

Rain & Fire (in the Sky)

a mystery quilt by Debbie Caffrey

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The finished size of the quilt is 68½" x 81¼", a twin size.

Adding the optional outer border will make a full to queen size.

The most important thing to remember when selecting fabrics for a mystery quilt is **contrast!** The fabrics should have good contrast among them in order for the pattern to emerge. Use color and/or value to achieve this contrast. **Avoid directional fabrics unless you are prepared to ignore their prints.**

Fabric Requirements

Fabric #1 – Light Background 3½ yards

Fabric #2 – Medium to Dark twenty fat quarters
All fat quarters must contrast with fabric #1 and at least fourteen of the fat quarters must contrast with fabric #3.

Fabric #3 – Dark (used in piecing and a 4½" border) 1¾ yards

Optional Outer Border 2¾ yards*

Backing – without optional outer border 5 yards*
– with optional outer border 8 yards*

Binding 1 yard*

* The optional border, backing, and binding may be purchased after the mystery is solved, but more of the same fabrics may not be available.

Other Supplies

Sewing machine

Thread to blend with your fabrics

Rotary cutter, mat, rulers, and tools

Omnigrid 98 or 98L triangle tool or Companion Angle – I prefer the Omnigrid 98L, but most quarter-square triangle tools will work. The Omnigrid 98L is available for purchase on my website, at your local quilt shop, or in class.

Do the cutting on page 2 prior to class. Bring all of your pieces and your excess fabric to class with you.

Questions?

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Cutting Instructions

Cut the following prior to class. Strips of fabrics #1 and #3 are cut across the width of the fabric, making them approximately 40" long with selvages on each of the short ends. Bring all of these pieces and your excess fabric to class with you.

Fabric #1 – Light Background

Cut eight strips 5½" wide.

Use the strips to cut fifty-four 5½" squares.

Cut these squares twice, diagonally, into quarter-square triangles. Yield: 216 triangles



Cut six strips 2⅝" wide.

Use the strip to cut eighty 2⅝" squares.

More cutting of fabric #1 will be done in Step 9.

Fabric #3 – Dark

Cut two strips 5½" wide.

Use the strips to cut fourteen 5½" squares.

Cut these squares twice, diagonally, into quarter-square triangles. Yield: 56 triangles



Cut one strip 4¾" wide.

Use the strip to cut four 4¾" squares.

More cutting of fabric #3 will be done in Step 9.

Fabric #2 – Medium to Dark Fat Quarters

Each of the twenty fat quarters is cut as follows.

Open the fat quarters to a single layer. Stack fat quarters and cut more than one at a time. How many you cut at once depends upon your experience and confidence. All of the selvages should be aligned along the left.

Trim and square (trimming at a 90° angle relative to the selvage edge) the top edge of a stack of fat quarters. Remove the selvages. Do not trim the other two edges at this time. Doing so may result in too little fabric remaining to cut all of the pieces. If you do run short at any time while cutting the fat quarters, do not be concerned. You can cut any pieces that you are lacking from scraps.

Follow the diagram at the bottom of the page to cut the following pieces from the fat quarters. Cut the strips first (See the strip widths at the right of the diagram.), then, cut the squares and rectangles from them. Keep the pieces organized in bags labeled with the appropriate letter.

A – three 5½" squares

Cut the 5½" squares twice, diagonally, into quarter-square triangles. Yield: 12 triangles of each fat quarter



B – two 3" squares

Cut the 3" squares once, diagonally, into half-square triangles. Yield: 4 triangles of each fat quarter



C – two strips 2" wide x approximately 20".

When you have cut all twenty fat quarters you will have 240 A triangles, eighty B triangles, and forty C strips.

