Four Patch Chain





This is a great way to use up scraps and make a lovely quilt at the same time. You will need one fabric which I will call your focus fabric which will be the center of the quilt. However, that focus fabric needs to almost read as a solid and should contrast highly with all your other fabrics. I suggest black, navy or dark brown. Whichever you chose, you do not want to use any other fabrics which look the same in value as that focus.

This would be a great scrap user. You can dig into your smallest scraps and use them up as long as they are not the same color and value as your focus fabric.

You want a focus fabric that is very very dark and your other colors not as dark. You need one very dark fabric for your focus fabric and a lot of medium darks, mediums and medium lights. (And for those who always ask, if you want a very light focus it would work but do not use any other lights at all, stick to mediums.)



Pre-cutting

When I am doing a scrappy quilt I prefer cutting my pieces into the size required and then I can make it truly scrappy, each one being a different fabric if that's what I want. However, if you want to strip piece these you may. But to me that makes them too repetitive and not as scrappy.

SO... for this quilt you need 192 different 3 1/2 inch squares for a scrappy quilt, the more the scrappier, and you can use anything BUT dark dark fabrics.

OR if you insist on strip cutting... 3 1/2 inch strips of your scrappy fabrics. I would not use more than 14 inches of the same fabric, but that's my opinion on keeping it scrappy.

You ALSO need 128 different 2 inch squares, again the more the scrappier and you can use anything but the dark dark. If you want to cut strips, same thing as I said before, two inch strips but not any longer than 12 inches to make it look super scrappy.

And let's not forget our focus fabric.... You may keep that in strips if you prefer. You want to cut seven 2 inch strips of your dark dark focus fabric.

Sizes:

We will be making a 16 block quilt for the sample. This is very easy to add on to, just make more blocks and or add borders. Your blocks will be 12 1/2 when you're done making them, and 12 inches finished in the quilt. To make larger quilts you need 35 blocks for a 60 X 84 twin, 48 blocks for a 72 X 96 full size and 64 blocks will make a 96 inch queen. If you want to go a little large, add borders.

Step One:

Let's use up our focus fabric first. Because I allowed you to strip cut that focus fabric, you just need to put another 2 inch square on top of it, right sides together of course, and chain piece them. Press to the focus fabric.



Then cut them carefully into two inch segments. You need 128 two patch units.

Step Two:

Make four patch blocks using your scrappy 3 1/2 inch squares. The scrappier the better but remember that you should not have any dark darks in there that look like the focus fabric. You need **thirty-two** 6 1/2 inch four patch units, you will have some 3 1/2 inch squares left over.



Step Three:

Back to those two inch segments you made in Step One. Pair them up and sew into four patches. Make sure that your focus fabric ends up on opposite sides. You need sixty-four four patch units.



Press to focus.

Step Four:

Hopefully you have some 3 1/2 inch square left over. Attach one to each one of the mini four patch units you made in Step Three. You need sixty-four. Press to the 3 1/2 inch squares.

Step Five:

Using the units you made in Step Four, make four patch units again. VERY important that your focus fabric stays in a diagonal row as shown in these blocks. You need thirty-two.



Step Six:

Sew together a four patch unit from Step Two with a four patch focus unit from Step Five. You need thirty-two.



Step Seven:

Now sew those thirty-two units together into sixteen blocks, again keeping the focus fabic in the same diagonal row.



Step Eight:

Well the rest is up to you now. There are design choices which can be made simply by turning your blocks different ways. Here are just a few ideas. These diagrams will only show the focus fabric, just imagine the empty squares as many different colors.

