

## Jacob's Ladder - CIQ Block of the Month – Sept.

4 fabrics - Cutting guide:



Cut 1 strip 3 1/8 inches by 33" Color C

Cut 1 strip 3 1/8 inches by 33" Color B

Cut 2 - 6 inch squares Color A

Cut 2 - 6 inch squares Color E (background)

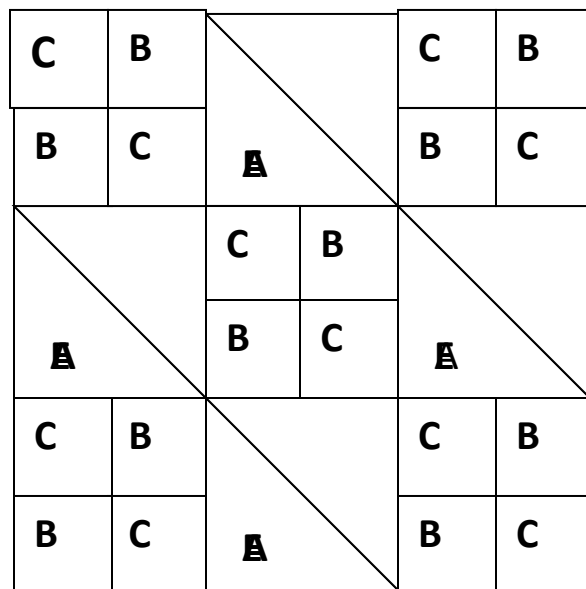
### Sewing:

Step One: Make 5 strip pieced 4 patches from the colors C and B strips. Use the directions on the back for making Strip Pieced 4 –Patches.

Step Two: Make 4 Half-Square Triangles from the colors A and E (background) squares. Use the directions on the back for making Half-Square Triangles.

Assemble the Block:

1. Lay all nine pieces out in the correct order (see illustration).
2. Sew the vertical rows.
3. Press seams so they will be staggered.
4. Sew the horizontal rows.
5. Press. Do not stretch.
6. Check to make certain the finished block is approximately 15 1/2 inches square.



## Strip Pieced Four-Patches

If you are using the same two fabrics throughout your 4 patches, strip piecing is the way to go.

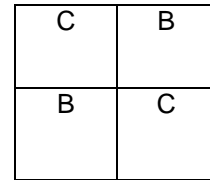
For example, for the Jacob's Ladder pattern, the UNFINISHED 4 patches will be  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches square. Cut 1 strip each of the B and C fabric  $3\frac{1}{8}$  inches wide. Since the Jacob's Ladder block needs only five 4 patches, each strip of fabric only needs to be 33 inches long. If you are making more than one Jacob's ladder, you can cut the strips the width of the fabric, and cut as many strips as you need. (Hint – I add a little extra width when cutting these so I can square up accurately.)

Put the 2 strips right sides together and sew along one long edge. Open and press seam to the dark fabric.

Square up one end. Cut into several  $3\frac{1}{8}$  inch sections.

Every once in a while, check to see if you need to square up again. For the Jacob's Ladder, you will need 10 sections.

Put the sections into two equal piles, according to the illustration.



Matching the center seam, sew the five pairs together to make five 4 patches.

Square up the 4 patches to exactly  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches square. BE SURE THE INTERSECTION OF THE SEAMS IS DIRECTLY IN THE CENTER OF THE SQUARE.

## Half-Square Triangles

From 2 different fabrics, cut 1 square from each. To know how big to cut the squares, you decide what the FINISHED size of the block will be, and then cut the squares  $\frac{7}{8}$  inch bigger. For the Jacob's Ladder, the finished size is 5 inches, so when I add  $\frac{7}{8}$  of an inch, I will cut the squares  $5\frac{7}{8}$  inches. Hint – If you are having difficulty getting a square block after sewing, instead of adding  $\frac{7}{8}$  inch to the finished size of the block, add 1 inch. You can always cut off, but it is difficult to add on.

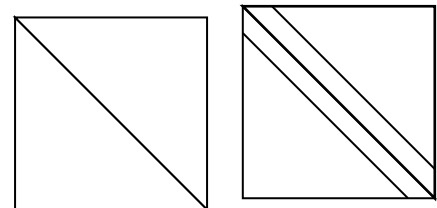
On the WRONG side of the lighter fabric, draw a diagonal line from one corner to the opposite corner.

Place the 2 fabric squares right sides together.

Sew a  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch seam on BOTH sides of the diagonal line.

Press lightly to set the seam.

Cut on the line you drew. You now have 2 half-square triangles.



Press seams to the darker color.

Square up each block. For the Jacob's Ladder, square up to  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches. BE SURE TO LINE THE DIAGONAL SEAM LINE UP DIRECTLY WITH THE 45 DEGREE LINE ON THE SQUARE OR RULER.