

Oriental Friends Quilt.

Measurements:

The finished quilt measures approximately 1.5 metres square (58 inches). Each block is 12 inches square when finished.

Materials Required:

Use as much colour as you like. This is a perfect design for using up scraps.

- 30 cms by 50 cms of eight different oriental prints
- Four fat quarters or equivalent of black or very dark fabrics
- Four fat eighths or equivalent of cream or very light fabrics
- 70 cms of fabric for the outer border.

You will also need:

- 1.7 metres square of backing fabric
- 1.7 metres square of wadding.
- 50 centimetres of binding fabric.

A. Cutting Instructions

Wash and iron all material before cutting. Cotton can shrink and if not pre-washed, may distort the final shape of the finished item. Some fabrics, particularly those that are strongly coloured, may not be colourfast. Always test this before construction.

1) Cut out the following.

From each of the Main fabrics:

- Two $4\frac{1}{2}$ inch squares (sixteen in total)
- Four $4\frac{7}{8}$ inch squares (thirty two in total)

From the black or dark colours:

- Sixteen $4\frac{7}{8}$ inch squares (sixty four in total)

From the cream or light fabric:

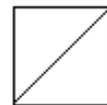
- Eight $4\frac{7}{8}$ inch squares (thirty two in total)

For the border:

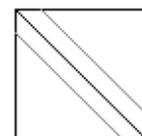
- Five $5\frac{1}{2}$ inch strips across the full width of the fabric

B. Constructing the Blocks

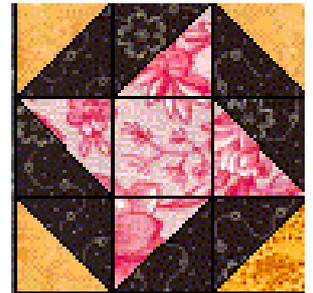
2) Draw a diagonal line from one corner to the opposite corner on the wrong side of all of the cream and oriental $4\frac{7}{8}$ inch squares. Use a lead pencil, tailor's chalk or an erasable pen. You will be cutting on the line, so permanency is not an issue.



3) Match each cream and oriental fabric to a black fabric.



- 4) With right sides together, Place one cream or oriental $4\frac{1}{8}$ inch square on top of one black $4\frac{7}{8}$ inch square. Ensure that the squares are evenly on top of each other. Stitch a $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch on either side of the drawn line.
- 5) Cut along the drawn central line. Each half of the $4\frac{7}{8}$ inch square will open out to a $4\frac{1}{2}$ inch square. Press each square open.
- 6) Match four oriental half square triangle units with the appropriate $4\frac{1}{2}$ inch square. Select four cream half square triangle units for each block. You should now have 8 half square triangles and one $4\frac{1}{2}$ inch square for each block.



- 7) Use the diagram on the right to lay out the units for each block. Take care in aligning the arms of the star.
- 8) Stitch the units together to form rows. Press the seam allowance towards the central unit in the middle row and the corner squares in the top and bottom row.
- 9) Stitch the rows together, carefully butting the seams in the same way as Block 1. The finished block should measure $12\frac{1}{2}$ inches square.
- 10) Once all of the blocks are made, lay them out in four rows of four blocks. Move the blocks around until you are happy with the positioning. Check that you have a balance with the colours and you are happy with the way the creams and blacks sit next to each other.



- 11) Stitch the first four blocks together to form a row. Press the seam allowance to the right on all three joins.
- 12) Repeat for the remaining rows. Press the seam allowance to the left for the second and fourth rows and the right for the third row.
- 13) Stitch all of the rows together. Butt the seams on each block to ensure a neat corner.

C. Adding the Borders

- 14) Cut one of the five border strips in quarters and stitch a quarter to each of the remaining strips using a quarter inch seam.
- 15) Pin one of the border strips to the left and right sides of the quilt and stitch in place with a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch seam allowance. Square off ends and press seams towards the borders.
- 16) Pin the remaining two border strips to the top and bottom of the quilt. These strips should extend over the two strips attached in the previous steps. Stitch in place with a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch seam allowance. Square off ends and press.