



meets

modern

quilt along

at www.sewathomemummy.com



august:

CHURN DASH

What's more 'classic' than a churn dash block?! Nothin'! I love this block. Here are two interpretations of the block. The first is the classic block with a modern center – normally, that center square would be background solid. The second block is a 'wonky' or modern interpretation of the churn dash. Have fun, and I can't wait to see your interpretation!

Assume exact $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance. Yields one beautiful 12.5" block.

Block 1: 'Classic' Churn Dash – with a modern center

Cutting:

From background color, cut

(4) 5" x 2.5" rectangles and

(2) 5" squares (for the corner HSTs)

From color(s) cut

(4) 5" x 1.75" rectangles

(4) 5" x 1" rectangles (dark red)

(2) 5" squares (for the corner HSTs)

For center square

scraps, smaller squares and strips.

Instructions:

The Center Square:

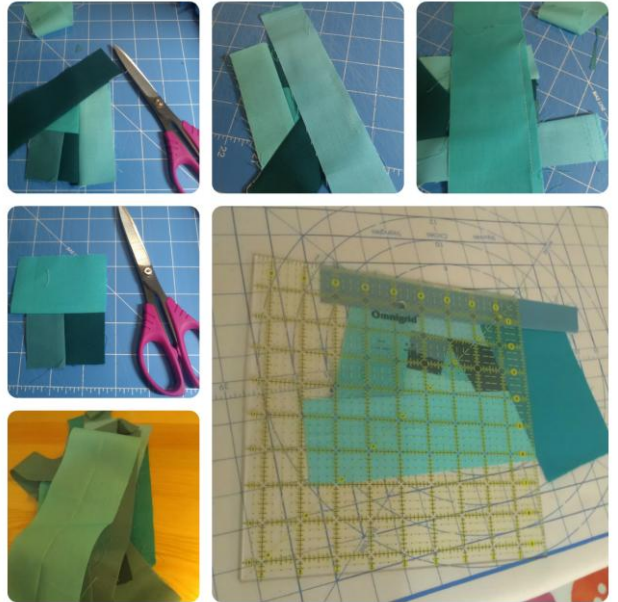
Two options here – improv piece it like I did, or, just cut a center square 4.5". Here's how to 'improv' it:

Starting with a piece of fabric at least 2" square, start adding strips and pieces to its sides, making sure to cover all seams so there won't be any gaps. It's like creating a log cabin block, but without the structure – i.e., you don't have to keep rotating your block as you add strips to it – you can add 2 strips on the same side in a row, if you'd like. The 'wonkier' the more striking the center will look – so place your strips across what you've built in an askew fashion.

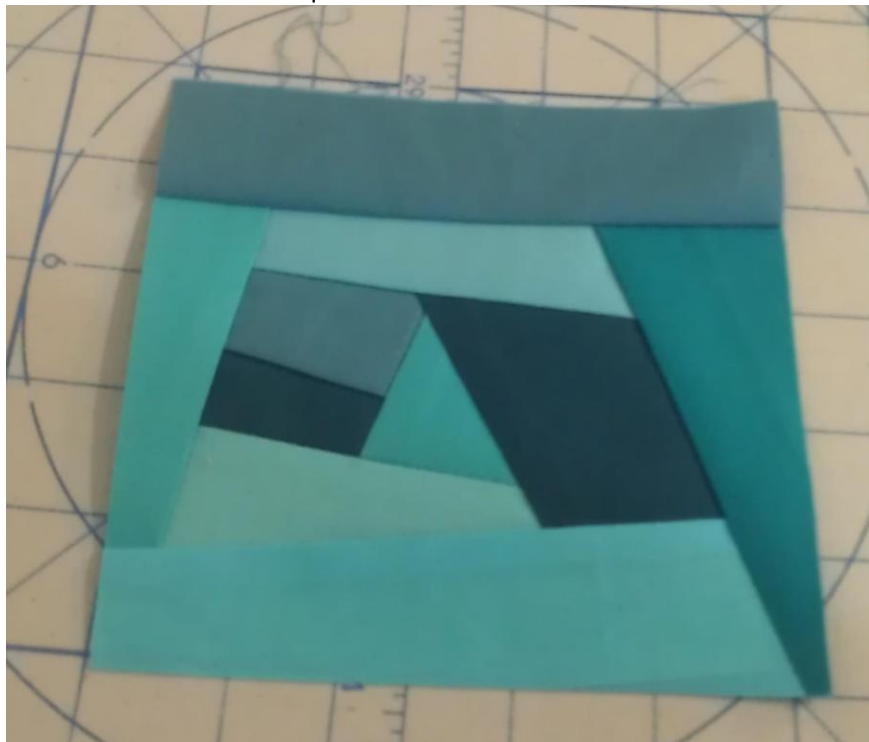
Keep adding strips and pieces (and feel free to 'piece' a strip, too, it'll give it more dimension) until you've got a big blob of fabric. But here's where it gets beautiful – you're going to need to trim the blob to a 4.5" square.

Make sure, as you're adding your pieces to your blob, that you keep checking to see if you can cut a segment out, 4.5" square, from the blob.

As you're adding your pieces, make sure to trim the excess off to the $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance (as shown in the top center image) so that you don't have a lot of bulk in your square. I just use scissors for this – it doesn't need to be exact, and I find scissors a lot quicker than a rotary cutter.



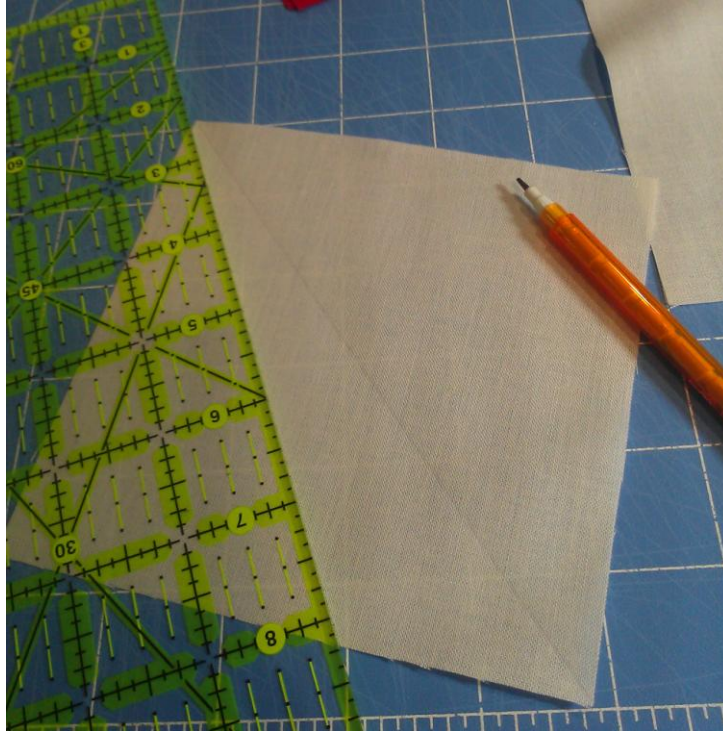
Trim to a beautiful 4.5" square:



The HSTs

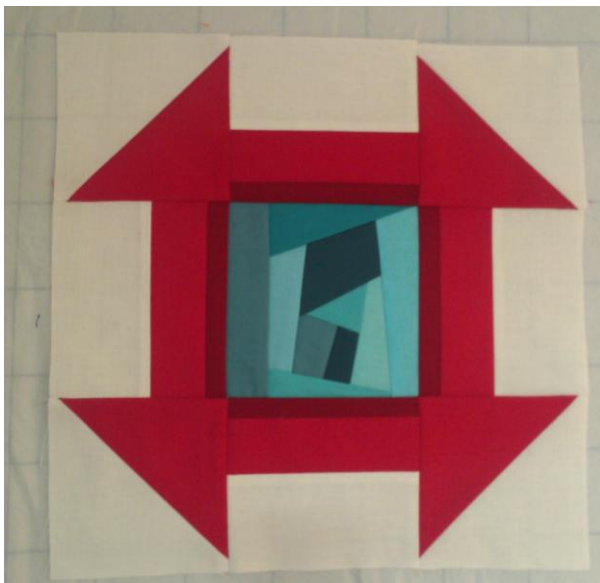
We'll use the stack, sew, cut method.

Draw a line down the diagonal of your two background 5" squares. Stack these squares on your colored 5" squares. Sew $\frac{1}{4}$ " on either side of the drawn line. Cut on drawn line, and press open, creating 4 corner HSTs. Trim HSTs to 4.25" square.



Assembling the block

Sew 5"x1.75" and 5"x1" rectangles together, then to 5"x2.5" background rectangles, creating the sides of the churn dash. Organize segments as pictured right; sew first in rows, then join rows, matching intersecting seams.



Block 2: 'Modern' Churn Dash – Wonky

Cutting:

From background color, cut

(4) 5" x 4.25" rectangles

(4) 4.25" squares (for the corner HSTs)

From color(s) cut

(4) wonky strips, at least 1.5" x 5.5"

(2) 5" squares, cut in half on the diagonal (for the corner HSTs)

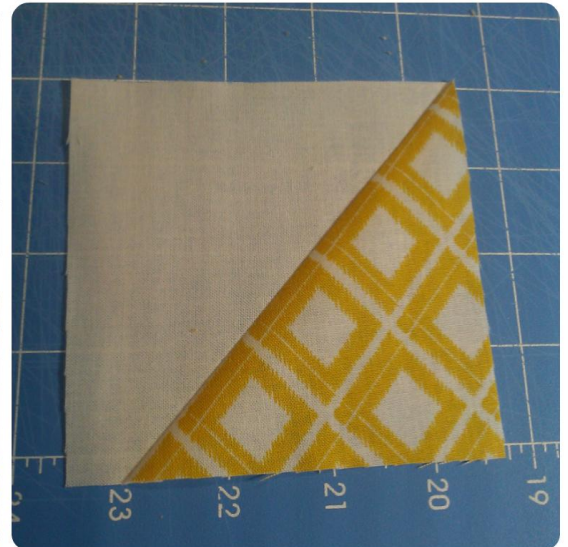
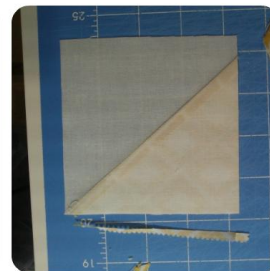
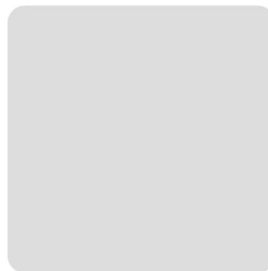
For center square

(1) 5" (charm) square

Instructions:

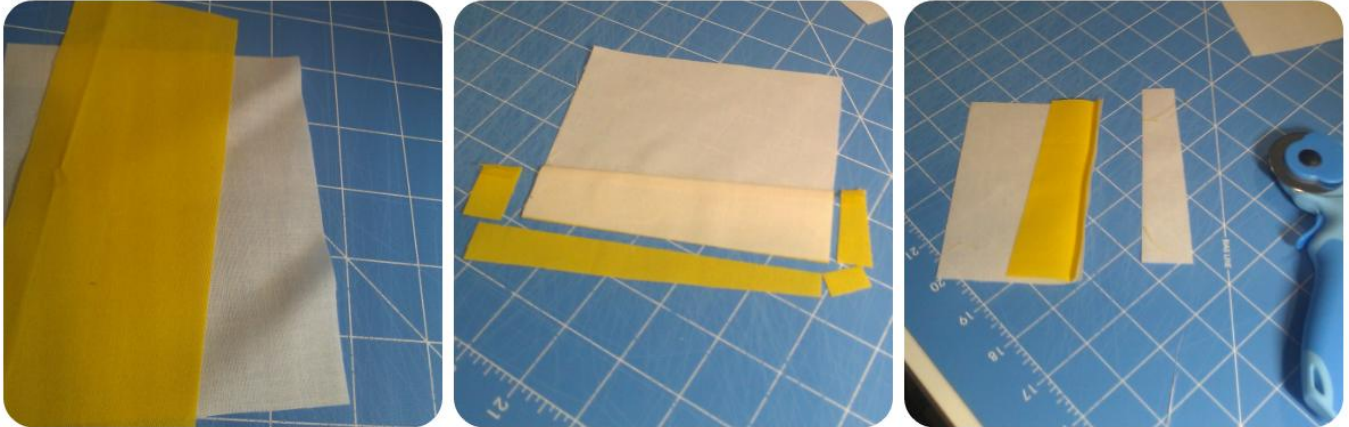
HSTs

Lay, right sides together, your cut triangle across two adjacent sides of a background square, ensuring that when flipped across the corner of the background square that it covers the entire corner. Sew along the edge of the long side of the triangle using a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam. Press your triangle over, right sides up. Flip the square unit over, wrong sides up, and trim away the excess triangle in line with the square (top center image). Then, flip the HST right side up, flip **back** the triangle unit, and trim the background corner off to eliminate bulk, $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the seam allowance (top right image). There you have it! A pretty, wonky, HST.



Side Units

Using the same principles as above, place your wonky colored strip over your 5" x 4.25" background rectangle in an askew manner (left image). Make sure that when you flip the strip over to cover the side of the background strip, the entire colored strip covers the edges of the background rectangle. Sew, using a ¼" seam allowance. Flip wrong side up, and trim away the excess colored strip to the edge of the background rectangle (center image). Right sides, up, flip the colored strip **back** and trim away the excess background rectangle to ¼" from the seam (right image).



Assembling the Block:

Lay out your pieces in the following orientation, assembling them first in rows, and then joining the rows together, making sure to match intersecting seams. Press and enjoy!



Don't forget to upload pictures of your block(s) to the [Sew at Home Mummy: Classic meets Modern QAL group](#), and then link-up your photo to the blog post at [Sew at Home Mummy!](#)