

“Illusion” Quilt Pattern

Get your eyes working trying to figure out the 3D effects in our stunning new Illusion Quilt. This is a great two-colour quilt to make, and is deceptively easy to put together too! For a change, we made ours in flannel, and this is a super snuggly quilt that our Master 15 is going to love!!



This quilt measures approximately 58 inches square.

You Will Need:

2 metres/yards of a plain light colour fabric (minimum width is 42 inches.)

2 metres/yards of a plain dark colour fabric. You need a good contrast for this pattern to work.

(We had exactly 2 yards of each colour, and that was sufficient to make the nine blocks, the borders and the binding. There was only a couple of inches left over of each after this, so if at all in doubt, you may like to start with 2¼ yards of each fabric. Read the finishing notes on binding at the end first as well.)

You will need a 24 inch quilting ruler marked with a 45 degree line to cut the blocks.

Batting measuring at least 64 x 64 inches

Backing fabric measuring at least 64 x 64 inches

Cut:

From each of your two coloured fabrics, cut a total of 27 width of fabric strips, each 2 inches wide. Leave the selvages on, and put the remainder of the fabric aside for now.

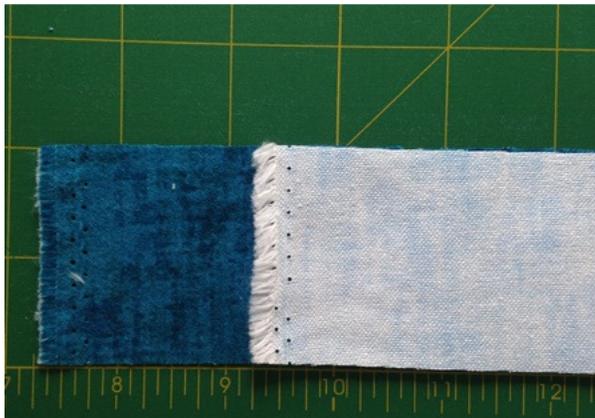
Blocks:



There are nine blocks in this quilt, and each is built from a pieced strip set.

You will need three light strips and three dark strips for each set.

(You can make this quilt larger if you like, just by adding more blocks, but remember to allow more fabric for this too.)



We found the easiest way to piece the strip sets was by using the 45 degree line on our cutting board.

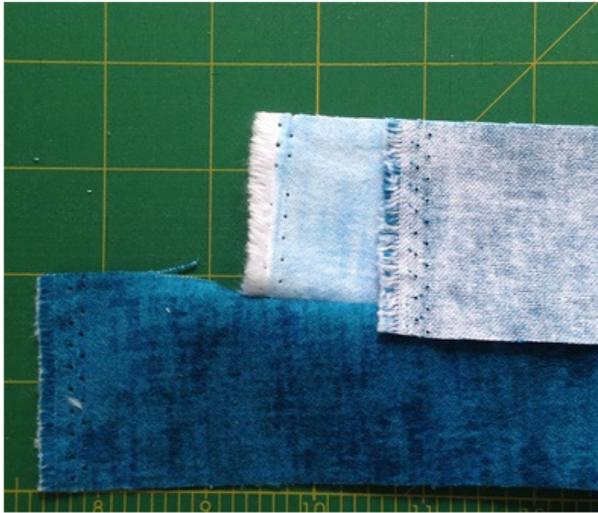
If you don't have one on yours, you may like to make one – measure and mark a 45 degree line on a flat surface with a piece of masking tape. You will need the straight bottom horizontal line as well.

To start, place a dark strip across the bottom straight horizontal line, so that the 45 degree line is just covered, as shown above.

You will make your first cut on this line, so you need to make sure that the line is covered by fabric, but not too generously, as you need the full length of this strip set to cut the units for your block.

Place the second (light coloured) strip on top with right sides together. The top of this strip must be just over (to the left) of the 45 degree line, as shown above.

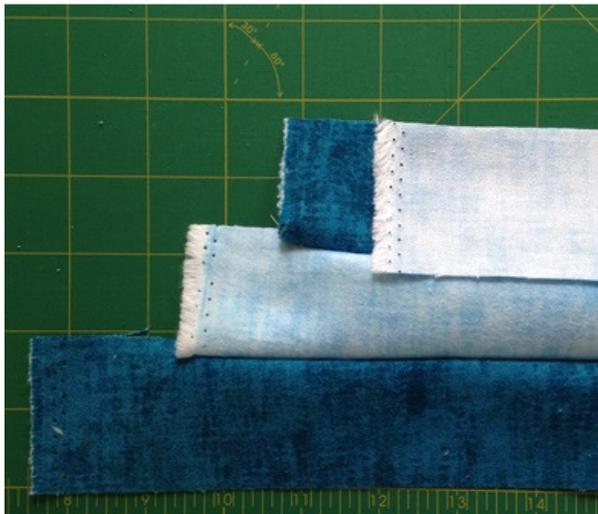
Sew the strips together with a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch seam along the top edge.



Open out the strips and line them up again on your 45 degree line. Don't press them at this point.

The third strip is a dark fabric one. Line it up again so that the top edge is just past the 45 degree line as pictured.

Sew together to join strip three to strip two.



Add the fourth strip – a light coloured one. Same as before – open out your strip set and line it up on the 45 degree line.

Position the fourth strip, and sew together.



The fifth strip is dark again. Repeat the previous steps to line up your strip set and position the next strip.

Sew together.



Add the sixth and final (light) strip in exactly the same way.



Your finished strip set, with six alternating dark and light strips sewn together.



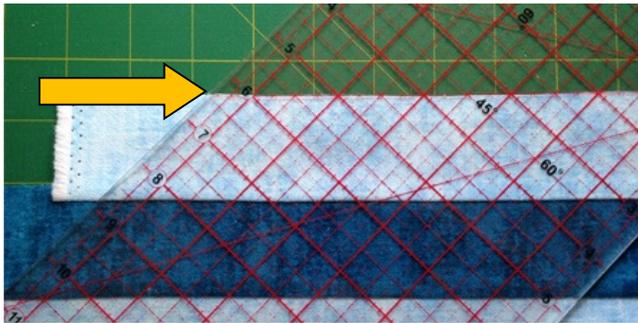
Iron the strips, taking care not to stretch them – you want them to stay as straight as possible.

Press all seams upwards.



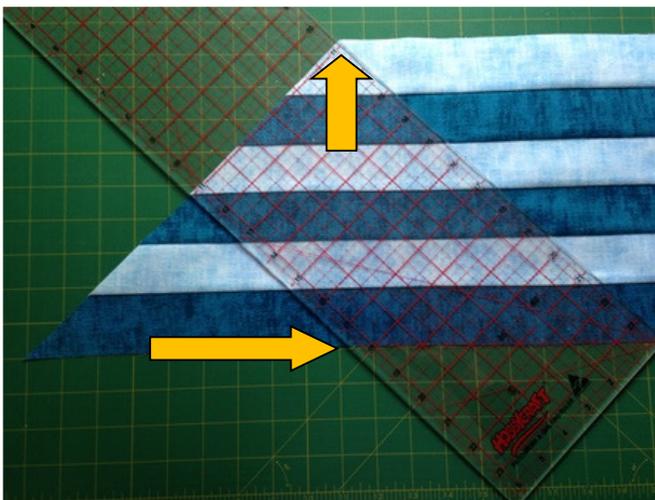
The first cut is to trim your starting edge of this strip set.

Use the lines on your ruler to trim the first edge at a 45 degree angle as shown. Make the cut as close as you can to the start, so you don't waste any fabric.



Line up the 45 degree line on your ruler with the top of the sixth strip.

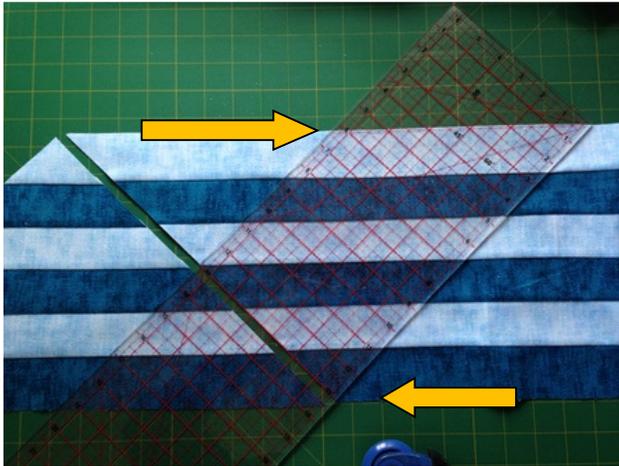
Move the ruler across as needed to line it up for your first cut.



When you have trimmed the starting edge, turn the ruler to cut your first triangle from your strip set.

This time, line up the 45 degree line on your ruler with the bottom edge of the strip set, and move the ruler across until the edge lines up with the top of the sixth strip in a point.

The width across the bottom edge will be about 18½ inches. Don't worry about the measurements so much – if you cut the triangles the same way, they will all go together perfectly.



Your second triangle is cut upside down, fitting into the side of the first.

Line up the 45 degree line on your ruler with the top of the sixth strip, and adjust so you meet the point at the bottom.

Cut a further two triangles in this way from your strip set, so you have a total of four triangles – two with a dark strip along the bottom, and two with a light strip along the bottom.



Arrange your triangles as shown, so the dark bottomed triangles sit to the left and bottom of the square.



With right sides together, sew the matched pairs of triangles together.

As you pressed all seams upwards, you will find that for this step, the seam allowances will be on top of each other. Take care to line them up properly for a perfect corner on the right side.

Be careful too not to stretch the fabric as you are sewing this on the bias now.



Place the pairs of triangles on your ironing board with the long straight edge across the top, and press the seam allowance to the left, as shown.

Press both halves in the same way.



With right sides together, join the halves together.

You will find that this time, the seam allowances will nest together, giving you perfect joins where the colours change.



Press this final seam open to reduce bulk.

Repeat with the remaining strips you cut, to make a total of 9 blocks in this way.

Assembly:



This quilt top is really easy to put together. It is arranged in a simple 3 x 3 grid.

Join three blocks together as shown.
*** Make sure that the dark fabric edges are to the left and bottom.



Make three rows, as shown. Again, make sure the blocks are all around the right way or your pattern will not work.

Press seams in alternate directions between the rows.



Finally, join the rows together and press seams well.

Border:

The border is half dark and half light fabric, and we mitred the corners, in keeping with the block design.

From your fabric, cut 3 width of fabric strips from both of your two colours, each strip 3 inches wide.

Cut one of the dark and one of the light strips in half lengthways, so you can make two border strips from each colour, each $1\frac{1}{2}$ width of fabric lengths long. Join the full and half lengths together in same colour pairs, and press the seams well.



The border strips are longer than you need, and this will help you mitre the corners.

On the wrong side of your quilt top, use a pencil to mark a point a ¼ inch from the corners, as shown.

With right sides together, and matching light to light, and dark to dark, sew the four border strips to the quilt top, making sure to start and stop at the marked dots.



When you have sewn one strip in place, open it out and finger press the seam towards the outer edge at the corner.

Leave a generous border strip allowance at the end, and line the second strip up so that the raw edges meet, and right sides are together.

Put your needle down at the marked dot and start sewing from there to add the next border strip.

Continue around the quilt in this way.



The front of your quilt with the border strips attached. The sewing starts and stops at the dot you marked.



Use the diagonal seam in the corner block to help you, and fold the corner of your quilt so that the block is folded in half diagonally and the edges of the border strips are aligned.

Use your ruler and line up the row of stitching across the bottom of the block (as shown), and rule a pencil line continuing that line across the ends of the border strips.

Pin well and sew on this line, taking care to stop at the dot on your quilt corner.



Trim the excess border strip ends.



Your finished mitred corner.

Repeat for the remaining three corners and press well.

Quilting:

Place your backing fabric face down on a flat surface, then smooth the batting on top. Put your quilt top on top of that, centred and smoothed flat. Pin the layers together in preparation for quilting.

So as to not disrupt the pattern of the blocks, we chose to quilt our quilt in the ditch. We quilted around each of the nine blocks, and then on alternate seams within the blocks. Quilts yours as you like.

Finishing:

We wanted to continue the half-and-half colour effect for the binding too, so half of our binding is dark, and half light to match the border strips. You may decide to bind your quilt in the one colour. That is absolutely fine, but you will need to allow sufficient extra fabric to do this.

From the remaining fabric, cut four width of fabric strips, 2¼ inches wide from EACH colour. Join together in colour matched PAIRS with 45 degree seams. Then join a dark strip to a light strip with a 45 degree seam, and repeat for the remaining two strips.

Press the ¼ inch seams open, then fold the strips in half, right sides out and press.

This is a bit fiddly to do, but you will need to work out the best fit for the corners where the light meets the dark first, to try and get the best fit for your binding. Pin and adjust as needed, and when you have it right, sew the binding to those corners first, with a ¼ inch seam, mitring the corner. Use the two separate binding strips – one for each light/dark corner. We just sewed from about 8 inches before the corner, then mitred the corner and continued down the length of the other side.

Do both of these corners first, then adjust the other ends of your binding to fit. It is easier to join dark to dark and light to light to finish the binding in this case.

Turn the folded edge of the binding to the back and slip stitch it in place with thread that matches the binding to finish your quilt. Enjoy the Illusion!!

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There's a Free Monthly Magazine, or upgrade to our Premium Magazine for even more Patterns and Hints and Tips.

And don't forget, if you haven't already, visit www.3DollarQuiltBOM.com again and select your next quilt project so you can get started right away!

