

“Scrappy Byways”

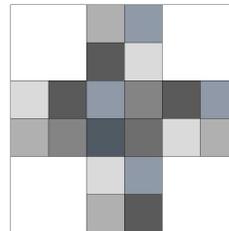
2015 – 2016 Northwest Quilters Block of the Month

The block I’ve chosen for this year’s Block of the Month is from Corey Yoder’s blog, “Little Miss Shabby”. <http://www.littlemissshabby.com/> . It’s a scrappy block she first blogged about back on May 7, 2011. I’ve been in communication with her and she has granted us permission to use her block for the year.

Corey loves the "crossroads" effect the quilt blocks create when set in a quilt, and has named this block “Scrappy Byways”. The block simply uses 2 ½” squares, and 4 ½” squares. We can all use up some of those scraps as we work our way through the year.

The block is 12 ½” unfinished and 12” finished when pieced together with other blocks.

Each month we will be making five simple 4 patch blocks, and then setting together in a 9 patch fashion. We will use the same basic block each month, changing the color scheme. This block looks great set in horizontal settings, and on point.



Grayscale version



Colored version

Please use accurate cutting and stitching techniques to make sure your blocks measure correctly. ***Even the simplest blocks need accuracy.*** I’ve included some links to tutorials that will help your seams lie flat and nest with a process that is often called “spinning your seams”. Try it out! You will be amazed at how this simple little trick and a few minutes on each block will make a difference in how flat your seams will be.

One block is all it takes to have a chance to win a set of these fun blocks! Enter as many blocks each month as you would like.

Fabric choices: Each month will be slightly different So check the website at <http://www.northwestquilters.org> or the Patchword for the specifics for each month.

Use any good quality 100% cotton fabrics that you might have in your scrap bin.... **Use it all up!** Tone on tone, plaids, prints, batiks, civil war or 30’s reproductions, solids, etc. We will use white on white for the 4 outside corners. Corners could be all the same fabric, or use 4 different ones.... **Remember, it’s scrappy.** On the months that are color specific, if it looks orange when you squint at it or look at from across the room, then it’s orange. My color renditions from EQ7 are just randomly selected colors from my fabric library.

Here are some tutorials that explain “spinning your seams”. This will really change your way of stitching and pressing blocks to get a nice, flat result.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7SYtaEVHQk>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ajw2PqcFLs0>

2015 – 2016 NWQ Block of the Month

Denise Gies blockofmonth@northwestquilters.org

Permission to use this block was granted by Corey Yoder of www.littlemissshabby.com

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gcqJmOJnkms>

Let's have some fun and do some scrap busting!

"Scrappy Byways": The year at a glance....



August – Totally Scrappy



September - Scrappy Blues



October – Oranges and Purples



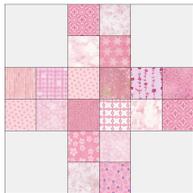
November – Scrappy earth tones



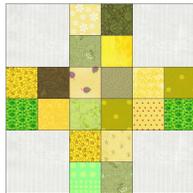
December – Scrappy Reds



January – Totally Scrappy



February – Scrappy Pinks



March - Greens and Yellows



April – Scrappy Pastels



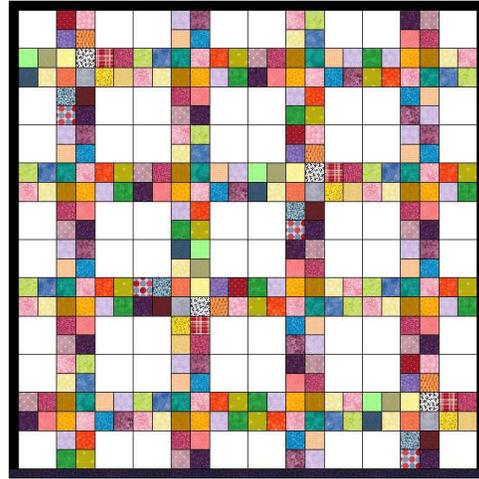
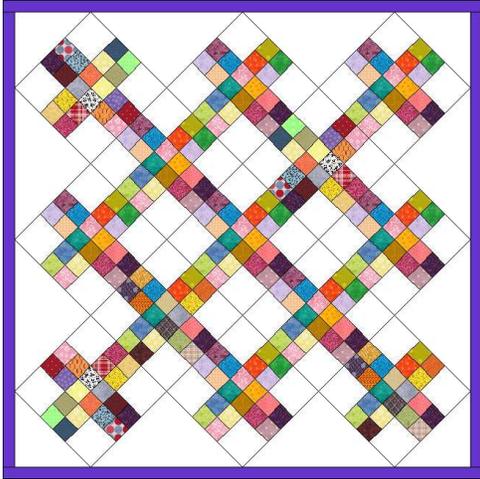
May – Totally Scrappy



June – Reds, Blues and Gold



July - Scrappy Brights



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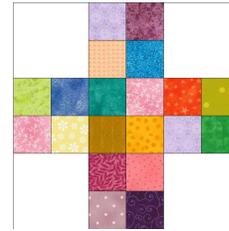
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Block instructions: "Scrappy Byways"



For each 12 ½" unfinished block you will need:

20 - 2 ½" colored squares

4 - 4 ½" white on white background squares



Choose 4 different 2 ½" squares.

Color placement is random... not in a checkerboard fashion.

Note: if using pieces from jelly rolls, make sure that you adjust your seam allowance to yield the correct finished size of 4 ½" Those pinked edges can be tricky.

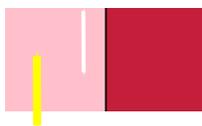


Stitch 2 sets of 2 using a scant ¼" seam



Note: if you feel you need to backstitch, stitch about 5 stitches, then backstitch 2, then go forward. Backstitch about ¼" from the end of the seam.

Finger press the seams to one side. I just happened to go towards the red, and the orange.



When stitching the two sets together, feed them through the machine with the flap of the top seam towards the machine, away from you.

This will allow the bottom seam to stay flat, you can watch the top seam, and they will lock together nicely at the seam intersection.

Stitch together to create your 4 patch.

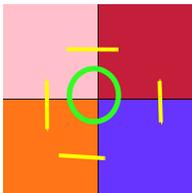
The arrows in the following picture will help with being consistent throughout your



Front side of block

Spinning your seams is the key to making the blocks all fit together nicely when stitched together.

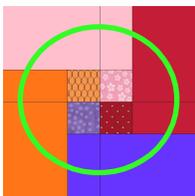
block.



Back side of the block

When looking at the back of the block, finger press the seam allowances so that they spin **clockwise** around the block.

This will allow your 4 patches to nest together where their seams meet.



Very center of block from back.

Once your seams are finger pressed **clockwise**, you can pick out two or three stitches in the very center and finger press the center into a flat design. Once you see the tiny 4 patch center like inside the circle, you can press with your iron.

This allows the center of your 4 patch to lie very flat rather than having a bump in the center. **If we all spin them clockwise**, the individual block components will nest nicely when pieced together.



Check to make sure that your 4 patch measures 4 1/2".

Adjust your seams if necessary to get an accurate block size.



Repeat to make a total of (5) five "4 patch" blocks.

Lay the blocks out with the 4 background squares in a way that looks good to you.

Since the seams are all going in clockwise direction, you can

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Stitch the rows together horizontally.



Press the rows in the direction indicated.



Now stitch the 3 rows together.

But wait!

Don't press with your iron yet!

twist and switch blocks easily.

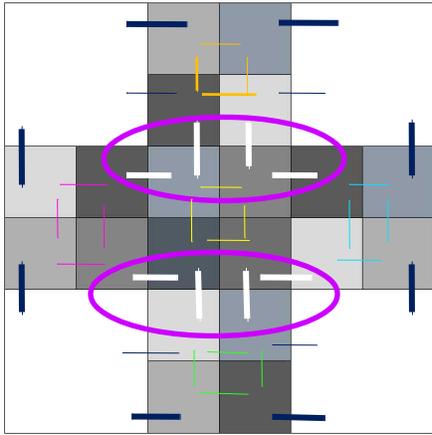
The center row can be pressed in either direction, as you are going to spin the seams at the center. But the top and bottom row do need to be pressed as shown.

Turn your block over and look at the back!

See the seam allowances around the outside of your block?

All the seams will mesh nicely when the block is stitched to other blocks to make your quilt top!

It is a small amount of time that will make your life so



Backside of block

much easier later!

Now, you can press your block and measure to assure that it is 12 ½" square.