

From the Simple Strips and Spunky Squares series

The Paradox of 3 Rails and 4 Patches



Fabric Needs

Focus Fabric - 2 yards
Bright Orange - 3/4 yard
Fuschia - 1/2 yard
Black - 3/4 yard

48-1/2" x 60-1/2" Simple Pieced Quilts

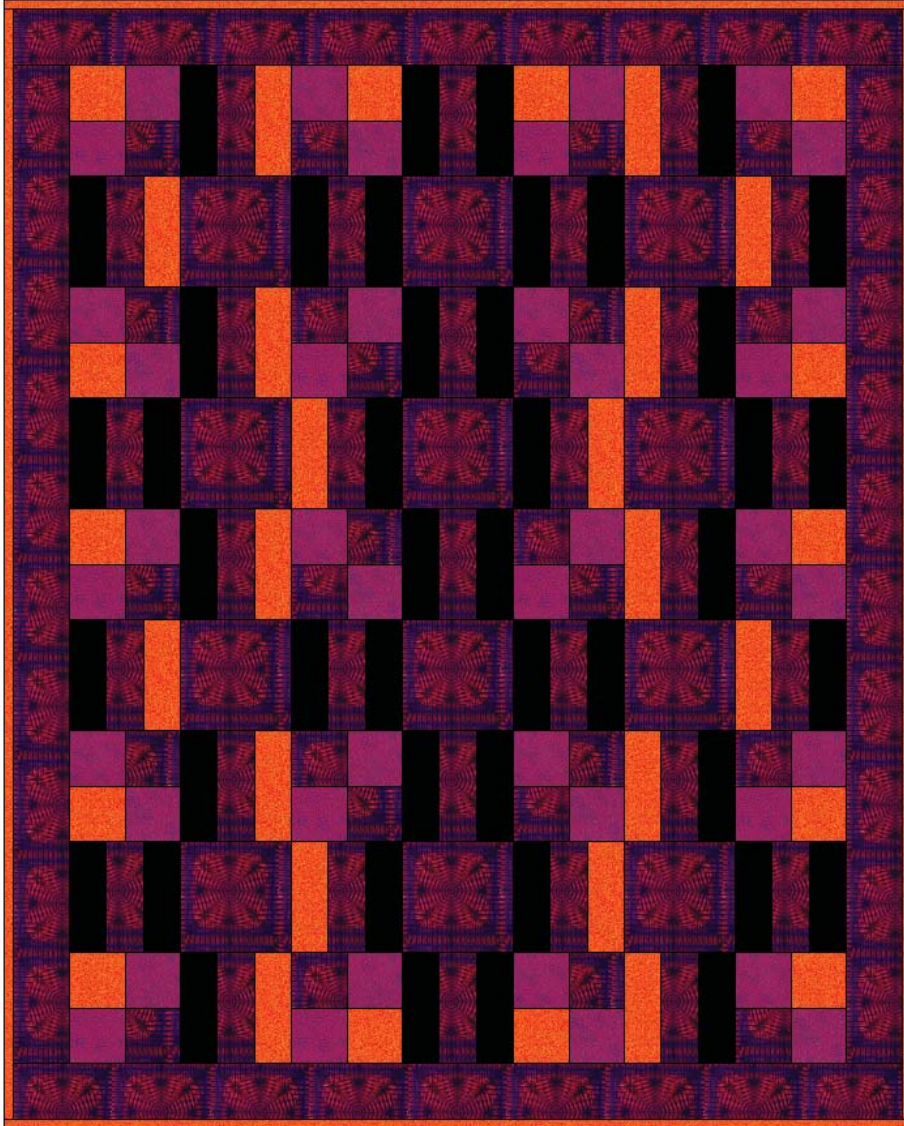
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Enjoy this contemporary quilt design which breaks traditional practices by combining 4 patch blocks with 3 rails. If there is a secret to making this work, it is in the way the blocks are arranged, creating broken vertical lines but also bumping squares of focus fabric into vertical strips of the same fabric. The skill level is for a beginner.

The Paradox of 3 Rails and 4 Patches

48-1/2" x 60-1/2"

Finished 6" blocks, 7 x 9 Layout



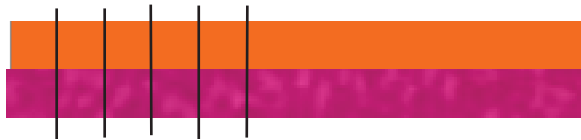
These vibrant fabrics make this quilt wild fun, and the only seams that meet occur when sewing the rows together. Traditional quilters tell us not to mix four patch blocks with three patch blocks (also called rail fence blocks), but we should not restrict ourselves to traditional rules all the time.

Fabric Needs and Cutting Instructions based on 42" available width

Fabric	First Cut/width of fabric	Second Cut/Use
Focus Fabric	1-1/2 yards	
Focus Blocks	Two 6-1/2" strips	Twelve 6-1/2" squares
Four Patch Blocks	Three 3-1/2" strips	cut 1 strip into three 14" sections
Rail Blocks	Five 2-1/2" strips + 14" strip length cut from above section	
Borders	Five 3-1/2" strips	
Bright Orange	3/4 yard (exactly)	
Four Patch Blocks	Two 3-1/2" strip (use one with 14" fuscina)	
Rail Blocks	Three 2-1/2" strips	
Binding	Five 2-1/2" strips + 8" cut from 3-1/2" strip above	
Fuscina	1/2 yard	
Four Patch Blocks	Four 3-1/2" strips	cut 1 strip into three 14" sections
Black	3/4 yard	
Rail Blocks	8 2-1/2" strips	cut 1 strip into three 14" sections

Block Assembly

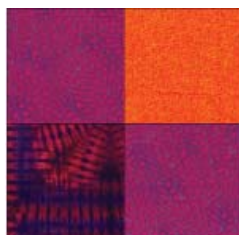
Sew the strip sets below, then use the cut parts to sew the blocks in the diagrams.



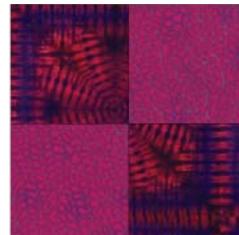
Using orange and fuscina 3-1/2" wide strips, sew a strip set. Using 14" length of fuscina, sew a short set. Cut fourteen 3-1/2" wide sections.



Using fuscina and focus fabric 3-1/2" wide strips, sew two strip sets. Using 14" length of fuscina, sew a short set. Cut twenty-six 3-1/2" wide sections.

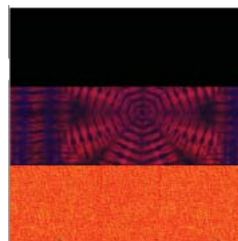


Four Patch Block
Sew 14



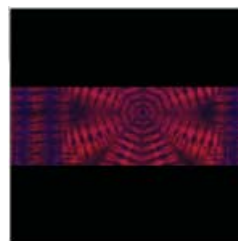
Four Patch Block
Sew 6

Sew the strip sets below, then cut them into the blocks shown to the right.



Three Rails Block
Cut 18

Using three 2-1/2" wide strips each of black, focus fabric and orange, sew three strip sets. Cut each set into 6-1/2" squares for a total of 18 blocks.



Three Rails Block
Cut 13

Using black and focus fabric 2-1/2" wide strips, sew two strip sets. Sew a third 14" set. Cut each set into 6-1/2" squares for a total of 13 blocks.

Quilt Assembly

Refer to the photograph and arrange the blocks. The design radiates from the center. Most of the rows are unique arrangements. A few are similar: rows 2 and 6; rows 3 and 7; rows 4 and 8. Sew horizontal rows, seven blocks across. 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 horizontal measurement. It will be about 42".
- Record your vertical measurement. It will be about 54".
- Attach the top and bottom borders first because each needs only 42".
- Join strips, using bias joins, for the sides and cut according to your measurement. Remember to add the 6-1/2" increase made by the added top and bottom borders to your original 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 and sew. The quilt top may have a small excess so sew with the quilt towards the feed dogs.

Voila' - On to sandwiching and quilting the quilt!