

# Quilter's Progress - Introduction

by Bonny Peters of **Cat Den Mountain Quilts**

## Introduction

The **Quilter's Progress** Block of the Month quilt, by Bonny Peters of Cat Den Mountain Quilts, is designed to move your quilting skills forward. Starting with simple squares and rectangles, the blocks will get more challenging as the months go along. At the end, you will have made half-square triangle and other units as well as learned how to foundation paper piece and easily sew simple curves. Yardage is provided for the quilt but you could certainly make the blocks scrappy. Although, for your blocks to float, it is recommended that you use a single background fabric. With only one block to piece each month, there will be plenty of time to keep up.

The design has the blocks floating so there is no worrying about matching points between blocks. The on-point setting adds another skill to learn. This pattern has 13 parts.

Be sure to bring your completed blocks to our guild meetings. There, you can get answers to any questions you might have, share your progress, and see what others are doing. I hope you enjoy making your own **Quilter's Progress**.



58-3/4" x 73-1/2"

## Materials

All cuts based on usable 40" wide, prewashed 100% cotton fabrics

- 3-1/8 yds of background fabric (Fabric A)
- 3/4 yd of light yellow fabric (Fabric B)
- 3/4 yd of dark yellow fabric (Fabric C)
- 5/8 yd of light blue fabric (Fabric D)
- 3/4 yd of dark blue fabric (Fabric E - includes binding)
- 1-1/8 yds of border fabric (Fabric F)
- 3-3/4 yds backing
- 64" x 80" piece of batting
- 6 sheets of newsprint or other lightweight paper for foundation paper piecing

## Note from Bonny

The yardage listed assumes that you will save and label remnants along the way as noted in the cutting instructions. If you would prefer not to save and use remnants, you will need more yardage. For Fabric A, you will need at least 4 yds. For Fabric B, you will need at least 1-1/4 yds. For Fabric C, you will need at least 7/8 yd. For Fabric D, you will need at least 1-1/2 yds. For Fabric E, you will need at least 1 yd.

Since this quilt is designed to improve a quilter's piecing skills, please be patient and read all of the instructions. I may include some tips that are new to you that will make you a better quilter. If you have tips to share, please email them to me at [Bonny.Peters@CatDenMountainQuilts.com](mailto:Bonny.Peters@CatDenMountainQuilts.com).

Take your time cutting. If the pieces aren't cut accurately, it is virtually impossible to stitch the pieces together and achieve the desired result.

# Quilter's Progress - Part 1

by Bonny Peters of *Cat Den Mountain Quilts*

## Cutting

Press each fabric with steam, starch, or starch alternative before cutting. Press fabric folded lengthwise with selvages together. Make sure the fabric is aligned without creases or twists.

### 1. From Fabric A, cut

- 1 (one) 1-1/2" x WOF strip. Subcut
  - 1 (one) 1-1/2" x 6-1/2" strip.
  - 1 (one) 1-1/2" x 5-1/2" strip.
  - 1 (one) 1-1/2" x 2-1/2" rectangle.
  - 5 (five) 1-1/2" x 1-1/2" squares.

### 2. From Fabric B, cut

- 1 (one) 1-1/2" x WOF strip. Subcut
  - 1 (one) 1-1/2" x 5-1/2" strip.
  - 1 (one) 1-1/2" x 4-1/2" strip.
  - 1 (one) 1-1/2" x 3-1/2" strip.
  - 1 (one) 1-1/2" x 2-1/2" rectangle.
  - 5 (five) 1-1/2" x 1-1/2" squares.

### 3. From Fabric C, cut

- 1 (one) 1-1/2" x WOF strip. Subcut
  - 2 (two) 1-1/2" x 6-1/2" strips.

### 4. From Fabric D, cut

- 1 (one) 1-1/2" x WOF strip. Subcut
  - 4 (four) 1-1/2" x 6-1/2" strips.
  - 1 (one) 1-1/2" x 1-1/2" square.

### 5. From Fabric E, cut

- 1 (one) 1-1/2" x WOF strip. Subcut
  - 1 (one) 1-1/2" x 4-1/2" strip.
  - 1 (one) 1-1/2" x 3-1/2" strip.

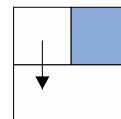
## Block 1 - Strippy Squares

1. Stitch a 1-1/2" x 1-1/2" Fabric A square to a 1-1/2" x 1-1/2" Fabric D square. Press the seam toward Fabric D as shown by the arrow in the diagram. The result should measure 1-1/2" x 2-1/2". If it does not, check the alignment of the fabrics (Are the edges even?) and your seam allowance (Is it more or less than 1/4"? Is it sewn straight?). Use a seam ripper to carefully remove the stitching and restitch if needed. Checking the fabric alignment and seam allowance is important in each step of this pattern. In order for pieces to fit together correctly, your seams need to be precise. Learn where the edge of your fabric needs to be for accurate 1/4" seams. Or, if you're using a 1/4" foot, adjust the

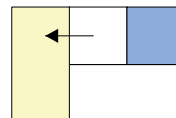
needle position to ensure an accurate 1/4" seam. Watch the edge of the fabric, not the needle.



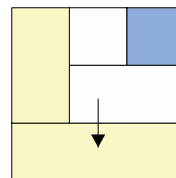
2. Watching the orientation, stitch a 1-1/2" x 2-1/2" Fabric A rectangle to the step 1 unit. Press the seam toward the rectangle. The result should measure 2-1/2" x 2-1/2".



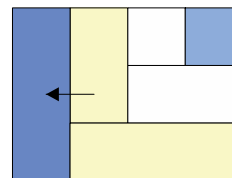
3. Watching the orientation, stitch a 1-1/2" x 2-1/2" Fabric B rectangle to the step 2 unit. Press the seam toward the rectangle. The result should measure 2-1/2" x 3-1/2".



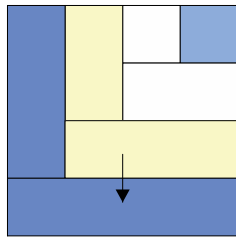
4. Watching the orientation, stitch a 1-1/2" x 3-1/2" Fabric B strip to the step 3 unit. Press the seam toward the strip. The result should measure 3-1/2" x 3-1/2".



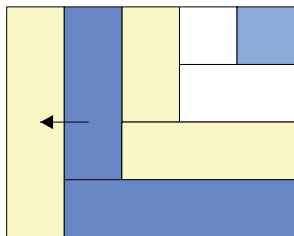
5. Watching the orientation, stitch a 1-1/2" x 3-1/2" Fabric E strip to the step 4 unit. Press the seam toward the strip. The result should measure 3-1/2" x 4-1/2".



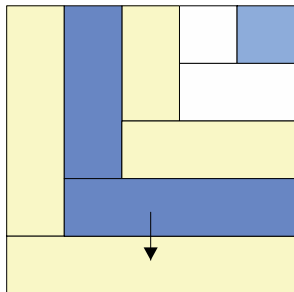
6. Watching the orientation, stitch a 1-1/2" x 4-1/2" Fabric E strip to the step 5 unit. Press the seam toward the strip. The result should measure 4-1/2" x 4-1/2".



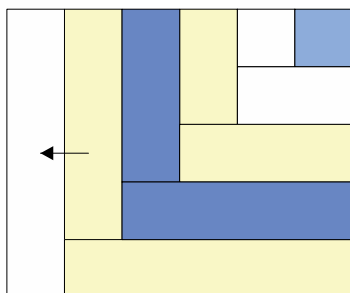
7. Watching the orientation, stitch a 1-1/2" x 4-1/2" Fabric B strip to the step 6 unit. Press the seam toward the strip. The result should measure 4-1/2" x 5-1/2".



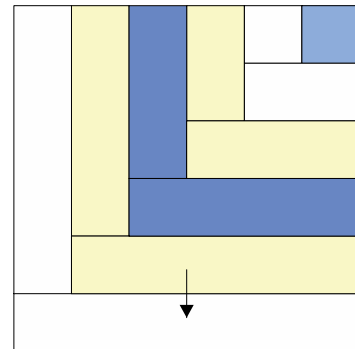
8. Watching the orientation, stitch a 1-1/2" x 5-1/2" Fabric B strip to the step 7 unit. Press the seam toward the strip. The result should measure 5-1/2" x 5-1/2".



9. Watching the orientation, stitch a 1-1/2" x 5-1/2" Fabric A strip to the step 8 unit. Press the seam toward the strip. The result should measure 5-1/2" x 6-1/2".

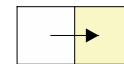


10. Watching the orientation, stitch a 1-1/2" x 6-1/2" Fabric A strip to the step 9 unit. Press the seam toward the strip. The result should measure 6-1/2" x 6-1/2". Set this unit aside.



11. Gather 4 (four) 1-1/2" x 1-1/2" Fabric A squares and 5 (five) 1-1/2" x 1-1/2" Fabric B squares.

12. Stitch a Fabric A square to a Fabric B square. Press toward Fabric B. Repeat until you have a total of 3 Fabric A/B units. Each unit should measure 1-1/2" x 2-1/2".



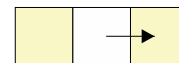
**Make 3**

13. Stitch a Fabric A square to the Fabric B side of 1 of your step 12 units. Press the seam toward Fabric B. The center Fabric B square should measure 1" wide and the entire unit should measure 1-1/2" x 3-1/2".



**Make 1**

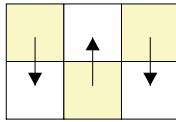
14. Stitch a Fabric B square to the Fabric A side of a step 12 unit. Press the seam toward Fabric B. The center Fabric A square should measure 1" wide and the entire unit should measure 1-1/2" x 3-1/2".



**Make 2**

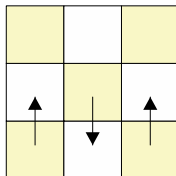
15. Repeat step 14 to make a second Fabric B/A/B unit.

16. Stitch a Fabric B/A/B unit to a Fabric A/B/A unit, nesting the seams.



17. Press and furl the seams. The seams should furl easier when the seams are aligned. The unit should now measure 2-1/2" x 3-1/2".

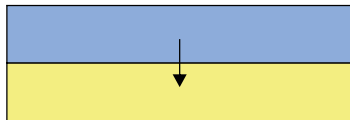
18. Stitch the remaining Fabric B/A/B unit to the step 17 unit to make a 9-patch, nesting the seams.



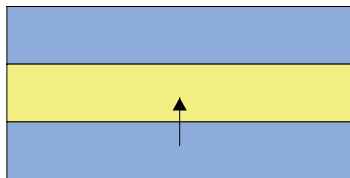
19. Press and furl the seams. Look at the arrows in the diagram to assist you in pressing the seams in the correct direction. The unit should now measure 3-1/2" x 3-1/2". The center Fabric B square should measure 1" x 1".

20. Gather 2 (two) 1-1/2" x 6-1/2" Fabric C strips and 4 (four) 1-1/2" x 6-1/2" Fabric D strips.

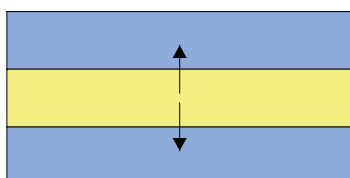
21. Stitch a Fabric C strip to a Fabric D strip. Press the seam toward Fabric C. The unit should measure 2-1/2" x 6-1/2".



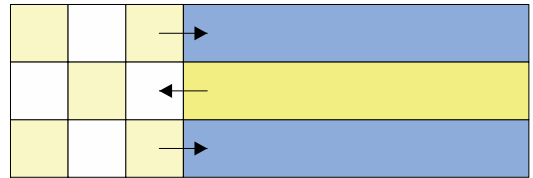
22. Stitch a Fabric D strip to the Fabric C side of the step 21 unit. Press the seam toward Fabric C. The results should measure 3-1/2" x 6-1/2". The center Fabric C strip should measure 1" wide.



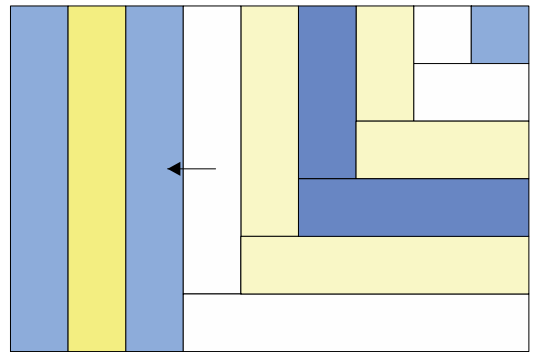
23. Repeat steps 21 and 22 to make another Fabric D/C/D strip set measuring 3-1/2" x 6-1/2". This time, press the seams toward Fabric D.



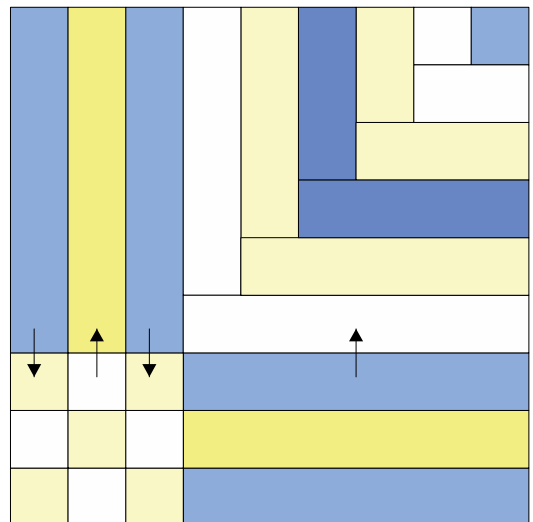
24. Watching the orientation of the units and nesting the seams, stitch the step 22 Fabric D/C/D strip set to the 9-patch from step 19. Press and furl the seam. The result should measure 3-1/2" x 9-1/2".



25. Watching the orientation of the units, stitch a step 23 Fabric D/C/D strip set to the step 10 unit. Press the seam toward Fabric C. The result should measure 6-1/2" x 9-1/2".



26. Nesting seams and watching the orientation, stitch the step 24 unit to the step 25 unit. Press and furl the seam. The result is Block 1 (Strippy Squares) and should measure 9-1/2" x 9-1/2".



**Strippy Squares**