



Sweetest Things Sampler

2. Irish Chain block

Tutorial by Dawn – Honeybee Cloths

Irish Chain block is a lovely versatile pattern. In this method, each block is made from four quick and easy 4-patch units. These are quick to make, sew one or two 4-patch units whenever you have a few minutes to spare, and before you know it you have enough for the Irish Chain blocks in the Sampler.

There are 13 Irish Chain blocks, in our 50" x 50" (1.27m x 1.27m) quilt top.

Please note: ¼" seam allowance used throughout



If you're new to sewing, or just need a refresher, Irish Chain blocks are ideal, as you get to practice the basics in piecing precisely....

- **Measure twice, cut once** - Cutting strips precisely makes piecing a lot easier
- **Check the ¼" mark on your machine** - Where this is can vary from machine to machine – use a ruler to check.
- **Squaring up** – Trimming the 4-patch units to 4 ½" square, helps when joining everything up.



To make the scrappy version of the Irish Chain blocks you'll need:

- 36" (1 yard / approx. 92cm) – 45" wide Plain Off-white or low volume cotton fabric
Sliced into (14) - 2 ½" x 45" strips (reserve 6 strips to be made into 4 ½" pieces in step 8)

- Either 16 Fat Eighth pieces - **OR** - 8 Long Quarters in assorted pretty fabrics.

From each piece cut

(1) - 2 ½" square

(1) - 2 ½" strip e.g. 2 ½" x 22" strip cut from Fat Eighth - **OR** - 2 ½" x 45" strip cut from Long Quarter



If working with strips cut from a Fat Eighth, you'll first need to cut the 45" x 2 ½" off-white strip in half to make a 22" x 2 ½" piece.

1. Pair up a plain and patterned 2 ½" strip.
Sew right sides together.
2. Press seams open, or to one side, towards the darker strip – whichever you find easiest to piece.



3. Group the strips into complimentary pairs.
(Photo of 4 pairs of 8 strips cut from Long Quarters.
If using Fat Eighths group 16 strips into 8 pairs.)



4. Working with one group at a time. Line up the strip sets on your cutting mat, and slice into 2 ½" units.

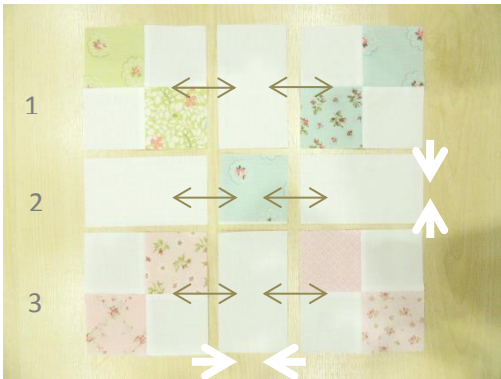


5. Place units right sides together, so the plain and print fabrics are next to each other.
6. Match centre seams, so they nest closely. Sew to make 4 patch block

5.



7. Press and square up the 4-patch unit, to 4 1/2" square.



8. Place the 4-patches in order, together with 2 1/2" x 4 1/2" off-white strips and 2 1/2" centre square.

9. Sew units together into rows, as shown by grey arrows. Press seams open or in direction of white arrows. Sew rows 1 to 2, and 2 to 3 together, and press.



10. Your first Irish Chain block is made!

We'd love to see the Irish Chain blocks you make, so please do post them on Instagram using the hashtag – #SweetestThingsSampler.



Our next post skips to quilting, and the option of using a Quilt As You Go technique.

Then in February, our first Sampler block, is an absolute darling. It's made and designed by Michelle of Creative Blonde, can't wait to show you.

Till next time, from our little hive to yours,

Happy sewing,

Dawn x X



Honeybee Cloths

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