

Terrie Sandelin

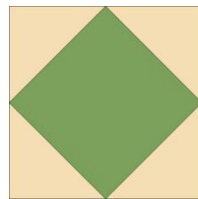
Miniatures in Minutes

Square-in-a-Square Foundation: X-Crossing Miniature Quilt

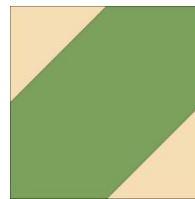
Finished Size: Foundation pieced center – 12" square, quilt – 17" square



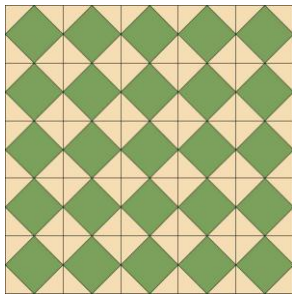
I like to experiment with the foundations from Miniatures in Minutes to see what other patterns I can pull from them. This quilt takes the Square-in-a-Square foundation and adapts the square-in-a-square "block" so that it uses two instead of four triangles.



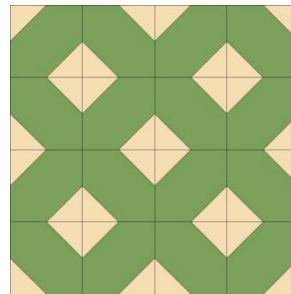
This block



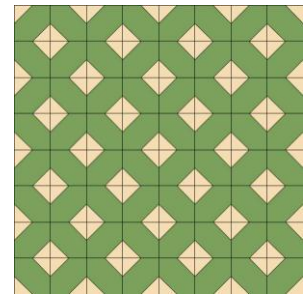
Becomes this block



And this 5 by 5 grid



Is trimmed down to 4 by 4



And creates this quilt

Fabric Requirements:

Foundation – light and dark scraps

Inner border – 1/8 yard or scraps

Outer border – 1/4 yard

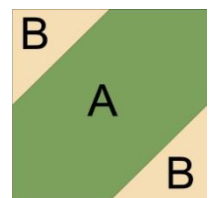
Binding – 1/8 yard

Backing – 1 fat quarter

Cutting Directions:

Dark fabrics (piece A) – Cut 84 two-inch squares trimmed to size using template (see directions below for creating template)

Light fabrics (piece B) – Cut 84 squares 1 5/8" by 1 5/8". Slice in half on the diagonal. Trim to size using either the 3/4" Finished Half-Square Triangle patch template pattern from the pull out sheet in *Miniatures in Minutes* or the ruler method given on page 50.

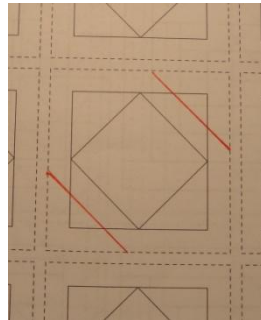


Cut border strips to your desired width: I used a 3/8" finished inner border on my version.

Please Note: The following directions will most likely make sense only if you are familiar with the Fold and Sew method of paper-piecing presented in *Miniatures in Minutes*.

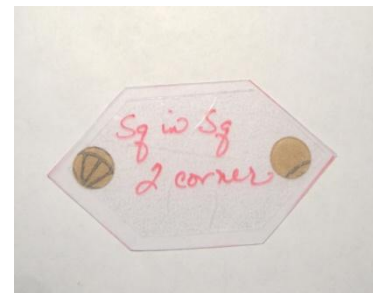
Create a Template for Piece A:

- Place the 1/4 inch mark of your ruler on one of the inner square seam lines of the Square-in-a-Square foundation from *Miniatures in Minutes*. Draw a line.
- Repeat on the opposite side of the square.



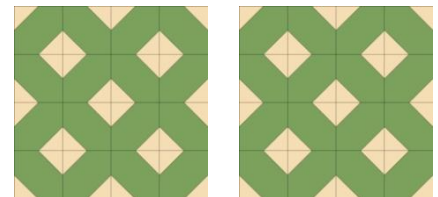
- Trace onto heavy duty template plastic and cut out. Add fabric grips so the template doesn't slide on the fabric when you are trimming your patches to size.

Tip: I write the name of the template on the plastic with permanent marker and then cover it with SelfSeal Laminate so the name doesn't rub off. This way I don't have any trouble identifying the correct template when I make up future projects.

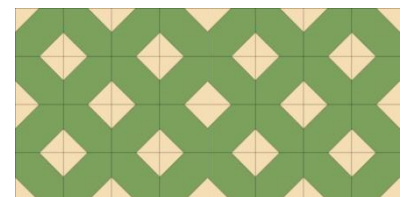


Preparing the Foundation

There are two possible approaches to creating the 8 by 8 grid of this pattern. You can sew four separate Square-in-a-Square foundations that you have trimmed down to a 4 by 4 grid (instead of the 5 by 5 grid of the book) that you will then join together. Like this:



Or you can make your copies and glue/tape sections together to create an eight by eight grid. This is the method I chose. Here is what it looks like with all of the patch A's added.





Which method is better? This is, as you might expect, a matter of personal preference. Sewing up four separate foundations makes for an easier manipulation of the foundation, but then you have to join the sections. On the other hand, while it is a little awkward sewing the single 8 x 8 grid, you avoid having to match sections later. If you are an absolute beginner to the Fold and Sew method, I recommend sewing up four separate foundations and then joining them.

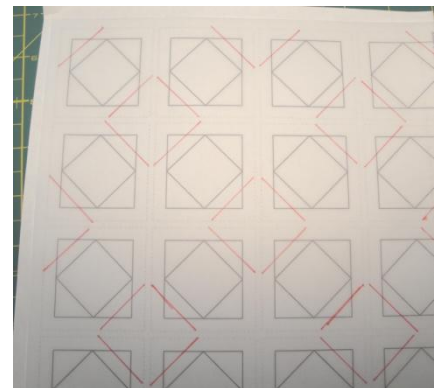
Remember to fold the foundation both horizontally and vertically according to the instructions in *Miniatures in Minutes* for the Square-in-a-Square foundation.

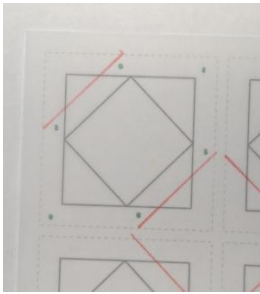
Tip: If you decide to join your foundation into a single unit (the 8 x 8 grid), fold the foundation pages *before* you join them. At 8 x 8, the foundation is a little unwieldy.

Marking the Foundation

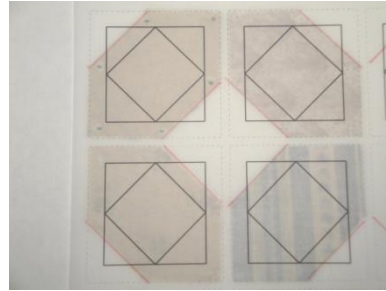
Sewing only two triangles per block means that you need to ignore two of the printed seam lines. An easy way to keep the lines you *want* to sew on distinct from the lines you *don't* want to sew on is to be sure and add the quarter-inch seam allowance line *only* on the sides of the printed square that you will actually sew on.

That way, when you flip over the foundation to sew, you can use the red lines as a reminder for where you sew.





Green dots indicate placement of glue dabs.



Printed side of foundation: It's easy to use the drawn lines and the shadow of the patches through the translucent vellum to keep track of which seams should be sewn.

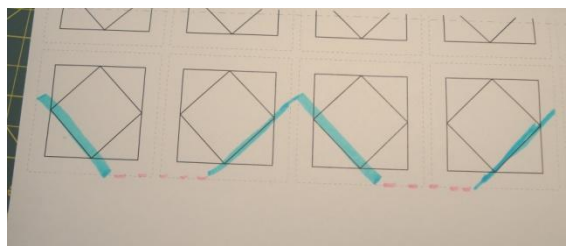
Sewing the Foundation

Sewing only two triangles per "block" makes for a very easy sew line.

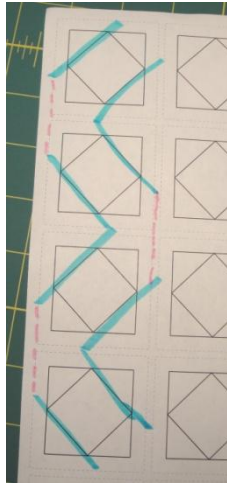
The first sew line goes down the sides of the foundation. Here is the foundation with the first set of triangles added.



Here is the Foundation Sew Line for the first patch set: the blue line indicates where you sew and the dashed pink line indicates where you skip.



When dealing with the interior seams, continue to use Sew and Skip in vertical lines down the foundation. Like this:



Note: the photo shows both the initial side seam and the first interior sew line.

Once the patches have all been added, join the "blocks" following the directions for "Island Joins" given in *Miniatures in Minutes*.

Add borders and quilt as desired. Bind.