

Modern Quilt Group



Tutor Box Number 5

Modern Negative Space Log Cabin

This design relies on large plain background areas. It is great for using up small scraps of bright modern fabrics as you need strips only 1" wide

Cut:

From Plain or Low Volume fabric:

Centre squares 3½"

First round of logs are 1½"

Logs then 1" cut

From Bright or contrasting scraps:

Cut 1" strips assorted lengths

Finished Block size 7"

Sew:

1. First join your 1" scraps to 1" strips of background fabrics along a short end. Press seams towards the coloured fabrics.
2. Stitch your first round of 1½" plain background logs onto your centre squares. Making four blocks at a time is a good idea as you can chain piece onto strips and then trim them to length.
3. Look at the illustration and then add your joined 1" strips working twice more around each square in log cabin fashion. Notice that the scrap fabrics are randomly placed to build up the pattern in the opposite corners.
4. Trim each block to the same finished size.



I have made a version of this with more coloured logs in each block and where the width of the logs changes in each round. I used a wide assortment of white fabrics, including linen and cotton sateen; truly a scrap quilt.

You can, of course, make other sizes of blocks, and these are wonderful on a Grand Scale - you might consider using jelly roll strips...

Quilting your quilt

Layer the backing Wrong side up, the wadding and the quilt top Right side up to make your quilt sandwich. Safety pin or tack the layers together. Quilt by hand or machine. Bind the edges.

This pattern devised and this worksheet was written by Heather Hasthorpe

These instructions can be copied as much as you like and passed along; but please do not alter them in any way when doing this. Modern Quilt Group is keen on passing on the skills we all have to the next generations of sewists, in the knowledge that this is both satisfying and compulsive to a degree..

Teaching Notes

This is not a difficult block to teach, and it is amenable to trimming - if your students have trouble with accurate seam allowances, make the outer ring of logs in wider pieces then trim to size for accuracy. It's actually much more important that the seams are consistent than that they are exactly 1/4 inch..

It's important to understand that this needs "looking" skills - you need to balance the sizes of the corners as you sew for best effect.. However, providing you start with a good selection of "bright" fabrics the blocks will work without too much forward planning...



