

Grandmother's Choice block – the fast way (cut no triangles!)

Written by Tina van Roggen, 2015

Using this method, you will make two 6" finished blocks at a time:

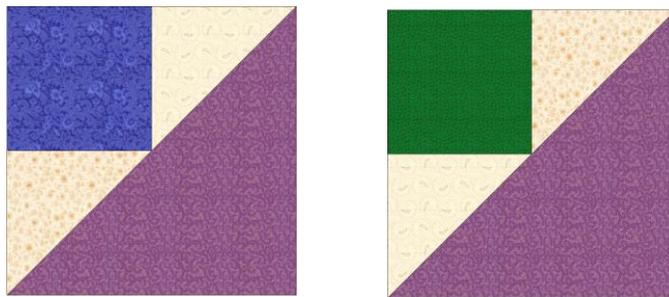


figure 1.

Cut the following:

- Cut 2 3.5"x4.5" cream colored rectangles
- Cut 2 3.5"x3.5" colored squares (green and blue above)
- Cut 1 6.5"x7.5" colored rectangle (purple above)

Sew them together like the following. I used a small stitch length and pressed the seams open. It should measure 6.5"x7.5". Note that if you sew this block together flipped (top colored square on the right instead of left) that it won't matter.



figure 2.

Flip this rectangular block over. Using a ruler that has a 45 degree line on it, draw two parallel lines in pencil on the wrong side of the fabrics. The 45 degree line will be along one of the edges of the block. Each line should go through one outer corner of the block and should just hit the corner of the colored square that is close to the other colored square. It will look like this:

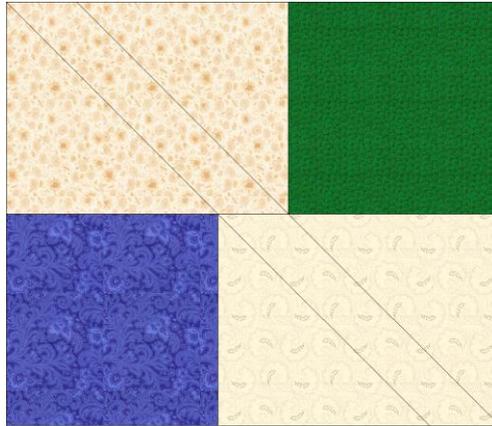


figure 3.

(imagine the seam allowances are showing in the above picture, since you'll be drawing on the **back** of the block!)

Place the pieced rectangular block on top of the other colored rectangle, right sides together. They should be the same size.

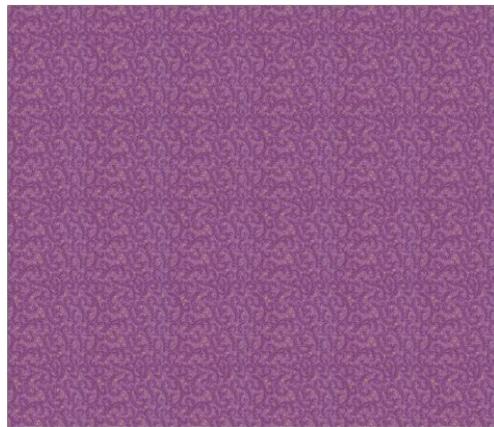
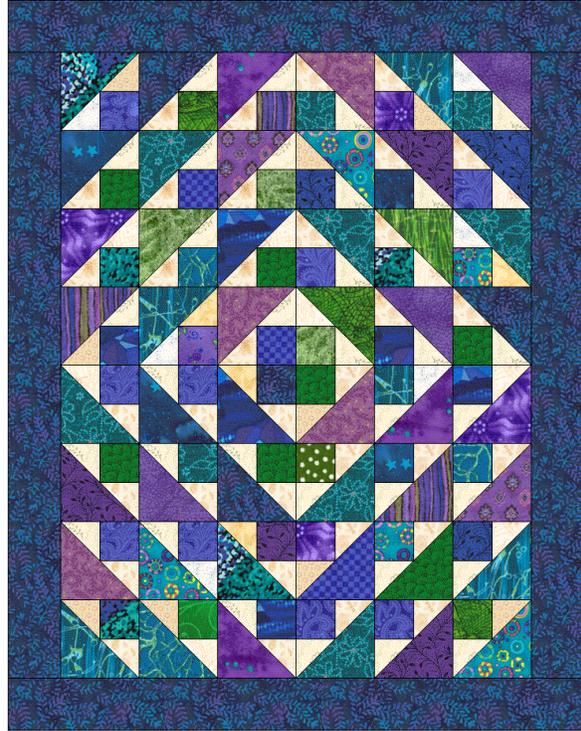
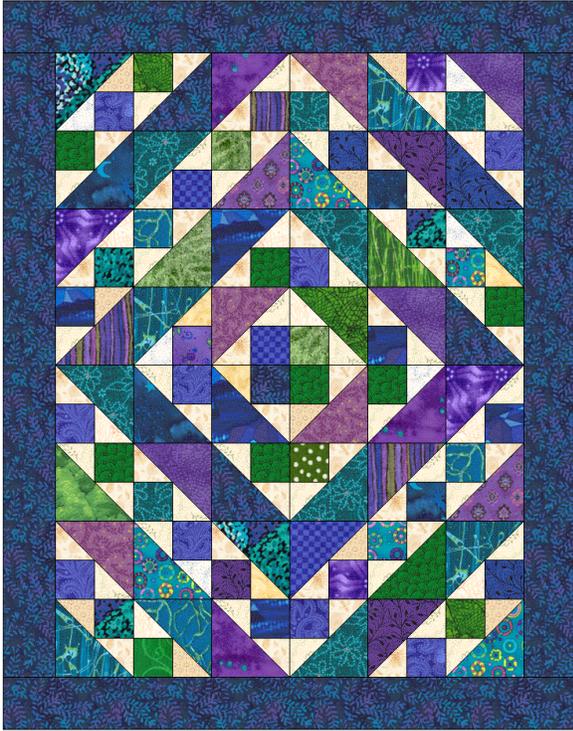


figure 4.

Pin to prevent shifting. Sew along both marked lines. After sewing, peek to make sure the seam didn't cut off the corner of your smaller squares.

Cut one quarter inch away from EACH seam – the cuts should be BETWEEN the parallel seams. Note that you will make two cuts since the dimensions I provided will leave you a little bit of slop room in case you have any sewing issues. Press seams open. You should end up with the two blocks in figure 1.

There are many ways that you can lay out these blocks for a quilt. Here are the two possible layouts. Each is 6x8 blocks, using 6" blocks and a 4" border. Since these are symmetrical layouts they use an even number of rows and columns. (The actual quilts I made were 8x10 blocks each.)



If you want to use a different size block, here's a table of sizes to cut per **pair** of blocks.

Block Size	Cream rectangle size – cut 2	Colored square size – cut 2	Colored rectangle size – cut 1
4"	2.5"x3.5"	2.5"x2.5"	4.5"x5.5"
5"	3"x4"	3"x3"	5.5"x6.5"
6"	3.5"x4.5"	3.5"x3.5"	6.5"x7.5"
7"	4"x5"	4"x4"	7.5"x8.5"
8"	4.5"x5.5"	4.5"x4.5"	8.5"x9.5"