

CHAIN PIECING AND NESTING

FIG. 1

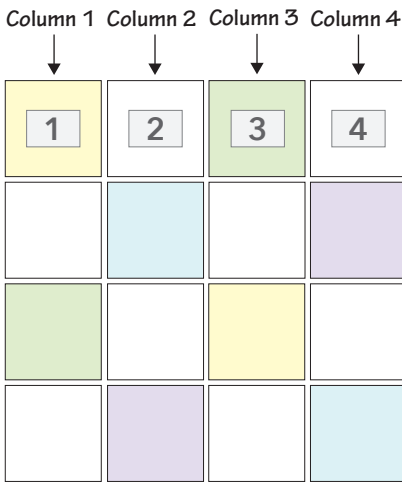


FIG. 1

Lay out your squares, right side up, in a position that makes you happy...there are no rules. If it's a small project, you can lay your pieces out on a tray or table. If it's a large quilt, go ahead and lay them out on the floor. Label the top piece in each column with small stickers...1, 2, 3 etc. Use as many numbers as necessary, determined by the number of columns you have. Snap a picture with your phone once you're happy with the positioning. This will provide a reference if the pieces get mixed up.

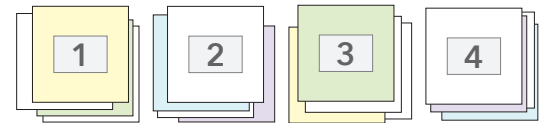
TIP:

Position stickers right side up and somewhat centered on the square of fabric. If your fabric has a directional print, orienting your stickers right side up will remind you which direction to position your squares for sewing. Centering the stickers ensures you won't sew through them.

FIG. 2

Prepare for sewing by stacking your columns in order, with the numbered squares on top.

FIG. 2



JOIN YOUR COLUMNS while CHAIN PIECING

FIG. 3

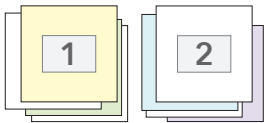
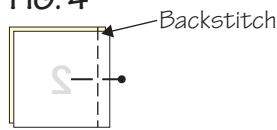


FIG. 4



Following the instructions below, and using the illustrations as your guide, start with the first two columns. Set the other columns aside for now.

FIG. 3

Stack column 1 and column 2 beside each other and join as shown in the next steps.

FIG. 4

Remove the top two squares from each of the two columns. Flip the top square from column 2 over the top square from column 1, right sides together and aligning edges. Pin if preferred. Using 1/4" seam allowance, stitch the length of the right edge, backstitching at the beginning. It's not necessary to backstitch at the end. Do not remove the squares from the sewing machine and do not clip the thread.

FIG. 5

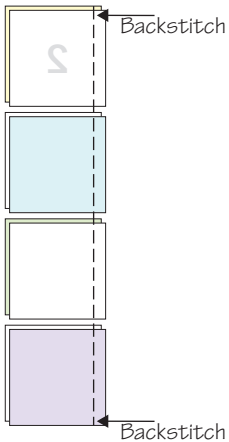


FIG. 5

Retrieve the second square from each column. Flip the square from column 2 over the square from column 1. Position this pair in front of the pair you just sewed. Continue to sew, adding pairs in numerical order as you go, until the two columns are stitched together in a chain. It's not necessary to backstitch until you get to the end of the chain of columns because the threads that join them will never be cut. Clip the thread after the last pair is stitched. Remove from the sewing machine. Your pairs are still attached in a chain.

FIG. 6

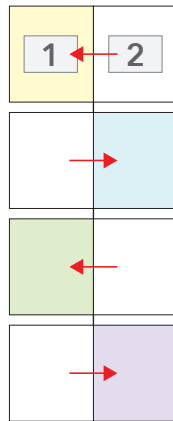


FIG. 6

Press seams in the direction of the arrows, as illustrated, alternating the direction of the press with each pair. After some practice, you will develop your own rhythm. For example, you might choose to press all the odd numbers in the column one way, then go back and press all the even squares in the opposite direction.

FIG. 7

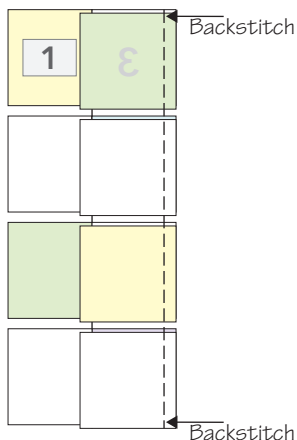


FIG. 8

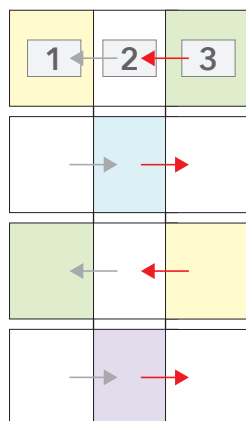


FIG. 7

Repeat from Figure 4 joining column 3 to column 2.

FIG. 8

Press again in the direction of the arrows. Notice each horizontal row continues to be pressed in the same direction.

FIG. 9

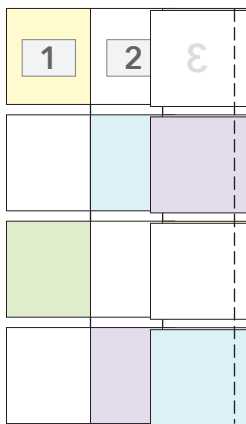


FIG. 10

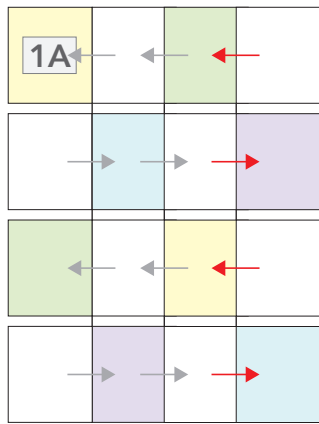


FIG. 9 Repeat until all of your columns are joined in the same manner.

FIG. 10 Continue to press horizontal rows in the same direction as illustrated. Your columns are complete and your rows are joined by a thread.

TIP: As your columns continue to be joined, you might prefer to remove the stickers. If the orientation of the quilt is not clear, leave sticker number one on the top left square for now.

JOIN YOUR ROWS while NESTING

Nesting seams has two benefits...

1. Reduces bulk where seam allowances meet
2. Enables a nice alignment of squares where the points meet.

FIG. 10

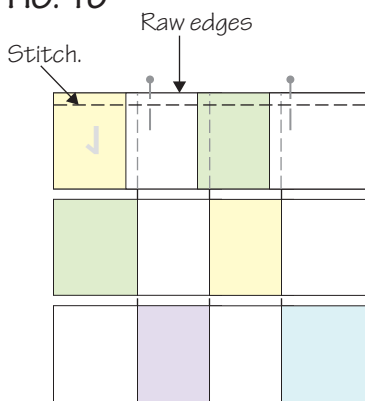


FIG. 11

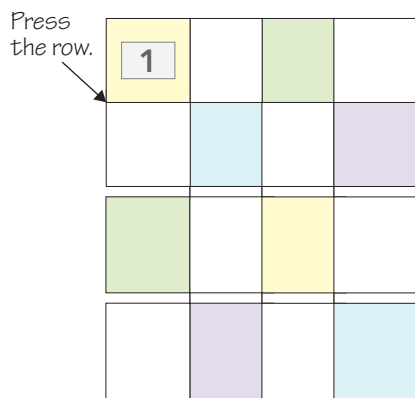


FIG. 10 Lay out your quilt on a flat surface, right side up. Fold the top row over and align with the second row, right sides together and top raw edges even. Notice how your seam allowances meet and face opposite directions. Gently pinch the two seams until you feel them settle against each other. This is nesting. As you sew, you'll want to ensure the seam allowances remain facing in opposite directions. Pin, if you find it helpful, at regular intervals ensuring raw edges remain even and nested seams remain aligned. Stitch the row, stopping as necessary to re-adjust the positioning where the nested seams meet. Make sure your needle is in the 'needle down' position so your fabric stays in place as you re-adjust. Backstitch at the beginning and end of each row.

FIG. 12

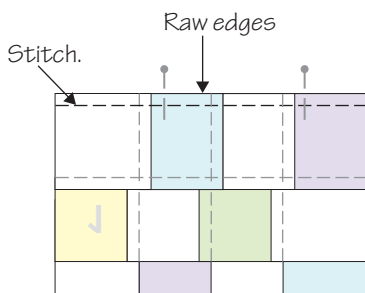


FIG. 13

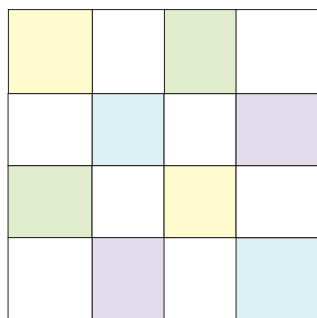


FIG. 11 Press open in the direction of choice.

FIG. 12 Continue to join your rows, as described in Figure 10. until all rows are stitched together. Press each row as you go.

FIG. 13 Once you're done, press the entire quilt well. I like to use a starch like 'Best Press' or 'Flatter'.



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