

Four Hs Block

It is suitable for using up 2 1/2" strips from a jelly roll or similar, or even left over binding strips. Any light (white, cream, very pale colour) or dark (black or any very dark colour) for the 'background' with a brighter/coloured contrast for the main Hs.

Read through the instructions prior to starting - there are 'extra' hints and tips at the end for perfect piecing, especially useful for beginners. I have given instructions for using strips or for using scraps.



The block should finish 12 1/2" square. All seams are 1/4".

WoF - Width of Fabric, from selvedge to selvedge, usually around 42" usable length. The left over rectangles from these strips can be joined to give a pieced binding strip. Feel free to send these left overs with your blocks for inclusion in the bindings.

If using full WoF strips you can get two blocks from each set of strips as follows:

Requirements if using strips:

One, 2 1/2" by WoF dark (or light) background strip.

Four, 2 1/2" by WoF bright or coloured strips.

Cutting if using strips:

Background (light or dark):

One, 2 1/2" by WoF strip of fabric,
sub cut into 16, 2 1/2" squares.

Brighter fabrics for the Hs - You can layer up the four bright/coloured strips to cut these in one.

Four, 2 1/2" strips of fabric,
sub cut each strip into two, 2 1/2" squares
and four, 2 1/2" by 6 1/2" rectangles.



Requirements if using scraps - You will not have left overs when using scraps:

One, 2 1/2" by 20" dark (or light) background rectangle.

Four, 15 1/2" by 2 1/2" coloured rectangles.

Cutting if using scraps:

From four different bright/coloured fabrics
Cut two, 6 1/2" by 2 1/2" rectangles.
Cut one, 2 1/2" square.

From background fabric
Cut eight, 2 1/2" squares.

Assembly:

Take two background 2 1/2" squares
and join to either side of one
coloured 2 1/2" square.

Press seams to the dark side.



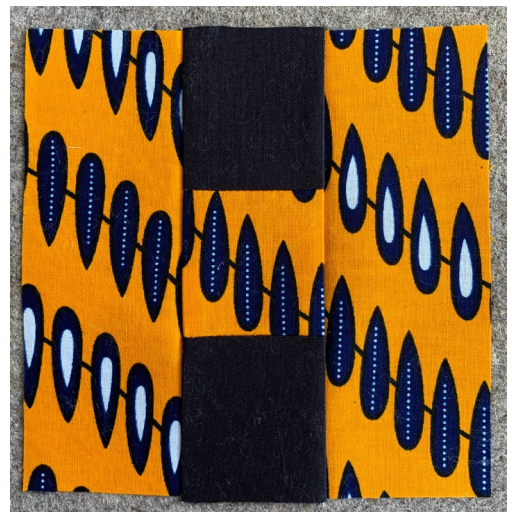
Take the matching coloured 2 1/2" by 6 1/2"
rectangles and join to either side of the pieced strip
to complete your first H.

Press seams to dark side.

Repeat with the other three colour ways to make a
total of four Hs.

Refer to block layout, join the top two Hs. Note that
one is rotated 90 degrees.

**The upright Hs need to be top left and bottom
right.**



Press seam to left side.

Repeat with second two Hs,
again one is rotated 90 degrees.

Press to right side.

Join the two halves together to
complete your block.



EXTRAS - hints and tips for perfect piecing.

Cutting. Selvedges are the very edge of the fabric which is not suitable for using when making blocks. They have a sealed finish to them with tiny holes. These need trimming off prior to beginning your cutting. You can either use a rotary cutter to cut your blocks or make a cardboard template to the correct size, draw around (using a sharp pencil and keeping the nib tight to the card) and cut out with scissors.

Seam allowances are a scant 1/4". Consistency is as, if not more, important. Either use a 1/4" foot or mark the 1/4" on your machine and keep to it. A scant 1/4" means that you a thread or two short of the full 1/4". For the reason why we do this check out my blog on perfect piecing:

<https://strictlyquilting.com/2021/02/20/sew-a-fine-seam-the-scant-seam/>

Press the seams, don't iron. By 'Pressing' I mean you press the iron down without moving it. If you iron fabric as you do your clothes then you can warp the threads. Pressing keeps the threads straight. For more information my blog on pressing can be found here:

<https://strictlyquilting.com/2021/03/20/sew-a-fine-seam-the-dark-side>

A quick word on directional prints. I tend to take one of two approaches when dealing with directional prints - fabric patterns which have a correct way up. I either decide to not worry about it. After all quilts are frequently viewed from every different angle or I take the option of taking care over fabric placement and get all the pieces of fabric the correct way up - essential when making a wall hanging.

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Designed by Helen Kent ©2022

This pattern was written for Quilts for Care Leavers Block of the Month.
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Items made from this pattern can be sold for profit or charity.