

Panel OBW quilt preparation with Four Patches

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Please feel free to call or text me with questions.

Keep in mind that sewing four-patch blocks is much easier and faster than doing hexagons. You will get a lot more done in class if it is a one-day class. And the sewing is easier to assemble if this is your first one block wonder quilt. But I am there to help you with either.

Yardage needed:

5 panels or 1 panel and 4 repeats of a coordinating fabric. If you are not sure of the repeat, you are generally safe in buying 3 yard as fabric seldom has a repeat of more than 24” (although I have seen it happen).

You will also want additional fabric, either matching or contrasting to the panel for the fillers to the pieced blocks or to extend the size of the panel. This may not be needed if you set the four patches straight instead of on-point.

Additional supplies need for class:

Sewing machine, neutral thread, filled bobbin, 1/4” foot for your machine, if available.

Regular sewing notions - scissors, ripper, etc.

Flower-head (flat head) pins and round head pins

Rotary Cutter, large or jumbo size (45mm or 60 mm)

Rotary ruler(s) - 6”x 24” and 6” x 12” (bring, if you have, a 6” x 6” or other small square ruler)

Rotary cutting mat, large enough to accommodate 24” ruler.

Flannel back plastic tablecloth or batting or flannel at least 60” square – larger is better. (or portable design wall.

Be sure to bring a large mat – at least 18 x 22”, large or jumbo cutter (the small may not cut through 4 layers of fabric), and good interchangeable rulers in this project. Flat head long pins are also important since you can place a rotary ruler over them and the ruler will still lay flat. You will use a couple of round head pins also.

Pre – class cutting instructions: step 2 and beyond below is optional. I have some things you may want to consider before you do your cutting and stacking. If you know how to do all of it, you will bet more done in class if you do the cutting and stacking ahead of time.

1. If you washed your fabric, be sure to press crisply – use some sizing or spray starch, before cutting. repeat of my fabric.
2. Leaving your fabric folded, finding spot along the selvage and then perpendicular across to the folded edge and then subcut sections for the 4 repeats needed. It may not be quite as accurately cut but you will do some clean edge cutting later. If you are using panels, cut out the 4 panels along the edges of the panel.
3. Open your sections and press your cut sections so that they are smooth and free of distortion. Layer them on top of each other with as much accuracy to closeness as you can do. If you are using the full width of the fabric or panels, you will rotate so that you have about 24” (or less, depending on your repeat) wide by 42” long.
4. Find a specific point in the design that you can pierce with a pin in each of the layers. With your four cut layers aligned on top of each other, use a round head pin to go straight through each layer at

the same point, keeping the pin vertical to the horizontal layers of fabric. Hold the round head pin vertical and snugly against all layers and place a flat head pin across it, through all the layers of the fabric.

5. Move down the fabric and repeat the pinning process, putting the round head pin in vertically at the same point for all layers of fabric, then placing the flat head pin across it through all the layers. Move across the fabric and repeat until there are six to twelve pins in place (more if you wish) and all of the repeat layers are securely held together in all areas and exactly aligned for cutting.
6. Check across the fabric layers to make sure they feel smooth but do this cautiously to avoid getting pierced with a pin. Re-pin if necessary.
7. The next step is to cut strips. If possible, wait until class to do this step. There are some other factors to consider in deciding what size strips to cut that I will explain early in the class. After you cut the strips, you will cut the stack of four into squares. Each stack will make a four-patch block.

One thing you can do is take a picture of your panel or one repeat of your fabric. Be sure to crop out any edges that are not in the fabric. Open a website called www.oneblockwonder.com/designhelper. It is for hexagon quilts but the images you get by changing the height of the strip cut will give you an idea of what is too large. Import the picture to your computer (or you may use it on your phone if you can open the app there. Use the picture to import into this. Change the triangle edge size (inches) on the options sheet to see what the hexagons may look like when they are cut.

Another thing to consider is the finished width of your panel compared to the finished width of the four patches. If the four patches are straight set, you can use the width of the finished four patch to see if you get an even number when dividing into the width of the panel. If the four-patches are on-point, you have to use the diagonal width of the four-patch.

<i>Strip size</i>	<i>4patch width</i>	<i>4patch diagonal</i>	<i>Strip size</i>	<i>4patch width</i>	<i>4 patch diagonal</i>
2"	3"	4-1/4"	2-1/2"	4"	5-5/8"
2-1/4 "	3-1/2"	5"	2-3/4"	4-1/2"	6-3/8"
3"	5"	7-1/8"	3-1/2"	6"	8-1/2"
3-1/4"	5-1/2"	7-7/8"	3-3/4"	6-1/2"	9-1/4"
4"	7"	10"	4-1/2"	8"	11-3/8"
4-1/4"	7-1/2"	10-5/8"	4-3/4"	8-1/2"	12"
5"	9"	12-3/4"	5-1/2"	10"	14-1/8"
5-1/4"	9-1/2"	13-1/2"	5-3/4"	10-1/2"	14-7/8"
6"	11"	15-1/2"	6-1/2"	12"	17"

8. Make a clean edge cut as small as possible at the top and bottom to make sure all the layers will be the same in the following steps. As you cut strips, you may have to remove pins. You will ruin your rotary cutter blade if you strike a pin. Remove as few as possible. Sometimes I am able to reposition the pins without distorting the fabric layers but you have to do that carefully. After you cut the strips, you can subcut into squares, cutting the width the same as the height of the strip.
9. Each stack of four will make one block. Position the squares so that the same design of the print is close to each other in the block. You can rotate all four, auditioning each design corner at the center to decide which way you want to sew the pieces together into the block. Note that when sewing and pressing your blocks, seams will be pressed open to keep the blocks flatter.
10. Also, keep all your scraps. On almost all of my stacked quilts, I have sewn small leftover pieces to larger leftover pieces to get enough for another block where it is needed.