



## Four Winds

### Mini-Quilts

Pattern with step-by-step  
instructions  
to show you how to make these  
easy little quilts

## Four Winds

What you need:-

Cotton fabrics - I started with Charm Squares -  
assorted 5-inch squares pre-cut.

The corners were made with one dark and one light  
fabric, about 1/8 metre of each did these and the  
binding

You can, of course, cut your own squares, these are nice made from scrappy  
colour selections too...

Sewing machine with a regular and a walking foot,

Threads to tone with your background for piecing (cotton, please) and pretty  
thread for quilting

Scissors, pins etc..

Batting (thin cotton or bamboo is best) and backing to suit the finished size  
of your quilt top plus about 4 inches across and down.

Finished size approximately

Red quilt 13-1/2 x 12-1/2 inches (34 x 32 cm)

Brown and Blue Quilt 18-1/2 x 12-1/2 inches (47 x 32 cm)

Miniature version in Blue and Grey 8-1/2 x 5 inches (22 x 13 cm)



I try to make my patterns as well as possible, but as materials and procedures can  
vary, I cannot guarantee the final result.

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## Four Winds Mini-Quilts

There's something very nice about simple mini-quilts - quick to make, easy to give, and fun all round.

I wanted to make these to use those delightful but hard-to-start Charm Packs which appeal so sweetly on the shop counter and can languish unused in the drawer...

READ all through the instructions before you begin...

All seams are made by putting fabrics Right Sides Together (RST) and using a 1/4-inch seam - this pattern requires a degree of accuracy in this, so please check your seam allowances before you start...

### Choosing colours

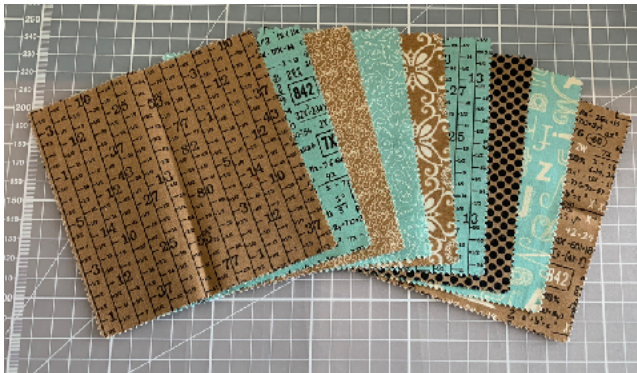
The best thing about the ready-selected Charm Pack is that you don't have to worry about the fabrics going together, all you have to do for these is to choose a dark and a light fabric with a good contrast.

The Red Quilt has black and white (and these are all Oakshott Fabrics)

The Blue and Brown has cream and a dark navy blue,

and the Miniature has cream and a rich dark red...

Spread your chosen colours out on the table and lay your charm squares out on top to choose the best contrasting and complementary colours



Choose the charm squares you are going to use - I chose my favourites from the usual pack of 40. (Make two quilts?)

The Red Quilt used 9 squares, the other two used 12 each (5-inch charms for the Blue and Brown and 2-1/2 inch charms for the Miniature)

Cut each square in half. If starting from scraps, cut pieces 2-1/2 by 5 inches (1-1/4 x 2-1/2 inches for the miniature)

From the light and dark fabrics, cut as many rectangles in each colour as you have cut charm-pieces.

Cut these about 2 by 2-1/2 inches and cut these again on the diagonal. If the fabric is two-sided, these can all be cut one way and half turned over, if the chosen fabrics are single-sided, make sure you cut half in each direction...



Cut a couple of pairs and try them for size first, you may find you need bigger, or can use smaller triangles... Accuracy is not essential for the cutting, as the points need to vary somewhat

Starting with the light corners, pin one piece onto the top right corner of your charm piece. Pin along the line where you plan to sew and turn the triangle back to make sure it will entirely cover the background. Try to make each point a little different in size and pointedness - this is improvisation!

Sew, use a small stitch, please...  
Repeat on the bottom left corner  
Be methodical with the placement, the illusion is made by perfect counter-change...



Press the triangles towards the corners

Trim the triangles to exactly match the background, then trim out the excess fabric from underneath leaving a 1/4 inch seam allowance  
When you have done all the light points add the dark ones to the top left and bottom right corners, pinning and checking as you go. Be methodical; pin, check, sew, press, trim, and repeat...



When you have added all four corners to every rectangle, arrange them to please your eye and sew into rows.

Press the seams carefully in opposite directions in each row, or open if you prefer.

The Miniature had the seams pressed open to save bulk

Then pin the rows carefully, matching the corners of the blocks nicely, and sew the rows together, and press again...



Layer the backing, wadding and quilt top and quilt - I quilted all of these with closely-spaced lines from top to bottom

## Bind your quilt

Cut 2-1/2 inch\* strips

Sew pieces end to end to make enough binding, plus about 6 inches and press the seams open.

Press the binding in half, Right Side Out all along the length.

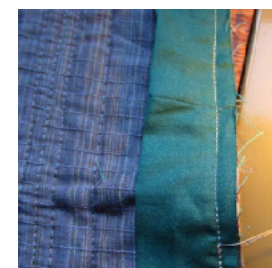
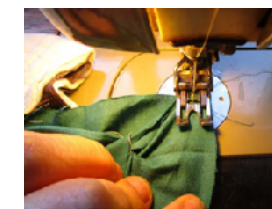
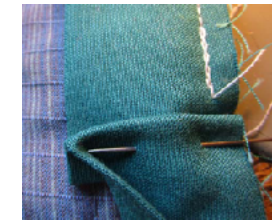
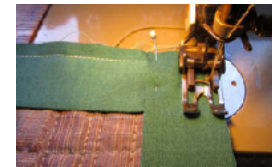
Trim the edges of your quilt

Fold the pieced binding in half right sides out and press along the length

Starting in the middle of a side, put the raw edges of the binding exactly level with the edge of the quilt and, leaving a 6-inch tail, sew along 1/4 inch from the edge. If you have a walking foot, now is a good time to use it...

When you get to the corner, stop 1/4 inch from the edge and back-stitch. Remove the work...

Fold the binding away from the corner like so, then down towards the next side, making a neat fold exactly on the edge of the quilt



Starting right at the corner and back-stitching for strength, sew along edge two.

Repeat for all four corners and edges.

When you get to about 6 inches from the start, back-stitch and remove the work. Make a 1/4 inch pleat and pin.

Overlap the raw ends of the binding and cut them off together. Discard the oddments.

Undo the pleat. Sew the ends of the binding right sides together with a 1/4 inch seam and finger-press the seam open. Re-fold the binding and sew across the last part overlapping the stitching.

Turn the binding to the back of the quilt; pin firmly and sew down with a slip-stitch to finish - you will find the corners make a neat mitre as you go..

To bind all by machine, do everything as above but sew the binding onto the back first, then finish by pinning and machine stitching down on the front - perhaps with a fancy stitch?

\*For a narrow binding or to be economical, cut 2-1/4 or 2-inch strips to start  
You may like to try a Flange binding - [www.helenhowestextiles.co.uk/class/tutorials.html](http://www.helenhowestextiles.co.uk/class/tutorials.html)

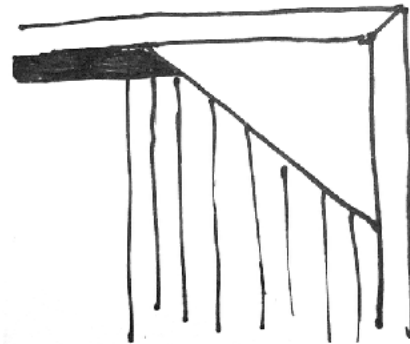
## Finishing your quilt

You need to hang up your quilt - the simplest way is just to nail it to the wall, but this is not very classy.

For very small quilts, a sleeve seems a little over-the top, and it's perfectly possible to hang the smallest quilts, if reasonably stiff, by sewing a small curtain ring at the top centre on the back and hang the little thing on a nail.

If the top is a bit floppy a kebab stick or similar can be threaded into the top binding to stiffen it, then a ring will hang it up nicely.

For slightly bigger quilts a square cut to about 5 inches, folded on the diagonal, and trapped under the binding as you sew it the first time can then have a stick inserted to hold up the quilt on one or two hooks...



Miniature parts...

For "proper" sleeves, see

[www.modernartquilters.co.uk/patterns/techniques.html](http://www.modernartquilters.co.uk/patterns/techniques.html)

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Many Cushions



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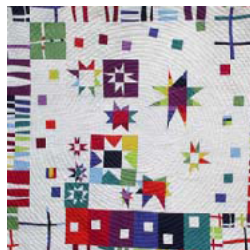
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