



Descending Colors

- This challenge is very simple, and we are going to discuss choices in techniques.
- This is going to be a vertical sew as opposed to a horizontal sew, which is the way most blocks are done. If you did the horizontal sew you would have to sew all squares. Some prefer this technique as it gives you a more textured look and you may choose to use that method, just for contrast.
- Color choices: 3 Dark Blacks, 2 Yellows Medium to Dark and white on white for background. I used scraps, but a fat quarter would cover for each color choice would more than cover your needs.
- When you use your rotary cutter and ruler, make sure your line of your measurement is on the fabric as every time you cut you lose 1/16" of an inch, which does not seem like much but adds up when you are working with small 1/4" seams
- Spray the fabric you are cutting with Prema Press before cutting to give it stability
- Cutting Instructions: Three - 2 1/2" squares of each of the Black Print Color choices.
- Three- 2 1/2" squares of each of the yellow Print color choices.
- White on White Background: Three- 2 1/2" white on white squares
- Two- 2 1/2" x 4 1/2" rectangles of white on white
- Two- 2 1/2" x 6 1/2" rectangles of white on white
- Two 2 1/2" x 8 1/2" rectangles of white on white.

- Lay out your squares and rectangles, following the visual. You are now ready to sew. Starting at the top, left, Sew two black print squares together, adding the 2 1/2" x 8 1/2" background to the bottom of the joined black print squares.
- Now the question arises whether to iron open the seams. That is really a personal preference. For the perfectionists in the group, it does look neater. Some machine quilters prefer less bulk. However, that being said, intersecting seams reinforces the seams. That is the technique where the top seam is folded to the left and the bottom seam to the right, so the presser foot pushes them into one another and they match up easier.
- Once again for the perfectionists in the crowd, you have to sew the next row carefully, otherwise you might get twist seams OMG, can we just keep that our secret. Unless someone is inspecting your seams, who cares.
- As you sew, ironing comes into play and the more you iron, the nicer your block can look. For me, running to the iron every time you sew a seam is more than I can bear. But once again if you want to be perfect, it can be a good idea. Now you want to just flat press, not move the iron, like your ironing clothes as that will distort your fabric.
- Another all you perfectionists can do is re-measure every time you sew a seam. Re-measure and make sure it is the correct size, in this case 2 1/2" x 4 1/2" for the first seam. Re-square or rip out seam and try again. (Not in my lifetime) Depending on what I am sewing, I do re-square and trim to correct measurement -but I will discuss that more at a later date.
- Working across horizontally, but sewing vertically, sew the rows together with 1/4" seams, making a personal choice whether to sew flat seams or intersecting seams and when to iron and trim. When pressing rows together, first press the top, towards the bottom seam, flip it over and re-press along the line of the seam. Continue sewing and pressing
- You should have a 12 1/2" with/ seams (w/s) Block.
 - * These instructions are very detailed to make you aware of your choices when doing a block.

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