CHAIN REACTION: WREATHS & BULBS

Riley Blake Designs

merry little christmas
BY SANDY GERVAIS
One block with "sew" many possibilities!

Measurements include ¼” seam allowance. Sew with right sides together unless otherwise stated. Read all instructions before starting.

Please check our website www.rileyblakedesigns.com/pattern-updates for any revisions before starting this project. This pattern requires a basic knowledge of quilting technique and terminology. The quilt and block diagrams portrayed are virtual images. The layout and look of your project may differ when using actual fabric.

The following blocks and quilts use the Chain and Alternate Chain Block as a base. Refer to the free pattern Chain Reaction found at www.rileyblakedesigns.com/assets/images/freepatterns/quiltpatterns/ChainReactionTextureFreePattern.pdf for the base block construction.

CHAIN AND ALTERNATE CHAIN BLOCKS
It all began with the introduction of 1 simple Chain Block with "sew" many possibilities! Block construction, sizes and quilt layouts were explored and then the chain reaction began! One change to create the Alternate Chain Block opening a world of new possibilities.

But wait there's more! By combining Chain Blocks together we can create larger Holly and Wreath Blocks to help us celebrate the holidays!

To simplify the instructions the following blocks and quilt layouts are written for a Chain or Alternate Chain Block with a 4½” finished block size, i.e. a cut base square of 5”. The quilt tops will finish 60’ x 60”.

To change the sizes of the blocks and quilts. Use the information from Chain Reaction to change the sizes of the blocks and quilts.

HOLLY BLOCK
Press seam allowances as shown.

Requirements
3 - Chain Blocks (5” base square)
1 - 5” Background square
4 - 2½” x 5” Background rectangles
1 - 2½” Holly square

Assembly
1. Lay out the Chain Blocks, Holly square and Background pieces in a nine patch. Sew the pieces into rows. Sew the rows together to complete 1 Holly Block (11½” x 11½”).

WREATH BLOCK
Press seam allowances as shown.

Requirements
4 - Chain Blocks (5” base square)
4 - 2½” x 2¾” Wreath rectangles
1 - 2½” x 7” Background rectangle
2 - 2½” x 2¾” Background rectangles

Assembly
Sew 1 Wreath and 1 Background 2½” x 2¾” rectangle together along a 2½” edge. Sew the resulting piece between 2 Chain Blocks. Repeat to make 2 Wreath Halves (5” x 11½”).

Sew a 2½” x 2¾” Wreath rectangle to each end of the 2½” x 7” Background rectangle. Sew the resulting piece between the 2 Wreath Halves to complete 1 Wreath Block (11½” x 11½”).
WREATH QUILT LAYOUT
The layout provided is just one of the plethora of designs that can be made from Holly and Wreath Blocks.

Use the layout for color placement and block orientation. This quilt has a dark and light background. Press seam allowances towards the background strips and borders.

Make 4 Holly Blocks with a dark background and 4 Holly Blocks with a light background.

Make 8 Wreath Blocks with a light background.

Quilt Center
Sew a 2½" x 11½" dark background strip between 2 dark background Holly Blocks. Repeat to make 2 Rows.

Sew a 2½" x 24½" dark background strip between the 2 Rows to complete the Quilt Center (24½" x 24½").

Borders
Seam allowances vary so measure through the center of the quilt before cutting border pieces. Sew side borders first.

Border 1
Side borders should be 2½" x 24½". Top and bottom borders should be 2½" x 28½".

Border 2
Sew together 3 light background 2½" x 11½" strips alternating with 2 Wreath Blocks. Repeat to make 4 Borders.

Sew 1 Border to each side of the Quilt.

Sew a light background Holly Block to each end of 1 Border to make the top border. Repeat to make the bottom border.

Border 3
This border is a great place to add bow details to the Wreath Blocks.

Place 1 light background and 1 bow 3" square right sides together (RST), matching the edges. Draw a diagonal line on the wrong side of the background square. Sew ¼" seam on each side of the drawn line. Cut along the drawn line for 2 HSTs. Trim the HSTs to 2½" x 2½".

Repeat to make 16 HSTs.

Sew the HSTs together into 8 pairs.

Sew a HST pair to each end of a 2½" x 9½" light background strip. Sew a 2½" x 17" light background strip to each end to complete 1 side border (2½" x 50½"). Repeat to make 2 side borders.

Sew a HST pair to each end of a 2½" x 9½" light background strip. Sew a 2½" x 19" background strip to each end to complete the top border (2½" x 54½"). Repeat to make the bottom border.

Border 4
Side borders should be 1½" x 54½". Top and bottom borders should be 1½" x 56½".

Border 5
Side borders should be 2½" x 56½". Top and bottom borders should be 2½" x 60½".

Quilt and bind with your favorite Riley Blake print.

Don't worry the Alternate Chain Block has not been forgotten! Create the Bulb block using the Alternate Chain Block and combine with the Holly Block for another quilt layout option.
CHAIN REACTION: WREATHS & BULBS

BULB BLOCK
Press seam allowances as shown.

Requirements
- 4 - Alternate Chain Blocks (5” base square)
- 2 - 2½” x 5” Bulb rectangles
- 1 - 2½” x 11½” Contrast rectangle

Assembly
Sew the 1 Bulb 2½” x 5” rectangle between 2 Alternate Chain Blocks. Repeat to make 2 Bulb Halves (5” x 11½”).

Sew the 2½” x 11½” Contrast rectangle between the 2 Bulb Halves to complete 1 Bulb Block (11½” x 11½”).

BULB QUILT LAYOUT
Use the layout for color placement and block orientation. This quilt has a dark and light background.

1. Follow the instructions for the Wreath Quilt Layout with the following changes:
   - Replace the Wreath Blocks with the Bulb Blocks.
   - Border 3 - Omit the HSTs. Instead of bows add toppers to the bulbs.

Sew a 2½” topper square to each end of a 2½” x 11½” light background strip. Sew a 2½” x 18” light background strip to each end to complete 1 side border (2½” x 50½”). Repeat to make 2 side borders.

Sew a 2½” topper square to each end of a 2½” x 11½” light background strip. Sew a 2½” x 20” light background strip to each end to complete the top border (2½” x 54½”). Repeat to make the bottom border.
Wreath Layout