

January 2024 Block of the Month

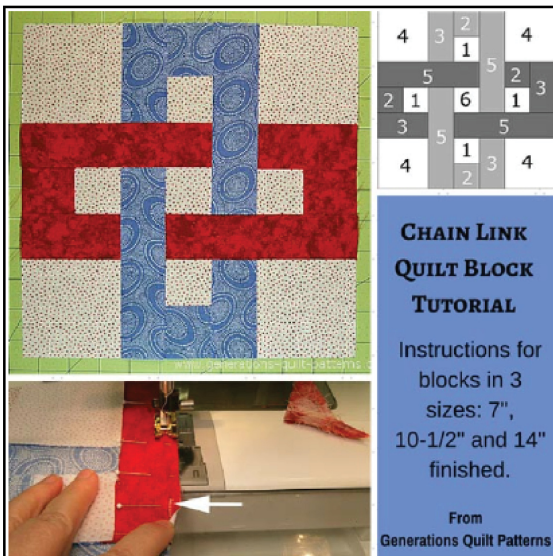
Chain Link Quilt Block

Skill Level: Beginner Find this at: <https://www.generations-quilt-patterns.com/chain-link-quilt-block.html>

The Chain Link quilt block is deceptively simple. No bias edges. Just square and rectangles.

Generations QUILT PATTERNS					
~ Traditional Piecing ~					
Patch	Fabric	Qty	7"	Finished Block Size	
				10-1/2"	14"
1, 6	BAC	5	1-1/2" x 1-1/2"	2" x 2"	2-1/2" x 2-1/2"
2	A, B	2ea	1-1/2" x 1-1/2"	2" x 2"	2-1/2" x 2-1/2"
3	A, B	2ea	1-1/2" x 2-1/2"	2" x 3-1/2"	2-1/2" x 4-1/2"
4	BAC	4	2-1/2" x 2-1/2"	3-1/2" x 3-1/2"	4-1/2" x 4-1/2"
5	A, B	2ea	1-1/2" x 4-1/2"	2" x 6-1/2"	2-1/2" x 8-1/2"

To complete the block you'll use a technique called 'partial seam' or 'puzzle piecing'—which means nothing more than the first seam partially sewn at the beginning and finally completed with the last one.

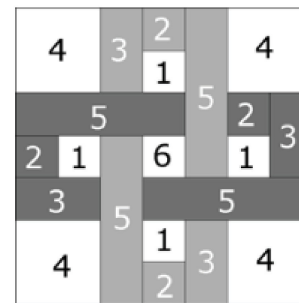


Pin It for later!

There are pictures to help you every step through the process.

To set these blocks into a quilt there's a suggestion for a sashing design (at the bottom of this page) that completes the illusion of interlocked chain links.

Step 1: Cutting patches for a Chain Link block



Chain Link design

Sample Size: 10½" finished / 11" unfinished

Grid: 7x7

Design Type: Partial Seams/Puzzle Piecing

It looks complicated in the design drawing (right), though it's really all the same unit just colored two different ways and then rotated around a center.

The same piecing order is used for all four units.

There are two sets (each of two different chain fabric placements—the chain fabrics are A and B).

In the first pair of units, #2 and #3 are one chain fabric; #5 is the other. For the second pair, A and B are reversed in the patches.

This will make more sense as you move through the photos in the tutorial.

Step 2: Assemble the Chain Link units

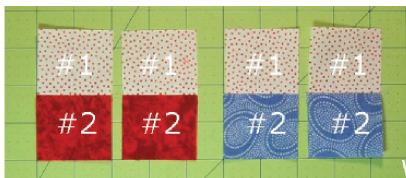
All the SA in this block are pressed AWAY from the chain link fabrics (A, B) and towards the background. Press after the addition of each patch.

With right sides together (RST) stitch #1 to #2. Two sets use A fabric and two use B.

Press SA toward the #2 patch.

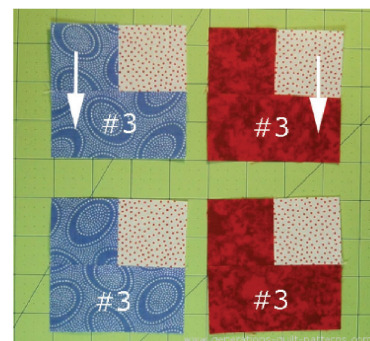


Chain Link design



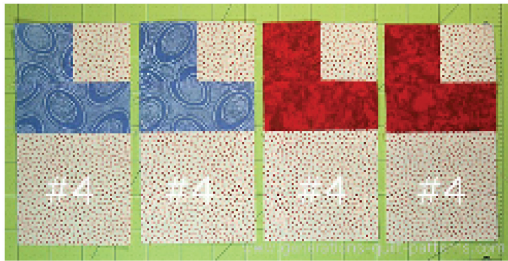
With RST, add the #3 patch.

Press in the direction of the arrows.

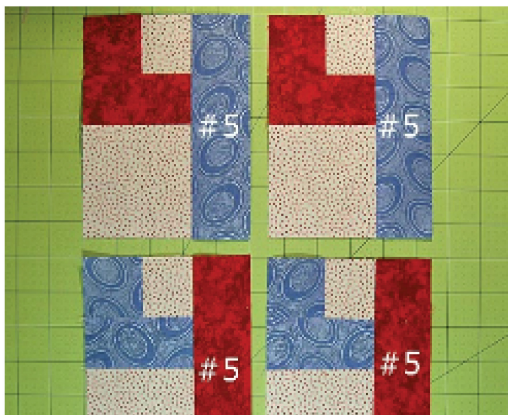


With RST, add #4.

SA are pressed toward #4



And finally add #5 with RST. The #5 is the color of the other link. Use the photo below as a reference.



Flip the #6 center square, RST with the Chain Link unit in the upper left corner. Stitch the seam between the #5 (long rectangle patch) and #6 center a little more than halfway as shown below.

You can backstitch at the end of the seam or not. (Sometimes I do, sometimes I don't)

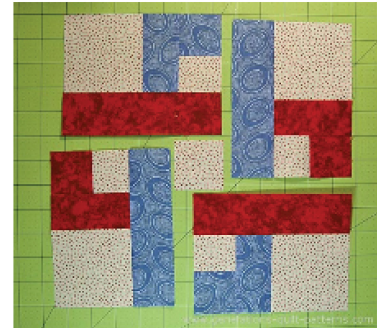


Step 3: Assemble your Chain Link quilt block

Arrange the placed Chain Link units around the center #6 square. As you move clockwise around the block, alternate the #5 A and B fabrics to form a link.

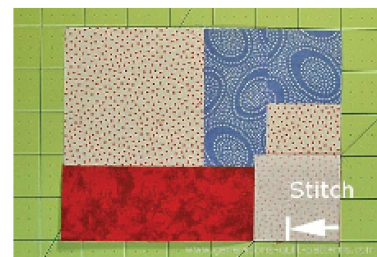
For the remaining steps, all the seams are pressed toward the #5 rectangle and away from the center #6 square.

Press after adding each piece unit.



Flip the #6 center square, RST with the Chain Link unit in the upper left corner. Stitch the seam between the #5 (long rectangle patch) and #6 center a little more than halfway as shown below.

You can backstitch at the end of the seam or not. (Sometimes I do, sometimes I don't)



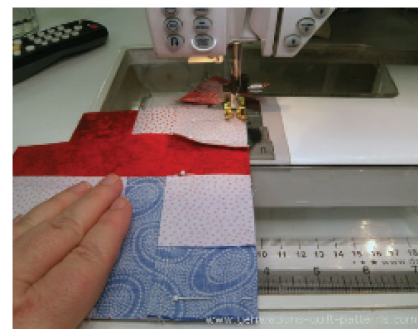
Finger press the SA toward the #5 rectangle

With RST, add the second stitched unit.



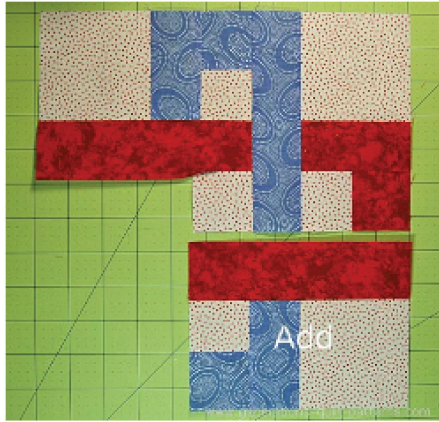
Original flat of the seam, showing the first unit is #6 is stitched

This is a complete seam. I use pins to keep the edges neatly together.

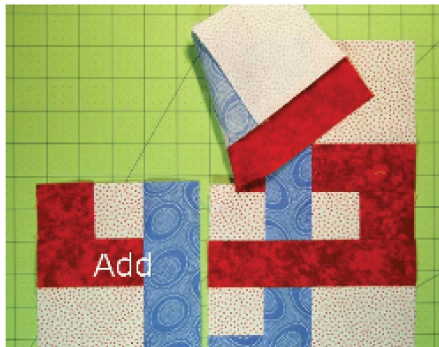


Pressing helps keep the out edges lined up nicely

Add the third pieced group of patches, stitching the length of the patches.

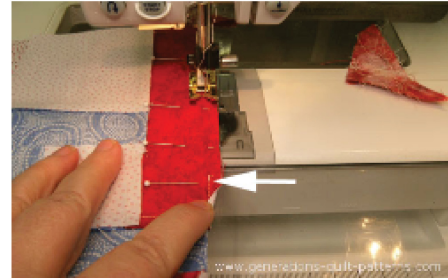


With RS1, add the fourth pieced group. Again, this is a complete seam.



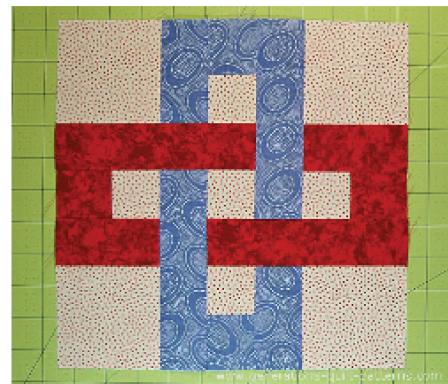
This last seam is a partial one—remember we stitched a bit of it at the beginning of assembling the block. I stitched from the #5 side because it is easier to see the previous stitching.

The pins are used to keep the edges straight **AND** to hold the SAs on the other side in place so that they don't flip during stitching.



The outer points to the end of our first seam!

Give your Chain Link quilt block one final press and here it is!

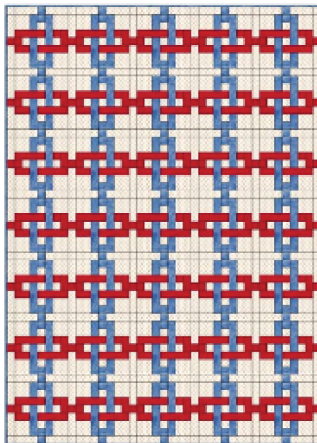


Using the Chain Link quilt block in a quilt

If you choose to make a quilt out of this block, you might want to consider using a sashing that links the chain like the one to the right.

Add it into a straight set quilt layout and it looks like this

1 2 1

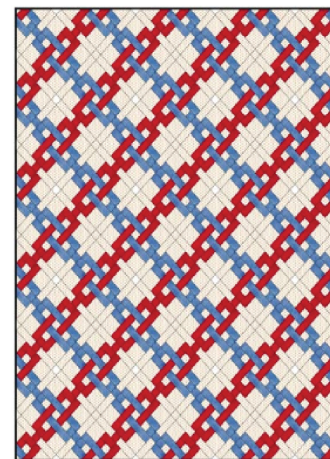


Straight set sashing

Use the chart below to cut fabric for the sashing strips. The amount of sashing you'll need depends on the number of blocks in the quilt, and whether or not the it's used in the border (as shown above).

Press the SA toward the center patch so that they nest within the seams in the block.

Now add a bit more drama by setting the blocks in an on-point layout. The sashing remains the same.



Diagonal or on-point set. 4x5 blocks

A fun little quilt that any beginning quilter (or an experienced one for that matter!) would be proud of.