

This mystery quilt pattern first appeared in Traditional Quiltworks Magazine, Issue 58 in November 1998. It is a three part series. Each part will have some cutting and piecing instructions. Construction of the quilt requires basic rotary cutting and machine piecing skills.

Sew What?

A Mystery Quilt Pattern by Debbie Caffrey

Finished size of quilt before borders is 50" x 64".
The addition of an optional border will allow you to enlarge the quilt to a twin size.

Fabric Selection:

The most important thing to remember when selecting fabrics for a mystery quilt is **CONTRAST!!!** This quilt uses a light fabric, which will create a background for the pattern, and two accent fabrics that have strong contrast with the background. I refer to the accent fabrics as a medium and a dark value. Use one color family for a monochromatic effect or as many as three colors. If you look at the fabrics that I've chosen, you will see that the red and green are both fairly dark in value. Therefore, I relied upon a contrast in color to help differentiate the two accent fabrics. The red fabric was designated to be the medium, and the green was labeled the dark.

I began my fabric selection with a focus or theme fabric. Because of the pictorial nature of my focus fabric, I chose to use it only as a border, and selected three other fabrics for piecing the quilt top. Your focus fabric could be used as the medium or dark accent fabric.

Select a variety of scales and visual textures for interest. I strongly encourage you to avoid directional and one way design fabrics.

Choose fabrics that you like. Rarely do I give any hint about what colors I've used to make my quilt. This time I made an exception. Any colors will be successful in this quilt as long as you achieve enough contrast to show the pattern.

Yardage Requirements:

These instructions are written with the assumption that there is at least 42" of usable fabric between the selvages. Unless your fabrics are extremely narrow, you will have plenty of fabric. I allow extra for shrinkage, straightening, and *minor* goofs.

Light	3 yards
Medium	1 1/2 yards
Dark	2 yards
Optional Border	2 1/8 yards*
Binding	1 yard*

**Border and binding may be purchased after you've solved the mystery, but more of the same fabrics may not be available at that time.*

Other Tools & Supplies:

Rotary cutter, mat, & rulers
Sewing machine
Thread to blend with your fabrics

Cutting for Step 1:

Strips are cut across the width of the fabrics, making them approximately 42" long with selvages on each of the short ends.

Light

Cut two strips 12 1/2" wide.

Cut these strips into fourteen 3 1/2" x 12 1/2" rectangles.

Cut two strips 4 1/4" wide.

Cut these strips into twelve 4 1/4" squares.

Cut five strips 3 1/2" wide.

Cut these strips into fifty-two 3 1/2" squares.

Cut one strip 2 1/2" wide.

Cut this strip into sixteen 2 1/2" squares. Cut two more 2 1/2" squares from the leftovers of the wider strips that you cut above, making a total of eighteen 2 1/2" squares.

Medium

Cut three strips 4 1/4" wide

Cut these strips into twenty-four 4 1/4" squares.

Cut six strips 1 1/2" wide.

Cut these strips into 160 squares (1 1/2").

Dark

Cut two strips 4 1/4" wide

Cut these strips into twelve 4 1/4" squares.

Cut five strips 2 1/2" wide.

Cut these strips into eighty 2 1/2" squares.

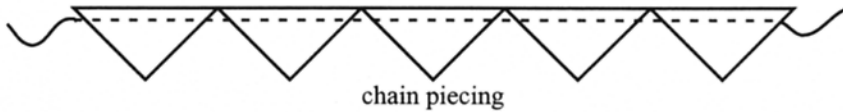
Cut five strips 1 1/2" wide.

Cut these strips into eighty 1 1/2" x 2 1/2" rectangles.

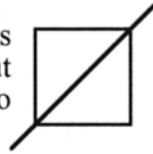
Piecing for Step 1:

Sew with 12 stitches per inch (2.0).

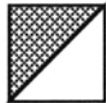
Chain piece whenever possible.



Place each 4 1/4" square of light fabric, right sides together, onto a 4 1/4" square of medium fabric. Cut each of the twelve pairs of squares once, diagonally, to make two pairs of half-square triangles from each.



Sew the pairs of triangles together along the long diagonal side to make twenty-four half-square triangle units. Press the seam allowances toward the medium fabric. **The success of your quilt depends upon precise seam allowances.** These half-square triangle units should measure 3 7/8" square.



make 24

Repeat the above steps with the remaining 4 1/4" squares of dark and medium fabrics to make twenty-four half-square triangle units like the one shown at the right. Press the seam allowances toward the medium fabric.



make 24

Trim the dog ears from all of the half-square triangle units to eliminate bulk and increase your precision.

Place a 2 1/2" square of dark fabric on one corner of a 3 1/2" square of light fabric. Stitch on the diagonal of the dark square, as shown by the dotted line.



Flip the corner up to check your stitching. If it is correct, trim the excess, leaving 1/4" for seam allowances. Press the seam allowances toward the dark fabric.



make 52

Repeat the above steps to make fifty-two units.

Use the fourteen 3 1/2" x 12 1/2" rectangles, the remaining twenty-eight 2 1/2" squares of dark fabric, and the same sew and flip technique from above to make fourteen sections like the one shown below.




make 14

Place a 1 1/2" square of medium fabric on one end of a 1 1/2" x 2 1/2" rectangle of dark fabric. With the sew and flip technique described for the pieces above, make a unit like the one shown. Check your work. Trim, leaving 1/4" for seam allowances, and press the seam allowances toward the medium fabric.




make 80

Repeat the above step to make eighty units.

Use the eighty  units, the remaining eighty 1 1/2" squares of medium fabric, and the sew and flip technique to make eighty "flying geese" like the one shown. Trim. Press the seam allowances toward the medium fabric.



make 80

Sew one of the  units from above to each of the eighteen 2 1/2" squares of light fabric to make eighteen units like the one shown. Press the seam allowances toward the light square.



make 18