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Deb Tucker's
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Presents

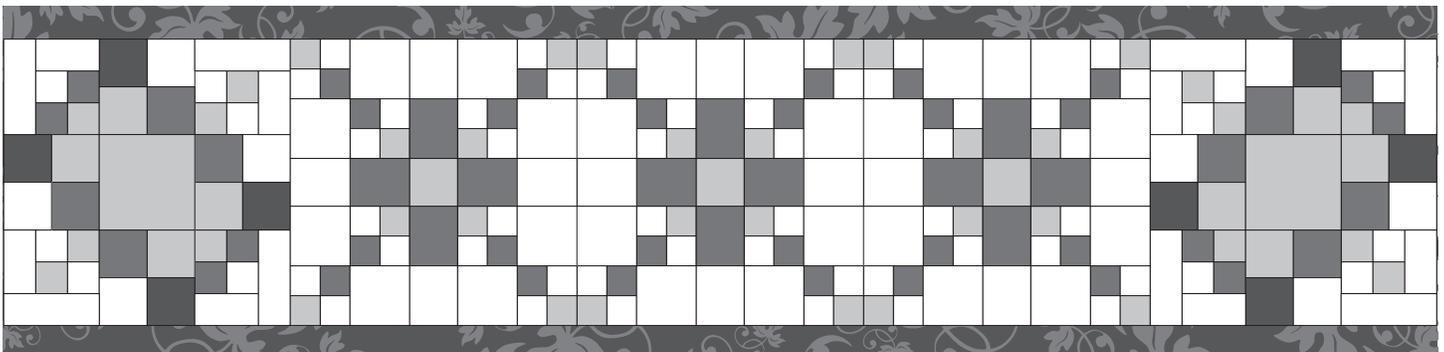
Four Patch Square Up[®]

A Trim Down Ruler for One of Quilting's Most Basic Units

Simple Centering

High precision for 12 Different Sizes

Right & Left Handed Instructions

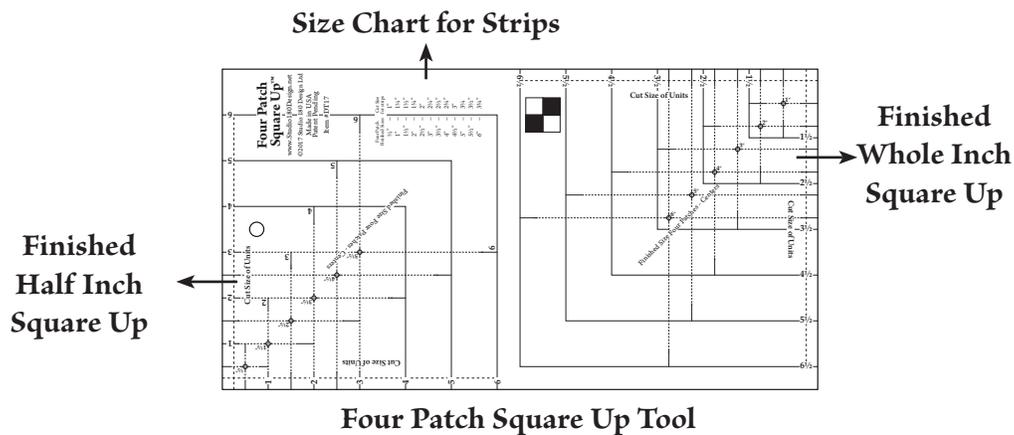


Four Patch Square Up[®] Tool Basics

Four Patches. Basic units that seem so simple to make. Just stitch 4 squares together, either individually or with strip piecing and you're good to go. But anyone who has attempted these units knows that they are notoriously difficult to make perfectly. Either the unit size isn't quite right, the edges just don't quite line up, or they're just not quite square. Ugh. Even experienced stitchers encounter these problems.

The Four Patch Square Up[®] Tool is the solution. Like all the Studio 180 Design rulers and processes, this tool and technique will have you build your units slightly oversized and then quickly trim them to perfect shapes. The Four Patch Square Up[®] Tool is designed to work with units that finish to whole or half inch increments, from ½" finished up to 6" finished unit sizes. The tool's perfectly engineered lines are designed to quickly locate and align with the unit center and the sewn seams, allowing for easy trimming on all four sides. The accuracy is amazing!

Your units will be the correct size. They will have seams properly positioned. And they will have edges that are straight, even, and square. No more guess work! So jump in and give it a try, you will be absolutely thrilled with the results.



Your new Four Patch Square Up[®] tool has three sections. First is the Size Chart for Strips, which gives you the recommended size strips to cut for units that will be slightly oversized. Next is the Whole Inch Square Up section which contains circles for quick center identification, dashed lines for placement on sewn seams, and solid lines for precision trimming. Finally, there is the Half Inch Square Up section on the opposite corner of the tool with all the same features as the whole inch trim down side.

To create your oversized Four Patch units you will use strips that are ¼" or ⅛" wider than you would traditionally cut. The choice is yours. You will have a bit more to trim off if you add the ¼", yet sometimes it is easier to cut in ¼" increments rather than ⅛" increments. The size chart on the tool lists strip sizes that are ¼" wider than the sizes listed in most patterns.

Four Patch Finished Sizes	½"	1"	1½"	2"	2½"	3"	3½"	4"	4½"	5"	5½"	6"
Four Patch Trim Sizes	1"	1½"	2"	2½"	3"	3½"	4"	4½"	5"	5½"	6"	6½"
Cut Size for Strips ¼" increments	1"	1¼"	1½"	1¾"	2"	2¼"	2½"	2¾"	3"	3¼"	3½"	3¾"
Cut Size for Strips ⅛" increments	⅞"	1⅛"	1⅜"	1⅝"	1⅞"	2⅛"	2⅜"	2⅝"	2⅞"	3⅛"	3⅜"	3⅝"

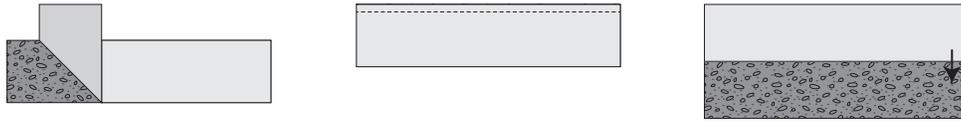
Instructions for a Two Color Four Patch

Step 1 – Determine the finished size Four Patches that you want to make. Cut your strips the size indicated on the chart. You will need two strips, one for each color in your four patch. So to make a 4” finished unit, cut two strips that are 2¾” wide. They can be any length you desire.

Step 2 – Position your strips right sides together.

Step 3 – Stitch down one long edge of the strips with a ¼” seam.

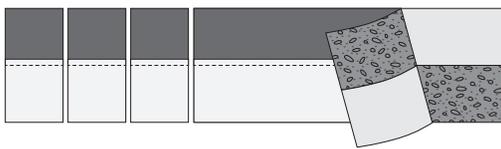
Step 4 – Press the seams to one side. We usually press toward the darker fabric.



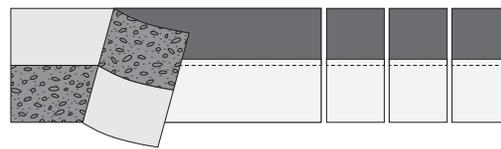
Step 2 to 4 - Position, Stitch, Press

Step 5 – Cut your strip in half crosswise. Reverse one half over the other so each color is opposite the other color. Nest the seams well.

Step 6 – Sub-cut along the strip. Your sub-cut will be the same as the width that you cut your strips. For our 4” finished units you will sub-cut 2¾” sections. Do not separate the layered pairs.



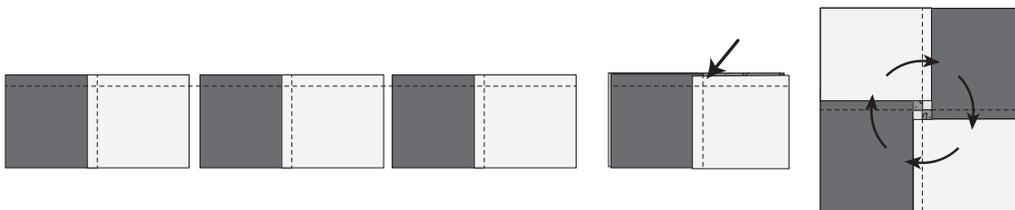
Step 5 and 6 - Layer and Cut (Right Handed)



Step 5 and 6 - Layer and Cut (Left Handed)

Step 7 – Stitch down the long side of the layered pair. We usually start stitching on the darker fabric, as stitching into the seam will make for a nicer alignment in the center.

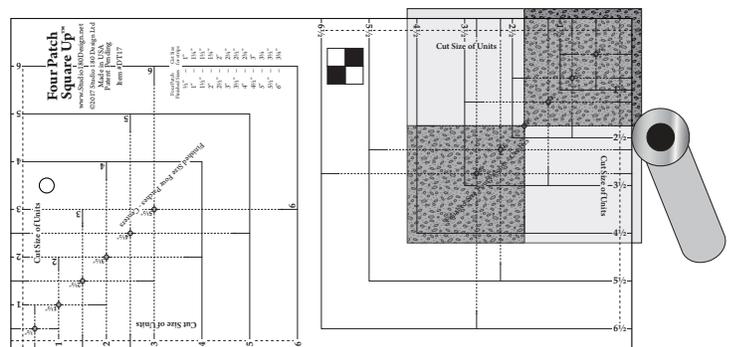
Step 8 – Press the unit so that the seams spin. To spin the seam lay the last sewn seam east to west on the mat, remove the two or three threads in the center on both sides that run north to south. Press in the direction indicated.



Step 7 and 8 - Stitch and Press Seams

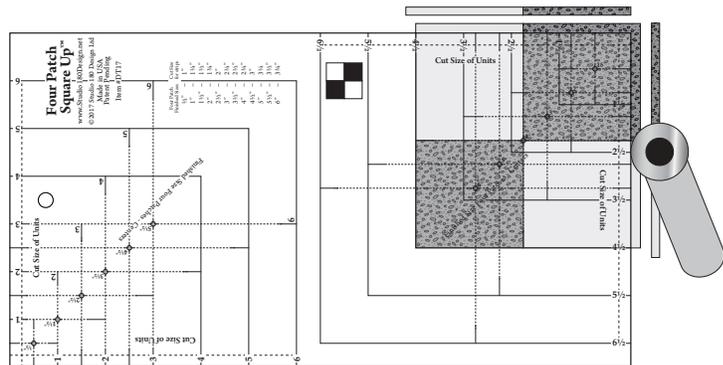
Step 9 – Locate your desired finished size circle on the tool. These numbered circles are located above the words Finished Size Four Patches - Centers.

Step 10 – Position this circle over the seam intersection of your four patch unit. Line up the dashed lines radiating from the center with your seams. Trim the first two sides.

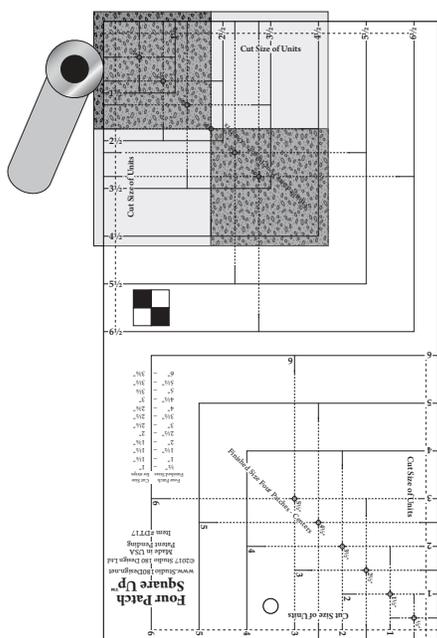


Step 9 and 10 - Position and Trim (Right Handed)

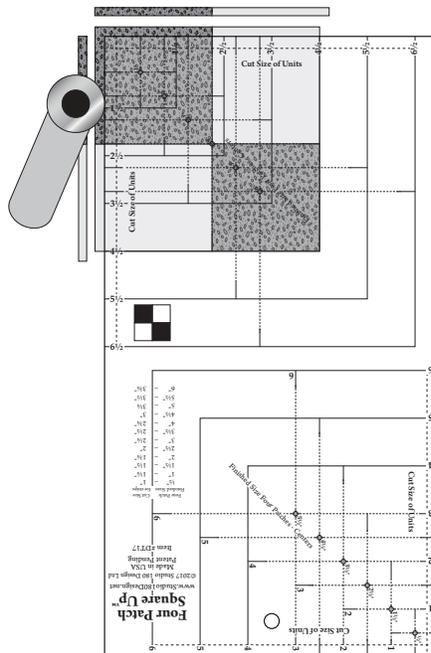
Step 11 – Rotate the unit 180°. Realign the finished size circle with the center and dashed lines with your seams. Also make sure that the outside trimmed edges of the unit are aligned with the solid cut size cleanup lines. Trim the final two sides.



Step 11 - Rotate and Trim Again (Right Handed)



First Trim



Second Trim

Step 9 to 11 - Position, Trim, Rotate, and Trim Again (Left Handed)

Three or Four Color Four Patches

To create four patch units with more than two colors, you will need to cut one strip for each of your chosen colors. Use the same strip piecing methods as described above, taking care to position your strips so your color placement is correct. Don't forget to pay attention to your seam pressing directions to ensure nesting seams.



We hope that you have enjoyed using your new Four Patch Square Up[®] Tool. To see more unique tools and patterns by Deb Tucker and the Studio 180 Design team, please visit our website at: Studio180Design.net While you are there, check out our free online video demonstrations.