

## Simply Squares

# Delaware Quilts

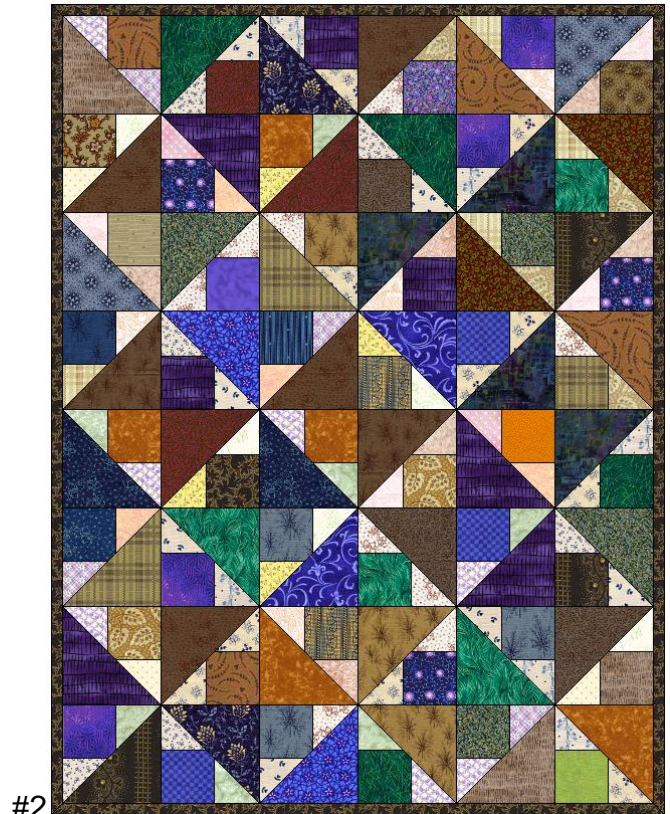


Yes this pattern is made of entirely squares, so there are no bias edges to worry about. And it's so easy you can make a little quilt in just a few hours, or spend some fun time and make a huge quilt.

You can make your quilt all scraps if you want, you will need lights and darks and mediums too. If you want a completely scrappy look, just put the fabrics where ever you want in what ever order you want. Or if you like a more organized quilt, then use the same color value (light dark or medium) in the same place in each square.



#1

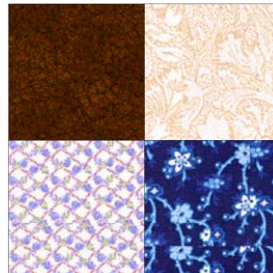


#2

In diagram one I have the colors all in the same place in each block. And in diagram two the lights are all in the same position, but the darks and mediums are just scattered.

We'll start off with simple four patches. Yes, that easy. Just make four patches from your scraps. If you have squares already, say from a charm pack you bought, then use them that size. Many fabric manufactures sell charm packs of their fabrics, here is your chance to use them. We'll say that your charms are 5 inches... so make four patches from your five inch charms.

You might want to put all the lights in the same position, just so they show up nicely, but you don't have to.





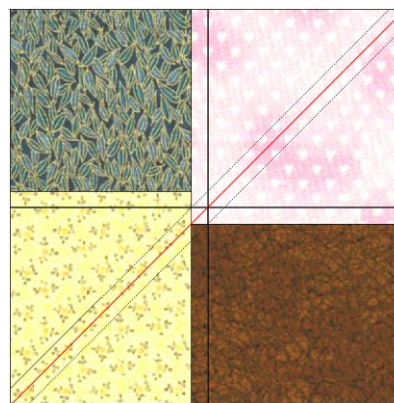
Are you saying “But wait, my squares aren’t 5 inches?” No problem, use what ever size squares you have. What is important is that they are all the same size. The squares used in the baby quilt (#3) were all cut 2 ¾ inches and the squares in the other diagrams were all cut five inches.

4 Patch Units	Large Square	Unfinished	Finished in your quilt
6 3/4	13	12 1/2	12
6 1/2	12 1/2	12	11 1/2
6	11 1/2	11	10 1/2
5 3/4	11	10 1/2	10
5 1/2	10 1/2	10	9 1/2
5	9 1/2	9	8 1/2
4 3/4	9	8 1/2	8
4 1/2	8 1/2	8	7 1/2
4	7 1/2	7	6 1/2
3 3/4	7	6 1/2	6
3 1/2	6 1/2	6	5 1/2
3	6	5 1/2	5
2 3/4	5 1/2	5	4 1/2
2 1/2	4 1/2	4	3 1/2
2	3 1/2	3	2 1/2

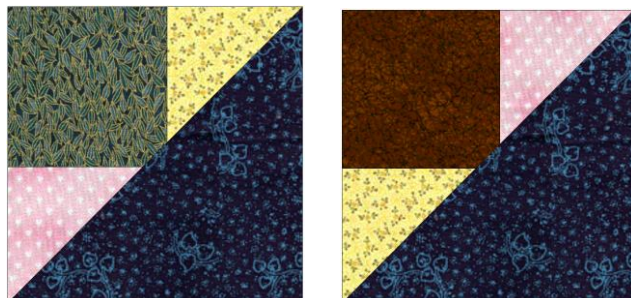
This chart shows you what size finished blocks (in your quilt finished) different size squares will make.

Now you need to measure your four patches to see what size they are, because your next step is to cut larger squares that size. The five inch charms made a 9 ½ inch block so we’ll cut the larger squares 9 ½ inches.

Would you believe we’re going to make diagonal half squares now? Well that is the next step. Place the 9 ½ inch square and your four patch unit right sides together. I found marking the four patch easier, so I recommend that you do the same. Simply mark it as if you were going to make a diagonal half square from it (which you are in a way) I drew a line, shown here in red, down the middle of the four patch from corner to corner on the wrong side. I used my ¼ inch foot, and sewed a line on either side of the center. If you don’t have a ¼ inch foot, you can mark another line on either side of your center line, and then sew down both lines. (Not the center line.)



Cut this unit in half on that center line, and you now have two finished Simply Square blocks.

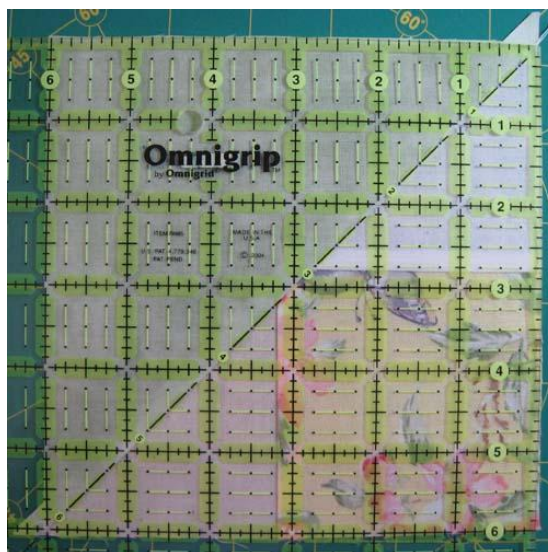


Please notice that you will lose points when you use this technique. It isn’t wrong, that’s just what happens. And since all of the blocks will have one missing point, that’s the design, no worry!

If necessary, square your blocks at this point. How can you tell if that's necessary or not... you measure them. They should all be the same size. If they are not, square them to the size of your smallest block, since you can't make that one larger. (Although if you only have a few that are too small, make a few more to replace them.)

A square ruler is very helpful when you do this because the diagonal line down the middle shows you the two halves of the block. Place your square ruler on your block with the diagonal line running down the diagonal seam of your blocks. Make sure you have the needed fabric to square the block, if you see the mat you are off and will need to slide that ruler up or down.

Trim two sides, top and side.



In this photo I've trimmed two sides and turned the block around and relined up the ruler. (You might see the "scraps" I trimmed to the left and bottom of the square.)

Next I trimmed the excess off the other two sides. We are also getting off the "dog ears" which is why I didn't tell you to do that before.

Try to keep the blocks centered as you square them, trimming from top, bottom and both sides as needed.

Squaring your blocks to a common size assures that your blocks will all go together neatly, and avoid having to stretch a too small seam or put a tuck in a too large one. This should never be done on a quilt because believe it, it shows!

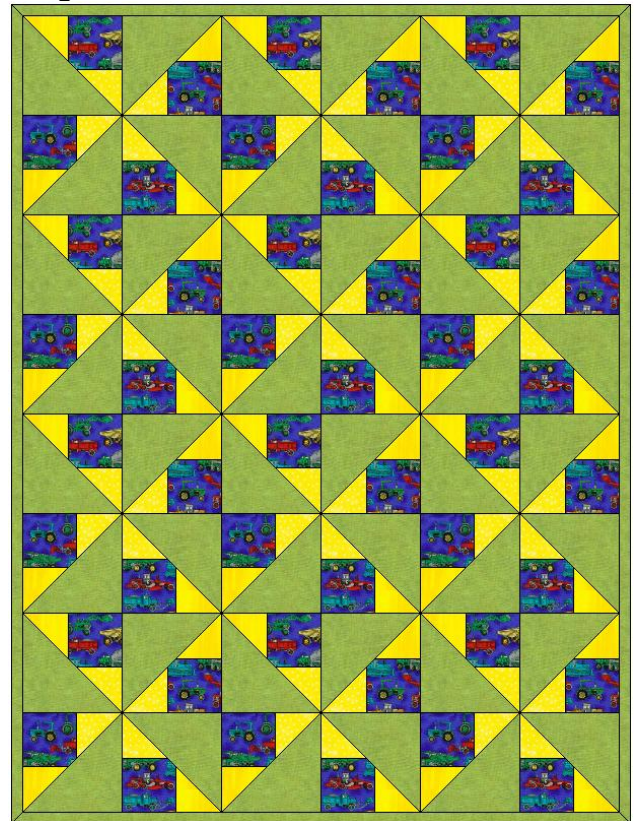


You can make as many blocks as you want, and you can use those blocks in a number of different ways. My baby quilt was limited by size by the fabric I had on hand, but is the perfect baby quilt size (25 by 35). It was made with  $2\frac{3}{4}$  4 patch units, set six across and eight down. (#3) It is set in what I call the pinwheel pattern.

#3



Diagram of #3



Here is another pattern using Simply Squares blocks, the same blocks I used in sample #2 on page 1. This quilt is also set six blocks across, and eight down. Because I started with 5 inch squares for the four patches, making the blocks 9 inches, the quilt would be 52 by 69 when finished. All of the quilts from here on show 9 inch blocks (unfinished size).



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And by simply rearranging those same blocks again, we could make these quilts.

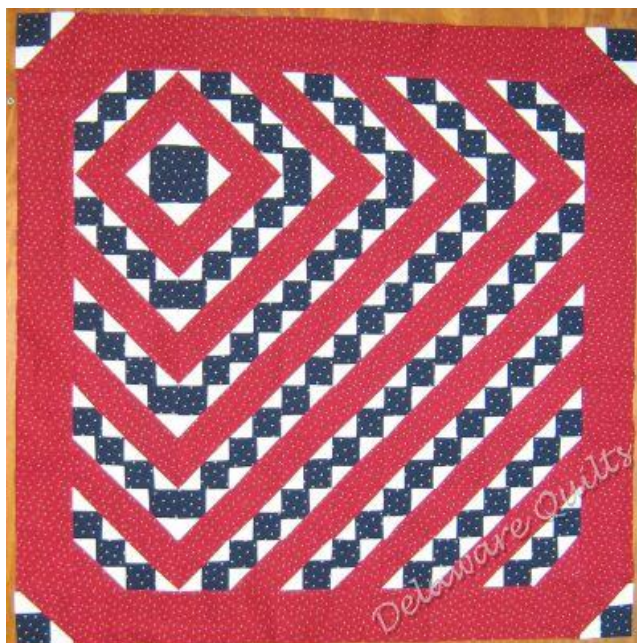


Here is one setting I used for a double bed quilt and it was actually all scraps.





This is a little lap quilt which was 6 blocks by 7 blocks.



And this Red White and Blue wall hanging was made from smaller blocks.

If you aren't sure what size you want your quilt to be, here is a chart which may help you. Remember it is your quilt and you can make it however pleases you. You can add borders if you'd like it a little bigger or leave them off.

	Mattress Size	Quilt Size (approximate sizes)
Crib	23" X 46"	
Lap Quilt		Depends on how big the lap is.
Twin	39" X 75"	Between 64" and 72" wide. 86" to 96" in length.
Full	54" X 75"	Between 70" and 88 wide. 86" to 100" in length.
Queen	60" X 80"	Between 88" and 99" wide. 94" to 108" in length.
King	76" X 80"	Between 94" and 108" wide. 94" to 108" in length.