

SPLIT CHURN DASH BLOCK

About this pattern: I've chosen the method of sewing triangles that uses two squares to make two half square triangles at a time, then trims to size. The cutting size is generous to make it easier for beginners to trim. Because it makes two squares at a time, I've given cutting instructions for two blocks at a time. This makes it easier to plan the number needed for a whole quilt. Everything comes out even with no leftover pieces. I've used color names that match the illustrations and grayscale names to help you use any color scheme you want.

Fabric choice: Think of the square as two triangles, each with a lighter and darker fabric. The two lighter fabrics from each side meet along the diagonal, so they must contrast with each other to make the diagonal line. The values might be black and medium gray on one side with black forming the churn-dash and on the other side dark and light gray with the dark gray forming the churn-dash.

For each block you will construct

- (A) two corner half-square triangles
- (B) Two quarter-square triangles
- (C) 4 rectangles that are split lengthwise into two colors
- (D) a large square made of half-square triangles in the middle

Tip: Unless you are very experienced with four-color quarter-square triangles, take the time to read and follow the sewing instructions. The placement of the colors is critical to the design, and it is easy to get it wrong.

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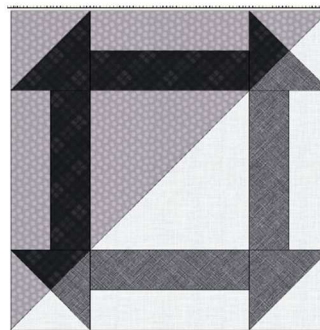
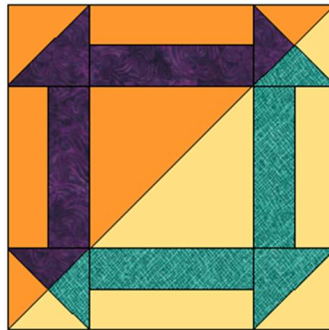
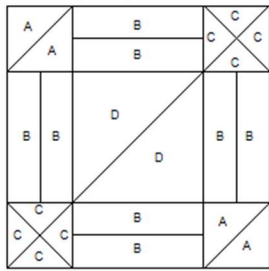
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Cutting instructions for two blocks that will be 12.5" (12" finished when sewn into quilt)

Split Churn Dash Block

Key Block (1/5 actual size)



For two complete blocks cut:

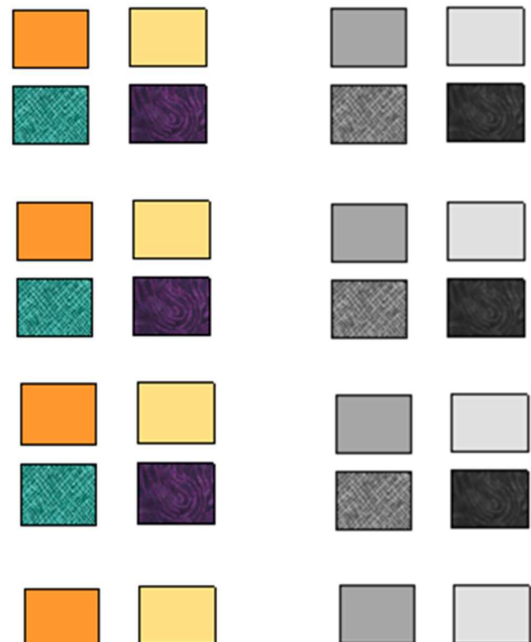
Sections A: Cut one $4\frac{1}{8}$ " square of each of four colors to make two half square triangles for each block. 4 pieces.

Sections B: Cut these rectangles $2" \times 6\frac{1}{2}"$ - 4 from each color. 16 pieces.

Sections C: Quarter square triangle: Cut two $4\frac{1}{2}"$ squares from each color. 8 pieces.

Section D: Large center half square triangles: Cut the squares to $7\frac{1}{4}"$
One square yellow (or light gray) and one orange (or medium gray).

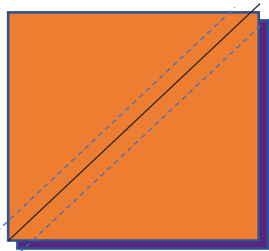
Colors to cut OR values to cut



Sewing Instructions:

These instructions are for sewing two half-square triangles at once from two squares. Pieces are slightly larger to allow for trimming to size after sewing. Here are two of many links that explain how to trim: [trimming-oversized-triangle-squares](#), [video about trimming quarter square triangle blocks](#)

Section A: Lay the orange square (or medium gray) on top of the purple square (or black) right sides together, draw a line diagonally from corner to corner. Sew $\frac{1}{4}$ inch away from the line on each side. Cut on the line you drew and press. You'll have two identical orange and purple squares (or black and medium gray), one for each of two blocks.



Do the same with the green and yellow (or dark gray and light gray) squares.



Press toward the dark. The squares should finish a little oversized. Use your ruler to trim them to $3\frac{1}{2}$ ".

Section B: Side rectangles. Sew one orange strip to one purple (black to medium gray) strip along the $6\frac{1}{2}$ " side. Repeat to make another three identical side rectangles. Sew one green strip to one yellow (dark gray to light gray) strip along the $6\frac{1}{2}$ " side. Repeat to make another 3 identical side rectangles. Press all 8 toward the dark. These should measure $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches x $6\frac{1}{2}$ ".



Section C: Quarter square triangles:



This is the trickiest part because getting the colors in the right place requires a specific placement.

Put Yellow square (light gray) and green square (dark gray) together and make into two half-square triangle squares the same way as in A. Press toward the dark.

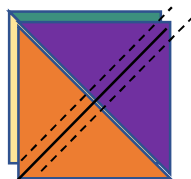
Put Purple (black) and Orange (medium gray) squares together and make into two half square triangles the same way as in A. Press toward the light.



Don't trim them to size yet!

Place one yellow and green (lighter) square and one orange and purple (darker) square right sides together. Align the seams on top of each other. and the orange (medium gray) triangle on top of yellow (light gray) triangle and purple (black) triangle on top of green (dark gray) triangle. Remember talking about the how each half of the block has a lighter and darker color? The two lighter colors from each triangle should be together on one side of the seams and the two darker colors should be together on the other side of the seams. See the illustration. Another way to think about it is that the colors of the churn-dash should be together on one side of the seam and the colors of the background should be together on the other side of the seam.

Draw a line that is perpendicular to the seam and stitch $\frac{1}{4}$ " on each side. Cut apart along the line you drew.

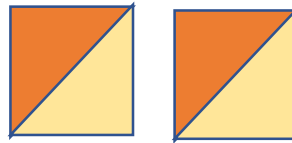


You will have two quarter square triangle squares, but they are not identical. They are mirror images. Press to light. Trim to 3 ½" being sure the point where the triangles meet is in the center of the square.



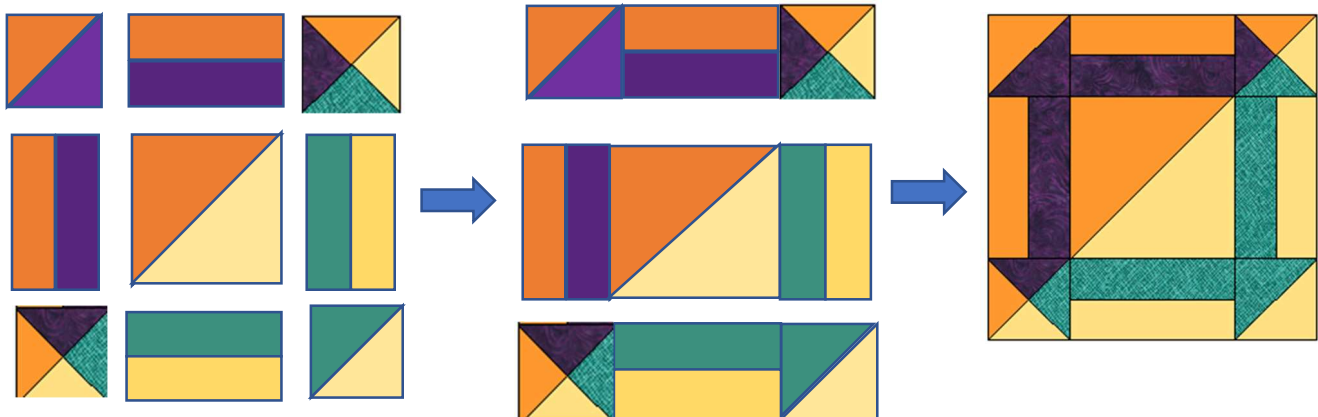
Repeat with the other two squares so you end up with two sets of two quarter square triangles.

Section D: Center half square triangle: Put the big squares together and sew as in A and cut apart. You'll have two squares. Press toward the darker and trim to 6.5".

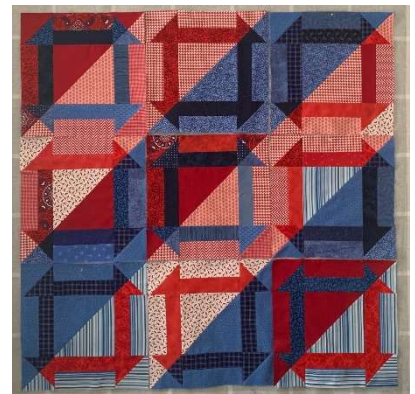
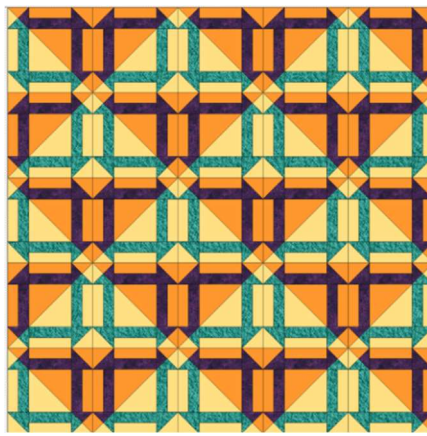
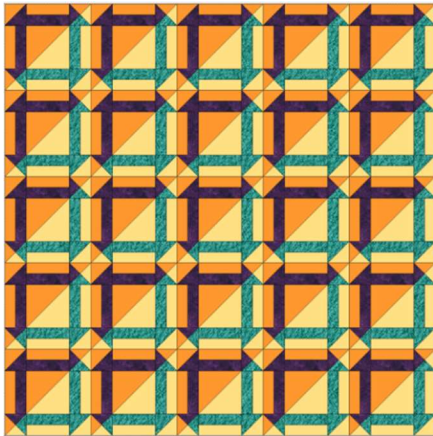


You are making two blocks. Lay your blocks out and be sure they look correct. Remember that the 2 quarter square triangle squares aren't the same and each only works correctly in one place. If you can't get the quarter square triangles to work, try swapping the corners you have them in.

Sew the top rows together. Sew middle rows together. Sew bottom rows together. At this point, pressing depends on layout chosen. Finally, sew rows together. The squares should measure 12 ½" now.



Just like all half square triangle blocks, there are lots of different ways to use them together. You can also experiment with layout and color placement and scrappiness in the blocks



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