



American Quilter's Stitch-Along

Getting Started Info:

Hey Everyone...

I am so excited you are going to Stitch-Along with us on this wonderful pattern. This quilt is so much fun and everyone will want it! You now have to decide if you are only going to make one, or more than one! Hopefully we will be starting on time, but if our fabric is delayed we will have to push it back and start when it is possible!

I do have an underlying reason for this SAL and that is to raise money for Hogs for Heroes. I hope all of you can help me do this, and we can help change lives for our military veterans. I will be posting more information about this on my blog.

HERE ARE A FEW THINGS I THINK WILL BE HELPFUL WHEN MAKING THIS QUILT.

The American Gatherings Fat Quarter fabric bundle.

4 or 6 yards of fabric, for sashing, borders and bindings. I made one quilt with blue and the other one with cream...I will be making several more with the blocks I will be making, while doing the tutorials each week. I have two sizes here just in case you want to make your quilt bigger, or add matching pillow cases. The four yards is enough to complete the quilt.

Starch - I strongly suggest you starch your fabrics prior to cutting. Here is a video on how I starch.

Threads...My suggestions for threads are any of these three, Aurifil 2309 (cream) 2620 (light/med grey) and 2785 (navy). I personally do not like stitching dark fabrics with light thread...I used the navy for stitching the blue borders on the quilt blocks.

Small rulers like, **3x7, 6x6, 5x15 Itty Bitty Eights rulers.** All of these rulers will be so helpful for cutting these blocks.

12½" x 12½" Creative Grid rulers. This ruler is so helpful in squaring up your finished quilt blocks.

Simple Folded Corner ruler. This tool is awesome...especially if you like perfect blocks.

Optional, but recommended...**Single Hole throat plate** on your machine. If you have an oblong hole on your machine, where the needle goes up and down (needle plate), you may want to use a single hole throat plate. These are standard on machines that only stitch straight, but can be purchased for your machine if you do not have one. This prevents the little pieces of fabric from being sucked down into the oblong hole. Ask your local dealer or machine company.

I will share other ideas, tips and thoughts along the way. I will be posting the block each week on my Blog, lisabongeane.com, You-tube channel and Stitch with Lisa's Facebook Group.

I encourage you to stitch along each week, share your blocks on my Stitch with Lisa's Facebook Group, and tag your blocks with #americanquilterssal on Instagram or other social platforms. I know lots of shops will also be hosting this as a Stitch-Along...I am hoping we can get some posts and comments from them as well as showing them all stitching together!

ABBREVIATIONS: I like to use the following abbreviations in the pattern to help from repeating over and over.

SFC = Single Folded Corner

SQ/SQ = Square in a Square

FG = Flying Geese

HST = Half Square Triangle

I will show a couple of different ways to make the blocks each week. However you may have a preferred way and you are more than welcome to use your favorite method.

CUTTING FABRICS FOR BLOCKS:

In the first week, I will give you the cutting instructions for all the red and cream strips. You can cut one block each week, or stack and cut ALL of your blocks for the whole quilt the first week.

When stacking your fabrics, pay attention to the direction of the stripes. You may want them to run the short way on some prints and/or the long way. This is certainly up to you. (But keep this in mind when you are stacking and cutting your strips.) These strips are also cut longer and will be trimmed down later. I find this much easier when this many strips are involved.

Use a scant 1/4" seam allowance and test it to make sure you are not too big or too small.

That is all for now...I hope you are as excited as I am to get this project started!

Lisa

