

## PATCHES TO QUILTS IN 12 EASY STEPS

1. **Select size, design and color of quilt**
  - A. Size - the number of patches could determine the size  
- the size of available batting or blanket you want to recycle as batting could determine the size  
- use fabric strips between squares to increase size and to spread out the weight of the squares
  - B. Design - some choices: (1) squares sewn to one another; (2) strips of fabric connecting squares; (3) one border; (2) two borders
  - C. Color - a myriad of choices! Choose a non-stretch fabric such as cotton/ cotton-polyester
2. **Cut squares**
  - A. I use 6  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch squares (finished size when sewn is 6 inches)
  - B. Stack squares so straight grain of fabric goes in a horizontal direction
3. **Cut strips**
  - A. I use 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch-wide strips between squares (finished size is 2" wide)
  - B. Keep straight grain of fabric horizontal
  - C. Cut 6  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch lengths of 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch wide strips for horizontal attachment to squares
  - D. Sew strips together for the vertical length needed
4. **Sew patches on squares**
  - A. Sew patches on squares by hand or by machine (zig-zag stitch)
  - B. Use thread color to match the outside patch color
5. **Design order of patches**
  - A. I place the squares on the floor to get a good overview of the layout
  - B. Multiple options for order, e.g. series, color, date—or random order!
6. **Sew patches-on-squares to horizontal strips (or to one another)**
  - A. To keep them in order, I pick up one square at a time to sew the horizontal strip to the top/bottom of the squares using  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch seams  
OR
  - B. Add one square at a time to the previous square using  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch seams to make long strips of squares
  - C. Place finished strips on floor to keep them in order
7. **Sew strips of squares to vertical strips of fabric (or to one another)**
  - A. Pick up first patches-on-squares strip and sew vertical strip of fabric to length of patches-on-squares strip using  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch seams
  - B. Pick up second patches-on-squares strip and sew to other side of vertical strip of fabric using  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch seams
  - C. Pick up second vertical strip of fabric and sew to second patches-on-squares strip using  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch seams
  - D. Continue in this manner until finished

8. **Cut border fabrics**
  - A. Borders can be any width, but if using two borders, it looks best if the outside border is twice the width of the inside border.
  - B. Again, straight grain of fabric should be consistent going in horizontal direction.
  - C. Sections may be sewn together to achieve complete length needed.
  
9. **Sew border fabrics to quilt**
  - A. Sew top and bottom borders
  - B. Sew side borders
  
10. **Sew backing on quilt**

Two pieces of fabric are usually needed to form the backing. Make a seam going either horizontally or vertically, depending on the width of the fabric and the finished size you need.

  - A. You may choose to leave a section of this middle seam open in which to insert the batting  
OR
  - B. Leave an end-seam open
  - C. Sew backing to quilt (right sides together). Don't forget to leave an opening so you can turn the quilt right-side-out.
  
11. **Insert batting**
  - A. Turn quilt right-side-out (seams are on inside). Insert batting (or recycled blanket)  
OR
  - B. (As I now do) Sew the batting to the edges of the quilt (on wrong side of quilt) and then sew the backing on the quilt (right sides together), leaving an opening for turning the quilt. This way, the batting is firmly anchored all around.
  - C. Sew opening shut by hand.
  - D. Optional: top-stitch by machine around perimeter of quilt, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch from edge.
  
12. **Hand-tie quilt**
  - A. Use embroidery floss in complementary or contrasting color(s)
  - B. Thread needle with embroidery floss (either full thickness or split into 2 or 3 strands)
  - C. At each corner of a square, make a stitch, going through all layers and coming back up on top, and tie a square knot (Right over left; left over right; Makes a knot neat, tidy and tight.) with the threads. Cut, leaving  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch ties. Continue until all corners have been tied. *[I usually do this with the quilt spread out over a large table (without a tablecloth on it) so I can be sure to push the needle through all layers before bringing it back up and tying it.]*

**Ta-daaaa !!! You're done!**

## QUILT SEWN SQUARE-TO-SQUARE

Overall finished dimensions: 49" x 67"

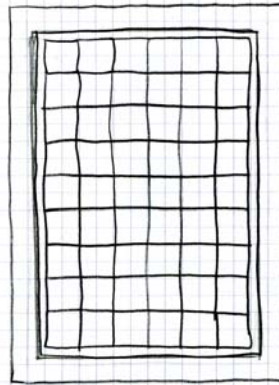
Cut dimensions of pieces:

Squares (54)	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches
Inside border	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide
Outside border	5 inches wide

Fabric to purchase (45" wide):

Squares	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ yards
Inside border	$\frac{1}{2}$ yard
Outside border	1 yard
Backing	4 yards

Batting as finished size of quilt



## QUILT SEWN WITH STRIPS BETWEEN SQUARES

Overall finished dimensions: 59" x 83"

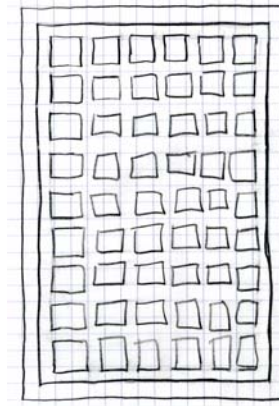
Cut dimensions of pieces:

Squares (54)	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches
Strips	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide
Outside border	5 inches wide

Fabric to purchase (45" wide):

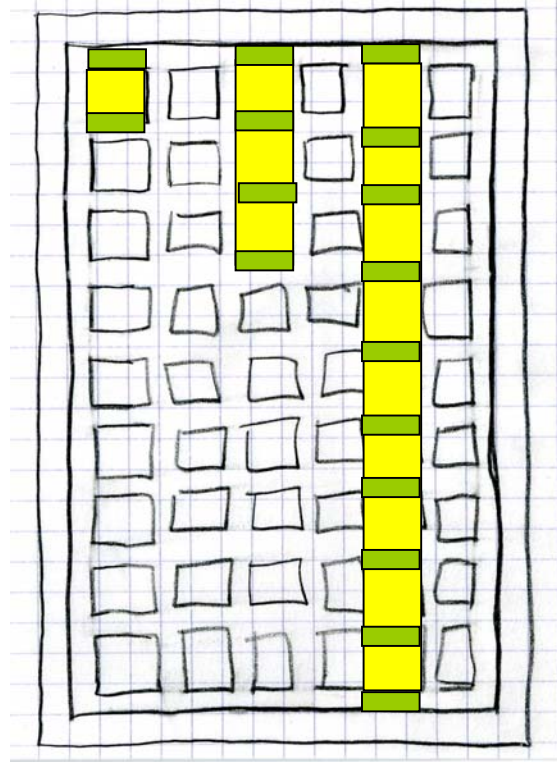
Squares	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ yards
Strips	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ yards
Outside border	1 $\frac{1}{4}$ yards
Backing	5 yards

Batting as finished size of quilt



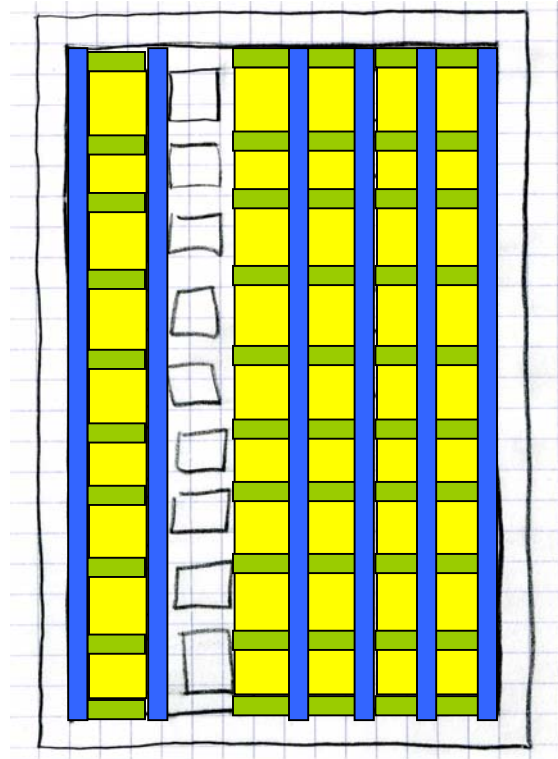
**Step 6**

Sew patches-on-squares to horizontal strips



**Step 7**

Sew strips of squares to vertical strips of fabric



**Step 9**

Sew border fabrics to quilt

