7–8. Directional prints are not recommended for the background and coordinates. Background fabric is quite a bit of the quilt and should be an interesting print.

All of the first cuts should be done with the fabric folded, selvage-to-selvage, as it comes off the bolt. Be sure to remove all selvage edges before cutting blocks.

Tracking your suspects

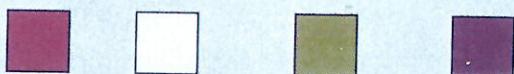
Arm yourself with a pen and a pad of sticky notes. Keep your suspects in groups as you cut them, and label the groups according to their fabric ID and piece sizes, as given in the List of Suspects.

Pieced top, 48" x 56"

SOLVING THE MYSTERY

Line up your groups of suspects. Set your machine for 10–15 stitches per inch (usually a setting of 2). Plug in your iron and don your sleuth cap!

Use the mug shots of your suspects to help you follow the clues to solving the mystery. Be sure to sew with a consistent $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance. You will find the solutions to the mystery quilts on pages 62–91.



feature background coordinate A coordinate B

MUG SHOTS

LIST OF SUSPECTS

Fabric ID	Yardage	First Cut	Second Cut
Feature	$\frac{3}{4}$ yd.	3 strips $8\frac{1}{2}" \times 40"$	12 squares $8\frac{1}{2}" \times 8\frac{1}{2}"$
Background	$1\frac{1}{2}$ yd.	3 strips $8\frac{1}{2}" \times 40"$ 2 strips $4\frac{1}{2}" \times 40"$ 5 strips $2\frac{1}{2}" \times 40"$	21 rectangles $4\frac{1}{2}" \times 8\frac{1}{2}"$ 18 rectangles $2\frac{1}{2}" \times 4\frac{1}{2}"$ 78 squares $2\frac{1}{2}" \times 2\frac{1}{2}"$
Coordinate A	$\frac{1}{2}$ yd.	2 strips $6\frac{1}{2}" \times 40"$ 1 strip $2\frac{1}{2}" \times 40"$	30 rectangles $2\frac{1}{2}" \times 6\frac{1}{2}"$ 9 squares $2\frac{1}{2}" \times 2\frac{1}{2}"$
Coordinate B	$\frac{1}{2}$ yd.	2 strips $6\frac{1}{2}" \times 40"$ 1 strip $2\frac{1}{2}" \times 40"$	30 rectangles $2\frac{1}{2}" \times 6\frac{1}{2}"$ 9 squares $2\frac{1}{2}" \times 2\frac{1}{2}"$

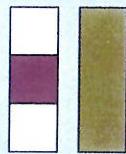
Yardage based on 40" fabric width

Additional fabric requirements for the borders, batting, backing, and binding are given in the solutions on pages 62–91.

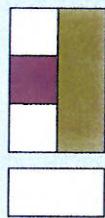
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Clue 1, step 2. Make 9.



Clue 1, step 3. Make 9.



Clue 1, step 4. Unit 1: Make 9.

*Clue 1

1. Gather eighteen $2\frac{1}{2}'' \times 2\frac{1}{2}''$ background squares, nine $2\frac{1}{2}'' \times 4\frac{1}{2}''$ background rectangles, nine coordinate-B squares, and nine coordinate-A rectangles. **2.** Sew two background squares to the opposite sides of each coordinate-B square as shown. Press the seam allowances in the same direction. Make nine strips. **3.** Sew a coordinate-A rectangle to each strip completed in step 2. Press the seam allowances toward the coordinate rectangle. **4.** Sew one $2\frac{1}{2}'' \times 4\frac{1}{2}''$ background rectangle to each unit completed in step 3 as shown. Pay close attention to the position of the coordinate pieces. Make sure the coordinate-A rectangle is on the right and the background rectangle is on the bottom. Press the seam allowances toward the background rectangle. This is unit 1, make nine.