



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.

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".

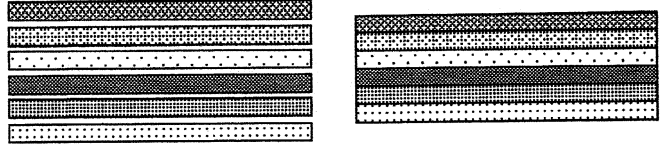
If you would like to use a scrap-pieced binding, cut the following:

- **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.

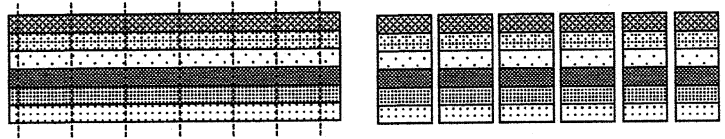


Press the seam in one direction.

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. ☺

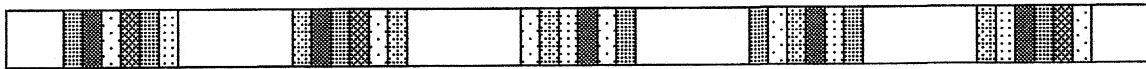
To piece the rows first...

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.

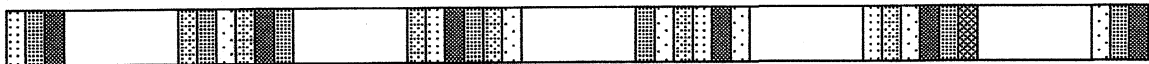
Don't worry about the direction of the pressing just yet.

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. ☺

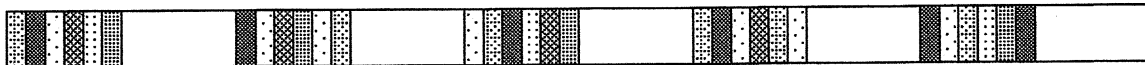
Make 4 of these.



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.

