

Undercover in Chicago VI

A Mystery Quilt by Debbie Caffrey

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There are multiple size options in this pattern: a 79" x 97" full size (57" x 75" before the borders), or a 54" x 66" lap size (39" x 51" before the borders). The information for the larger quilt is given first. It is followed by information for the smaller quilt in parentheses. Choose the size you want to make, purchase fabric accordingly, and cut the pieces necessary for the size you are making.

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. I used the same basic color for both fabric #2 and fabric #3. That is why I called both of them "Dark A". You may use different colors for the two "Dark A's". The color "Dark B" should contrast with both "Dark A" fabrics. If they blend too much the pattern will not emerge. Avoid directional fabrics unless you are prepared to ignore their prints.

Fabric Requirements

Fabric #1 – Light Background	3 (2) yards
Fabric #2 – Dark A, large scale print	1 ⁵ / ₈ (1) yards
Fabric #3 – Dark A, small scale print or tone on tone	½ (¾) yard
Fabric #4 – Dark B, small scale print or tone on tone	1 ⁵ / ₈ (1 ¹ / ₈) yards
Optional Inner Border	¾ (½) yard*
Optional Outer Border	2½ (1 ³ / ₈) yards*
Backing	7¼ (3½) yards*
Binding	1(¾) yard*

*Borders, backing, and binding may be purchased after the mystery has been solved, but more of the same fabrics may not be available. Varying the width(s) of the borders will change the amount(s) of fabric needed for borders, backing, and binding.

Other Supplies

Thread to blend with your fabrics

Rotary cutter, mat, & basic rulers

mat at least 12" x 18" and ruler 6" x 12" or larger

Omnigrd 96, Omnigrd 96L, Easy Angle or other half-square triangle tool, optional

Point Trimmer, optional

Cutting Instructions

Cut the following pieces. Strips are cut across the width of the fabric, making them approximately 40" long with selvages on each of the short ends. REMEMBER: The first number is for the larger quilt and the number in parentheses is for the smaller quilt.

Fabric #1 – Light Background

Cut four (three) strips 9½" (6½") wide.

Use the strips to cut twenty-four 6½" x 9½" (twenty-four 5" x 6½") rectangles.

Cut one (one) strip 6½" (5") wide.

Use the strip to cut four 6½" (four 5") squares.

Cut three (two) strips 5¾" (4¼") wide.

Use the strips to cut seventeen 5¾" (seventeen 4¼") squares.

Cut the squares twice, diagonally, to make quarter-square triangles. Yield: 68 triangles



Cut two (two) strips 3½" (2½") wide.

Cut twelve (ten) strips 2" (1½") wide.

Fabric #2 – Dark A, large scale print

Cut five (four) strips 5⅜" (3⅞") wide.

Use the strips to cut thirty-four 5⅜" (thirty-four 3⅞") squares.

Cut the squares once, diagonally, to make half-square triangles. Yield: 68 triangles



Cut four (three) strips 5" (3½") wide.

Use the strips to cut twenty-eight 5" (twenty-eight 3½") squares.

Fabric #3 – Dark A, small scale print

Cut four (four) strips 2" (1½") wide.

Fabric #4 – Dark B, small scale print

Cut four (three) strips 3½" (2½") wide.

Cut seventeen (fifteen) strips 2" (1½") wide.

Do the strip-piecing on the next page prior to class. Bring the panels, all the cut pieces, and your excess fabric to class.

Sewing Test for Seam Allowances

The success of your quilt depends upon precise $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowances. It is a good idea to check your seam allowances before beginning.

TEST: Cut four rectangles that measure $1\frac{1}{2}$ " x $4\frac{1}{2}$ ". Sew them together along the long edges. Press the seam allowances to one side. The finished piece should measure exactly $4\frac{1}{2}$ " square. If it does not, adjust your seam allowance and repeat the test.



Strip-Piecing

Use one $3\frac{1}{2}$ " ($2\frac{1}{2}$ ") strip of fabric #1, two 2" ($1\frac{1}{2}$ ") strips of fabric #1, and two 2" ($1\frac{1}{2}$ ") strips of fabric #4 to make an A panel. See figure 1. Press the seam allowances as shown by the arrows. Repeat to make a total of two (two) panels.

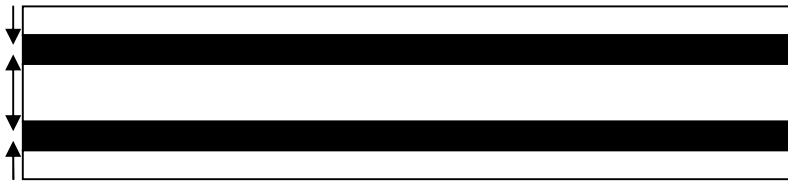


fig. 1
Panel A – make 2 (2)

Use one $3\frac{1}{2}$ " ($2\frac{1}{2}$ ") strip of fabric #4, two 2" ($1\frac{1}{2}$ ") strips of fabric #4, and two 2" ($1\frac{1}{2}$ ") strips of fabric #1 to make a B panel. See figure 2. Press the seam allowances as shown by the arrows. Repeat to make a total of four (three) panels.



fig. 2
Panel B – make 4 (3)

Use two 2" ($1\frac{1}{2}$ ") strips of fabric #3 and one 2" ($1\frac{1}{2}$ ") strip of fabric #4 to make a C panel. See figure 3. Press the seam allowances as shown by the arrows.



fig. 3
Panel C – make 1 (1)

Use two 2" ($1\frac{1}{2}$ ") strips of fabric #4 and one 2" ($1\frac{1}{2}$ ") strip of fabric #3 to make a D panel. See figure 4. Press the seam allowances as shown by the arrows. Repeat to make a total of two (two) panels.

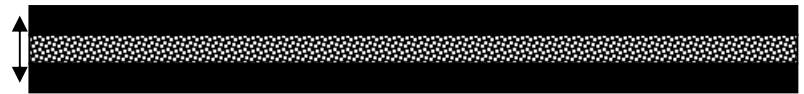


fig. 4
Panel D – make 2 (2)