

Undercover in Houston XXI

a mystery quilt by Debbie Caffrey ©2018
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The finished size of the quilt before an optional border is 48" x 66". Once you have solved the mystery, you can decide whether or not you want to add a border. The border fabric and the backing and binding can be selected after class.

The background is made of many fabrics, seven half yard pieces or fourteen fat quarters. **Your background can be any color(s) or value.** **The photos at the right are just here to explain color and value range.** If you choose many colors, keep the value range among those colors close so that they blend. The top photo at the right is an example of fabrics of many colors that are somewhat close in value. If you choose to use one basic color for the background, vary the color somewhat and vary the values and the prints (visual textures) enough so the fabrics do not look like a single fabric. The bottom photo at the right is an example of one color with varying color, value, and prints.

In addition to the background fabrics, you need three more fabrics. Accent #1 is the main accent color and must contrast with **all** of the background fabrics.

Both Accent #2 and Accent #3 must contrast with Accent #1. In addition, they should have some contrast with each other.

Fabric Requirements

See details above for help in selecting fabrics.

Backgrounds	14 fat quarters <i>or</i> 7 half yard pieces
Accent #1	1 yard
Accent #2	½ yard
Accent #3	½ yard
Border, optional	1½ yards
Backing – without optional border	3 yards
with optional border	4¾ yards
Binding	¾ yard

See page 2 for more supplies and cutting information.



Other Supplies

Thread to blend with fabrics

Seam ripper, pins ... and other basic supplies

Rotary cutter, mat, & ruler

- Rotary cutter
- 12" x 18" mat or larger is the recommended size for class
- Ruler – An Omnigrd 96 (makes up to 6" units) or Omnigrd 96L (makes up to 8" units) triangle tool, or other half-square triangle tool. Any size of half-square triangle tool that is 4" or larger will work for class.



Cut fabrics as directed below and on the following page prior to class. Bring the supplies, tools, precut pieces, and excess fabric to class. You may leave the border, backing, and binding fabrics at home.

Cutting Instructions for Undercover in Houston XXI

Strips are cut across the width of the fabric, making them approximately 40" long with selvages on each of the short ends. Strips cut from fat quarters are approximately 20" long with a selvage on one short end.

Do not round up any measurements! There is no opportunity to oversize and square units. Cut accurately.

Backgrounds

Cutting from Fat Quarters

Instructions for cutting from half yard cuts follow.

Each of the fat quarters is cut as directed below. Stack as many fat quarters as you feel comfortable cutting at one time, aligning the selvages on top of each other. I made two stacks of seven fat quarters. TIP: If your fat quarters vary in size, put the smallest one on top.

Square the top edge of the stack of fat quarters, cutting perpendicular to the selvage. Do not trim the other three sides of the fat quarters at this time. Cut the strips as directed. Then trim away the selvage, squaring that end of the strips before cutting the squares.

Cut one strip 6½" wide.

Use the strip to cut three 6½" squares.*

Cut one strip 4" wide.

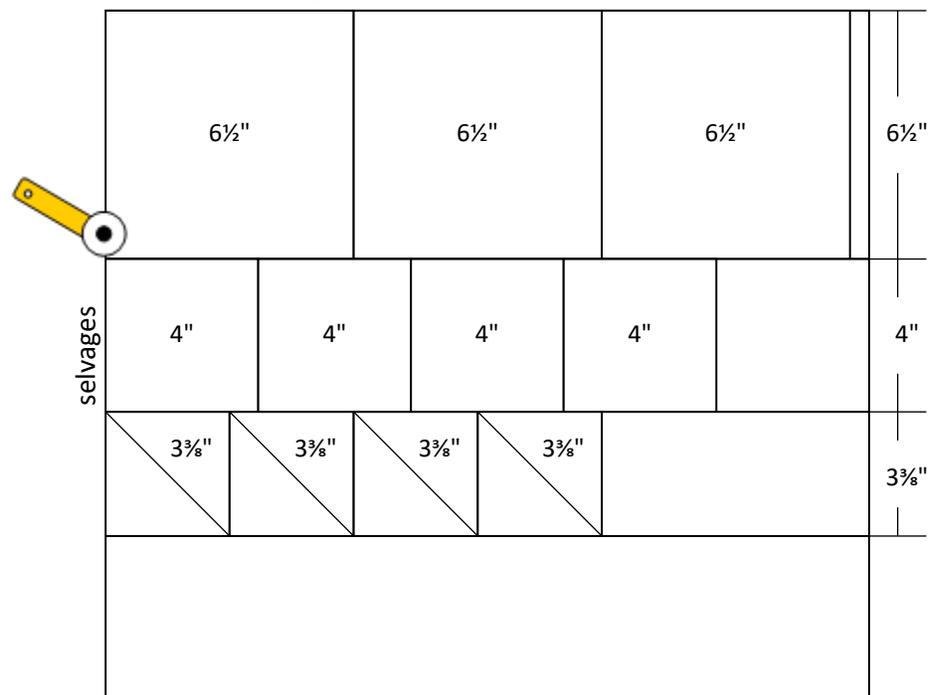
Use the strip to cut four 4" squares.

Cut one strip 3⅞" wide.

Use the strip to cut four 3⅞" squares.

Cut these squares once, diagonally, to make two half-square triangles from each square.

Yield: 8 triangles per fabric



Cutting Instructions for Undercover in Houston XXI, Continued

Backgrounds

Cutting from Half Yard Pieces

Each of the half yard pieces is cut as directed below.

Cut one strip 6½" wide.

Use the strip to cut five 6½" squares.*

Cut one strip 4" wide.

Use the strip to cut eight 4" squares.

Cut one strip 3⅞" wide.

Use the strip to cut eight 3⅞" squares.

Cut these squares once, diagonally, to make two half-square triangles from each square.

Yield: 16 triangles per fabric



Accent #1

Cut ten strips 3" wide.

Accent #2

Cut two strips 4¾" wide.

Use the strips to cut fourteen 4¾" squares.

Cut these squares twice, diagonally, to make four quarter-square triangles from each square.

Yield: 56 triangles



Accent #3

Cut three strips 3⅞" wide.

Use the strips to cut twenty-eight 3⅞" squares.

Cut these squares once, diagonally, to make two half-square triangles from each square.

Yield: 56 triangles



* If you are wondering why the directions tell you to cut forty-two squares from fat quarters and only thirty-five squares when using half yard cuts, the reason is that, in both cases, there will be a few leftovers once you finish the quilt. The quilt requires a total of thirty-two 6½" squares of background fabric. Cut as directed. You will have options on which fabrics to place where when completing the quilt.