

Old Tobacco Road!

~A Quiltville Mystery Quilt!!~

Part 1

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It's time to sew! I hope you had fun digging through your scraps and yardage and fat quarters that are just dying to be used in this quilt. Can you feel fall coming? It's Aug 28th as I write this, and I am noticing already how it is starting to get dark earlier and earlier each evening. Yep! Fall is on the horizon!

For our first step, we are going to be making scrappy 4 patches! How many, you ask? Now before you faint dead away, I know that many of you have been making 4 patches as [leaders/enders](#) with scrap 2" squares while you are sewing on other projects. Many of you probably already have a box of these just waiting to be counted and used. While I am making 4 patches (or any other unit) as leaders/enders, I stop every once in a while to count, and pin them with safety pins into groups of 10. This way it is easy for me to figure out just how many I really do have, without having to start counting at #1 again. Just multiply by 10 quickly to figure out how many you have and how many you need!

So how MANY do you NEED? How about 182 4 patches. Yep. That's right! 182 4 patches that measure 3.5" UNFINISHED...and 3" finished.

Mine are from all combinations of lights and darks, but you can do it more color coordinated if you want. For instance, choose ONE color family for the darks in your 4 patches. You can use one neutral too if you want to keep it simple. All greens would be nice! Or blues, or golds. You just don't want anything that is going to blend into your browns too much when we get to that point.



If you don't have a basket of pre-sewn 4 patches from 2" squares, never fear. These can be quickly strip pieced from 2" strips. Just jumble up your strips a lot to get the most variety possible.



It really does go fast, and you can do them a batch at a time until you have enough. Match 2" light strips with 2" dark toned strips with

right sides together. If one strip is shorter than the other, just match a new strip up to the long one and kept sewing in one continuous chain until you have about a mile of strips piled behind your machine! Trim between the pairs of strips and take them to the ironing board. Press the seam allowance towards the darker fabric.



Use your rotary cutter and ruler to trim the end even and then subcut into 2" sections. I ended up with a whole bin of pairs! Match the pairs right sides together into 4patches and feed them continuously through the machine. Press them open. Some people swear by 'pinwheeling the seams' on the back of the 4 patch to get that intersection to lay flat. Being the relaxed quilter that I am...I just mash those suckers flat with a hot iron and a heavy hand! *LOL* Do it how ever you wish.



You will also need 8 Half-4patches. Remember making the "split 4 patch" units in our last mystery, Orange Crush? These half 4 patches are the pieced top part of the album block unit we made. Stack a few 2" strips together and using the lines on the ruler, get a clean cut on one end of the strip set so you have an even end. I like to cut through 4 to 6 layers...any more than that and things start to shift. Start cutting triangles using the 2" measurement on the EZ Angle ruler. When cutting, don't pick the ruler UP off the mat, just roll it ver along the diagonal cut you made. You will need 16 "wing" triangles to be matched up with 8 2" squares. Sew as shown to make 8 half 4patches.



Can you simply cut a 4 patch in half to do this step? Yep! But you have to do one better...you need to leave a seam allowance, so if you cut a 4 patch in half...only part of it will be useable and the rest will have to be tossed. Use the 1/4" marking on the long side of the easy angle, laying it through the center from corner to corner. See what I mean? That short left over triangle really has no purpose, and since I keep a box of 2" squares by my machine for beginning and ending a line of chain piecing with, it was easy for me to just piece the half patches with no waste. But it's up to you!

And just so I am covering all the bases: Are you using regular rotary cutting measurements because you don't have an easy angle yet? You can cut (8) 2 7/8" squares and cut them once from corner to corner to get the triangles you need.

And for those of you afraid to put the bias edge on the long side of the triangle...cut 2 squares 3 1/4". Cut them on the diagonal twice with an X. This will put the straight grain on the long outside edge of the triangle. It's up to you. I don't tend to keep 3 3/4" squares on hand, so it would either mean cutting from new yardage, or trimming down pre-cut 3 1/2" squares that I *DO* cut on hand.

So there you have it! 182 4 patches, 8 half 4 patches, and a whole lot of Quiltville philosophy on why I cut things the way I do! :c) This should keep you busy for a while, so while you are working on it, I've got a quilt on the machine due to photography and needs to be to

Colorado by tuesday morning! Did I mention it has to be BOUND too? :cD

Happy 4 patching!

Bonnie



The link to step 2 will be placed here when it is ready!



Questions or Comments? I would love to hear from you!!

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