

Square in a Square Quilt

Fabric requirements:

1 charm pack (42 assorted 5" squares)

1 Layer Cake (42 assorted 1-" squares)

1/2 yard for binding

Optional fabric for borders and sashing:

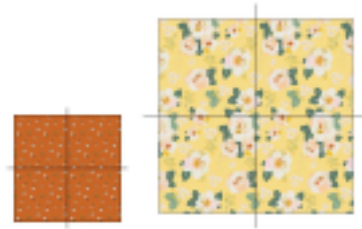
1 3/4 yard for Sashing and outer border (optional)

5/8 yard for binding

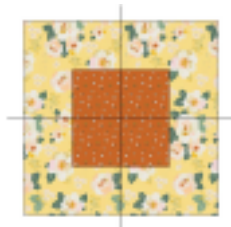
Steps for making quilt blocks:

1. Match a contrasting print from the charm pack with a print from the layer cake. You will be making 42 squares total.

Press each charm pack square and each layer cake square in half horizontally, then press each square in half vertically.



2. With layer cake square right-side up on table, lay charm pack square in center also with right-side up. Use pressing lines to help you center the 5 inch square in the 10 inch square.



3. Fold the sides of the layer cake to the middle press line. You will be enclosing the charm pack square. Press to help you keep the layers together. Sew a 1/4 inch seam along the folded edge. Repeat on the opposite side. Press seams towards the layer cake. You will have the opposite sides of the charm square open at this point.



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4. You will now repeat for the other two sides by bringing the layer cake to the middle press line for both sides and sewing 1/4 inch from the folded edges. Press seams to the layer cake. Your block should measure 9 inches. If you find you have blocks that are different sizes, trim to the

same size - Approximately 9" square.



Layout your blocks 6 across and 7 down.

At this point your quilt will measure 54" Wide by 63" long

You can now add a narrow border frame and a larger border to your quilt to make it a bit larger. I recommend the following measurements for a pleasing finish to your quilt.

The narrow sashing border should finish about 1 1/2" wide. Let's do that math to figure out how much fabric you will need.

I will take the 54" x 2 plus the 63" x 2 = 177 inches in length. Now, divide that by 40" which is what the industry standard is for usable width of fabric these days. So, it looks like this: $177/40 = 4.425$. I then round up to the next whole number which is 5. I will need close to 5 strips to make this border. Since I want this border to finish at 1 1/2" wide, I need to cut my strips at 2 inches. So my next formula is $2" \times 5" = 10"$. The nearest cut then is a third of a yard, or 12 inches.

Take two of your strips and sew together at a 45 degree angle or miter to reduce bulk in the seam. Repeat. Now, measure the length of your quilt which should be close to 63" long. Trim your strip to match the measurement you just came up with and set aside the extra strip. Beginning in the middle of your strip, mark the center with a pin, then mark the quarter marks also with pins. Do the same with the length of your quilt. Match the pins and pin every 3 or so inches along the edge of your quilt with your sashing strips. Repeat with the other side.

You are now ready to add the top sashing or border strips. This time, you will need to measure the width of your quilt. You have added 1 1/2" to both sides so your new measurement will be 57" wide. Repeat making your strips as you did before but trim them to 2 1/2" x 57" (or what the measurement of your quilt width is).

You will do the same kind of math for the last border, just remember to add the width of your strips to the sides as you do your calculations to keep you square and correct. If you add a 1/2 inch to your measurements, that will give you a seam allowance. Example: If you want your final border width to be 5 inches, you will add that 1/2 inch and cut your strips at 5 1/2" wide. Be sure to find the center and pin from the center out.

The reason I am suggesting you find the centers of your quilt and pin from the center out is to prevent wavy borders. In quilting, you cannot sew fabric strips without measuring and compensating. For the simple reason of how we sew, press, cut, etc. we can actually be longer on one side of our quilt than the other. To keep the quilt square, measure from the center of the length and the center of the width. Then pin your borders from the center out. You might have to ease either the quilt top or the border fabric to keep the

quilt flat. If you don't do this, your long arm quilter will have to take up the slack and that means possible mini pleats in your borders. Yikes!

Happy Sewing!