



## Moose on the Loose

I'm a little odd in that once I've made a quilt, I'm not really interested in making it again. Unless there is something I can change. Sometimes the change can be a small one, sometimes the change can be a big one. When I made Moose Munch and 501, the difference was fabric. But as I was piecing those quilts, I started getting ideas on what other kinds of things I could put into the rectangles to change things up a bit.

I have a jillion 1 ½" strips stashed away that I'm saving to make a log cabin quilt, a pineapple quilt, a scrappy nine-patch quilt, another log cabin quilt and so on. Yes, I have that many strips. And then Moda had to do those Honey Bun things. They were too cute to resist... and when I saw them in the Hunky Dory fabric, I didn't even try. I just bought a couple of them. It didn't matter what I was going to do with them, I could figure that out later. I mean really, do you know what you're going to do with every piece of fabric you buy?

Yeah, right. ☺

As to the specifics of the quilt itself... The finished quilt measures 63" x 75". The quilt is made with rectangles and squares cut from strip sets made with 1" finished strips. There are 76 six-strip rectangles measuring 3" x 6" finished size and 16 three-strip squares measuring 3" x 3" finished size. The quilt alternates with plain rectangles that finish at 3" x 6". The quilt is completed with an inner border finishing at 1 ½" wide, a middle piano-key border finishing at 2" wide, and an outer border finishing at 4" wide. The quilt has a scrap-pieced binding made from the various fabrics in the quilt.

The quilt can be made smaller/larger by subtracting/adding blocks or rows to the length or width of the quilt top. Subtracting/adding a single row to the quilt will change the width of the quilt by 3". The length of the quilt top is changed as easily by adding one four-patch or alternating square. And the symmetry of the stair-step design won't be adversely affected by adding/subtracting just 3" to the length or width of the quilt top.

Moose on the Loose was made using a white solid background and one of my most favorite collections of recent years, Hunky Dory by Chez Moi for Moda Fabrics. The name... that's simple. I always thought of the other two quilts as the "Moose Munch" quilts and when I started making this one, I got so many ideas for colors, fabrics and other little "tweaks" that it seemed like I had "unleashed" something.

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### Yardage Requirements:

- Primary Print for Rectangles & Borders: 2 ¾ yards
- Asst. Light, Medium & Dark Prints for blocks: 12 Fat Quarters or 27 Fat Eighths or 132 strips – 1 ½" x 21" or 66 strips – 1 ½" x 42"... 2 Honey Buns
- Binding: ¾ yard
  - **For a scrap binding** ~ Add 3 Fat Quarters or 3 Fat Eighths to the number of Medium & Dark pieces required for the four-patches. Or you can use 17 strips measuring 2" or 2 ½" x 21"
- Backing: 4 ½ yards

**Requisite Legal Mumbo Jumbo...** Copyright 2010 by Carrie L. Nelson. All Rights Reserved. And that means...? Oh wait... for the purposes of this particular pattern – Moose on the Loose – you're welcome to make as many copies as you like for yourself. And for your friends, for your Guild and so on – if you've got paper and ink, you can make a copy of this pattern. It is yours to do with as you please.

## Cutting Requirements

**Before you begin...** If you are going to do a scrap-pieced binding, you need to decide how wide you are going to cut your binding strips. These instructions allow for binding strips cut on the crosswise grain of fabric, cut at 2 ½" wide. If you need a wider/narrower strip, adjust the specified strips accordingly.

- 1. Background for Rectangles & Borders.** Begin by cutting a 72" length from the yardage to make a piece that measures 42" crosswise width by 72" length.
  - **Outer Borders.** From the 72" length, measure in 17 ½" from the selvage edge. Cut or tear the fabric parallel to the selvage to make a piece measuring 17 ½" wide x 72" long.
  - **Inner Borders.** From the remaining piece, measure in 9" from the selvage edge. Cut or tear the fabric parallel to the selvage to make a piece measuring 9" wide x 72" long.
  - **Alternating Rectangles.** From the remaining piece – measuring approximately 15 ½" x 72" – cut 11 strips – 6 ½" x 15 ½".
    - From each strip, cut 4 rectangles – 3 ½" x 6 ½". Cut a total of 44 rectangles.
  - From the 42" crosswise width of fabric, cut the following:
    - **Alternating Rectangles.** Cut 3 strips – 6 ½" x 42" crosswise width of fabric.
      - From each strip, cut 11 rectangles – 3 ½" x 6 ½". Cut a total of 32 rectangles.
    - **Alternating Squares.** Cut 1 strip – 3 ½" x 42" crosswise width of fabric.
      - From the strip, cut 8 squares – 3 ½" x 3 ½". Cut a total of 8 squares.
- 2. Asst. Lights, Mediums & Dark.**
  - **If you are using Fat Quarters...** Cut a total of 132 strips – 1 ½" x 21" crosswise width of the fat quarter.
  - **If you are using Fat Eighths...** Cut a total of 132 strips – 1 ½" x 21" crosswise width of the fat eighth.
  - **If you are using "Honey Buns"...** Cut 84 strips in half to make 132 strips – 1 ½" x 21".

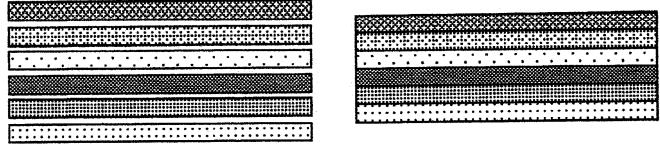
**If you would like to use a scrap-pieced binding, cut the following:**

- **Using 11 fat quarters, cut the following from each:**
  - **Blocks.** Cut 10 strips – 2" x 21" crosswise width of the fat quarter.
  - **Binding.** Cut 1 strip – 2" or 2 ½" x 21" crosswise width of the fat quarter.
- **Using the remaining 4 fat quarters, cut the following from each:**
  - **Blocks.** Cut 8 strips – 2" x 21" crosswise width of the fat quarter.
  - **Binding.** Cut 2 strips – 2" or 2 ½" x 21" crosswise width of the fat quarter.
- **If you are using Fat Eighths...**
  - **Using 18 fat eighths, cut the following from each:**
    - **Blocks.** Cut 4 strips – 1 ½" x 21" crosswise width of the fat eighth.
    - **Binding.** Cut 1 strip – 2 or 2 ½" x 21" crosswise width of the fat eighth. Cut a total of 90 strips.
  - **From the remaining 12 fat eighths, cut the following from each:**
    - **Blocks.** Cut 5 strips – 1 ½" x 21" crosswise width of the fat eighth. Cut enough strips to make a total of 132 strips.

## Making the Squares and Rectangles

1. Sort the strips to make 22 groups of 6 strips.

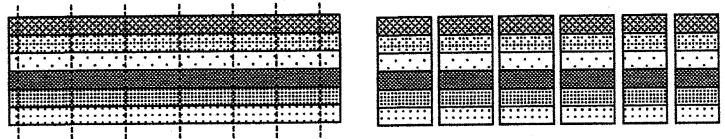
2. Select 1 group of strips. Using a scant  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance, join the strips as shown.



Press the seam in one direction.

**Repeat to make 22 strips sets.**

3. Cross-cut each strip set as follows:
  - Cut 4 segments measuring  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " wide.
  - Cut 2 segments measuring  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " wide.



**Cut a total of 88 segments ~  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $6\frac{1}{2}$ ".**

**Cut a total of 44 segments ~  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $6\frac{1}{2}$ ".**

4. Select 8 of the  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $6\frac{1}{2}$ " segments. Using a seam ripper, a pair of embroidery scissors or your teeth, take out the middle seam to yield two 3-strip segments/squares, each measuring  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $3\frac{1}{2}$ ".

**Repeat to make a total of 16 squares.**

And now you're ready to start piecing the quilt top. How cool is that?

Except that you have to make a decision first. There are two ways to piece the center of the quilt top from this point. I don't think there is a decided advantage to piecing the quilt top one way or the other, I think it comes down to a matter of personal preference. You'll know which is going to work best for you.

- **Piece the rows and then lay them out...** If you like, you can piece the rows and then lay them out. The only disadvantage I can think of is the increased possibility of having strips of the same fabric right next to it. Egad! If you are using fat quarters, fat eighths, or Honey Buns, there will be a fair amount of repetition of each fabric and if the rectangles are already in place, you might not be able to scatter the different fabrics as well as if you lay out the quilt top in rectangles, squares and then assemble the rows.
- **Lay out all the rectangles and squares individually...** The disadvantage here is that this process is slower. And really, that's the only disadvantage. But to some, it's a really big disadvantage. The thing is, with as scrappy as the quilt is going to be, having the same fabric next to each other is probably going to happen a lot less than you might think. You could just use this as an excuse to use more fabrics. ☺

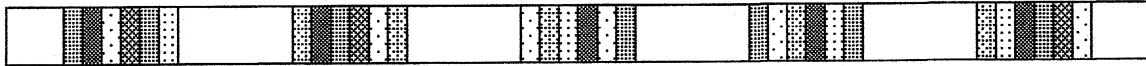
## To piece the rows first...

Just so you know... this isn't what I did. I'm a lot more compulsive about some things than I let on. So I really did lay out each rectangle and square individually. And I probably still wound up with like-fabrics next to each other. It happens and while it doesn't really make me crazy, I do try to avoid it just the same. And if it really did bother me... well, that's what seam rippers are for.

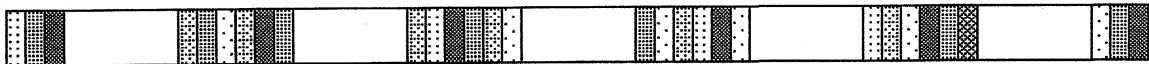
Don't worry about the direction of the pressing just yet.

The first two row layouts are interchangeable – it's the same no matter how you lay it out. So if you press it one way, you may wind up having to press it the other way if you decide you like it better reversed. The third row layout has the strip-pieced rectangle at the top in some rows and on the bottom in others, so the pressing might change depending on where you use it. ☺

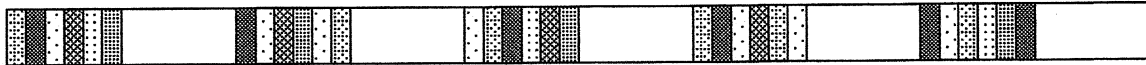
Make 4 of these.



Make 4 of these.



Make 8 of these.



And that's all there is to it.

Now you can just lay out the rows as shown on Page 5 of the instructions.

## Assembling the Quilt Top

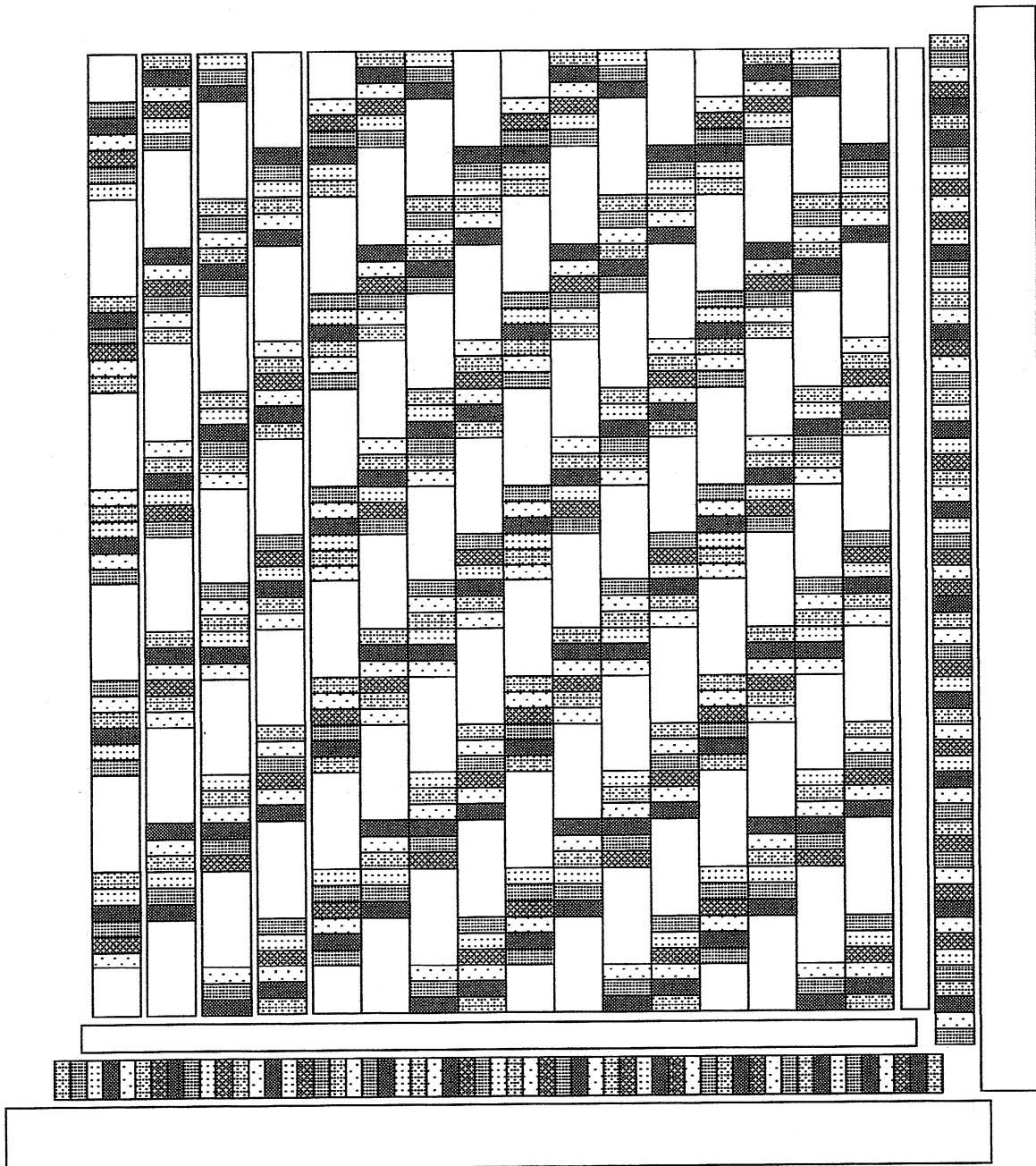
Lay out the squares and rectangles in sixteen vertical rows as shown.

- Don't worry about the direction of the crosswise seam on the four-patch rectangles. They will be re-pressed as necessary.

Using a scant  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance, assemble the squares/rectangles into vertical rows and press all the seams in one direction – **many of the seams will need to be re-pressed in the opposite direction.** Oh well. ☺

- The seams of each row will be going in the opposite direction of the adjacent row.

Then, use a scant  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance to join the rows to complete the quilt top and press the seams in one direction.



## Finishing the Quilt Top

**Before you begin...** Before attaching the borders to the quilt top, measure your quilt top carefully. I recommend that you measure the quilt top in several places, but not along the edge of the quilt.

- In a perfect world, the quilt top should now measure  $48\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $60\frac{1}{2}$ ".

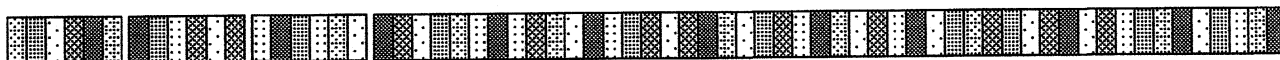
The borders of this quilt are finished with straight corners – first the side borders are attached to the quilt top, then the top and bottom borders. That works for all three of the borders – pieced and plain.

**Attaching the Inner Border.** I prefer to mark the borders rather than actually cut them to the specific size/length. That way, if there are any problems or mistakes – as in, a mistake in measurement – I still have a little bit of extra length in the border to work with.

1. Using the  $9$ " x  $72$ " piece of fabric set aside for the inner borders, cut 4 strips –  $2$ " x  $72$ ".
2. Cut/mark the strips to the following length:
  - **Side Inner Border.** Cut 2 strips –  $2$ " x  $60\frac{1}{2}$ " or the measurement of the length of your quilt top.
  - **Top/Bottom Border.** Cut 2 strips –  $2$ " x  $51\frac{1}{2}$ " or the measurement of the width of your quilt top plus the width of the inner border strips.
1. Using a scant  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance, attach the side borders –  $2$ " x  $60\frac{1}{2}$ " – to the sides of the quilt top. Press the seams toward the border strip.
2. Using a scant  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance, attach the top/bottom borders –  $2$ " x  $51\frac{1}{2}$ " – to the top and bottom edges of the quilt top. Press the seams toward the inner border strip.

### Piecing & Attaching the Middle Pieced Border.

1. Using the  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $6\frac{1}{2}$ " pieced segments cut from the strip sets, sort the segments as follows:
  - **Side Borders.** Make 2 groups of 11 segments.
  - **Top/Bottom Borders.** Make 2 groups of 9 segments.
  - **Yep.** There are some leftover segments... there should be six of them. Put them on the back. ☺
2. **Piecing the Side Borders.** Select 1 group of 11 segments. Using a scant  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance, join the segments as shown.

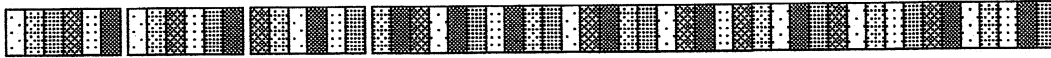


Press the seams in one direction.

The border strip should now measure  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $66\frac{1}{2}$ ".

### Repeat to make a 2<sup>nd</sup> pieced middle border.

3. Using a seam ripper or your tool of choice, remove three of the strips from the pieced border strip. All three strips can come from one end of the border; or two strips can from one end and one strip can come from the other end. Whatever works... now the border strips should measure  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $63\frac{1}{2}$ ".
4. Using a scant  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance, attach the pieced middle borders to the long sides of the quilt top. Press the seams toward the pieced middle border strips.
5. **Piecing the Top/Bottom Borders.** Select 1 group of 9 segments. Using a scant  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance, join the segments as shown.



Press the seams in one direction.

The border strip should now measure  $2\frac{1}{2}'' \times 54\frac{1}{2}''$ .

**Repeat to make a 2<sup>nd</sup> pieced middle border.**

6. Instead of removing a strip, you're going to have to add one. Just one teeny little strip. You can either use one of the strips you removed from the side borders or use one from one of the leftover segments. Wherever it comes from, add just one strip to each of the two border strips. The top/bottom pieced middle border strips should now measure  $2\frac{1}{2}'' \times 55\frac{1}{2}''$ .
7. Using a scant  $\frac{1}{4}''$  seam allowance, attach the pieced middle borders to the top and bottom edges of the quilt top. Press the seams toward the pieced middle border strips.

**Attaching the Outer – and last! – Border.** As before, I prefer to mark the borders rather than actually cut them to the specific size/length. At this point, I am usually rushing to finish and, therefore, more likely to make a mistake. So, I would rather be safe than sorry. ☺

1. Using the  $17\frac{1}{2}'' \times 72''$  piece of fabric set aside for the inner borders, cut 4 strips –  $7\frac{1}{2}'' \times 72''$ .
2. Cut/mark the strips to the following length:
  - **Side Outer Border.** Cut 2 strips –  $4\frac{1}{2}'' \times 67\frac{1}{2}''$  or the measurement of the length of your quilt top.
  - **Top/Bottom Border.** Cut 2 strips –  $4\frac{1}{2}'' \times 63\frac{1}{2}''$  or the measurement of the width of your quilt top plus the width of the outer border strips.
3. Using a scant  $\frac{1}{4}''$  seam allowance, attach the side borders –  $4\frac{1}{2}'' \times 67\frac{1}{2}''$  – to the sides of the quilt top. Press the seams toward the border strip.
4. Using a scant  $\frac{1}{4}''$  seam allowance, attach the top/bottom borders –  $4\frac{1}{2}'' \times 63\frac{1}{2}''$  – to the top and bottom edges of the quilt top. Press the seams toward the outer border strip.

And now you're done!

**Binding.** The quilt is finished with “French” binding cut on the crosswise grain of the fabric. The strips for the binding were cut at  $2\frac{1}{2}''$  wide, but that can be changed. I prefer a very narrow binding so my binding strips are cut at  $2''$  wide and sewn onto the quilt with a  $\frac{1}{4}''$  seam allowance.

- Don't forget to piece the binding using a diagonal seam to distribute the bulk in the binding.

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**To make this quilt a different size...** Here are some numbers that I hope will help.

- Two fat quarters will yield enough strips to make approximately 17 strip-pieced rectangles.
- Three fat eighths will yield enough strips to make approximately 12 strip-pieced rectangles.
- One  $6\frac{1}{2}'' \times 42''$  strip of focus fabric will yield 12 rectangles –  $6\frac{1}{2}'' \times 3\frac{1}{2}''$ .

And if you think you want to make this bigger but don't want to figure it out yourself... I've done some rough calculations ~ **very rough** ~ for a couple of different size quilts. I can't guarantee anything but this should get you started...

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**Twin-Size Quilt** ~ Quilt measures 69" x 87" finished size. The center of the quilt measures 54" x 64", and is comprised of 18 vertical rows, each measuring 54" long.

- Make 108 strip-pieced rectangles for the quilt top. Side borders – use 13 pieced rectangle segments for each of the side borders. Top/Bottom borders – 12 pieced rectangle segments for the top/bottom borders.
- Cut a total of 103 alternating rectangles – 3 ½" x 6 ½". Cut a total of 10 alternating squares – 3 ½" x 3 ½".
- Cut a total of 162 strips – 1 ½" x 21".

**Yardage Requirements:**

- Primary Print for Rectangles & Borders: 3 ¼ yards
- Asst. Light, Medium & Dark Prints for blocks: 15 Fat Quarters or 33 Fat Eighths or 162 strips – 1 ½" x 21" or 81 strips – 1 ½" x 42"... 2 Honey Buns
- Binding: 1 yard
  - **For a scrap binding** ~ Add 4 Fat Quarters or 6 Fat Eighths to the number of Medium & Dark pieces required for the four-patches. Or you can use 20 strips measuring 2" or 2 ½" x 21"
- Backing: 5 ¼ yards

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**Double-Size Quilt** ~ Quilt measures 84" x 90" finished size. The center of the quilt measures 69" x 75", and is comprised of 23 vertical rows, each measuring 69" long.

- Make 144 strip-pieced rectangles for the quilt top. Side borders – use 14 pieced rectangle segments for each of the side borders. Top/Bottom borders – 13 pieced rectangle segments for the top/bottom borders.
- Cut a total of 138 alternating rectangles – 3 ½" x 6 ½". Cut a total of 11 alternating squares – 3 ½" x 3 ½".
- Cut a total of 216 strips – 1 ½" x 21".

**Yardage Requirements:**

- Primary Print for Rectangles & Borders: 4 yards
- Asst. Light, Medium & Dark Prints for blocks: 20 Fat Quarters or 44 Fat Eighths or 216 strips – 1 ½" x 21" or 108 strips – 1 ½" x 42"... 3 Honey Buns
- Binding: 1 yard
  - **For a scrap binding** ~ Add 5 Fat Quarters or 8 Fat Eighths to the number of Medium & Dark pieces required for the four-patches. Or you can use 22 strips measuring 2" or 2 ½" x 21"
- Backing: 6 ½ yards

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**Queen-Size Quilt** ~ Quilt measures 87" x 93" finished size. The center of the quilt measures 72" x 78", and is comprised of 24 vertical rows, each measuring 72" long.

- Make 159 strip-pieced rectangles for the quilt top. Side borders – use 14 pieced rectangle segments for each of the side borders. Top/Bottom borders – 14 pieced rectangle segments for the top/bottom borders.
- Cut a total of 150 alternating rectangles – 3 ½" x 6 ½". Cut a total of 16 alternating squares – 3 ½" x 3 ½".
- Cut a total of 240 strips – 1 ½" x 21".

**Yardage Requirements:**

- Primary Print for Rectangles & Borders: 4 yards
- Asst. Prints for Four-Patches ~ 22 Fat Quarters or 48 Fat Eighths or 240 strips – 1 ½" x 21" or 120 strips – 1 ½" x 42"... 3 Honey Buns
- Binding: 1 ¼ yards
  - **For a scrap binding** ~ Add 5 Fat Quarters or 8 Fat Eighths to the number of Medium & Dark pieces required for the four-patches. Or you can use 22 strips measuring 2" or 2 ½" x 21"
- Backing: 7 ½ yards