

'GARDENS IN THE RAIN' Block

A block inspired by Japanese wood block prints which depict rain as a series of diagonal lines. Use $\frac{1}{4}$ inch seams throughout; finished blocks are intended to be $6\frac{1}{2} \times 6\frac{1}{2}$ inches square.

Fabrics and cutting out:

These blocks are best made 2, 3 or 4 at a time, so it is suggested that you choose 4 fabrics and cut pieces $7\frac{1}{2} \times 7\frac{1}{2}$ " as 'backgrounds' and long 1" strips for the insert 'stripes'.

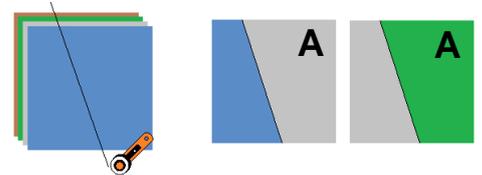
Make stripe strips about 9" long from sections of the 1 inch strips, joining sections of the fabrics end-to-end randomly and use randomly!



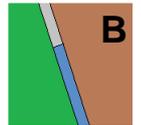
Making Blocks:

It helps to be not too deliberate when arranging colours; some blocks will have inserted stripes that match or part-match the block - this makes **texture** and is OK. Try not to get the cuts in the corners, or the joins in the inset stripes too close to the edges of the block. Handle cut pieces with care as they have a **bias edge**. Use a ruler and rotary cutter and keep all pieces the right way up and right way round or you will get into a tangle. Cuts always run from top **left(ish)** to bottom **right(ish)**. **On completion trim each block to $6\frac{1}{2} \times 6\frac{1}{2}$ ".**

Block A - is the basic block. Layer 2 (or 3 or 4) background fabric pieces right-side up on your mat and make a sloping cut. Select two pieces and sew together with a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam to make a simple block.

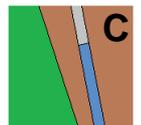


Block B - cut and select two background pieces as if for a Block A, but join the pieces with a stripe between them.



In theory, adding stripes does not change the block size (stays $7\frac{1}{2} \times 7\frac{1}{2}$ "), but if your seam allowances are too generous you may have to trim all your blocks down to less than $6\frac{1}{2}$ " square! Test and measure – if need be adjust seams accordingly.

Block C - make a Block A, then cut again and insert a stripe: sew the stripe to one side of the gap, press and then add the second part.



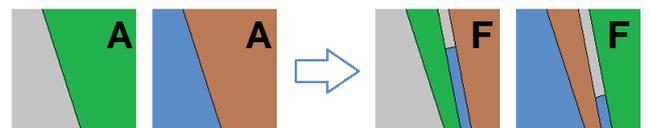
Block D - make a Block B, cut again and insert a second stripe (with a different slope?)



Block E - make a Block B, cut **across** the first stripe and insert another.



Block F - as Block C, but cut two different Block A's at once and rearrange the bits before adding the stripe.



Block G - make a Block A, rotate, cut and insert a stripe (or stripes!)



Trim all blocks to the same size before assembly – nominally, they should all be $6\frac{1}{2} \times 6\frac{1}{2}$ " square. If your sewing is not so accurate, make them all $6\frac{1}{4}$ " square or 6" square. If just one or two are too small, maybe add a narrow strip down one side? If making a full quilt top, cut plain blocks to match when you have finished the others.