

Singing together, these scraps make beautiful music!

Rhapsody in Scraps

The scrapper the better!" is the motto that Dolores and Sarah went by when there were piecing this quilt together. The quilt looks like an intricate mosaic of fabric but in reality it is one classic block sewed together in a fabric puzzle designed to trick the eye.

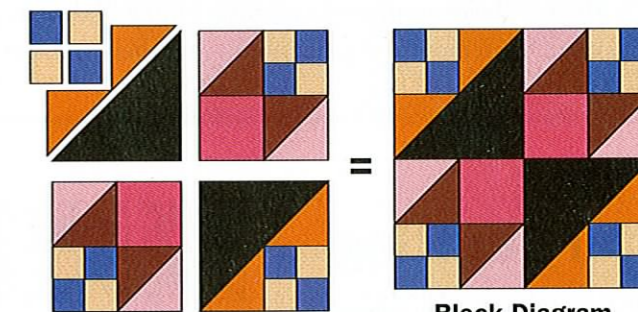
Getting Started

Step 1. Pre-wash and iron all fabrics. Sew with 1/4" seam allowances. Press all seams as you sew. Always sew a sample block before cutting an entire quilt.

Cutting and Sewing

Step 2. Blocks: Refer to the Rotary Cutting Diagram to cut the blocks for the quilt. The large triangles are cut from the 2 very dark prints, the other squares and triangles are cut from light and medium-dark prints. Cut each block different, the scrapper the better. Cut a total of 56 blocks.

Step 3. Blocks: Referring to the block diagram piece together the 56 blocks needed for the quilt. Mix the fabrics up so no two blocks are exactly alike.



Block Diagram

224 4patches
Quilt Assembly 112 3" squares 112 Lg HSTs
56 3 3/8" sq (HSTs) (56 squares)

Step 4. Block Rows: The quilt is sewn together checkerboard style with the direction of the large dark triangles going right to left, then left to right in each row. There are 8 rows of blocks in the quilt with 7 blocks in each of the rows. Odd numbered rows will be identical and even numbered rows will be identical. Refer to the Quilt Assembly Diagram to see placement of dark triangle direction in each row.

Step 5. Row Assembly: When the rows are complete, sew them together taking care alternate the odd and even numbered rows so the two blocks make a checkerboard pattern with the triangle direction.

Finishing

Step 6. Basting: Place the quilt backing wrong side up on a flat surface. Add the batting next. Finally, place the quilt top wrong side down on top of the batting. Baste the three layers together.

Step 7. Quilting: Quilt the layers together. The fabric in the quilt makes a busy pattern so all over quilting will work best.

Step 8. Binding: Bind outside edges of quilt by cutting 2" wide fabric strips from the dark fabric. Fold in half lengthwise and press on fold line. Pin and sew raw edges of binding to raw edges of top and quilt. Turn folded edge to back of quilt and stitch in place. ♦

Materials you will need...

- 1/2 yard of each of the two darkest fabrics for large triangles
- 1/4 yard of 11 different light and medium-dark prints for Four Patch blocks
- 1/4 yard of 13 different light and medium-dark prints for small triangles
- 1/4 yard of 9 different light and medium-dark prints for squares
- 2/3 yard dark print for binding
- 4-1/2 yards backing fabric
- Double bed size batting
- Basic cutting and sewing supplies (Fabric Kits available: homesteadhearth.com)



Fabric Facts: Empress collection by Nancy Gere for Windham Fabrics, Baum Textiles, Inc. www.baumtextile.com

Quiltmakers: Dolores Smith and Sarah Maxwell

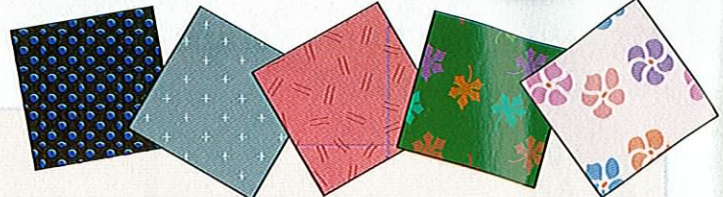
Website: homesteadhearth.com

Longarm Quilter: Kim Diamond

Technique: Patchwork

Block Size: 10" Block Count: 56

Quilt Size: 70" x 80"



Fabrics From The Past

The increase of fabric production around the middle of the 19th century meant that fabric was more readily available. Synthetic dyeing of fabric was actually discovered by accident by a scientist who was trying to create artificial quinine. The process of dyeing fabrics exploded the creative possibilities. As more and more colorfast dyes were developed, more fabrics were introduced into the marketplace.

Although we tend to think of the colors of this era as drab, it is only because the colors on the quilts from this period have faded or changed through the wear and tear of time. Vibrant colors began to appear during the 1870s—in addition to the Prussian blues, Turkish reds and cinnamon pinks, greens, yellows, purple, salmon, cadet blue and browns were also used. Women were dyeing solid fabrics at home, but manufactured prints became popular even though they had to be purchased.

The Empress collection features some of these brighter colorings. The serpentine designs, floral/stripe combinations and tonal honeycomb patterns are also typical of the period, as are paisleys, geometrics and large florals. The collection is an eclectic group of fabrics by Windham Fabrics designer Nancy Gere, and representative of the textiles found during the late 19th century.

Windham Fabrics produces authentic vintage fabric reproductions. To see their complete reproduction and contemporary collections, visit their website.

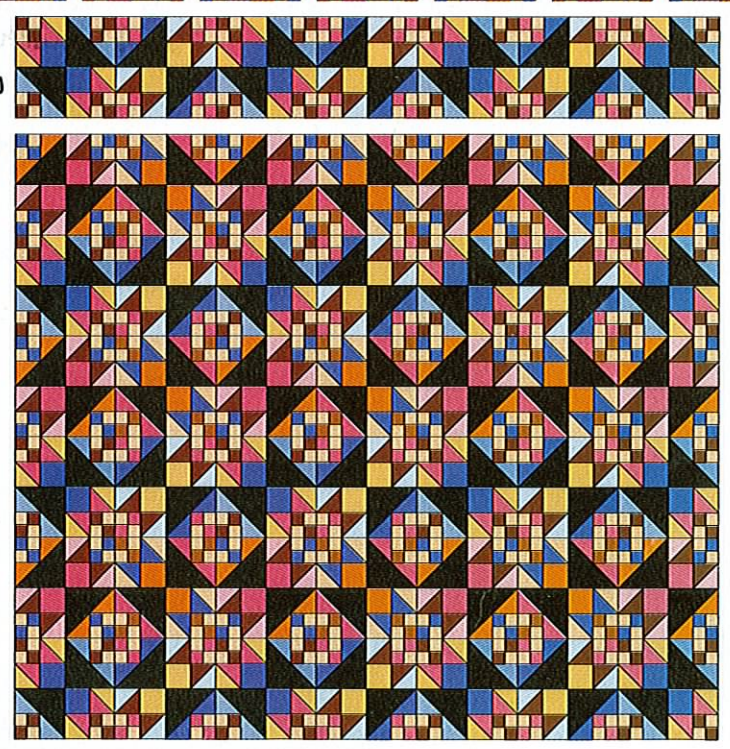
rotary cutting

112
Cut 3" squares of different prints.

Cut 1-3/4" squares of assorted prints. *224 4 patches*

56 squares
Cut 3-3/8" squares of dark and light prints. Cut in half on diagonal to make two triangles.

28 squares each color
Cut 5-3/4" squares of dark prints. Cut in half on diagonal to make two triangles.



Quilt Assembly Diagram