

Changing block size

Love the quilt, but can't use the size? Is the design lost if you change the number of blocks? The answer is to change the block size.

I wanted to make the blocks offered as 12" blocks in a Guild Block of the Month. The layout I liked made a king-sized quilt, and I had absolutely no use for a quilt that big. The answer for me was to make the blocks 6", and use the quilt as a wall hanging. I used Electric Quilt to make the changes and estimate the yardage, but not everyone has that on their computers. This is the solution for those not familiar with that program.

1. Determine the desired finished size, and calculate the percentage.
6" = desired size, 12" = block size
 $6/12 = 50\%$
2. You need to determine the finished size of the piece being cut, multiply by the %, and add the seams back. Using the following table as an example, calculate the sizes you need to cut:

Shape	Original Cutting Size	Less seam	Finished Size	50% Or 150%	New Cutting Size
Squares and rectangles	3.5"	.5"	3"	1.5" 4.5"	2" 5"
Half Square triangles	3.875"	.875	3"	1.5" 4.5"	2.375" 5.375
Quarter Square triangles	4.25"	1.25"	3"	1.5" 4.5"	2.75" 5.75

Hints:

1. For ease in cutting, change the block by easy-to-cut % of an inch so that the sizes match the lines on your rulers.
Examples: $1/4" = 25\%$ $3/4" = 75\%$ $1-1/4" = 125\%$ $1-1/2" = 150\%$
2. Sometimes the units in a block will make additional changes possible. For instance, if the block has 3 units across (9-Patch, Friendship Star, etc), you can look at the individually cut pieces and determine additional percentages.
3 units in a 9" block will cut at $3-1/2"$. When you take off the seams, you get 3". So, if you change the block to 6" (66.7%), $7-1/2"$ (83.3%), or 12" (133.3%), it will still be easy to cut at $2-1/2"$, 3", or $4-1/2"$.
3. Yardage calculation is also different. You have to remember that when you change the size of the quilt in one direction, you are also changing it in the other. So, if you are making the quilt block with a 50% reduction, you will be making a quilt that is $1/4$ the size of the original. So, the yardage will be $1/4$ what the pattern specifies. If you are making the block half again as big (150%), you will need twice as much fabric. Always buy a bit extra, as these calculations are estimates.