



## North Pittsburgh Stay-at-Home Row Quilt Part 4: Four Patches

Hello Everyone! Welcome to the fourth 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 three 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](mailto: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 I'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 free-form, 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.*

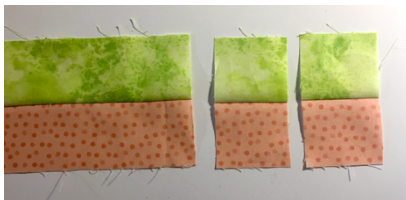
*4. The overall quilt size is 46 inches by 63 inches, including the 5-inch border. All the blocks are 3-inch, 6-inch or 9-inch. If you want the finished quilt to be a different size, you can add or subtract blocks or leave out or repeat rows or make the sashing and borders different sizes.*

## Row 4: Four Patches

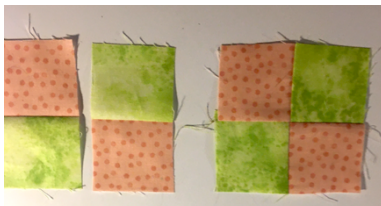
This row has twelve 3-inch (finished) blocks.



1. For this row of blocks you will be strip piecing. I have done mine with 2 colors and started with two 2-inch width-of-fabric strips of each of two colors. You will have some left over, but with all the seams you just can't get the row out of 1 strip of each.



2. Stitch one strip of each fabric together into a strip set. Cut the strip set in to 2-inch sections.



3. Flip alternate sections upside down so that you have a checker board effect and stitch together.

You've got this...it's an old favorite!

## Wonky Four Patch 1

This row is 36 inches wide. Because you can make the sections of the blocks a variety of widths, there



isn't a specific number of blocks to make. Just

keep going till you have a 36-inch row!

The horizontal seams within the block are not aligned and you can choose to make the sections a variety of widths. Mine vary a little, but you can go bigger.



1. Because not all sections of the four patch blocks are the same size, you will need more fabric to allow for the larger patches. I used left-over cuts from a jelly roll. So, mine are 2 ½-inches wide. You can use anything you have as long as it is at least 2 ½-inches wide. If you use something wider, you will have more options in terms of off-setting the horizontal seams within the four patch. Whatever width you choose, you're going to want plenty of colors.



2. Stitch strips, whatever length you have, together in pairs, and then sub-cut into sections that are all the same width (shown in this photo)

**Or.....**

Vary the width of the sections as in the photo below.



3. Mix your sections up and stitch them together without aligning the horizontal seams.

4. After the sections are sewn together, trim the row down to 3 ½-inches wide (or whatever you might like.)

You can do this in sections or wait until you have the whole row together.

## Wonky Four Patch 2



This version keeps the horizontal seams more or less aligned, but the sections are cut at a variety of widths and angles. (Keep in mind that you can mix and match any design scheme you see here: Do this one in multiple fabrics, or off-set the horizontal seams...or whatever seems fun!)



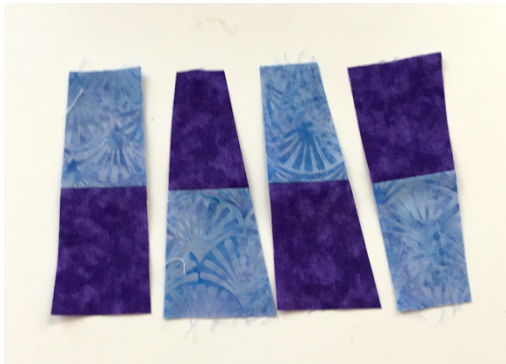
The directions below are for a 2-color row.

1. You will need 2 (width-of-fabric) strips of 2 colors. The strips should be wide enough to let you go wonky without running out of fabric. Make the strips 3-inches wide.



2. Stitch the strips together and slice into sections at a variety of angles. Be careful to keep the narrowest end of the sections **no smaller than 1-inch wide**. This way you'll have enough width to see the wedge, rather than lose it all in the seam allowances.

**Important: Leave maybe 6 to 8 inches of the strip set uncut for use in step 5 below.**



3. Flip the alternate sections of the strip to make a checker board effect



4. Nudge the pieces together, with the horizontal seams aligned, to get an idea of how the row is going to curve when you stitch it together...and it **will** curve because of the angled cuts. (This is also why you cut the original strips wider, so that there's enough fabric to compensate for the curve.)

As you can see, this piece is starting to curve up.



5. A little curve is fine. It's fun! Too much will make the whole row difficult to trim into a 3 ½-inch row. You want to correct it before it gets too far out of whack.

So, in this section, which is starting to curve up, I need to purposefully curve it down. How you change the curve is to change the shape of the wedge you cut from the original strip set. **This is why you left some of that strip set uncut in step 2 so you have something to cut the**

**purposeful sections from.** If you need to curve the row down: make the top section of the wedge wider. If you need to curve the row up: make the bottom wedge wider. I needed the row to curve down, so the wedge I'm using to correct the curve is wider at the top.

6. Continue adding sections to your row, checking every so often to make sure your curves are not getting too extreme, correcting it if it does.

7. When you have the row together, trim it down to 3 ½-inches, as in section 2 of Wonky 1 above. Don't worry if it doesn't exactly make 3 ½-inches....as long as it's a consistence width, it's OK.

You will need another row just like this one further down in the quilt. You can make it now, or later. You can make the 2 rows the same or different. Have fun!