

## North Pittsburgh Stay-at-Home Row Quilt Part 7: Baskets

Hello Everyone! Welcome to the seventh installment of this row quilt. I hope it's fun. (And not too frustrating. No one needs extra frustration just now!)

I have repeated the housekeeping notes from the first four installments below, in case you want a refresher or are starting new. (The repeated part is now in italics.) If you don't need them, go ahead and skip to page 2 to begin the blocks.

First, some housekeeping:

1. I have done my best to write correct and clear instructions, but if you find a mistake or have any questions, please let me know at skoequilt@aol.com.
2. Fabric requirements: This quilt is meant to be scrappy. Very scrappy. Every block in it can be different. For example: there are 6 flower blocks in there and every one of them can be made with different fabrics. This is a make-do quilt.
For that reason, there are no overall yardage requirements given except for the sashing (5/8 yard), border (1 yard) and binding (3/8 yard). And if you want to scrap them up too, that's OK!
3. I have included two sets of instructions. You can choose what you want to go with.

The first set is how I would make the blocks. If you have another way that you are comfortable with, by all means use that. Personally, I struggle with accuracy with any block that has a diagonal seam in it, which, face it, is just about every block in this quilt. No matter how careful I try to be, I end up distorting that diagonal seam and my block is never ever square. My solution to this situation is to make all my units a little bit bigger than they need to be and trim them down to size after l've sewn that diagonal seam. So that is the way I have written the first (main) set of instructions. I hope you find them helpful.

The second set is the Alternate Instructions. Generally, they are a little wonkier, maybe a little more freeform, than the first, more traditional, instructions. If you think you may be interested in the second set, read the whole thing before you begin as they will often have different cutting directions and fabric requirements.
4. The overall quilt size is 46 inches by 63 inches, including the 5 -inch border. All the blocks are 3 -inch, 6inch or 9 -inch. If you want the finished quilt to be a different size, you can add or subtract blocks or leave out or repeat rows or make the sashing and borders different sizes.

## Row 7: Baskets

There will be six basket blocks that will be $61 / 2$-inches square (finish to 6 -inches square.)


1. For each block, you will need:

- For the contents: one 5-inch square, cut in half diagonally.
- For the handles: A strip $11 \frac{112}{2}$-inches x $1 \frac{114}{4}$-inches; sub-cut into $51 / 4$ inch and $6 \frac{1}{4}$-inch strips.
- For the basket bottom: A strip of $14 \frac{1}{2}$-inch $\times 1 \frac{1}{2}$-inch fabric sub-cut into strips: $6 \frac{1}{2}$-inches, $41 / 2$-inches and $31 / 2$-inches long.
- For the background: one $5 \frac{1}{2}$-inch square cut in half diagonally, two $1 \frac{1}{2}$-inch squares and two $1 \frac{1}{2}$-inch $\times 2$ inch rectangles.


2. In log cabin fashion, sew the $51 / 4$ inch strip of handle fabric to one short side of the triangle of contents fabric. Press seam out.
Repeat with the $61 / 4$-inch strip on the other short side.


Important: It's OK if things don't line up along the bottom of the unit; it's going to get trimmed down later.

3. Repeat with the background triangles.
Be sure to position the triangles far enough up the side of the contents/handles unit that you have enough of an overlap at the top for a seam allowance.


Now we're going to trim this unit.

4. Now reposition the ruler so that the cutting edge is at the bottom of the unit and trim the unit down to $31 / 2$-inches high.

Now the unit is the right height, but still too wide.
5. We are going to trim the sides by measuring out from the center point. Reposition your ruler again so that the $31 / 4$-inch mark is at the point of the handles. ( $31 / 4$ is half of the $61 / 2$ width you're aiming for.) Trim off at one of the sides of the unit.

Note that this photo shows the unit already trimmed---। skipped taking a photo by mistake.

Now turn the unit and trim off the other side edge.

Your handle unit is now 3112 -inches $\times 61 / 2$-inches.

Basket bottom is next.

6. Lay out your remaining pieces as shown at left.

Notice that there is one basket strip that is the full width of the block and 2 basket strips that are shorter.
Make sure the smaller background pieces are paired with the longer strip and that the larger background pieces are paired with the shorter strip so that the units are the length.

7. Stitch the pieces together, first in rows. Then sew the rows together to form the basket bottom.

8. Stitch the handle section to the basket bottom section and there you have it!


