

Material Rewards

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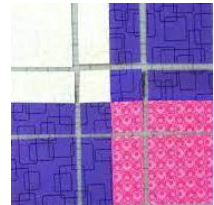
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General Techniques for Disappearing Quilt Blocks

The fun of disappearing designs is that you start with a very simple block and by cutting that block, usually vertically and horizontally, and rearranging the pieces, you end up with a much more detailed block. Then the fun comes when you can play with layout – straight or on-point set, sashing or no sashing, borders. A good source of information to help decide layout are online videos. Do a simple search and a plethora of ideas will be at your fingertips.

To make the process super simple, you can start with a layer cake (10" squares) or a charm (5" squares). Select a background fabric and cut your own squares to match the precuts. If you are using 10" squares, you'll need 3 1/8 yds and for 5" squares, you'll need 1 yard.

Disappearing 4-Patch- This is the easiest of all the "disappearing" processes. A 4-Patch is the simplest to work with. Whatever size square you want to start with, make a simple 4-Patch. Usually, it will consist of 2 background squares and either 2 fabrics that are the same, but that doesn't mean that the other squares couldn't be different.



With a 4-patch, you have a center seam, so you'll make a cut on both sides of that center seam – sometimes just vertically, but most times, both vertically and horizontally. The measurement is up to you also. It could be equidistant across the block or a measurement of your choice. After making your cuts, it is just a matter of finding a layout you want. Happy Hunting!

Disappearing 9-Patch – Just as easy as the 4-patch, you're just working with a few more squares. Usually, the background will be the 4 squares and the color will be the 5 squares of the 9-patch. The color squares can either all be the same or you can mix it up a bit. Make the 4 corners the same and the center square different or change them all up. This is truly a design choice, or just good fun trying a bunch of different layouts.

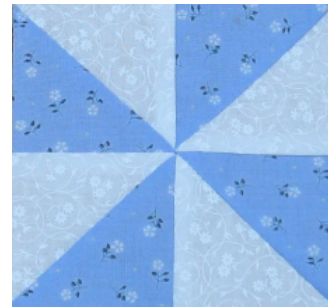


Cutting a 9-patch is super simple. Unlike the 4-patch which has a center seam to cut on both sides, the center is exactly where you will be cutting the 9-patch – usually in both directions. Next, it's on to layout, so have fun playing with your blocks!

Disappearing Pinwheel & Hourglass Blocks

With these 2 blocks, you will need 4 half square triangles. When working with precuts, you'll lay a background and a "color" square right sides together and then stitch all the way around the outside edge using a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance. If the squares differ in size, choose one of them to gauge the $\frac{1}{4}$ " – just be consistent. Once you have them stitched, you'll cut on both diagonals to yield 4 half square triangles. These can then be made into either a pinwheel or hourglass block. Be aware that the outer edges are now biased, but this is, more times than not, a help rather than a hindrance. You just need to not take too much advantage of the stretch.

Disappearing Pinwheel – Once you have your 4 half square triangles, you'll need to trim them. The general rule is that once you stitch the half-square triangles together, you want the edge-to-edge measurement divisible by 3. Trimming your half-square triangles to 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ " is the easiest measurement. This will give you a 12" (edge-to-edge) block. Using the 4 half square triangles made above, stitch the blocks together into a pinwheel block. Press.



For the disappearing pinwheel, you'll cut the block in thirds – that means that each section will be 3" each. The easiest way to cut is to use the center seam and cut 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " on both sides of the center seam. Cut both vertically and horizontally. Now is the fun of rearranging the pieces. As mentioned above, you can find a ton of layout options online. Do that or have fun making your own designs. Remember that you can also swap your pieces among your blocks. It is easy to determine if a block originated from a pinwheel block – there will also be a pinwheel in the new block.

Disappearing Hourglass - This block starts with the same process as the pinwheel block – make the 4 half square triangles, trim them, and then stitch them together. The cutting is also the same as the pinwheel, you'll just end up with different units to rearrange. Determining if a disappearing block started with an hourglass block is pretty easy also – it will have a 4-patch as one of the units.



We hope your takeaway from all of this is that you can have a lot of creative fun playing with these blocks. If nothing else, grab out some scraps and start stitching, cutting, and rearranging!!

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