

Hour Glass Puzzle

Using very simple units, just half square triangles and four patches you can make easy, directional blocks which are amazingly versatile - there are so many ways to set them that it's difficult to choose a favourite. Barbara first designed this quilt on Electric Quilt for a Mystery Day way back in 2003 and she has used it several times since for a similar purpose.

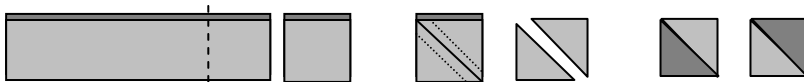
Block size: 8" (finished)

Quilt size: 32" (without border)

You will need 3 fabrics A, B and C – 1m of each will be more than sufficient – you can use the excess for borders.

From fabrics A and B

- 1a. Cut 2, $4\frac{7}{8}$ " strips across full width of fabric (approx 40") from each – a total of 4 strips.
- b. Place strips in pairs RS together and cut into $4\frac{7}{8}$ " squares.
- c. On lighter squares mark one diagonal.
- d. Stitch $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from this line on both sides.
- e. Cut along line, open out, press seams, trim ears and set units to one side.

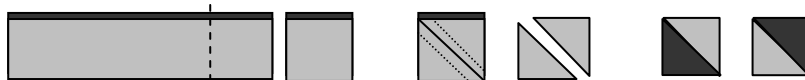


- 2a. Cut 1, $2\frac{1}{2}$ " wide strip the full width of the fabric (approx 40") from each – a total of 2 strips.
- b. Pair the strips RS together and seam to create a two-strip set.
- c. From this cut 8, $2\frac{1}{2}$ " slices.
- d. Pair and rejoin to make 4, four-patch units.



From fabrics B and C

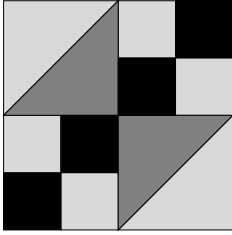
- 3a. Cut 1, $4\frac{7}{8}$ " strips across full width of fabric (approx 40") from each – a total of 2 strips.
- b. Place strips in pairs RS together and cut into 4 pairs of $4\frac{7}{8}$ " squares.
- c. On lighter squares mark one diagonal.
- d. Stitch $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from this line on both sides.
- e. Cut along line, open out, press seams, trim ears and set units to one side.



- 4a. Cut 3, $2\frac{1}{2}$ " wide strips the full width of the fabric (approx 40") from each – a total of 6 strips.
- b. Pair strips RS together and stitch to create 3, two-strip sets. Press.
- c. Cut strip sets into $2\frac{1}{2}$ " slices – you will need 48.
- d. Stitch these slices into pairs to make 24 four-patch units. Press.



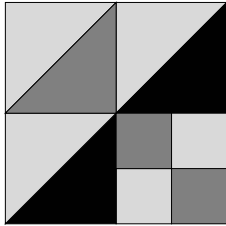
Block 1.



Make 12 blocks.
You will need for each block
2 A + B triangle units
2 B + C four-patch units.

Stitch units together as shown.

Block 2.



Make 4
You will need for each block:
1 A + B triangle unit
2 B + C triangle units
1 A + B four-patch unit

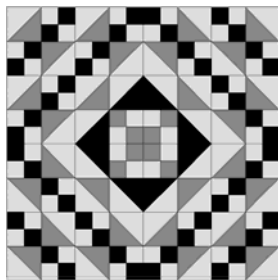
Stitch units together as shown.

Quilt top

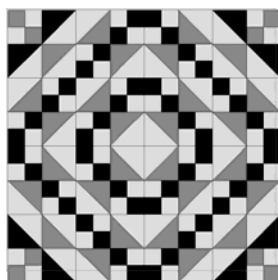
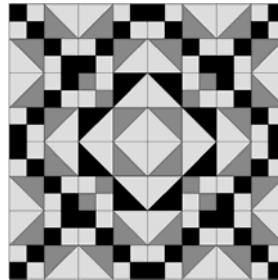
Arrange blocks

Stitch into pairs, then fours until your design is complete.

How you arrange them is up to you – here are a couple of ideas



Block 2 in the centre



Block 2 in the corners.

B is the lightest fabric in these examples – what if B were the darkest?