

# ***Expanding Scrappy Spiral***



***© Mystery Bay Quilt Design***

## Fabric Requirements

As shown, this quilt is 40 by 48 inches with 4 inch blocks. It can be expanded to larger sizes in 4 inch increments by adding rows or columns; or the block size could be enlarged. For example, by cutting the initial squares at 6 inches instead of 5, the result would be 5 inch finished blocks and a quilt size of 50 by 60 inches..

The secret to an effective scrappy quilt is careful editing of the fabrics. Make a plan to use a limited color family. Here I have chosen blues and greens. The blues I selected are all toward the green side and the greens are toward the blue side; I rejected blues that had a purple cast and greens that had a yellow cast.

Light scraps 1  $\frac{1}{4}$  yards

Dark scraps 1  $\frac{1}{4}$  yards

Binding fabric  $\frac{1}{2}$  yard

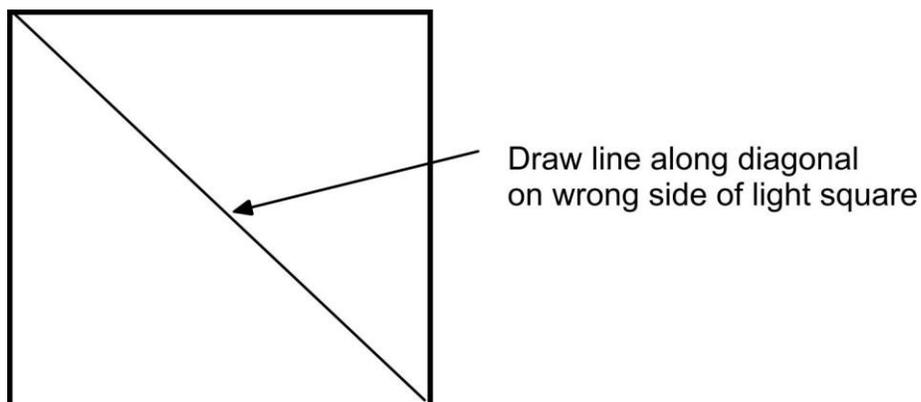
Backing 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  yards; batting 1  $\frac{1}{4}$  yards

## Cutting Instructions

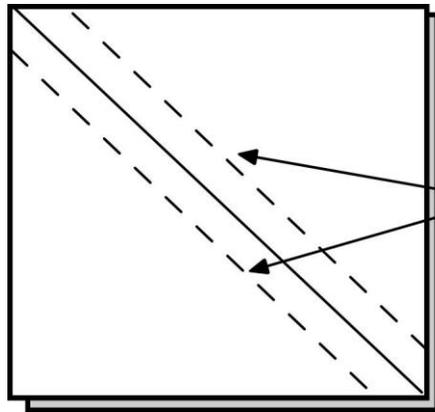
Cut sixty 5 inch squares from light fabrics and sixty 5 inch squares from dark fabrics.

## Quilt Top Assembly instructions

Using an iron-away marker (such as a Frixion™ pen) draw a line along the diagonal on the wrong side of each light square as shown below.



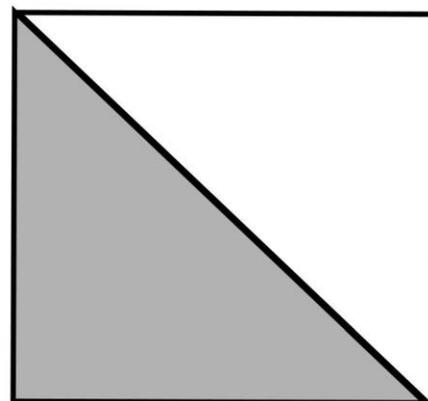
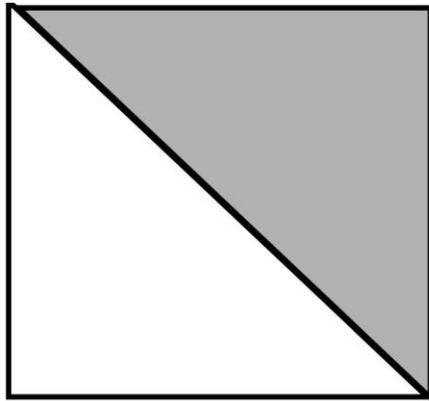
Put each light square on top of a dark square, right sides together. Stitch two seam lines,  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch away from the marked center line as shown below.



Layer light square on top of dark square, right sides together

Stitch 1/4 inch away from each side of diagonal line

Cut along the diagonal line between the stitching lines. Press open each piece. You will then have two half-square triangle blocks as shown below.



Trim each block to exactly  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches square.

Lay out the 120 blocks into 10 columns and 12 rows according to the photo, with the light triangles oriented to make an expanding spiral from the center. This will probably be easiest if you start in the center and expand outward.

Once you are satisfied with your layout, label each block in the upper left corner about  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch away from the edge to avoid the seam allowance. I labeled each row with a letter and each column with a number. I used blue painter's tape and labeled the blocks A1, A2, A3, etc. in the first row. Second row was B1, B2, B3, etc.,

When all the blocks are labeled, stack each row of blocks in order. Take that row to your sewing machine and join the blocks with  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch seams into one long strip. Repeat with all the other rows.

Press the seams in alternating directions (first row to the right, second row to the left, etc.).

Join the rows to each other with  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch seams.

## **Quilt Assembly**

Piece your backing as necessary – this can be scraps also or just use an inexpensive solid muslin. Sandwich the quilt top, batting, and backing. Quilt as desired. I quilted mine with a walking foot in radiating lines about  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch away from the piecing lines to emphasize the expanding spiral.