

Mini Holiday Layer Cake/Stash Busting BOM



Designed for FFMQ by

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Module 1 Introduction & Constructing the Primary Blocks

Ready to start a quick new BOM for a holiday gift or yourself? This BOM is based on a traditional log cabin design (LC). LC can be accomplished by any experience level. Two video tutorial links are included below if you need additional assistance learning the basic LC technique.

This BOM can be accomplished using layer cake squares. I picked up a holiday layer cake during a Missouri Star Quilt online sale and have been wondering what to use them for, so I will be using that impulse purchase for this tutorial. It is also a great stash-busting pattern.

We will be using the following piecing, quilting and FMQ techniques:

- 1/4" piecing
- strip piecing
- block squaring
- block joining
- quilt sandwiching
- quilt squaring
- applique (optional)
- embroidery (optional)
- fussy cutting (optional)
- Stitch in the Ditch (SID or SITD)
- FMQI Motifs

The Mini-Holiday BOM will consist of 3 modules.

1. Module 1 will be the Introduction and instructions for the 12 LC squares you need complete.
2. Module 2 will be making the 4 corner accent squares (or center large square) with applique, embroidery, fussy cutting and solid square options and joining the squares. There will also be an original design FMQ for use with your block and optional borders.
3. Finishing your BOM.

The Schedule for BOM release is:

1. August 29th (today!)
2. September 27th
3. November 27th

Introduction

The LC squares measure 7.5" unfinished. Joined, they make a 28.5" quilt that can be used for a wall hanging or table topper (or both!). An option for a **Tree Skirt** will also be included.

The pattern can also be adapted for **ANY** holiday you have in mind. We will be making Christmas project, but it can be easily used for Chanukah, St. Patrick's Day, Easter, Valentine's Day, Halloween, Thanksgiving or any life event by switching out the holiday fabric and color for the holiday or event of your choice.

Step 1: Fabric Gathering and Selection

For the tutorial, I will using a holiday layer cake selection that has been sitting in my fabric closet for two years. The LC blocks are sized to accommodate the 10" layer cake. **Each block will measure 7.5" unfinished. Finished blocks are 7".**

Chose a selection of light and dark colors. You can use all the same color of each if you like. All the lights can be the same, or varied. All the darks can be one color, or varied.

Light colors can be a single shade, or very light to medium in tone. They can be a single color, either solid or print.

You can mix dark colors, for example using different shades of green or using different shades of red. Or a combination of both red and green (or burgundy, blue, gold, etc) as long as they are medium to dark in tone. They can be a single dark color, either solid or print.

Be sure to have an adequate contrast between your Lights and Darks so that your quilt elements will be highlighted. Center squares can be fussy cut to highlight a design element, or cut from strips. You can use either a dark or light, or pick a mid-tone.

I am making a **green/multi** mini BOM and a **red** BOM, based on the colors in my layer cake selection. Photos below show my fabrics for the green/multi mini BOM.

Step 2: Fabric Cutting

The middle square in each block is 1.5". Strip width is 1.5" in size. Cut your center, light and dark layer cake squares into 1.5" strips. We are using a scant 1/4" seam. Layer cake square requirements. Layer cakes are 10" square. Each square makes six 1.5" strips.

Spray starch your layer cake squares.



Figure 2: Light tone strips and center square strips



Figure 1: Dark tone strips

Cut your fabric

Center block strips

- 2 strips 1.5" (a quarter of a layer cake square)

Light tone strips (7 layer cake squares)

- Color 1 = 7 strips (1 layer cake plus 1 strip)
- Color 2 = 12 strips (2 layer cake squares)
- Color 3 = 24 strips (4 layer cake squares)

Dark tone strips (10 layer cake squares)

- Color 1 = 10 strips (2 layer cake squares)
- Color 2 = 18 strips (4 layer cake squares)
- Color 3 = 24 strips (4 layer cake squares)

If you prefer to use yardage, cut WOF strips 1.5".

You can make ALL of your light colored or dark strips with a half yard of fabric.

Step 3: First Light Color Round Stitching

I am using a strip piecing method. There is some controversy about whether strips should be cut to the exact length for each block. I have made at least a dozen LC quilts and I use this method. It goes nice and quickly.

Attaching Center strips and first light Color 1 round.

Align your first center square strip with a light strip, wrong sides together. Stitch 1/4" seam all the way down the two strips.

Repeat with your second center strip and another light Color 1 strip.

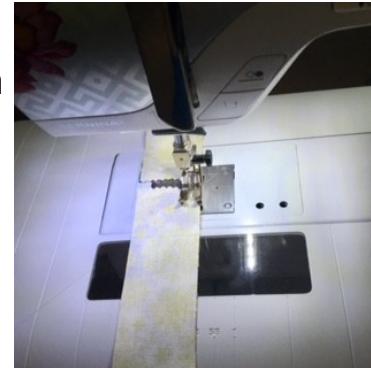


Figure 3: Stitch scant 1/4" seam, right sides together.



Press your strips. Press seam AWAY from the center. All seams will be pressed away from your center square.

Figure 4: Press

Trim strips: Using your rotary cutter, cut your Center/Color 1 joined strips into six 1.5" length blocks. You will now have 12 block centers!



Cut your blocks carefully! These are relatively small and your block will turn out much better if your centers are accurate!



Align a second strip of your light Color 1 with your center blocks. Pin or clip your little center blocks, right sides together. Leave about $1/4"$ between blocks. Stitch the length of your strips.

You can strip piece three center blocks to one layer cake strip.

Continue to align light color 1 strips with your center blocks until all 12 are stitched.



Trim and Press your block centers just like you did after the first strip, pressing seams away from the center square.



Figure 6: You squares will now measure $2/5"$



Figure 5: First light Color 1 round completed.

Step 4: First Dark Color Round Stitching

First dark round: Align your first dark color with a center block. If using different tones, use your lightest dark for the first dark round. Stitch.



Align so that the center square is towards the bottom of the strip. Stitch the strip.

Align your next dark color 1 with the next set of blocks. Stitch. Repeat until all your blocks are stitched to a dark Color 1 strip.

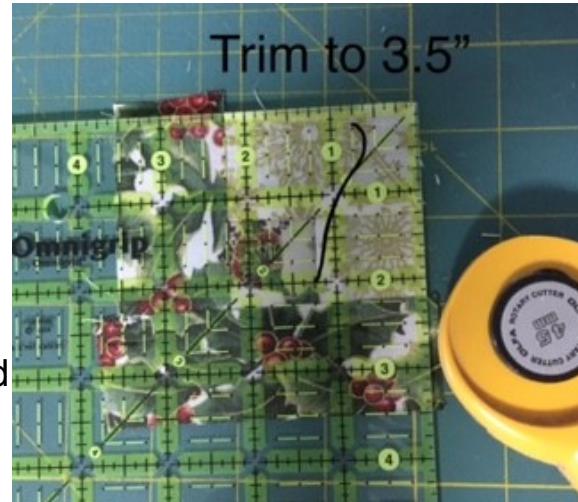
Cut blocks apart, being sure to keep square.

Trim and press seams away from center.



Second dark round: Align your second dark strip with the remaining center square edge. Stitch.

Trim and Press



Square the block. I like to square each round as the light/dark sides are completed. It helps to make your finished square square up nicely in the end. Many of the tutorials skip this step, but I bet those pros square their blocks in between!

Your blocks should each measure 3.5".



Step 5: Reality Check X

How did that go? If you are still having trouble understanding the basic LC concept, please visit one or both of the following video tutorials.

<https://quiltingtutorials.com/tutorial/log-cabin-quilt-block-using-honey-bun-strips> Jenny is using honey bun strips, which are 1/ 1/2" in width, so the strip width is the same! She does a wonderful job of explaining each step of attaching each light and dark strip.

Another resource is Eleanor Burns Quilt in a Day. She has two, half hour long tutorials on the LC strip piecing technique. Here is the link to the first one. Eleanor is quite entertaining! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LQsSwzncdeU>.

Step 6: Complete your Squares

I will skip the detailed instructions for adding the second and third light and dark rounds, but there are photos below for the next light round.



Figure 7: Light Color 2

Attach each and light and dark round. If you get confused about where to add next, I follow this rule. **The side that has two seams is the side where you add the next strip.**



Figure 8: Stitch right sides together



Figure 9: Light Color 2, second strip

Add your Dark Color 2, next. After light/dark round 2, square your blocks.



Figure 10: Trim to 5.5" after the second round of light/darks are added.

Measurements for each completed round are as follows.

1st square, both rounds = 3.5"

2nd square, both rounds = 5.5"

3rd square, both rounds = 7.5"

Complete each square. You will have 12 LC squares, each squared to 7.5". You have now completed the first module of our Mini Holiday BOM!



Figure 11: Completed LC block at 7.5"

Step 7: Layouts

Because this is a LC, several layout options are available including:

- Star with solid squares for the outside squares. This layout is best for a tree skirt. The outside plain squares can be applique or FMQ.
- Wreath. The center of the wreath can be made using 4, 7.5" blocks in either or blender stash fabrics. Or you can cut a 14.5" center out of one piece of fabric. This is how I am constructing my mini BOMs. I am using the wreath layout and doing an applique center for my green/multi quilt.
- Diamond. The center of the diamond can be constructed using 4, 7.5" blocks in either or blender stash fabrics. Or you can cut a 14.5" center out of one piece of fabric. I will be using this layout for my red quilt and doing a window pane center. A Christmas panel can also be used for the center.

Have fun trying out layouts and we will put it all together next month and look at options for the center if you are using a solid/blender center or the corners if you decide on the Star layout.



Figure 12: Star Layout

Star layout will work best for a tree skirt. The corner solid/blender squares can be appliquéd, embroidered or FMQ. If you are making a tree skirt, we will add a border later.



Figure 13: Wreath Layout

Wreath Layout is a great layout for a wall hanging or table topper. You can do a center using a preprinted fabric panel. We will be offering appliqué and FMQ centers in the next module.

Diamond Layout is also good for wall hanging or table topper. In the photo, I have paired it with a solid layer cake square and trimmed it to look like a picture window.



Figure 14: Diamond Layout



Figure 15: My selected layout for my mini BOM

Step 8: Share!

Next month, I will share the applique templates for my selected mini BOM layout (shown above) and a second one done in red tones using the same layer cake leftovers and stash fabric. We will look at options for the middle or 4 accent squares (depending on your layout) including the appliquéd shown above.

Sandra also will be doing an original design for FMQ for the wreath/diamond layout options and we have a video of her quilting her mini BOM!

Watch for a sneak peak of the completed green/multi mini BOM.

Be sure to share your Module 1 results on the group page!