Dawsonville

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Finished Quilt Size
72 1/2" x 72 1/2"

Fabric Requirements:
1 Gone Camping stacker (42) 10" X 10" squares
3 3/4 white background
2/3 binding
The Basics

Before starting this project, please read through all of the instructions.

Width of Fabric (WOF) a strip of fabric from selvage to selvage.

RST: Right sides together.

HST: Half square triangle.

Seam Direction illustrated with arrows.

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Nesting Seams: Seams that come together with each seam going the opposite direction allowing the seams to nest together.

All seam allowances are included in the pieces you have been instructed to cut.

This project uses a 1/4" seam allowance. A quilter’s 1/4" seam allowance is a little different than a regular 1/4" seam. If you are piecing a quilt, you need to follow this rule in order for blocks to match up.

Test:
Start with two 2" squares. Make sure that both squares are pressed and cut accurately. RST, sew both squares together using a regular 1/4" seam. Set the seam. For more information on setting seams, see section, Setting Seams & Pressing. Once the two blocks are set and pressed open, measure the block. It should measure 2" x 3-1/2". Notice that it does not. More than likely, it will measure just less than 3-1/2". This is where the Quilter’s 1/4" Seam comes into play. To find the Quilter’s 1/4" Seam on your machine, repeat the same steps, but sew a hair width inside the 1/4" mark on the sewing machine. Set seams and press the squares open to check the progress. If you are still shy of the 3-1/2" measurement, take an even smaller seam (hair widths at a time). If you are over the 3-1/2" mark, the seam needs to be larger.

Repeat the same test with the two 2" squares until you get the block to measure exactly 2" x 3-1/2". Once you have found it, mark the Quilter’s 1/4" Seam on your machine with a piece of tape. More than likely it will be just inside the already existing 1/4" mark.

This is extremely important when sewing multiple seams in one block. The Quilter’s 1/4" Seam allows space for the fabric to fold over the seam and get the exact measurement needed.

Setting Seams & Pressing (for piecing quilts)
This is a very basic and simple process. If done correctly, this step will help keep your quilts square and flat. I say “help” because there are other variables that affect a quilt’s squareness and flatness such as precise cutting, using a Quilter’s 1/4" Seam, and setting and pressing seams.

To set a seam, lay the iron along the unopened seam with the darkest side of the fabric facing up. Make sure not to twist the iron, as this can distort the block. Next, carefully open the block (now right sides up), set the iron in front of the of the seam, and slowly glide over the seam. This will naturally press the seam toward the darkest side of fabric or whichever fabric was facing up when starting. Measure the block to make sure that it is the proper size.

These basic steps may seem overwhelming at first, but once you get the hang of it, you will be amazed at how much easier your quilts will come together.

Pressing Seams Open:
Pressing a seam open after “Setting and Pressing” (described above) isn’t something I do with every project. Generally I press my seams open when sewing points because the seams get bulky when pressing all of the seam allowance to one side. To press the seam open (after setting and pressing), turn the block over so that the wrong side of the block is facing you. Using an iron and your fingers open the seam and press in place so that each side of the seam is pressed open. *Note: seam direction will be illustrated.

TIP: When sewing rows or strips together, alternate sewing directions top to bottom, then bottom to top, or left to right, right to left etc. Alternating seam direction will help make blocks and borders lay flatter. If seams are sewn in the same direction, often times your project will become wider at one end, or a rainbow shape will begin to appear.
Cutting Instructions
Iron fabric before cutting. A rotary cutter, ruler, and self healing mat are needed for cutting.

Cutting Stackers (for plus blocks)
Lay stacker squares onto the cutting mat. If desired stack and cut through two layers at a time. Cut 2 strips 2-1/2” x 10”. Cross cut (5) 2-1/2” squares from strips, fig. 2.

Cutting Yardage
Lay out yardage onto cutting mat with fabric fold along bottom edge of mat. Starting at the fold, cut through both layers, and through selvage, fig. 3. Cut the shortest measurement first.

For shorter pieces with a length under 21”, lay strip with fold to left edge of the mat. Cut through both layers at the same time, fig. 4. For longer pieces like borders, iron strip open before cross cutting each long strip.

Snowball Blocks
Pick out (16) stacker squares, set aside.

White Fabric (from yardage):
Cut (5) strips, 3” x WOF, cross cut (64) 3” squares

Plus Blocks
Use (25) stacker squares.
For each plus block, and from each stacker cut (5) 2-1/2” squares same color/print

White Fabric
Cut (7) strips, 2-1/2” x WOF, cross cut (100) 2-1/2” squares

White Sashing
Cut (10) strips, 6-1/2” x WOF, cross cut (40) 6-1/2” x 10”

White Outside Border
Cut (8) strips, 2-1/2” x WOF

Binding
Cut (8) strips, 2-1/2” x WOF

Snowball Blocks
With a water soluble pen and ruler, mark the wrong side of (64) white 3” squares corner to corner, fig. 5.
Pin (4) white squares on each stacker square as shown, fig. 6. Sew along marked lines, trim seam allowance to 1/4", fig. 7. Set and press seams open, fig. 8. Repeat for all (16) blocks. Block size 10" x 10"

**Plus Blocks**
For each plus block you will need (4) 2-1/2" white squares and (5) 2-1/2" same color/print squares. RST, sew squares together from left to right to make unit 1, unit 2 and unit 3, fig. 9. Set and press seams, fig. 9.

RST, nest seams and sew each unit rows together top to bottom, starting with unit 1. Set and press seams open, fig. 10. Repeat to make (25). Block size 6-1/2" x 6-1/2"

**Plus Block Rows**
RST, sew each plus block and sashing pieces together as shown, fig. 11. Set and press seams as shown, fig. 11. Repeat to make (5) rows.

**Snowball Block Rows**
RST, sew each snowball block and sashing pieces together as shown, fig. 12. Set and press seams, fig. 12. Repeat to make (4) rows.

**Outside Border**
RST, sew (2) 2-1/2" x WOF strips together. Set seams and press seams open. Repeat to make (4). Cut (2) down to 68-1/2" and (2) down to 72-1/2".
Quilt Assembly
RST, nest seams and sew each row together using fig. 13. Starting with a plus row and alternating with a snowball row. Set and press seams open between each row. Continue until all nine rows have been sewn together. RST, add the top and bottom outside border strips measuring 2-1/2" x 68-1/2", and the left and right outside border strips measuring 2-1/2" x 72-1/2". Set seams and press seams, fig. 13.
Binding

Binding is added to a quilt after it has been quilted. Square up the quilt by cutting the excess backing and batting, using the quilt top as your guide. From the binding strips listed in the cutting chart, cut the selvage off each end. RST, sew each strip together along the 2-1/2" side to make one long strip. Right sides out, and raw edges together, press the strip in half lengthwise.

Start along the middle edge of one side. Match up the raw edge of the binding with the raw edge of the right side of the quilt. Leave a 10-1/2" unpinned tail, when beginning. Pin binding along one side, stop pinning 1/4" from the edge of the first corner, fig. 14. Make a mark 1/4" from the edge. Sew in place up to the 1/4" mark, fig. 15. Back stitch. Clip thread and move away from the sewing machine to pin the corner.

Fold the binding up, fig. 16. and back down, fig. 17, keeping the binding square with both sides of the quilt top.

Sew in place starting at the fold at the top right corner, back stitch and sew to the next corner stopping 1/4" from the edge. Repeat the corner fold, fig. 16 and 17 until all four corners are sewn. Continue sewing, stop 10" before getting back to the starting place. You should have a tail of binding at each end (about 10" to 12" long). Pin each tail to the middle opening. Fold each tail back leaving a 1/4" opening in between the two binding ends, fig. 18. Finger press.

Unfold binding ends and unpin. Draw a line across the finger-pressed crease on the wrong side of the fabric, fig. 19. RST, match up both marked lines. Pin in place and sew along the marked line. Cut excess tail off leaving 1/4" seam allowance. Press the seam open. Re-fold binding strip in half lengthwise, along the original pressed line. The joining seam allowance will be hidden inside the fold. Pin the binding along the edge of the quilt and sew in place.

Fold the finished binding edge to the back side of the quilt. Pin in place. Fold corners, fig. 20, to make a mitered corner.

Stitch in place using a blind stitch, fig. 21. When stitching go through the back and the batting and up through the binding then repeat. Be careful not to sew through to the front side of the quilt.