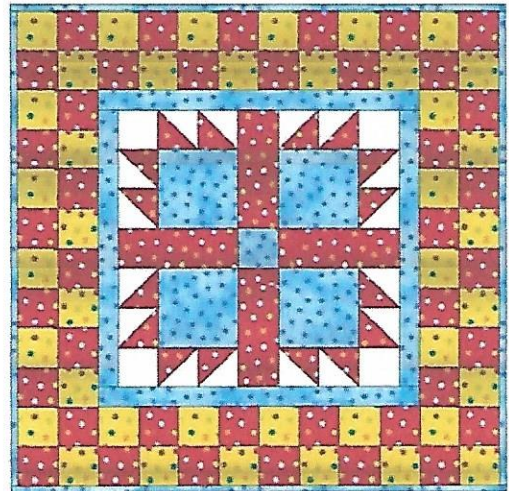




Pattern of the Month - October 2012  
by Evelyn George

**"Little Bear's Quilt"**  
18" x 18"

Every little bear needs a quilt! A variation of the traditional "Bear's Paw" block makes the perfect center for this little quilt. Shortcut techniques are used to make the Half-square Triangle units, and the 4-Patches in the border are quickly made with strip piecing. Just take care to use an accurate  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance so all the parts will fit together nicely! Here's what you'll need (substitute your chosen colors for the ones shown):

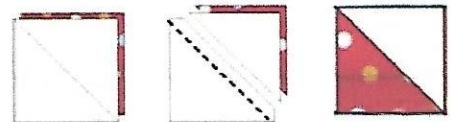


\*(WOF = width of fabric, ~42-44")

- Red (dark) - 4 strips 2" x WOF\* (cutting details below)
- White (background in Bear's Paw block) - 1 strip 2" x WOF, and 4 2" squares
- Yellow (medium light) - 2 strips 2" x WOF
- Blue (medium) - 4  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " squares, one 2" square, and 4 strips  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " x about 13" (will be trimmed)
- Backing - 20" x 20" square (can be pieced)
- Batting - 20" x 20" square thin batting or flannel
- Binding - 2 strips 2 to  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x WOF (blue, or your choice)

**Half-square Triangles:**

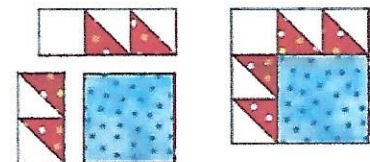
Cut 16 2" squares *each* from the white background strip and one of the red strips. Place a white square on top of a red square, lining up the edges evenly. Draw a line diagonally from corner to corner; stitch the two squares together on this line. Trim off one side (whichever appears the smaller, if there is any visible difference) leaving a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance. Press open, pressing the seam toward the red. Make 16.



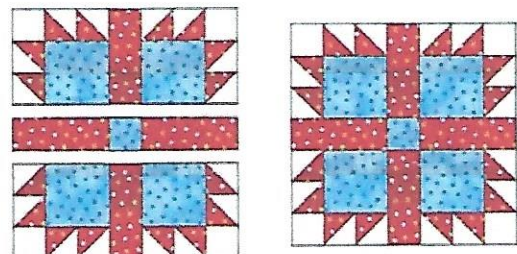
Bear's Paw unit ↓

**Bear's Paw Block (center of quilt)**

Arrange 4 half-square triangles, a plain white square and a  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " blue square as shown and stitch together to make one Bear's Paw unit. Make 4 identical units, taking care to keep the red triangles oriented as shown, so they form the four "claws" of the bear's paw.



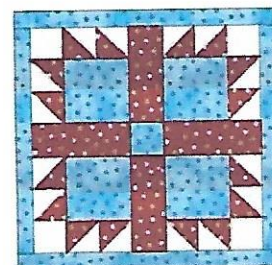
From one of the red 2" strips, cut 4 rectangles 2" x 5." Arrange red rectangles, Bear's Paw units, and the 2" blue center square as shown, and sew together in rows, to make the Bear's Paw Block, for center of quilt. →





### Inner Border (blue):

From the  $1\frac{1}{4}$ " strips of blue, cut 2 pieces 11" long (or to match the width of your Bear's Paw Block). Stitch to two opposite sides of the block. Press seams away from block. Measure the width of the block, now including the two side borders you just added, and trim the other two  $1\frac{1}{4}$ " strips of blue to that measurement (about  $12\frac{1}{2}$ "). Sew them to the top and bottom of the block. The block now has the inner border and measures about  $12\frac{1}{2}$ " square.



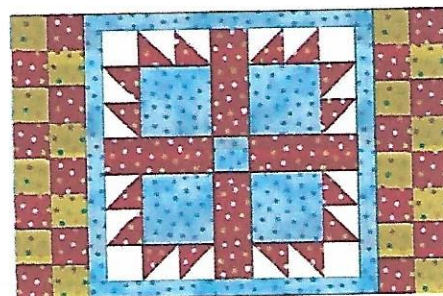
### Strip Pieced 4-Patches:

Stitch a yellow 2" WOF strip to each remaining red 2" x WOF strip, using a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance. Press seams toward red. Line up pieced strips on cutting board, and cut into 2" sections. Stitch these together in pairs, with colors opposite, to make the red/yellow 4-Patches.



### 4-Patch Borders:

Sew four 4-Patches together for each side border, keeping them all in the same orientation, as shown, so they form a checkerboard effect. Stitch to two opposite sides of quilt, Sew six 4-Patches together to make each remaining border, also keeping the same color orientation, and stitch them to top and bottom of quilt, matching seams at the corners.



### Finishing the quilt:

Layer the backing, batting and quilt top; pin or baste. Quilt by machine or hand, as desired. Add binding.

Now present the quilt to your Little Bear and let him cuddle! (This size quilt also makes a nice wall hanging or table decoration, in colors to match your decor.)

### Other ideas for Bear and Doll quilts:

- Replace the Bear's Paw center block with an 11" square of novelty fabric (with bears on it?)
- Replace the 4-Patch border with a novelty fabric border.
- Use novelty fabrics for the four  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " squares. Since there are only four of these, they could easily be fussy-cut to feature special motifs.
- Use leftover triangles, squares, small blocks, etc. to create your own design for a small quilt.
- Use leftover strips to make a strip-pieced quilt top. These can be random widths if that's what you have. Add rickrack or other washable trim (perhaps as part of the quilting process).
- Cut small squares from your scraps, arrange in a pleasing design and sew together for center.
- Add borders if needed to make the quilt bigger (--you'll need more backing, etc. if you do).
- Use a fat quarter of juvenile fabric for a one-piece top, and another fat quarter for the back.
- Use your imagination! Have fun--It doesn't take much fabric for a Little Bear's quilt.