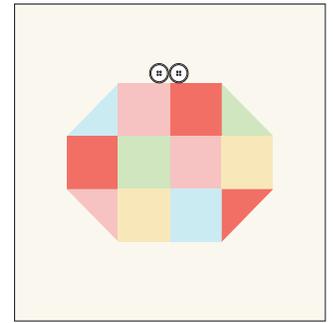


I decided on the purse block as that is the very first thing I can remember sewing as a young girl. I was so proud of my purse and I would take it to church or on shopping trips to the city. It was slightly different in structure than my block but I loved it and I thought I was very stylish whenever I walked around with it in my hand. I was very lucky that my Mum taught me how to sew from when I was quite young. My Mother was an only child and her mother didn't sew or craft at all. I have always been in awe of how Mum taught herself to sew, knit, crochet – whatever she wanted to learn, she found a way of achieving that skill. Mum made all of my clothes and pyjamas when I was young. I can remember helping pick out the fabric for my dress and then waiting excitedly for Mum to finish sewing it. One year Mum made us all a patchwork quilt. She made it out of the scraps of our flannel pyjamas that she had made for us over the years. It wasn't quilted – just backed with a flannel sheet. I absolutely loved it and used it so much that Mum had to replace the flannel sheet backing as I had worn the original one out. The scrappy piecing of my block reminds me of that quilt. One of my fondest memories is playing with Mum's button tin, which contained a beautiful selection of buttons – mostly one of a kind that she had collected or were left over from a previous project. It was a rectangular royal blue tin with a beautiful red rose on the lid. I would spend hours playing with the buttons, and my own children have also played with that same tin (and some of the same buttons). I've added two small buttons to my block to acknowledge such a lovely childhood memory.



First Purse

for the Splendid Sampler™

Di Mill

Finished Block Size 6" x 6"

Requirements

Purse Fabric

12 squares - 1 ½" x 1 ½" from a variety of prints (A)

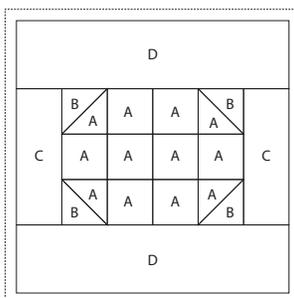
Background Fabric

4 squares - 1 ½" x 1 ½" squares (B)

2 rectangles - 1 ½" x 3 ½" (C)

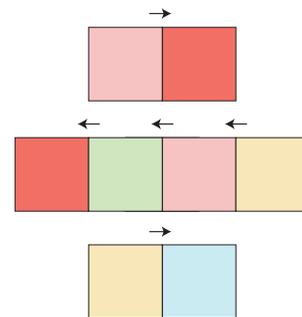
2 rectangles - 2" x 6 ½" (D)

2 small buttons.

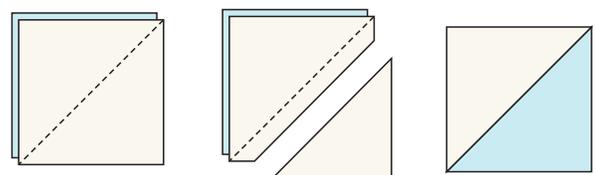


Block Assembly

1. Decide your fabric placement for your purse block by arranging your 12 - 1 ½" x 1 ½" (A) squares on a design board and rearranging until you are happy with the arrangement.
2. Remove the 4 corner squares and place them aside.
3. Sew your 1 ½" x 1 ½" squares together into 3 rows. Press seams to one side.

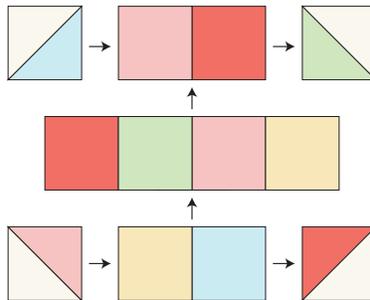


4. Draw a diagonal line on the wrong side of square (B).
5. Place the 1 ½" x 1 ½" (B) background square, right sides together on 1 ½" x 1 ½" (A) square.
6. Sew on the drawn line. Trim away the remaining fabric at the back, leaving a ¼" seam.
7. Press towards fabric (A). Corner unit measures 1 ½" x 1 ½" square.



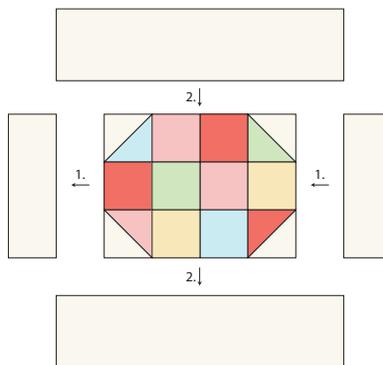
8. Sew your corner blocks to both ends of the first and last row.

9. Sew all three rows together and press seams to one side.

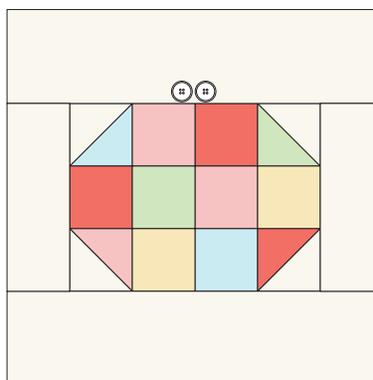


10. Sew your $1\frac{1}{2}$ " x $3\frac{1}{2}$ " background rectangles (C) to each side of the block and press seams to one side.

11. Sew each of your background 2 " x $6\frac{1}{2}$ " strips (D) to the top and bottom of the block and press seams to one side.

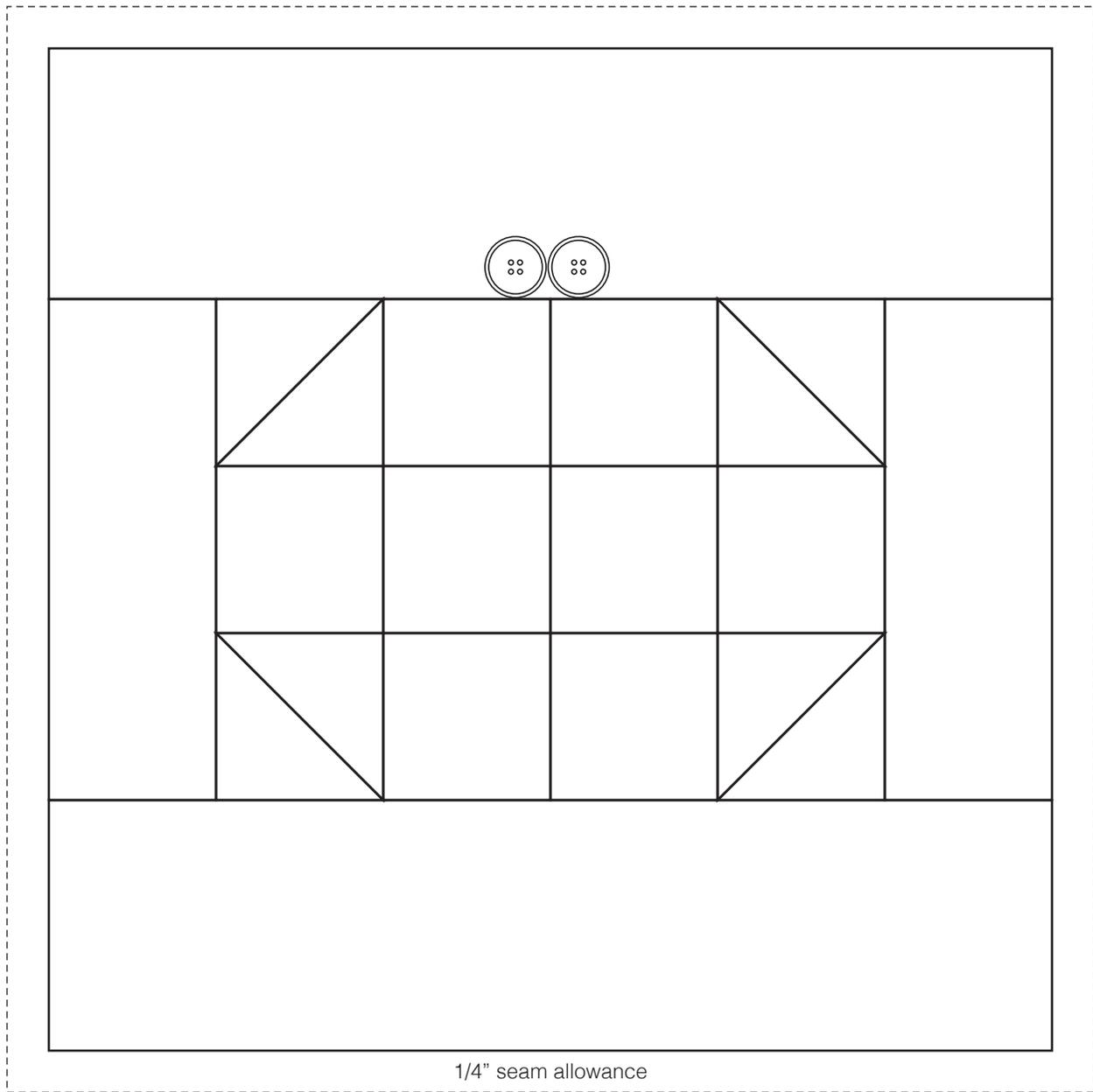


12. To finish the block, sew 2 small buttons on the top of the purse block to represent the clasp.



13. Unfinished block size $6\frac{1}{2}$ " x $6\frac{1}{2}$ "

Do not scale or 'fit to page'



1 inch

#TheSplendidSampler

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