

2026

The Stash Buster Challenge Block

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, 2026.

Please read through all instructions before beginning this project.

- Use an accurate 1/4" seam allowance throughout this project unless specified.
- Starch or Best Press® fabrics before cutting for easier handling. I highly recommend spraying all fabrics and letting them dry completely (to prevent size distortion) then press and cut all pieces as instructed.
- For perfect strips when subcutting the block, use your Strip Cutter ruler i.e. Stripology or similar.

A word from me:

There is much consideration when choosing THE block and this year to help us BUST our stash, I have chosen the *Delectable Mountains* block. This block provides so many options; I just couldn't include them all but I just know you are going to have a fun time with it. This block is also a perfect opportunity to make more than one quilt while using different settings to create totally unique quilts.

Scrappy quilts do not have to include 'everything but the kitchen sink'. If you feel you have a difficult time making a scrappy quilt, well guess what? Me, too! For success with your scraps, I have found much success using one of these ideas:

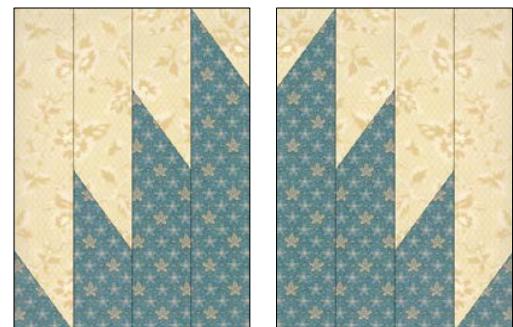
- **Choose fabrics in a style that you are comfortable with** i.e. batiks or reproductions, solids, brights, or by a designer like Kim Diehl, French General, Kansas Troubles, Pam Buda, etc.
- **Choose fabrics that fall within one colour group**, with a large quantity of different prints within that colour. For instance backgrounds can be creams and the Main fabric can be assorted blues in different values and prints.

Fabric Requirements:

This makes (2) blocks at the same time – one left side and one right side. The finished block is a rectangle size.

I KNOW SOMEONE WILL ASK, SO....One Background Fabric? This will depend on the number of blocks that you wish to make. On average, for a quilt that is approx. 85" x 85" you will require 7.0 – yards or metres (If you are unsure – then buy more.)

Choose the block size that you wish to work with, and refer to the cut sizes within the Cutting Chart.



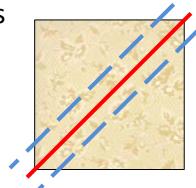
 Cutting Requirements For EACH Block Size:						
For 2 Blocks:	UnFinished Block Sizes (with seam allowances):					
		Size A: 4-1/2" x 6"	Size B: 5-1/2" x 7"	Size C: 6-1/2" x 8"	Size D: 7-1/2" x 9"	Size E: 8-1/2" x 10"
Darker Fabric	Cut 1 square	7" x 7"	8" x 8"	9" x 9"	10" x 10"	11" x 11"
Lighter Fabric	Cut 1 square	7" x 7"	8" x 8"	9" x 9"	10" x 10"	11" x 11"

Note: These cuts are a bit larger to allow for trimming up – a very important step. No groaning!

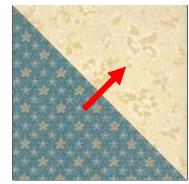
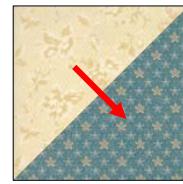
Step 1: Making the Half Square Triangles



- With marking pencil lightly mark on the wrong side of the **LIGHTER** fabric squares **diagonally from corner to corner** as shown by the **red** line in the diagram.
- With right sides together, place marked **LIGHTER** square on top of **DARKER** fabric square. As per the **blue lines** (shown in diagram) stitch $1/4"$ away as drawn. Cut apart on the **red** line as shown on diagram. This will make two HSTs squares.



- PRESS:** Open and press seams for the shown left square to the **DARKER** fabric and for the right to the **LIGHTER** fabric as shown by arrow. This will help seams nest in later assembly.



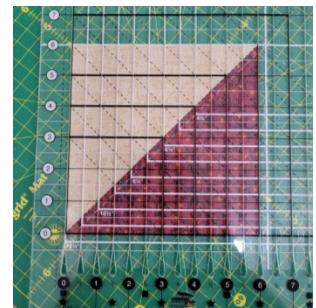
Note: Always press using this same method for all HSTs.

- TRIM** to tidy each HST by using the 45-degree line of ruler on the diagonal seam. Each HST square should be trimmed to measure using the chart below for the size of block that you have chosen to make.

UnFinished Block Sizes (with seam allowances):	Size A: 4-1/2" x 6"	Size B: 5-1/2" x 7"	Size C: 6-1/2" x 8"	Size D: 7-1/2" x 9"	Size E: 8-1/2" x 10"
Trim both HST squares to:	6" x 6"	7" x 7"	8" x 8"	9" x 9"	10" x 10"

Step 2: Making the block

- Lay out the two 'same fabric' HSTs made from above, carefully positioning them exactly as shown below. One HST square will make a **Left side** and the other HST square will make a **Right side**.



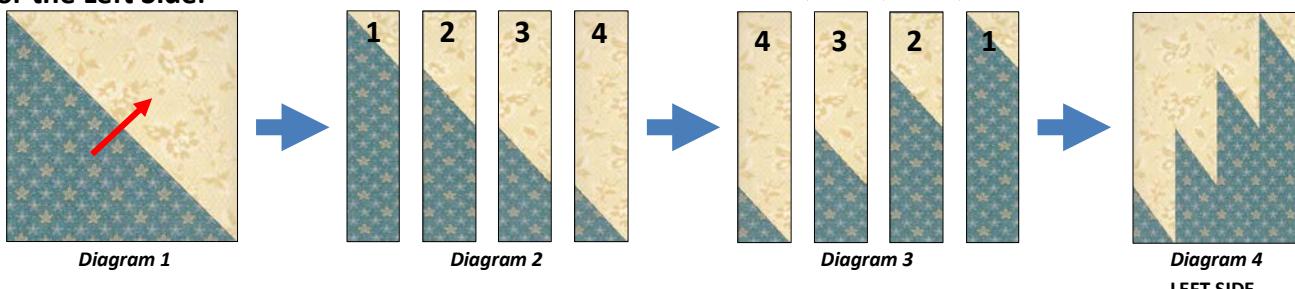
- Using the chart below subcut each HST square to make (4) even-sized strips as shown in the diagrams below.

Tool Tip: I find this cutting step much easier and more accurate when I use my Stripology Ruler or similar type cutting ruler. This allows you to center the ruler over the fabric square and then to accurately cut the 4 equal strip sections required.

UnFinished Block Sizes (with seam allowances):	Size A: 4-1/2" x 6"	Size B: 5-1/2" x 7"	Size C: 6-1/2" x 8"	Size D: 7-1/2" x 9"	Size E: 8-1/2" x 10"
Subcut HSTs into Strips:	1-1/2" strips	1-3/4" strips	2" strips	2-1/4" strips	2-1/2" strips

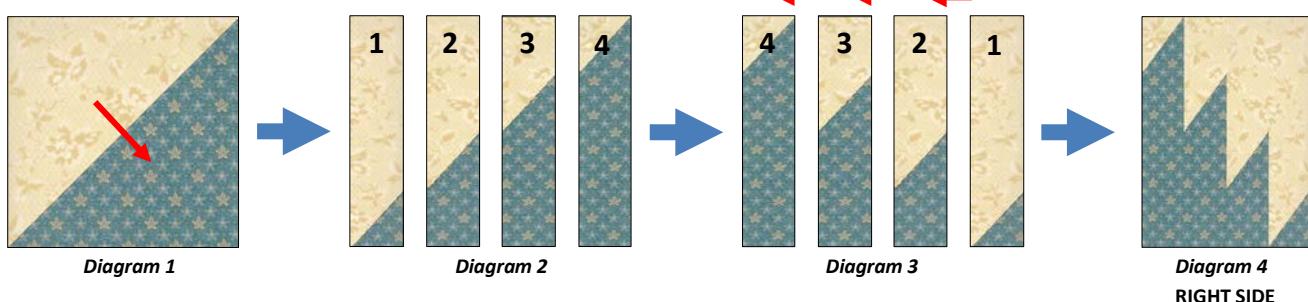
- Separate the cut strips (*Diagram 2*) and carefully switch their placement as shown in *Diagram 3*. With right sides together, join the strips along the long edge side by side as shown in *Diagram 4*.
- Press the seams to the darker fabric as shown by the red arrows. This makes with **Left side** of the block. Trimming should not be necessary.

For the Left Side:



5. Repeat the same steps to make the **Right side** of the block by reversing the order of the pieces, as shown below.

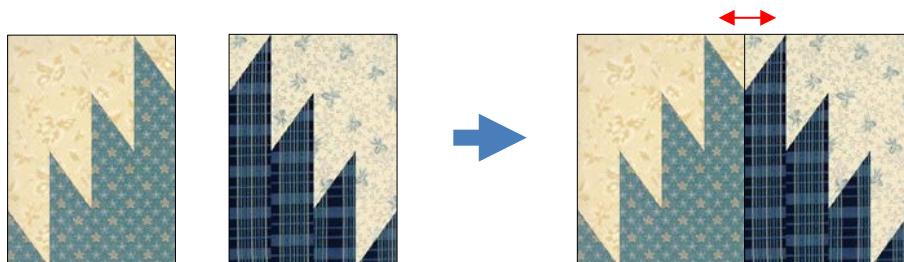
For the Right Side:



6. Continue the above steps, cutting and making the Left and Right sides of the blocks from all of the paired HST squares. Make piles for all of the **Left side** blocks and for all of the **Right side** blocks. These will be selected randomly to be joined to make the *Delectable Mountain* block.

Step 3: Joining the Left and Right Sides

1. Randomly select (1) **Left side** block and (1) **Right side** block to be joined together, positioning them as shown below. This seam should be either pressed open (as shown by the arrow) or left un-pressed until later when the rows are joined and the direction to press can be determined by the neighbouring row.



Scappier the Better! Remember – your fabric, your quilt, your choice!

I will be making the Size A blocks, and with the more fabric the better. My stash is better suited to cut 7inch squares than larger ones, plus I love when scrappy quilts have smaller pieces with a larger variety of fabrics. I have also selected to stay within the Reproduction genre of my stash, choosing assorted creams as my lighter fabrics. My blocks will be constructed using random fabrics so each one will be....scrappy!



Note: Of course, you can choose the same fabric for the Right and Left but choosing them randomly provides for a scrappier looking quilt.

Working Tip: As I sort my stash during the following months, I like to cut the squares for the large HSTs, gathering them in separate piles of dark and light fabrics. Then each week will sew the HST and subcut the strips as shown below. Then when randomly selecting the strips for a scrappy block, I am ready to sew one or two (or four) together each week. All will be carefully stored in my black trays.



Optional Block Layouts

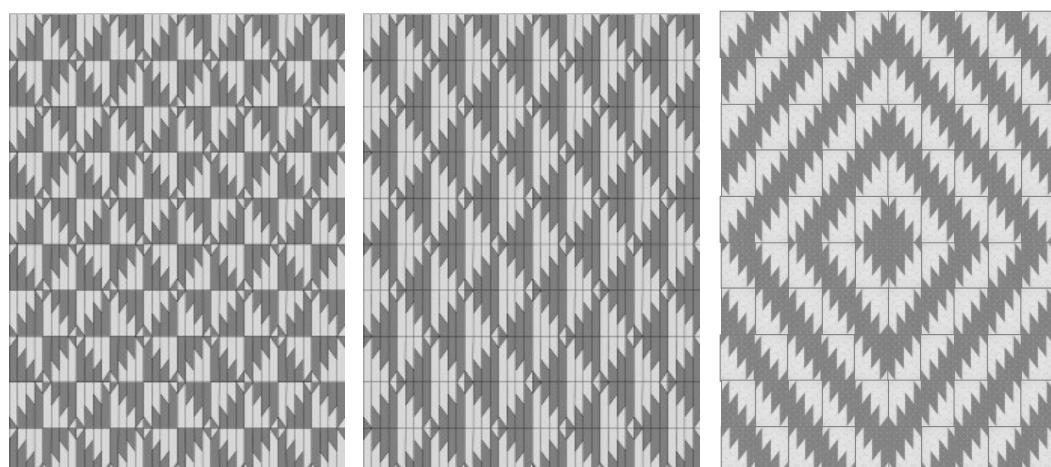
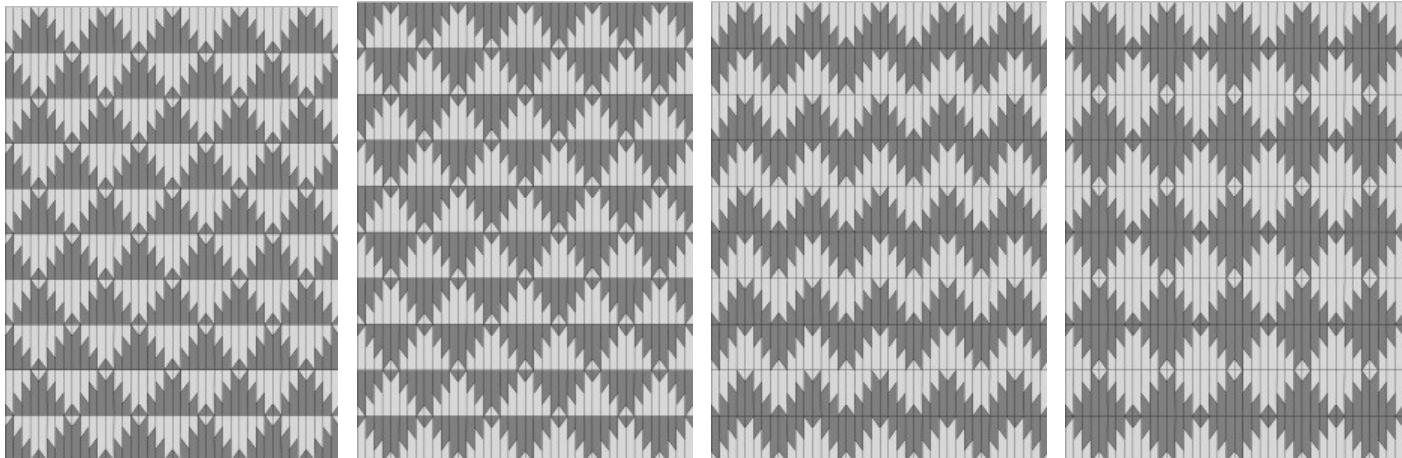
Look at some of the fun layout arrangements that can be created with this block!

All of these layouts show a 10 blocks x 10 rows as options to use for this pattern. That's only 2 blocks a week!

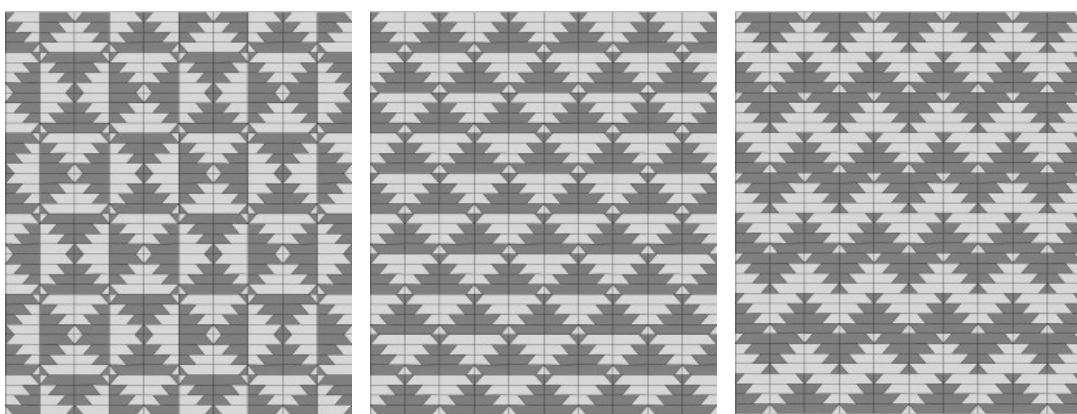
Don't forget to check Pinterest for some additional ideas. So many choices!



The following layout shows the quilt center with the rectangle block sitting 'tall'.



The following layout shows the quilt center with the rectangle block sitting 'short'.



Quilt Size Chart

Use the quilt sizing chart to assist 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.

Remember this is a rectangle sized block, so please consider this when figuring out the size of quilt that you wish to make.

Block Setting	Finished Size A: 4' x 5-1/2"	Finished Size B: 5" x 6-1/2"	Finished Size C: 6" x 7-1/2"	Finished Size D: 7" x 8-1/2"	Finished Size E: 8" x 9-1/2"	# of Blocks
8 x 8	32 x 44	40 x 52	48 x 60	56 x 68	64 x 76	64
10 x 8	40 x 44	50 x 52	60 x 60	70 x 68	80 x 76	80
9 x 9	36 x 49-1/2	45 x 58-1/2	54 x 67-1/2	63 x 76-1/2	72 x 85-1/2	81
12 x 9	48 x 49-1/2	60 x 58-1/2	72 x 67-1/2	84 x 76-1/2	96 x 85-1/2	108
10 x 10	40 x 55	50 x 65	60 x 75	70 x 85	80 x 95	100
13 x 10	52 x 55	65 x 65	78 x 75	91 x 85	104 x 95	130
12 x 12	48 x 66	60 x 78	72 x 90	84 x 102	96 x 114	144
14 x 12	56 x 66	70 x 78	84 x 90	98 x 102	112 x 114	168
16 x 14	64 x 77	80 x 91	96 x 105	112 x 119	-	224
16 x 16	64 x 88	80 x 104	96 x 120	-	-	256
18 x 16	72 x 88	90 x 104	108 x 120	-	-	288
20 x 18	80 x 99	100 x 117	-	-	-	360
24 x 18	96 x 99	-	-	-	-	432

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