

June 2026

Squared Off



A black-and-white block with a highlighted 4-patch centre.

Before you begin, please read all the fabric requirements and the method carefully. Please also check that your sewing machine is stitching correctly, especially the tension. The fabric should lie flat, without puckering, and the bobbin thread should not sit on the fabric surface.

FABRIC TYPE

Please use quilting-weight cotton fabric only. Do not use curtaining, stretch, suiting, or upholstery fabric. We are also unable to use blocks made with licensed fabrics. If your fabric has a selvedge edge, remove it before piecing, as it is thicker than the rest of the fabric and the small holes can create a weak point.

COLOUR CHOICE

The main colours should be black and white, or fabrics that read as plain black and plain white.

Yes please: tone-on-tone prints, Grunge, Spraytime, and Bumbleberries.

No thank you: obvious prints, strong contrast within the same fabric, or cream fabrics. **Please do not use cream.**

The highlighted 4-patch in the centre can be made in one of two ways:

either four different colours, such as red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet, or four different **shades** of the same **colour**.

CUTTING INSTRUCTIONS

Name	Quantity	Size	Notes
A	4	2 ½" x 2 ½"	Different shades of the same colour

			OR 4 different rainbow colours
B1	2	2½" x 4½"	Black
B2	2	2½" x 8½"	Black
C1	2	2½" x 8½"	White
C2	2	2½" x 12½"	White

Use this cutting option if you want white on the outside of the block.

Name	Quantity	Size	Notes
A	4	2½" x 2½"	Different shades of the same colour family OR 4 different rainbow colours
B1	2	2½" x 4½"	White
B2	2	2½" x 8½"	White
C1	2	2½" x 8½"	Black
C2	2	2½" x 12½"	Black

Use this cutting option if you want black on the outside of the block.

METHOD

1. Arrange the pieces as shown in the photo. They will not sit edge-to-edge or neatly at this stage because of the seam allowances.



2. Make the 4-patch centre by sewing two A pieces right sides together with a ¼" seam. Repeat with the other two A pieces. Press both units. It helps to press the full seam allowance towards the darker fabric, as this gives the seam extra strength. Make sure the seam allowances lie in opposite directions so you

do not create a ridge between the pieces, as this will affect the accuracy of the finished block.

3. Now sew the two units together, making sure the seams nest. This will help the centre seam match neatly.
4. Press this seam to either side, usually towards the darker fabric, but do not swirl the centre. Your 4-patch is now complete. Check that it measures 4½" x 4½" and is square.
5. Now add the B1 pieces to opposite sides of the 4-patch block.
6. Pin one B1 piece to one side of the 4-patch. If it does not fit exactly, check your seam allowance before sewing. If it fits, sew with a ¼" seam. Add the second B1 piece to the opposite side of the 4-patch. Press both seams away from the centre of the block to reduce bulk.



7. Now add the B2 pieces to the remaining two sides. Pin both ends first to check that each piece fits before sewing. Sew and press the seams away from the centre. Check that the block now measures 8½" x 8½" and is square.



8. Now add the C1 pieces. Sew one C1 piece to each side that already has two seams. As before, pin both ends first to check that each piece fits exactly. Sew with a ¼" seam and press the seams away from the centre of the block.



9. Now add the C2 pieces to the remaining two sides. Pin both ends first to check that the length fits exactly. Sew with a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance and press the seams away from the centre of the block.

Your finished block should now measure $12\frac{1}{2}$ " square.



Example showing both black and white outer-edge versions.



POSTAGE

Please check the postage carefully. The cost depends on the envelope size, weight, and thickness. A standard stamp covers a letter up to 100g and 0.5cm thick. A large letter stamp also only covers up to 100g. If your parcel weighs more than 100g, you will need a different postage option. Underpaid items can incur penalty charges, currently around £1.50 per parcel, and these costs add up quickly. Please also make sure any standard stamps used have barcode strips, as older stamps without barcodes are no longer valid. If you are unsure, please check at a Post Office.

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