

The Stash Buster Challenge 2024

The Stash Buster Challenge Rules:

Select the cut strip width 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, 2024.

Please read through all instructions before beginning this project.

Tips:

- Use an accurate scant 1/4" seam allowance throughout this project unless specified.
- Starch or Best Press® fabrics before cutting for easier handling. I highly recommend to spray all fabrics and let them dry completely (to prevent size distortion) then press and cut all pieces as instructed.

About this years Stash Buster Block:

This year's challenge will be **ALL ABOUT THE PROCESS** of busting our stash.

Three easy steps will help you achieve a super scrappy gorgeous quilt. Please refer to the Cutting Requirements below and the Quilt size chart on page 4.

Step 1: Decide the width of strips that you wish to work with. Cut strips and assemble a substantial number before assembling any Strip Sets needed to make the blocks.

Keep two trays/containers to hold cut strips according to their colour value:

- **Dark Fabric Group** – assorted medium to dark print fabrics
- **Light Fabric Group** – assorted light print fabrics

Step 2: Assemble the **Strip Sets A, B, C, and D** as you go, placing them in four small LABELLED trays/containers before assembling any blocks. Keep track of the number required for the blocks that you will be making.

Step 3: Assemble Main and Alternate blocks when enough Strip Sets are collected.

The Double Irish Chain Block Finished Size: 5" x 5" OR 7-1/2" x 7-1/2" OR 10" x 10" OR 12-1/2" x 12-1/2"

To BUST our stash each *Double Irish Chain* block is intended to be as scrappy as it can be! Watch the value of the fabric strips when placing them into their appropriate container. This will help define the 'chain' of the quilt design.

Cutting Requirements: A word about the Cutting Chart

- Select the cut strip width that you wish to work with throughout this project.
- Multiple strips can be cut from the same fabric but for a nice variety maybe not more than 5 pcs from a fabric.
- The cut strip length is given so three subcuts can be made plus an extra 1/2" to allow for straightening – please refer to page 2. This will help to achieve a large variety of fabrics in strip set combos.

Strip Width Cut width	Strip Length Cut length	Block size with seam allowance
1-1/2" wide	5" long	5-1/2" x 5-1/2"
2" wide	6-1/2" long	8" x 8"
2-1/2" wide	8" long	10-1/2" x 10-1/2"
3" wide	9-1/2" long	13" x 13"







TIP: If you prefer to trim as you go, cut strip width a bit wider, then trim width as each strip is sewn into the strip sets.



Border Creek Station Pattern Company

• www.bordercreekstation.com •

The Stash Buster Blocks:

Main Block	Each block requires:
	Strip Set A: 3 pcs.
	
	Strip Set B: 2 pcs.
	
Alternate Block	Each block requires:
	Strip Set C: 2 pcs.
	
	Strip Set D: 3 pcs
	

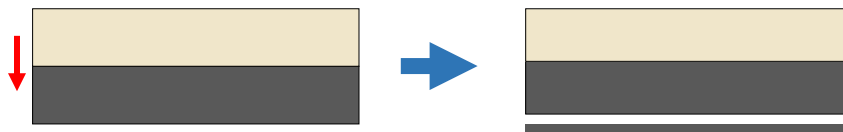
Making the Strip Sets:

The Strip Sets **A, B, C and D** will all be made using the following technique.

Select a variety of prints in the appropriate fabric value as per your fabric strip containers: i.e the Dark Fabric Group and the Light Fabric Group for the specific Strip Set **A, B, C and D** that you are making.

For demonstration purposes, the following instructions will make the A Strip Set.

1. Along the length, using 1/4" seam allowance, join one **Light Group** strip to one **Dark Group** strip together. Press seam to the **DARKER** fabric.



2. Now trim to tidy the width of the just joined strip, in this case the **Dark Group** sewn strip as instructed below. This will tidy the width and ensure they are perfect for attaching the next strip.

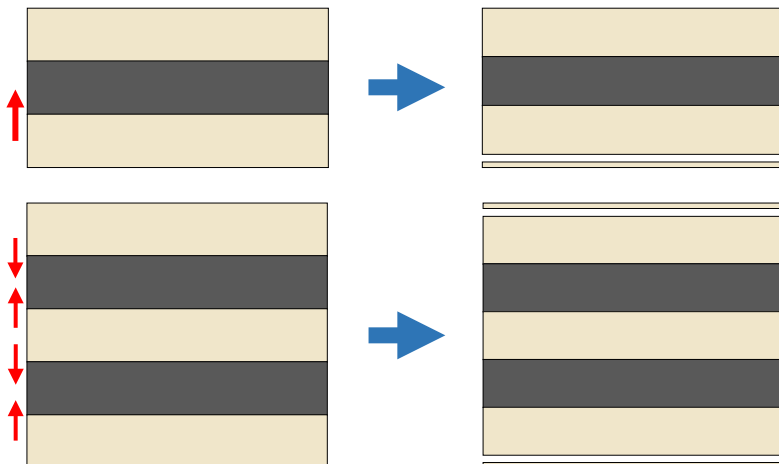
Important: Trim to tidy the width of the **Dark Group** sewn strip when joined measure 1/4" less than the cut width by placing the ruler along sewn seam measuring to raw edge. Trim to tidy along this strip only. The outer strip will be trimmed when the Strip Set is finished.



Border Creek Station Pattern Company

• www.bordercreekstation.com •

3. Now join another assorted **Light Group** strip to the trimmed **Dark Group** strip together along the length. Press seam to the **DARKER** fabric. As before, trim to tidy the width of the just joined strip, in this case the **Light Group** sewn strip.



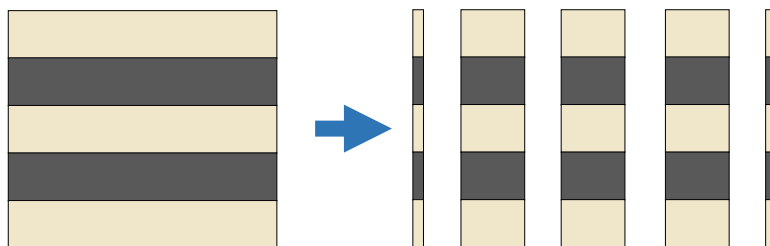
4. In this same manner, continue to join the fabric strips to make the specific Strip Set required. In this case we are making the **Strip Set A**. Now trim to tidy the width of the outer strips to have a perfect Strip Set.

Subcut the Strip Sets: The cut width of your strips will determine the width of the subcuts that will be made.

Your fabric strips were cut at either 1-1/2" or 2" or 2-1/2" or 3" wide, this is the width that you will use.

For example, I will be using 2" cut width strips to sew my Strip Sets together. Thus, I will be using 2" cuts to subcut the Strip Sets.

1. Carefully subcut each strip set into sections by aligning ruler markings to the horizontal seam to keep cuts straight (at 90-degrees). Cut 3 pieces from each set.
2. Place the cut pieces into the appropriate labelled tray for safe keeping. In this case, these would be placed in the **Strip Set A** tray.



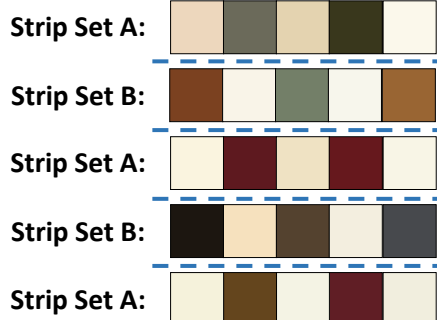
Pressing: Generally, press seams to the darker fabrics. When making the Strip Sets C and D for the Alternate block press seams in one direction.

Making the Other Strip Sets: Using the same methods as demonstrated with Strip Set A above, gather together all assorted Dark and Light fabric strips to assemble the other Strip Sets. Sew, then subcut and place the pieces in their appropriate labelled trays. The number of pieces required for each A, B, C or D will be determined by the number of blocks needed for the quilt size that you are making.

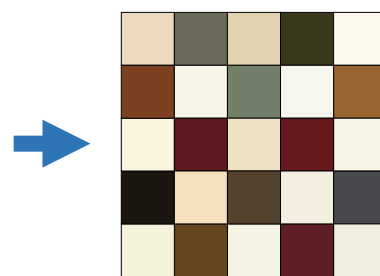
Block Assembly:

Referring to the diagrams below, carefully lay out the **A, B, C or D Strip Sets** required to make the *Double Irish Chain* main and alternate blocks.

Join the horizontal rows together, by nesting at seams, and pinning to secure. Stitch slowly. Press these seams open or to one side.



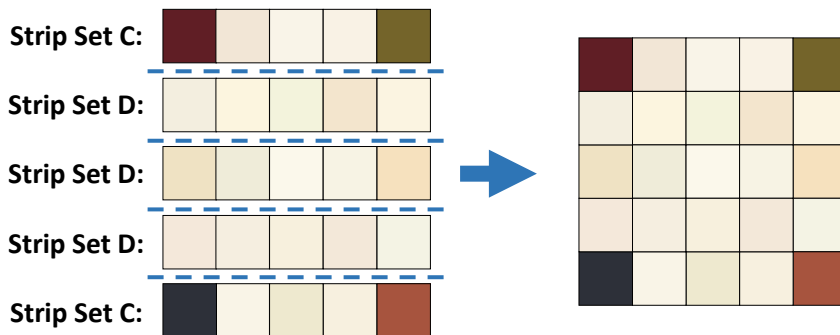
Main Block:



Alternate Block:

- Trim to tidy edges carefully on all sides.
The Main and Alternate *Double Irish Chain* blocks should measure:

If Strip Width is:	The Block size will be: with seam allowance
1-1/2" wide	5-1/2" x 5-1/2"
2" wide	8" x 8"
2-1/2" wide	10-1/2" x 10-1/2"
3" wide	13" x 13"



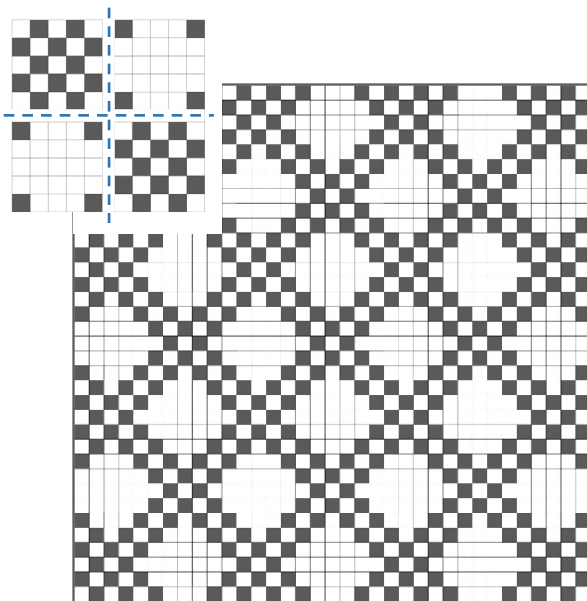
The Scrap Buster Quilt Layout:

The quilt layout formed by this year's Challenge *Double Irish Chain* block is more limiting than past years. Alternate the Main and the Alternate block to create the 'chain like' effect of the piecing.

Use the quilt sizing chart to help with choosing the quilt size that you want to make. Add any borders that you wish – pieced or plain or a combination of both! Remember the challenge is to complete at least 52 blocks by December 31st.

The following quilt layout is a 'straight set', meaning straight in horizontal rows for the block assembly. This quilt can be made in any size. Of course, the blocks can be also placed 'on-point'. Please use your blocks, however you wish.

Layout 1: Straight Set Blocks (7 blocks x 7 rows)



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

Quilt Size Chart						
Block Setting	5-1/2" Blocks	8" Blocks	10-1/2" Blocks	13" Blocks	# of Blocks	
					Main	Alternate
3 x 3	15½ x 16½	23 x 23	30½ x 30½	38 x 38	5	4
3 x 5	15½ x 25½	23 x 38	30½ x 50½	38 x 63	8	7
5 x 5	25½ x 25½	38 x 38	50½ x 50½	63 x 63	13	12
5 x 7	25½ x 35½	38 x 53	50½ x 70½	63 x 88	18	17
7 x 7	35½ x 35½	53 x 53	70½ x 70½	88 x 88	25	24
7 x 9	35½ x 45½	53 x 68	70½ x 90½	88 x 112½	32	31
9 x 9	45½ x 45½	68 x 68	90½ x 90½	112½ x 112½	41	40
9 x 11	45½ x 55½	68 x 83	90½ x 110½	-	48	47
11 x 11	55½ x 55½	83 x 83	110½ x 110½	-	61	60



Border Creek Station Pattern Company

• www.bordercreekstation.com •