

July 2026

Chop Suey



Before you get started, please carefully read through all the fabric requirements and method. Also, please check that your sewing machine is sewing correctly i.e. the tension - make sure it's not gathering the fabric or that the base thread is lying on the fabric's surface.

FABRIC TYPE

Please use only quilting-weight cotton fabric, i.e., no curtaining, stretch, suiting, or upholstery fabrics. We are also unable to use blocks that include licensed fabrics. If you have a selvedge on the fabrics you are using, please remove before piecing – it's thicker than the main fabric and the holes that are often present are a weak point.

INFORMATION

If possible, use scant $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam throughout. In simple terms a scant seam is a thread smaller than the Normal seam allowance. You can do this by moving your needle position to the right on some machines.

For an explanation of a scant $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam go to:

www.loandbeholdstitchery.com/blogs/lo-and-behold/what-is-a-scant-1-4-seam

Please make sure your seams are secure by using a locking stitch, or stitch first couple of stitches backwards and forwards and snip of any loose thread ends. Your finished block should measure $12 \frac{1}{2}$ " square.

COLOUR CHOICE

You need two colours for each block. The red or blue as the background colour. The grey or black as the contrast. You can use the blue/black and red/grey in any combination. The contrast should read as mainly black or grey as in the example above but please no flowers and no multi-coloured prints.

CUTTING INSTRUCTIONS

From red/blue cut:

4 x rectangles $8\frac{1}{2}" \times 2\frac{1}{2}"$
 1 x square $2\frac{1}{2}" \times 2\frac{1}{2}"$
 2 x rectangles $4\frac{1}{2}" \times 2\frac{1}{2}"$

From grey/black cut:

1 x rectangle $8\frac{1}{2}" \times 2\frac{1}{2}"$
 1 x rectangle $12\frac{1}{2}" \times 2\frac{1}{2}"$
 1 x square $2\frac{1}{2}" \times 2\frac{1}{2}"$
 1 x square $4\frac{1}{2}" \times 4\frac{1}{2}"$

METHOD

1.



Pin a $2\frac{1}{2}" \times 4\frac{1}{2}"$ background (red or blue) to the side of the contrast (black or grey) $4\frac{1}{2}"$ square. Join using a scant $\frac{1}{4}"$ seam. Secure your ends. Repeat with the other side of the square.

2.



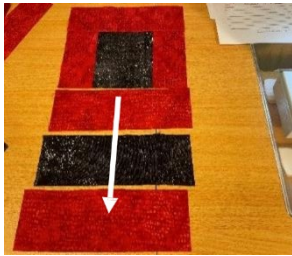
Press seams as shown and trim loose threads. Your block should now measure $8\frac{1}{2}" \times 4\frac{1}{2}"$.

3.



Take 1 of the $8\frac{1}{2}" \times 2\frac{1}{2}"$ background pieces and pin to main piece with the wrong side facing you and the seams pinned flat and join the seams. Press making sure seams are flat and trim ends

4.



Next join the 2 background $8\frac{1}{2}$ "x $2\frac{1}{2}$ " pieces and 1 contrast piece to the main piece as shown to the left. Press seams as shown below and trim ends.

Your block should now measure $12\frac{1}{2}$ " x $8\frac{1}{2}$ "

5.



Now join the $12\frac{1}{2}$ "x $2\frac{1}{2}$ " contrast strip to the main block as shown. Your block should now measure $12\frac{1}{2}$ " x $10\frac{1}{2}$ ". Press, make sure your seams are flat.

6.



Sew the remaining three pieces together as shown and then join to the main piece. Press seams and trim any loose threads. Your block should now measure $12\frac{1}{2}$ " square.

POSTAGE

Please carefully check the postage – the cost depends on the envelope's size, weight and thickness. A standard stamp only covers 100g, 0.5cm thick letter. A large letter stamp only covers up to 100g. For anything heavier than 100g, you'll need a different stamp.

Underpayment incurs penalty charges (currently around £1.50 per parcel), which stack up quickly. Also, standard stamps without the barcode strips are no longer valid. Please don't use them, or penalty charges will be imposed by Royal Mail. If in doubt, please check at a post office.

Send to:

Address will be supplied on request