



Delighted Centerpiece

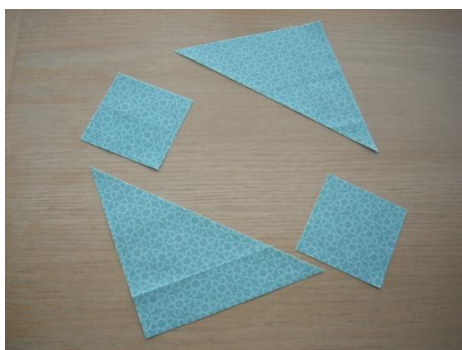
Before I begin this tutorial, I just want to say this is a detailed project, so take your time. I would also be happy to answer any questions or help in any way, so don't hesitate to contact me.

This project requires selected fat quarters, ½ yard for binding and about a yard for the back.



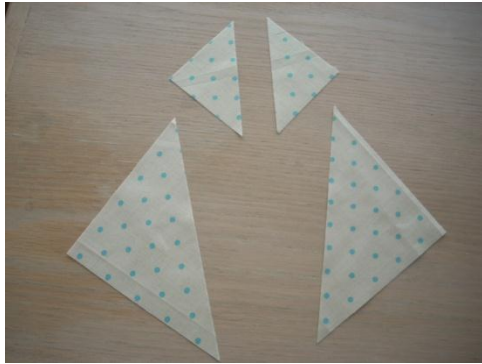
Construct the center first. We are going to make 4 Postage Stamp baskets. Select your background pieces and then basket pieces to coordinate.

From each background fabric, cut a 5 inch strip and a 2 ½ inch strip.



Sub-cut into a 5 inch square and two 2 ½ inch squares.

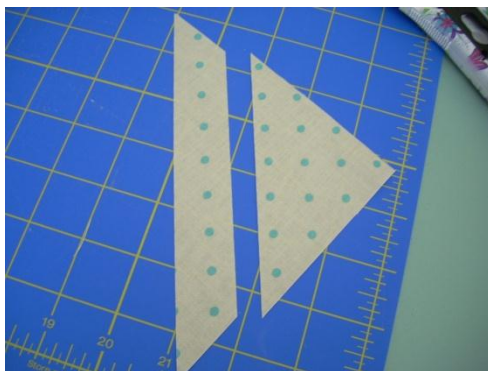
Cut the 5 inch square in half. You now have two triangles.



Basket fabric – cut a 5 inch strip and a 3 inch strip. Then cut one square from each strip. Cut those squares in half so you have two triangles from each square.



Build your basket using the picture here.



Now from the leftover basket triangle, cut a 1 inch strip across the bias edge like this. Next, fold it in half wrong sides together as this is your basket handle.



Iron the strip. Your ends will not be even. Remember too since it is cut on the bias, it will stretch. Pin the bias strip onto the background triangle.



I pinned it 7/8 inches in on each side as you can see here in this picture.



Machine sew close to the raw edge around the half circle.

*tip – stay stitch the triangle to minimize stretch

*tip – when sewing the handle on, it will have puckers, ease it in gently.



*tip – sew a very, very narrow seam, but make sure to still sew through both layers on the handle.

*tip – when finished sewing, it will stand up a bit until ironed down and turned toward the inside to finish stitching it down.



Now I will admit that when I went to zig-zag my handle down, it was not a pretty site, so I reversed sewed and tried again only this time I pinned and pinned. I still have a few ruffles, but so be it.



Actually all four of my baskets have ruffle handles – LOL!!



Now the next step is to sew the triangle of the basket to the triangle with the handle together.

After ironing them, trim the now square unit to 4 ½ inches



Sew the 2 ½ inch square to the small triangle. Repeat for the other side.





Sew these units to each side of the main square basket. Be sure that the square is at the top of the unit and the triangles by the body of the basket.



The final step – sew the background triangle to the bottom of the unit and press.

Whew, finally finished one basket block! Trim to $6\frac{1}{2}$ square. Okay repeat the above steps for three more baskets. Be glad we aren't doing a whole quilt!!



Arrange the four baskets in a square with the handles on the inside. Sew the blocks together into pairs and then into one unit.



Cut four 2 ½ inch strips to sew around the outside edge of the baskets.



*tip – when sewing a strip to a pieced unit, place the strip underneath so you can see where the needle is sewing on your pieced unit.



Select four pairs for the four patch blocks in the next round. One 2 ½ inch strip of each will make four 4-patch blocks.



I have placed the blocks around the center unit in an alternating fashion.

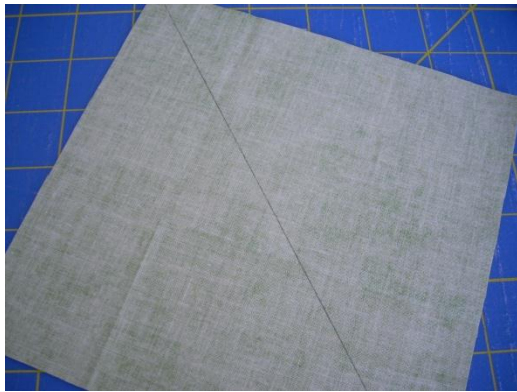


Now to sew each side units together – four 4-patch blocks. Once sewn together, I sewed opposing sides onto the center unit. My other side units I will sew on once I have constructed my corner blocks.



Select 4 fabrics to use for the quarter square triangle units in the corners of the centerpiece.

Cut one 6 ½ inch squares of each fabric. I purposely chose two prints and two more solid pieces for this unit. I figured with all of the prints in the 4-patch units, I wanted an accent.



I drew a line down the center of 2 of the squares and then paired a print with a solid piece. Next sew ¼ inch on either side of the drawn line. Then cut apart on the line, open up and press. Do this for the units.



Next pair up two different half square units, lay them right sides together and draw another line from corner to corner to sew on either side of.



You can pull back the top side to see what the finished quarter square triangle block will look like. Once sewn down either side of the line and cut apart, they need to be trimmed down.



I placed my square so that my center points were on $2\frac{1}{4}$ which is half of $4\frac{1}{2}$ and then trimmed my square. Repeat these steps for the other three squares.



After placing your corner squares in a pleasing arrangement, sew the blocks to the ends of the 4-patch units. Then sew those units to your center unit. Now your centerpiece is complete and ready to quilt.



You will notice that I did some meandering around the baskets and then outlined them.



I also did stitch in the ditch around the inner border before I did some loops in the border.



You will notice that before I quilted in the outer border, I basted around the edge.



I roughly did the stitching about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch in to give me a guide. I didn't want to stitch too far out on the outside edge.



Next step is to sew on the binding.



The back with binding on.

More finished project pictures....



Enjoy!!