

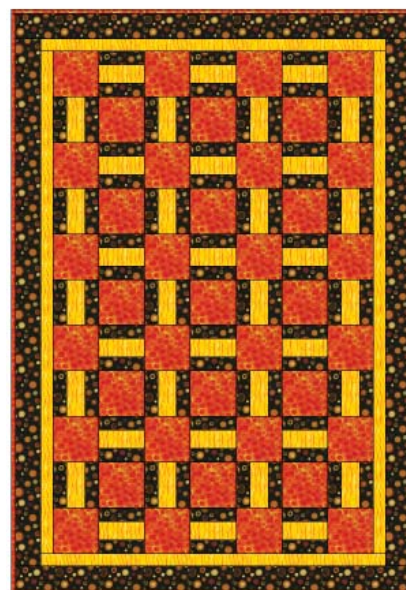
An all-time favorite "go to" quilt pattern

Blox & Frames Twice



This is an inclusive two-for-one... including both the diagonal and the straight set of this super quilt

Diagonal set at left is 52" x 67".
Straight set below is 48" x 70".



Easy to cut and equally simple to sew, Blox and Frames straight set is a great first quilt for any age quilter. Begin by selecting a focus fabric which will take center stage, add two secondary fabrics, and you are set to sew.

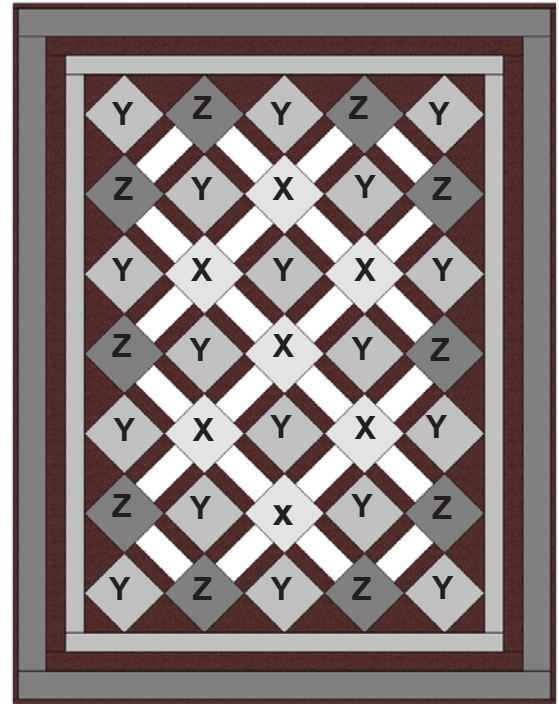
Numerous options await you on subsequent returns to this quilt. A second focus fabric changes the impact, as does using an additional fabric in the frame block. The best part? Every choice always seems to work effectively.

This is the pattern successfully used and loved for over ten years in our kids quilt camps. Camp volunteers repeatedly use it for quilts they sew as gifts. One woman enlarged the quilt and used a pale solid for the frame block's center as a background for autographs and marital advice for a new bride.

Pattern # 801 Blox and Frames
Copyright 2016 Margie Engel
email: margie@cfl.rr.com
www.engelquilts.com

Blox and Frames Diagonal Set

52" x 67"
5-1/2" Finished Blocks



Recommendations for Strip Set Sewing

When making quilts from strip sets, it is advantageous to spray the fabrics with sizing. Fabric sizing, available in most super markets, will add stability, prevent distortion, and facilitate rotary cutting.

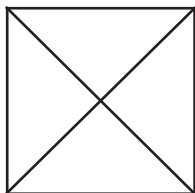
Some people like to sew strip sets by alternating where the sewing begins to avoid distortion. Others contend that if your machine's top tension is set correctly, strip sets will not distort. Run a test on your machine and you will know what is best for you.

Fabric Needs and Cutting Instructions based on 42" available width

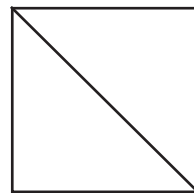
Fabric		First Cut	Second Cut
Red Orange (X)	1/4 yard	One 6" wide strip	Seven 6" squares
Orange Print	1 yard		
Block Y		Three 6" wide strips	Eighteen 6" squares
First Border		Six 2-1/2" wide strips	
Brown print	3/4 yard		
Block Z		Two 6" wide strips	Ten 6" squares
Outer Border		Six 3" wide strips	
Brown	2 yards		
Frame Blocks		Eight 2" wide strips	
Edge Triangles		Five 9-1/8" squares	*20 quarter-square triangles
Corner Triangles		Two 4-7/8" squares	**4 half-square triangles
Second Border		Six 2-1/2" wide strips	
Binding		Six 2-1/4" wide strips	
Gold	exact 1/3 yd		
Frame Block		Four 3" wide strips	

Methods for Cutting and Sewing Triangles for Diagonal Sets

Many quilters opt to cut setting triangles from squares. This can be effective as long as you cut the long edge of the triangle on the straight of grain. To ensure this, cut 4 triangles from a square for the sides. For corner triangles, cut squares in half diagonally and two edges will be on the straight of grain. This keeps the bias in check so the quilt edges do not wave.



*Cut squares diagonally twice for side setting triangles. In this instance, squares are cut 9-1/8".



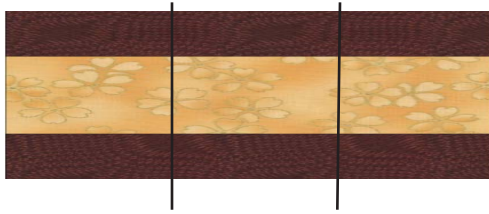
**Cut squares diagonally once for corner setting triangles. In this instance, squares are cut 4-7/8".

You will be sewing the triangles' bias edges to the blocks' straight grained edges. The best method is to pin the blocks and to sew them with the bias next to the machine's feed dogs. Spraying the fabrics with fabric sizing also helps keep them stable.

FYI: So how is the size of the square determined? The formulas:

- ◆cut size for side triangles = (finished block size x 1.414) + 1-1/4"
 - ◆cut size for corner triangles = (finished block size ÷ 1.414) + 7/8"
- Round up to nearest 1/8"

Sew the Frame Blocks



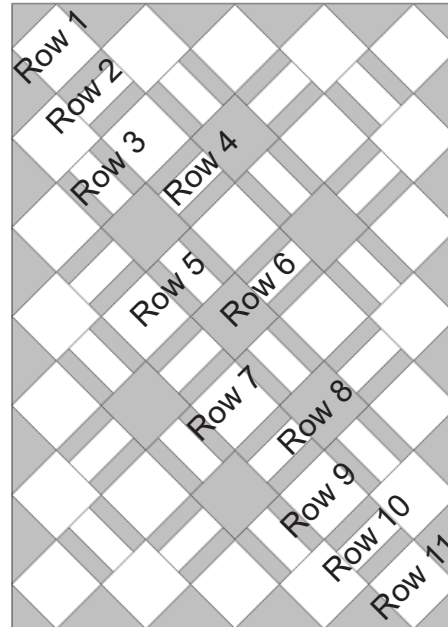
Place a gold strip in the middle of brown strips and sew the long sides together for a 6" wide strip set. Sew four strip sets. Cut each strip set into 6" wide squares. The lines in the diagram indicate cutting lines. Each set yields 6-7 frame blocks. Cut 24.

Assemble the Quilt

Refer to the photograph and arrange the blocks as shown. The trick to sewing an on-point arrangement is to think about diagonal rows. The diagram on the right illustrates this.

Stitch each diagonal row. Press the rows by pressing the frame block seams toward the focus squares. This allows the seams to nest together when sewing the rows.

Sew the rows together.



Attach the Borders

Measure the quilt top horizontally and vertically through the middle of the quilt. Generally, quilt edges are a bit longer than in the center, so if you use the center measurement to cut the borders, you will be able to keep your quilt straighter.

- Record your vertical measurement. It will be about 53" long.
- Record your horizontal measurement. It will be about 39"
- Join three orange strips vertically using bias joins. Cut the borders equal to your vertical measurement.
- With right sides together, pin the center of the border to the center of the quilt side, then align and pin the ends. Add more pins, then sew. The quilt top may have a small excess, so sew with the quilt towards the feed dogs.
- Repeat the above process for the top and bottom borders. Remember that the side borders have added to the original measurement.
- Continue repeating the process just used for the additional borders, adding to the original measurement to account for the addition of the borders.

AND... you always have the option to change the number and or sizes of the borders to suit your purposes.



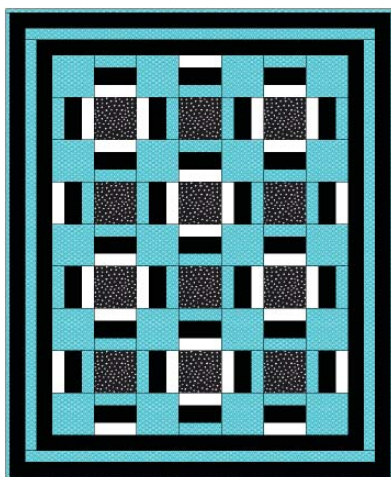
Blox and Frames Straight Set

48" x 70"

5-1/2" Finished Blocks in a 7 x 11 layout

Blox & Frames is a great quilt for all levels of quilters. There are many ways to change the appearance, and all are easy.

The straight set is my favorite for teaching kids in beginner classes. I make changes in the cutting and assembly, though, to accommodate the general abilities I have seen in youngsters. Rather than sew strip sets, I precut the strips for the frame block. Each frame block is sewn independently. It is slower, but the results are far better because young students find it almost impossible to sew 42" strips together with consistent quarter inch seams. Even when working with slightly experienced kids and adults, I teach them to sew strip sets that are 21" long, which is much easier for newer quilters. I also precut the focus fabric into squares.



Because of time constraints, the camp quilt is shorter, using 63 blocks in a 7 x 9 configuration. We usually use only one border. Occasionally, we just add top and bottom borders (pictured below). The kids choose their own borders and delight in this option. Giving them that freedom of choice produces fun results.

Two changes demonstrate the impact substitutions can make. In the blue/black quilt above, two different focus fabrics are used in alternate rows. For the frame block, two different edges, rotated as shown, also cause a different appearance.



Fabric Needs and Cutting Instructions

Fabric		First Cut	Second Cut
A. Feature Fabric	1-1/4 yards		
	Focus squares	Seven 6" wide strips	Thirty-nine 6" squares
	Border strips	Five 3-1/2" wide strips	
B. Purple Fabric	1-1/4 yards		
	Strip sets	Fourteen 2" strips	
C. Striped Fabric	2/3 yard		
	Strip sets	Seven 3" wide strips	
D. Yellow Green Fabric -	2/3 yard		
	First Border	Six 2" strips	
	Binding*	Six 2" strips	

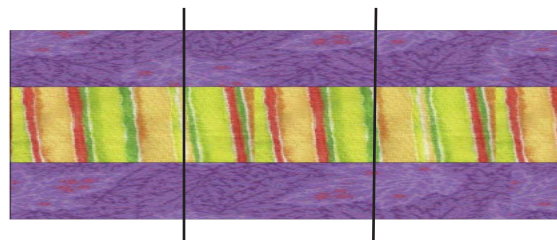
*Pictured quilt used a different color binding.

Quilt Assembly

Note: See another sewing method on page 3

Sew the Frame Blocks

Using one C fabric strip as the center, and a B fabric on each side, sew 7 strip sets. With right side of fabric facing upward, press the sets with both seams going in the same directions. Subcut each strip into 6" squares. You will get 6 or 7 squares per strip set. Cut 38.



Cut 38 Squares

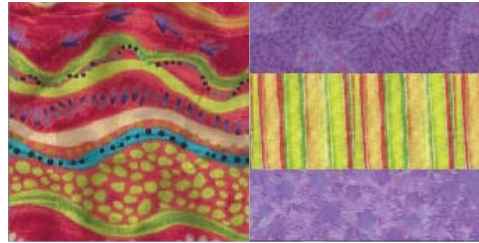
Assemble the Rows

Consult the quilt diagram and follow one of the methods below.

■Option 1 - Lay out the rows. If you prefer a visual of your quilt, use this method. You will realize that the odd rows are alike, with the frame block lying horizontally. The even rows are alike, with the frame block positioned vertically. Sew each row. Press the frame block seams toward the focus square. Pin the rows together, matching the block corners, and sew.

■Option 2 - If you prefer chain stitching...

•Pin 18 pairs to look like the first two blocks on the left side of the *first* row and sew them together. Make sure the blocks are turned in the correct direction. >



•Pin 15 pairs to look like the first two blocks on the left side of the *second* row and sew them together, again making sure the blocks are turned correctly. >



•Using the first 18 pairs (for the odd numbered rows), sew 3 pairs together (that's 6 blocks total). Complete each row by adding a seventh block to the right side of the row. In this instance you will add a focus fabric square at the end, turning it to match the orientation of the blocks in the row. Repeat this sequence for rows 3,5, etc.

•Using the second group of 15 pairs, repeat the process, orienting the fabrics correctly, for rows 2,4,6, etc. For these rows, the final block is a frame, turned vertically.

Press the rows by pressing the frame block seams toward the focus squares. This allows the seams to nest together when sewing the rows.

Attach the Borders

Measure the quilt top horizontally and vertically through the middle of the quilt. Generally, quilt edges are a bit longer than in the center, so if you use the center measurement to cut the borders, you will be able to keep your quilt straighter.

•Record your vertical measurement. It will be about 61" long.

•Record your horizontal measurement. It will be about 39" wide.

•Using the 2" green strips, cut two borders to match your horizontal measurement.

With right sides together, pin the center of the border to the center of the quilt edge, then align and pin the ends. Add more pins, then sew. The quilt top may have a small excess, so sew with the quilt towards the feed dogs.

•Join the remaining three green strips using bias joins. Cut the borders equal to your vertical measurement plus 3-1/2", the addition made by the top and bottom borders. Pin and sew these borders as described previously.

•Continue repeating the process just used for the additional borders, adding to the original measurement to account for the addition of the borders.

AND... you always have the option to change the number and or sizes of the borders to suit your purposes.