

The Stash Buster Challenge 2023

Our Stash Buster Block:

Northwind Block Finished Size: 6" x 6" OR 7-1/2" x 7-1/2" OR 9" x 9"

All seams are 1/4" seam allowance.

To BUST our stash each *Northwind* block is intended to be made using two fabrics, a lighter one and a darker one but you are welcome to make all or some of the blocks as scrappy as you wish while keeping one side light and one side dark.

Why did I select this block? There is always much consideration when choosing THE block - that perfect one to use with a multitude of different fabrics that will also create different quilt layouts. This block is also great for the 'non-scrappy' quilters as each fabric has a chance to be itself. Sew as many blocks as you want! Bust as much stash as you wish! You have the entire year.

The Stash Buster Challenge Rules:

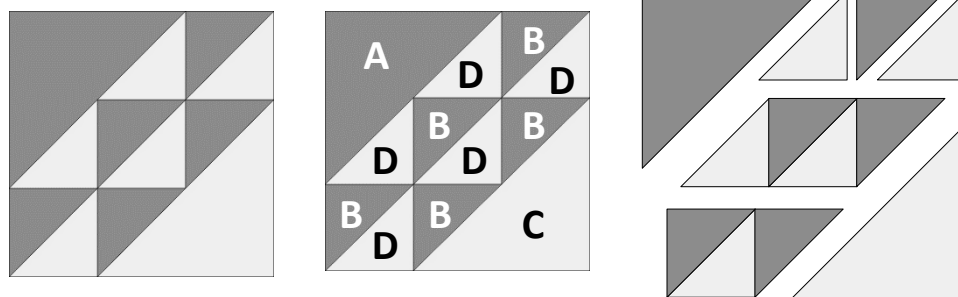
Select the block size that you love the best and follow the cutting directions for that size.





Make 1 or 2 blocks PER WEEK for 52 weeks January 1st to December 31st, 2023.

Cutting Requirements:

This cutting will make 2 blocks - BUT only sew one block together, placing the other fabrics aside (keep 'same fabric' pieces together) to be paired with different fabrics to make other blocks and 'scrap it up' even more. This works great for a scrappy project.

TIP: The most important thing to consider when choosing fabrics for each block is the VALUE of the fabrics. If the difference in value is not enough it will look like a blob! Use light, medium and dark fabrics playing with the values to pair for each block. Blocks can be 'matchy-poo' or not, it will not matter so don't stress about micromanaging your choice of fabrics.



For <u>2</u> Blocks:	Finished Block Size:					
	Cut			6"	7-1/2"	9"
Darker Fabric	A	1		4-7/8"	5-7/8"	6-7/8"
	B	5		2-7/8"	3-3/8"	3-7/8"
Lighter Fabric	C	1		4-7/8"	5-7/8"	6-7/8"
	D	5		2-7/8"	3-3/8"	3-7/8"
Note: Assemble one block, keep remaining 'same fabric' pieces together to be paired with different fabrics to make other blocks and 'scrap it up' even more!						

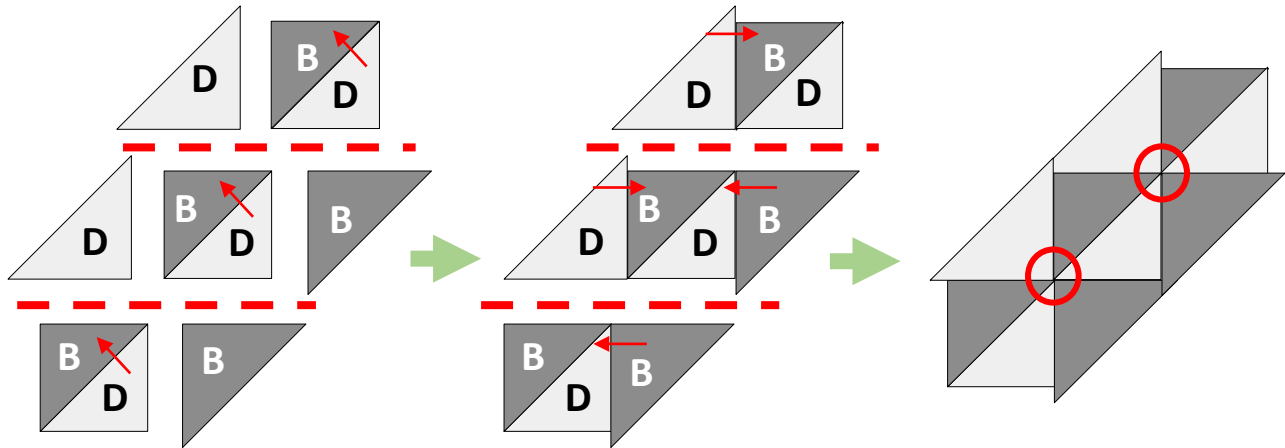


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Block Assembly: Making the Center Portion

1. Referring to the diagram below, carefully join the **B** and **D** triangles together in horizontal rows.
2. Make the half-square triangles first. Then join the cut triangle. Press seams as shown by the red arrows.
3. Now join the rows together, nesting at seams. See **Pinning Tips** below to have perfect points.
4. When pressing these nested seams, use the 'twist' method as shown by the red circle. Twist the center of the seam allowance open, loosening the stitches of the fabric at the center seam so the intersecting seam fans out and lays flat to opposite sides. This will relieve the excess bulk at the center.

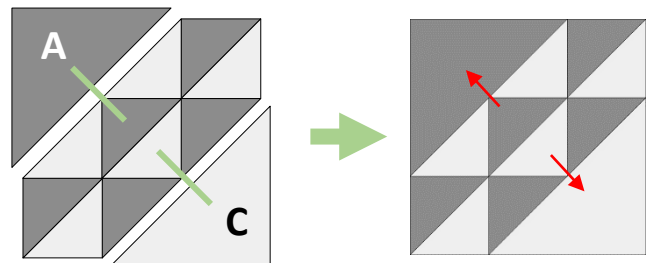


Pinning Tips for Perfect Points:

1. With pin, match points.	2. Keeping first pin straight, place a pin on either side to hold this perfect place. Remove first pin.	3. Slowly Stitch 1/4" seam. Double check points from the front. Make any corrections if necessary.
		

Completing the Block

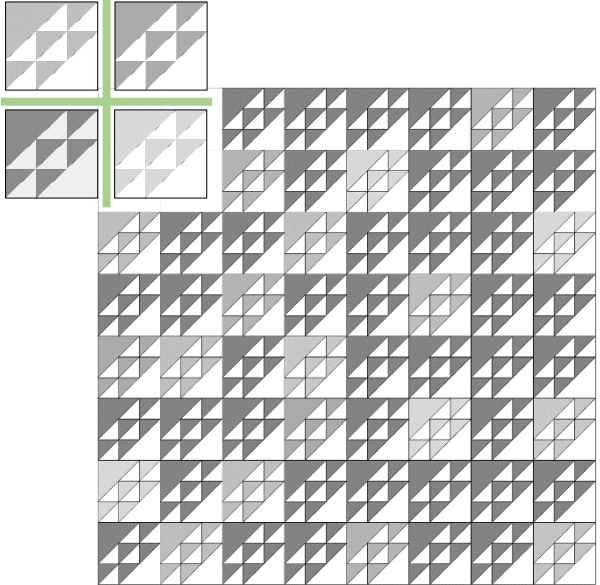
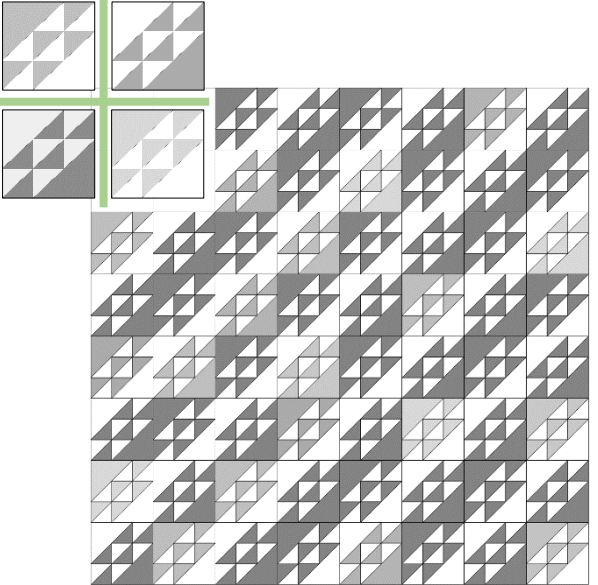
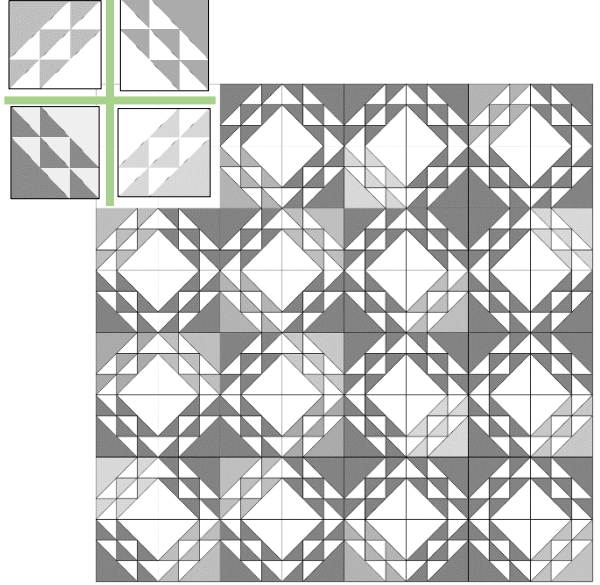
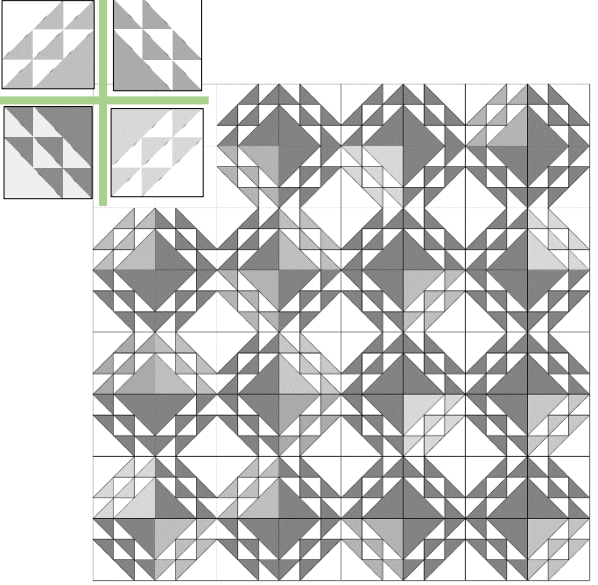
1. Add the two large **A** and **C** cut triangles to the unit, making sure the lighter triangle is next to the small darker triangles and the darker triangle is next to the small lighter triangles.
2. Match at centres, pin to secure and stitch to join. Press to as shown by the red arrows.
3. This *Northwind* block should measure 6-1/2" x 6-1/2" OR 8" x 8" OR 9-1/2" x 9-1/2" unfinished sizes. Trim to tidy if necessary.
4. Repeat to **BUST THAT STASH** and make as many blocks as you wish!



The Scrap Buster Quilt Layout Options:

The following quilt layouts demonstrate the pattern formed by the positioning this year's Challenge **Northwind** block. These sample layouts show 64 blocks (8 blocks per row wide x 8 rows long) but you can make your quilt any size and add any borders that you wish! Remember the challenge is to complete at least 52 blocks by December 31st.

The following quilt layouts are all 'straight set' blocks, meaning straight in horizontal rows for the block assembly. Of course the blocks can be also placed 'on-point'. Use your blocks, any way you wish.

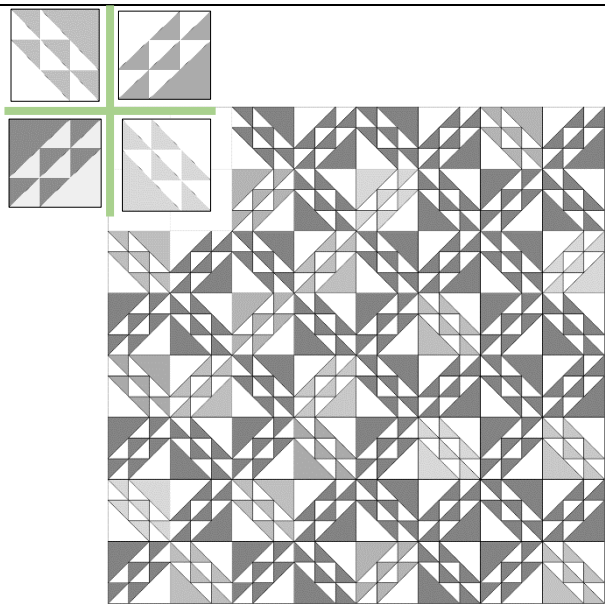
Layout 1: Straight Set Blocks	Layout 2: Lightning Streaks
	
Layout 3: Sunshine & Shadows 1	Layout 4: Sunshine & Shadows 2
	



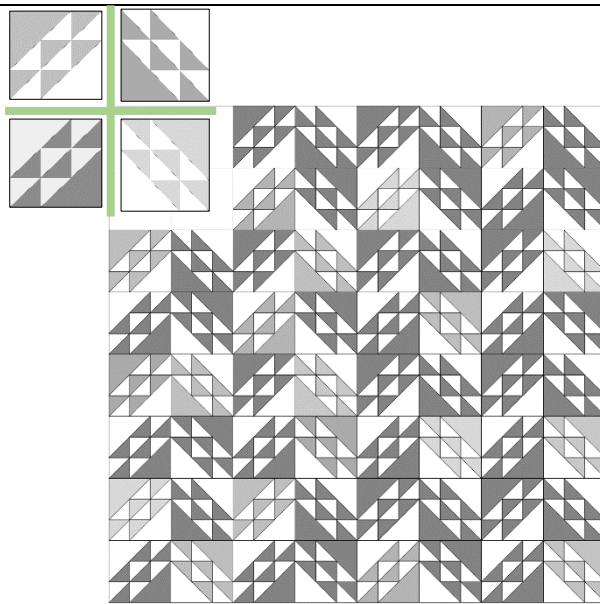
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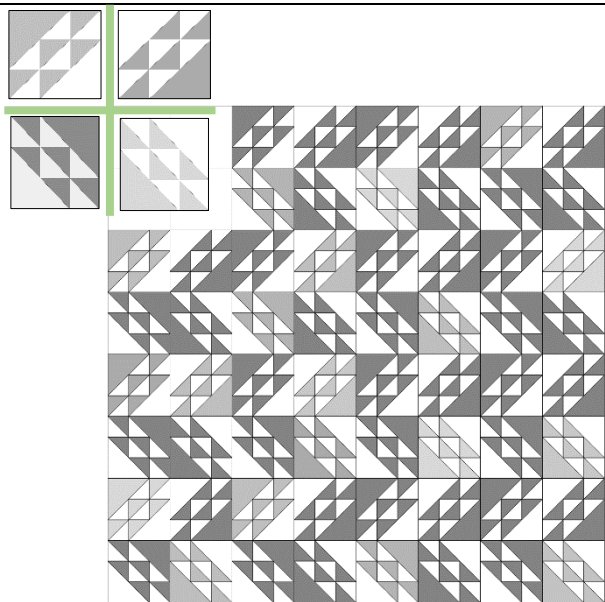
Layout 5: Ocean Waves



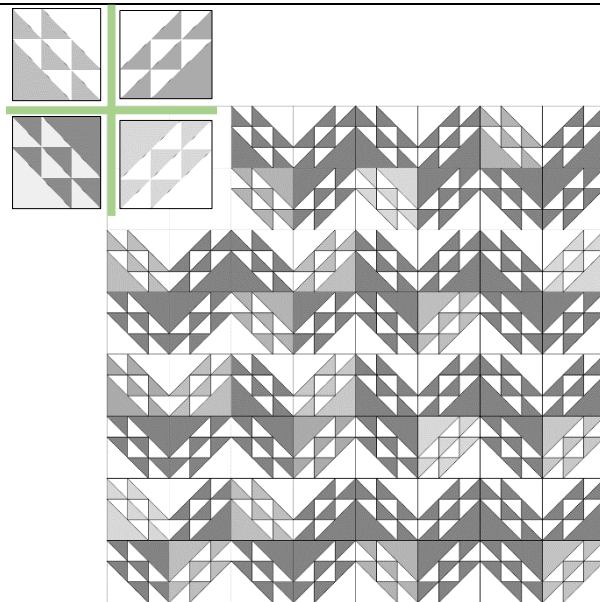
Layout 6: Broken Fields



Layout 7: Field and Furrow



Layout 8: Mountain Range



Thank you for sewing along with me on this
Stash Busting adventure!

