October 2026

Sticks and Stones – Supersized



Before you get started, please read through all the fabric requirements and the method carefully. Please also check that your sewing machine is sewing correctly, including the tension: the fabric should not gather, and the bobbin thread should not sit on the surface of the fabric

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.

COLOUR CHOICE

The block should read as a single colour overall, but use a variety of fabrics in different shades and tones of that colour to add movement and texture. Please try to have at least 5 or 6 different shades in each block for the "sticks". Eg green as below



Please use black fabric for the stones; this will be the same in each block.

CUTTING INSTRUCTIONS

From the coloured fabric

Two strips 20½" x 4½"
Two strips 16½" x 4½"
Two strips 12½" x 4½"
Two strips 8½" x 4½"
Two squares 4½" x 4½"

From the black fabric

Six 4½" squares for the stones

METHOD

Please be careful to check and use 1/4" seams and press towards the coloured fabric in strips. Make sure you press the stick/stone seam fully before you attempt any joining of the strips and be very careful not to stretch the material. Seams need to be as accurate as possible, or the block won't finish the correct size.

Finger pressing of these seams isn't enough to make them lie flat and true.

Lay your fabrics out as shown. Each of the 6 rows has a black "stone" in it:



Top row - black stone, 20½" strip
2nd row - 4½ square (coloured fabric), black stone, 16½" strip
3rd row - 8½" strip, black stone, 12½" strip

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4th row - 12½” strip, black stone, 8½” strip
5th row - 16½” strip, black stone, 4½” square (coloured fabric)
6th row - 20½” strip, black stone

Join the 2 fabrics in the top row and press towards the coloured fabric. Work all 6 rows the same way.



You end up with 6 strips all 24½” long.

Join the strips so that when you look at the right side of the block, the black stones cross from top left to bottom right with the strips horizontal (as shown). Please check that you have joined the strips correctly so that your block plays nicely with all the others.

Be careful to match the seams where the black stones are when you join the strips. Keep those ¼” seam accurate. As there are lots of seams in this block it is easy to lose some depth. Also, it’s easy to stretch the lines, making the square squiffy. Ask me how I know.....

Check that the block measures 24½”x 24½”.

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.

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