



Jacob's Ladder



MPQG Block of the Month
 April, 2009

The Jacob's Ladder Block uses only two fabrics, red and black. Carefully using 1/4" seams, you will complete a 12-1/2" unfinished block. Although it's actually a very easy block, several put together makes quite an impressive quilt!

CUT: Red fabric:

- one strip 2-1/2" x 26" 
- one 4-7/8" x 9-3/4" rectangle 

Black fabric:

- one strip 2-1/2" x 26" 
- one 4-7/8" x 9-3/4" rectangle 

CONSTRUCT THE BLOCK:

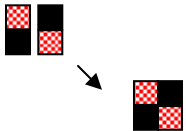
To make five four-patch squares:




1. Sew together lengthwise the red strip and the black strip, then press the seam toward the black side. The strip set will measure 4-1/2" x 26". 



2. Square up one edge of your strip set. Starting at that edge, cut ten 2-1/2" wide pieces from the strip set. You will have a little left over, to be discarded;

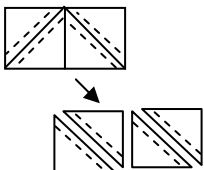



3. Sew two of the 2-1/2" wide pieces of the strip set together as shown, to make a four-patch square. Repeat to make a total of five four-patch squares, each measuring 4-1/2" square. Press the seam in either direction. 

To make half-square triangle units:



4. Place together the red and black 4-7/8" x 9-3/4" rectangles with right sides together, red fabrics on top. Lightly draw a straight line 4-7/8" from the short edge dividing the rectangle in half and forming two squares. Then draw two diagonal lines through the center of the two squares as shown.



5. Still holding the two rectangles together, sew a line 1/4" away from the diagonal line on both sides. (I've left out the red checkerboard color so you can see where the sewing lines are to be.) Cut the rectangles apart on the drawn lines creating four half-square triangle squares. Press the seams to the darker fabric. The finished units should measure 4-1/2" square. 



7. Arrange and sew the units into three rows as shown. Press the seams toward the four-patch squares.

8. Sew the rows together, butting the seams together so that they match at intersections, to complete your beautiful 12-1/2" square Jacob's Ladder! 