



Pattern of the Month March 2014

By Evelyn George

"Charms in the Window"

(12" finished block size)

Sometime when you need a quick gift, for a new baby or someone on your list, try this Log Cabin variation with a charm in each center square. Courthouse Steps construction makes it quick and easy. Whatever the fabric style, it's alternating Light and Dark rounds that make the pattern. One set of blocks has a Dark center and outer round, and the other set has a Light center and outer round. The two types of blocks are alternated to make the layout shown at right. You could use a different fussy-cut motif in each block center, for a charming effect.

Dark Block



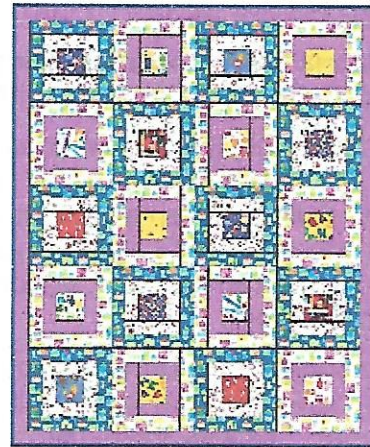
Cut:

One $4\frac{1}{2}$ " center square (Dark)
 Two $2\frac{1}{2}$ " \times $4\frac{1}{2}$ " (Light)
 Two $2\frac{1}{2}$ " \times $8\frac{1}{2}$ " (Light)
 Two $2\frac{1}{2}$ " \times $8\frac{1}{2}$ " (Dark)
 Two $2\frac{1}{2}$ " \times $12\frac{1}{2}$ " (Dark)

Light Block



One $4\frac{1}{2}$ " center square (Light)
 Two $2\frac{1}{2}$ " \times $4\frac{1}{2}$ " (Dark)
 Two $2\frac{1}{2}$ " \times $8\frac{1}{2}$ " (Dark)
 Two $2\frac{1}{2}$ " \times $8\frac{1}{2}$ " (Light)
 Two $2\frac{1}{2}$ " \times $12\frac{1}{2}$ " (Light)



Shown above: 20 blocks
 (10 Dark and 10 Light)
 + 2" borders = Quilt ~52" \times 64"

Both sets of blocks are made by adding strips one round at a time, using $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowances. Start with the center square, its motif oriented the way you want (boy standing upright, for example). Add rounds as follows:

Dark Block: To Dark center, add Light strips to left and right side first, then to top and bottom, to make the first round. Continue by adding Dark strips in same order, to make the second round.

Light Block: To Light center, add Dark strips to top and bottom first, then to sides, to make first round. Add Light strips in same order, to make second round.

The reason for adding strips in a different order on Light and Dark blocks is so that when you alternate them in the quilt, each *seamed* edge will be sewn to an *unseamed* one, meaning no seams need to be matched around the outside edges of blocks. Of course it's not absolutely necessary to do it this way, it just makes it easier!

(If all your fabrics are non-directional, the light and dark blocks can be made using the same sequence (whichever is most convenient); blocks can then simply be rotated so that a seamed edge is always sewn to an unseamed one.)

The quilt above uses 20 blocks, 10 Dark and 10 Light, alternated checkerboard fashion. Borders are cut from $2\frac{1}{2}$ " wide strips of fabric. To make a different size quilt, make as many blocks as you need, adding more borders if you wish. Blocks finish at 12" square, so it's easy to figure out how big your quilt will be. This simple block is great in any style of fabric. How about totally scrappy? Just maintain relative light/dark differences between the rounds!