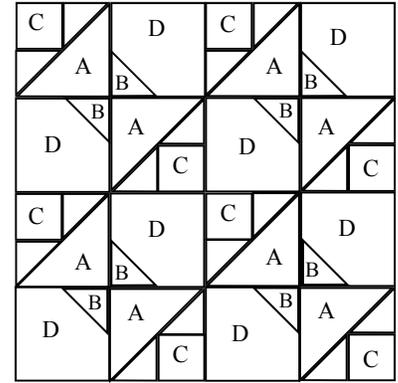
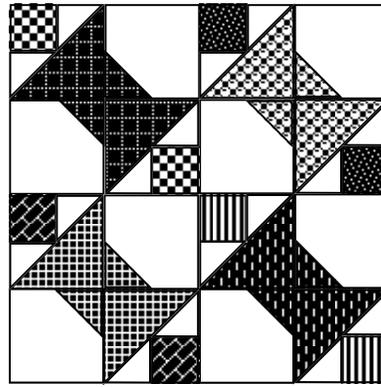


SPOOLS AND BOBBINS



Use this pattern in a *Block By Block* quilt or anywhere you need a 12" (12½" with seam allowances) block.

All instructions include ¼" seam allowances.

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Rotary Cut

From each of the 4 different fabrics for A, cut 1 square, 3⁷/₈" x 3⁷/₈".



Cut each square once diagonally to yield 8 triangles.

From each of the 4 different fabrics for B, cut 2 squares, 2" x 2".

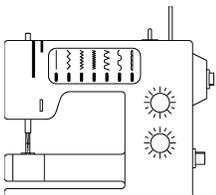
From each of the 4 different fabrics for C, cut 2 squares, 2" x 2".

From the fabric for D cut 8 squares, 3½" x 3½".

From the fabric for E, cut 8 squares, 2³/₈" x 2³/₈".



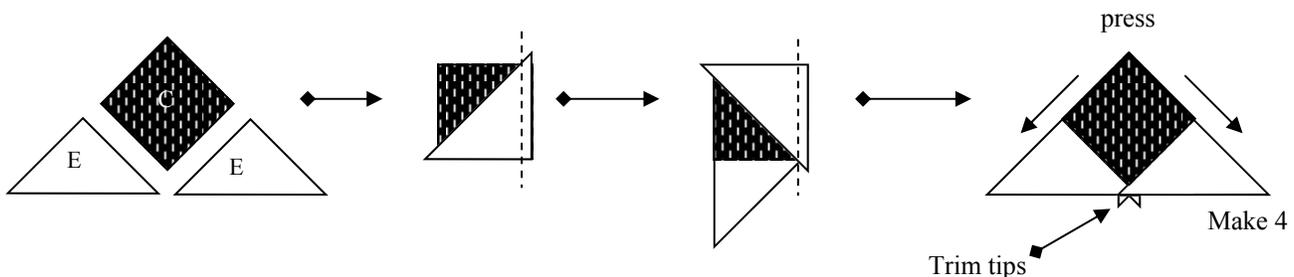
Cut each square once diagonally, to yield 16 triangles.



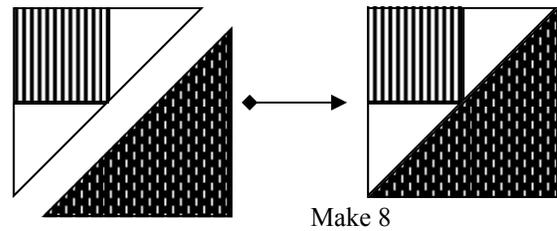
Machine Piece

Pair up each spool fabric with a bobbin fabric and keep them in pairs as you sew for a unified look. Stitch them randomly for a scrapper look.

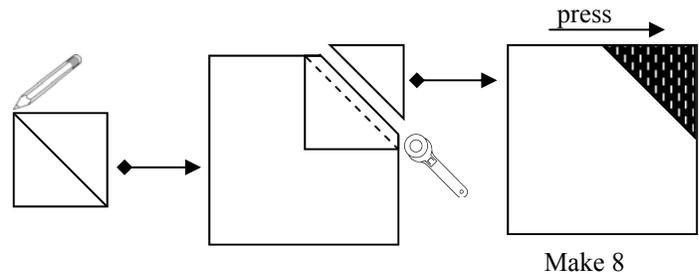
1. Stitch a triangle E to adjacent sides of each square C to make 8 triangles. (Hint: Match the corners of the triangles with the corners of the squares. The tips of the triangles extend beyond the edges of the squares.) Press toward the E's. Trim any tips that extend beyond the edges.



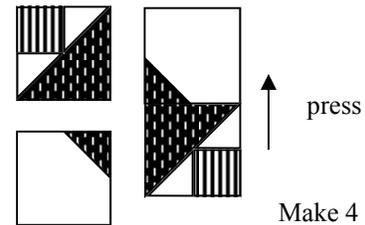
2. Stitch each triangle from step 2 to a triangle A, to make 8 squares that each measure, $3\frac{1}{2}$ " x $3\frac{1}{2}$ ". Press toward the A triangles. Trim any tips that extend beyond the edges.



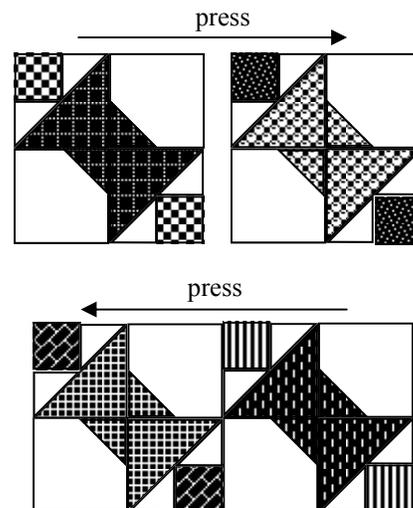
3. Draw 1 diagonal line on the wrong side of each square B. With right sides facing, stitch squares D and B together on the diagonal lines. Trim $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from the just sewn seam and press away from the D's to make 8 squares that each measure $3\frac{1}{2}$ " x $3\frac{1}{2}$ ". (Refer to page 55 of *Block By Block* if you need more help with this step.)



4. Stitch each square made in step 3 to a square made in step 2 to make 8 rectangles that each measure $3\frac{1}{2}$ " x $6\frac{1}{2}$ ". Press as shown. Stitch the rectangles together to make 4 squares $6\frac{1}{2}$ " x $6\frac{1}{2}$ ". Wait to press until step 6.

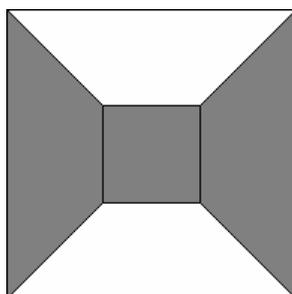


5. Arrange the blocks in a pleasing order. Stitch into horizontal rows first and press according to the diagram. Sew the last vertical row and press in either direction. The block is finished and should measure $12\frac{1}{2}$ " x $12\frac{1}{2}$ ".

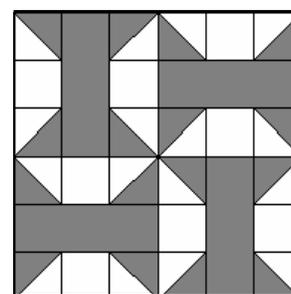
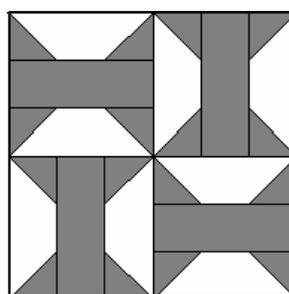
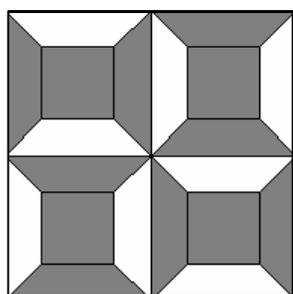


Evolution of *Spools and Bobbins*.

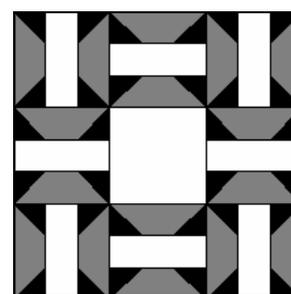
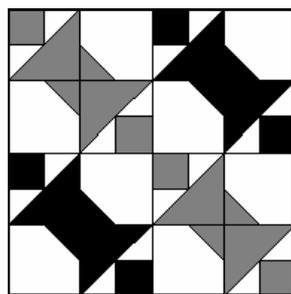
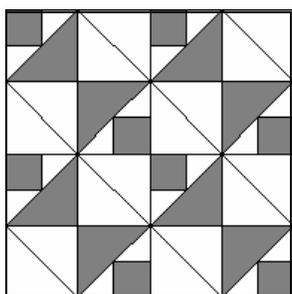
When pattern writing I look through resource books to find interesting blocks. Most of my patterns are for 12" blocks, so I look for something that has enough pieces to keep the pattern visually interesting in that size and for something that would be easy to piece. Most of the pattern source books I use reference patterns that were published before 1940. Quiltmaking was different then. Patterns were cut with scissors and many were still hand pieced. It was not unusual to find patterns that were set-in pieced. Today rotary cutting and machine piecing in chains are the predominate methods. As I research I look at patterns and get ideas for how I can adapt them for our current tools and methods. Sometimes this leads to a new unpublished block, like my *Spools and Bobbins*. Below are previously published patterns that influenced my Spools and Bobbins pattern.



This pattern was called *Empty Spool* and syndicated through the Nancy Page columns of the 1930s. Ruby Short McKim called it *Spool* in her McKim studios designs. It was called *Love Knot* by Martha Marshall in *Quilts of Appalachia* in 1972.



These three versions offer four spools per block and have the same visual look, but are constructed in different ways. The block on the left was published as *Fred's Spool* by Clara Stone's *Practical Needlework* in 1906. Ruby Short McKim called it *Spool* through her mail order company of the 1920s-30s. *The Kansas City Star* published it as the *Spool Quilt* in 1940. The block in the center was published as the *Arkansas Traveler* by the Ladies Art Company around 1895. It was also listed as the *Arkansas Traveler* in *The Romance of the Patchwork Quilt* by Hall and Kretsinger in 1935. The booklet, *Patchwork Quilts and How to Make Them* by Needlecraft Supply of Chicago named it *Amature Block* in 1938. *The Kansas City Star* published it as *Arkansas Traveler* in 1945 but it had a different shading. The block on the right was called *Borrow and Lend* and appeared in the *New Brunswick Maritime Farmer* in the 1920s-30s. The extra seams make it easier to piece by machine.



The block on the left was published as *Spool and Bobbin* by Nancy Cabot in 1936. It is the closest to the one I drafted. I eliminated an extra seam and added some triangles to make the block look more like the spools pictured in other patterns. The one in the center is the one I designed and call *Spools and Bobbins*. The block on the right was published as *Spool and Bobbin* by Nancy Cabot in 1936. It has more in common with some of the blocks above than it does with my *Spools and Bobbins* adaptation.

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You can purchase my favorite research tools, the Electric Quilt and Block Base at, <http://www.electricquilt.com/> and

Barbara Brackman's *Encyclopedia of Pieced Quilt Patterns* at

http://www.americanquiltercatalog.com/spring_2008/lg_display.cfm?page_number=20.