



Pattern of the Month - April 2015

Improv Slice by Evelyn George

Here's a playful improvisational technique that starts with squares, has no absolute rules, and can lead to lots of variations. What's not to love? Well, if you want to know exactly how it's going to come out, that's not gonna happen---because you'll just make it up as you go along! But if you aren't afraid to play, and are open to surprises, then you can have some fun playing with your fabric squares.

All the squares should be the same size— You could start with 5" or 6" charm squares, or cut them from assorted light and dark fabrics that coordinate. You'll need an equal number of light and dark squares. The quilts shown are about 52" x 68", using 5" squares --96 *each*, lights and darks; fabrics are repeated several times, in different combinations. A 5" x WOF strip yields 8 squares; need 12 strips each of assorted lights and darks. (Six inch squares would make the quilt bigger, about 64" x 84".)

Choose 2 *different* light and 2 *different* dark squares. Stack together, all *right side up*, and *alternating light and dark squares in the stack*

Make 48 stacks using assorted colors. Put half the stacks to your Right and the other half to your Left. You'll cut each group at different angles.

Right Slice



Using a rotary cutter with a ruler as a guide, take a stack of squares from Right side of table, and slice it approximately in half, at an *angle from lower right to upper left*. It's fine if one half is larger than the other!

Vary angles somewhat from stack to stack, but always cut from lower right to upper left, for all stacks on Right side of table .

Left Slice



Cut stacks on Left side of table at the *opposite angle, from lower left to upper right*, again varying the angles somewhat from stack to stack, but keeping the lower left to upper right orientation for all stacks on the Left.

Keep individual Right and Left stacks separate, don't combine or pile them up.

Since each angular cut is unique, the halves of different stacks are not interchangeable.

But, they can change partners *within* their own stack, making it possible to get a nice variety of pairs. An easy way to do this is to take one sliced stack at a time, remove the top right hand piece, and move it to bottom of stack. Now each light/dark pair in that stack will be different. Repeat this switching of just one piece for each stack. This makes lots of combinations. Sew light and dark halves together to make two-tone units. *(These can be squared up to same size now, or later, after you make them into blocks.)*

Play with arranging 4 units (2 Right angle and 2 Left angle) in different ways (see a few block ideas below). When you find the way you like best, sew units together into 4-patch blocks. If you didn't square them up earlier, they will be slightly irregular at this point. Don't worry, just match seams at *center* of the 4-patch, then trim edges, squaring up all blocks to same size. Arrange blocks as desired and sew together to make a quilt top.

Block ideas:

