

## LITTLE GEMS



As it's a hot Summer I thought of a really easy block that would be fun to do and use up lots of Little Gems (scraps) that you may have accumulated from other blocks!

**Finished blocks are 8.5" x 5", 10.5" x 5", or 12.5" x 5"** Its your choice the size of block you make! Enjoy!

**REQUIREMENTS:** Till receipts or Junk mail strips. Which ever you decide to use the term 'paper' in the instructions refers to it.

**Scraps 3.5" width x 1.5"-2.5" length** - an opportunity to use up the cotton scraps from previous project, if you have them (the fabric is slightly wider to allow for trimming)

**Solid / Tone-on-tone - 1.5" fabric strips:** These should be **of one colour** - you can use different shades of that colour for all the sides - if you choose blue you could use a light blue for the leader and ender and a darker shade for the longer sides – *please no black or white surrounds.*

2 short pieces 3.5"x1.5" for top and bottom of each strip

2 long strips length 9" 11" or 13" - ½" bigger than you finished block. (8.5", 10.5" or 12.5")



Till receipt -Left Junk mail-right

**Step 1:** Choose the size of the strip for the block and cut the paper to the required size.

- 3" wide x 6.5"/8.5"/10.5" in length. (Till receipts are general 3"wide ).

**Step 2:** Take one short solid piece and a gem one, put right sides together. Place them on the paper, solid block on top, keep them level with the short 3" edge, the fabric will be slightly wider than the paper, place them so that there is about the same amount of excess in each side. Pin in place in the middle of the fabric.

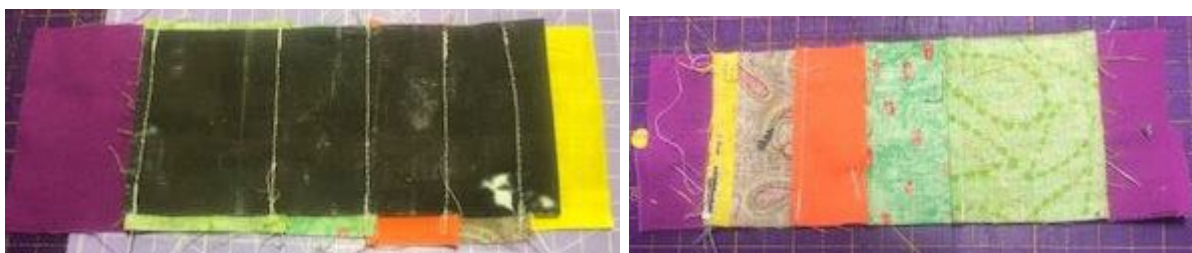


**Step 3** You may want to use a smaller size of stitch length between 1.8 -2.0 when sewing the middle part. Sew a ¼" seam, from the edge of the paper through the 3 layers, *backstitching at the beginning and end of*

*the paper making sure that you sew several stitches across the fabric and onto the paper (this will help when removing it later!).* Open up the block and finger press the seam to one side – the solid should not have any paper underneath it! Continue adding gem blocks in the same way, only sewing the seam at the bottom of the previous piece, until all the paper is covered, trim if necessary. Add the 2<sup>nd</sup> solid at the end sewing at the end of the paper this time press open. – it also should have no paper underneath it!

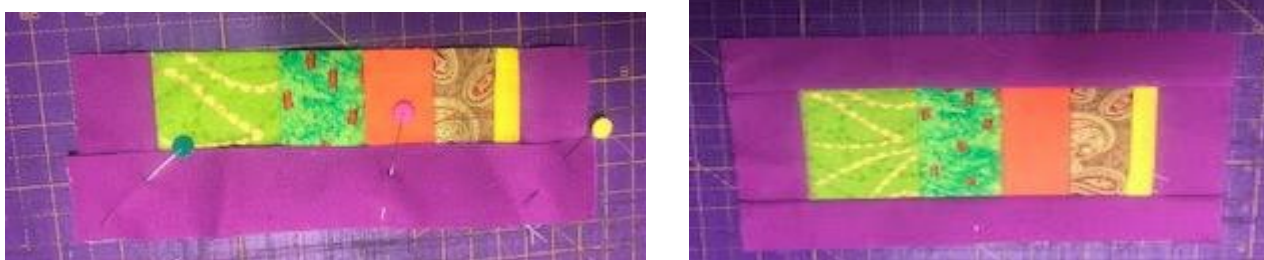


**Step 4: Press but do not iron**, whilst the paper is still attached, so that it does not stretch. Turn the block over and using the paper as a guide, trim off the excess. (Till receipts turn black with heat of iron. First photo had to be trimmed and have the 2<sup>nd</sup> solid added as I forgot to do it)



**Step 5:** Remove the paper, quickest way is to slide your finger between it and the fabric as the perforations caused by the sewing, allows most of the paper to come away in one piece. Press just place the iron on the seams in one direction. Do not iron it as you may stretch it!

**Step 6:** Sew the 2 long strips, one either side of the block. Press flat and trim to size.



**OPTIONAL EXTRA: IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADD CORNERSTONES THEN PLEASE DO SO AND USE 1.5"X1.5" SQUARES IN EITHER BLACK OR WHITE.**