

# Modern Quilt Group



## Tutor Box Number 7

### Tiger, Tiger

Easy curved piecing for surprisingly accurate final results

This block is particularly good for “multi-maker” quilts and is a great stash-buster

Not recommended for hand sewing, although I suppose it would be possible

The sample shows small blocks (finished at 4 inches), but I recommend you start with slightly bigger ones - the instructions are for blocks which finish at 6 inches when sewn together (6-1/2 inches when trimmed) See the end of the pattern for dimensions for other sizes

You need

2 rectangles of fabric 7 by 9 inches (start with fabrics that have a right and wrong side)

A small rotary cutter with a nice sharp blade (see below if you really want to use scissors)

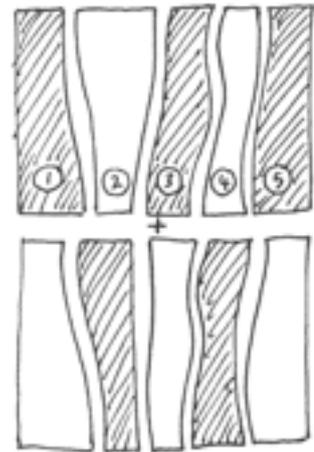
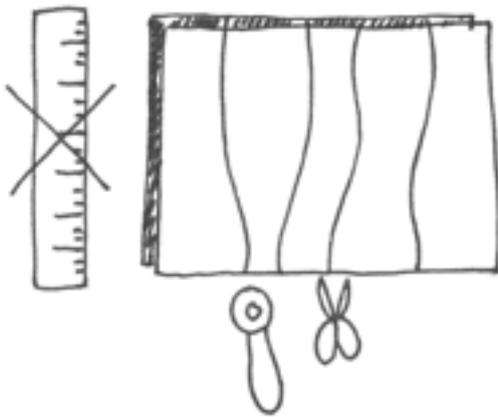
A small mat to put next to your machine

A quilters ruler at least 6-1/2 inches square

The usual sewing supplies - machine with a regular foot, thread (cotton, please), scissors...

Press your fabrics and lay them on your mat BOTH RIGHT SIDES UP on top of each other

Make FOUR cuts (so FIVE pieces) as shown, across the shorter dimension, with your cutter but no ruler. Space them fairly evenly, not too close together or near the ends



Make sure the curves are quite shallow and simple - yours will not be quite like mine, as this is much like handwriting. Do not be tempted to make complicated swervy curves

Arrange the pieces of the two colours as shown. Keep these on the mat next to your machine while you are working

Pick up the first two pieces from the top block, and put them Right Sides together - you will note that the curves do not match.. Start sewing with a smallish stitch, aligning the edge every so often to keep the curve matching, and using a 1/4 inch seam allowance as near as possible (consistency is more important than perfect measure here)

When you get to the end of the first seam, pick up numbers 1 and 2 from the second block and “chain piece” - sew directly onto the next pair. At the end of this second seam, cut the first pair off the back and sew number 3 from the first set to the first pair



Continue like this until you have sewn all the pieces of both blocks together. You will have two blocks which alternate the colours, so they do not look at all alike. Press neatly with the seams to one side. If you have a very definite dark-and-light you may want to press towards the darks, but if the fabrics are closer in tone, just press to the side. Do not snip any curves, you do not need to do this



Trim the blocks - (one at a time please,) to 6-1/2 inches using your quilters ruler and cutter. If your blocks are coming out too small either trim them all to a lesser size, or cut bigger rectangles to start with. If they are consistently rather big, your seam allowances may be too skimpy

Set the blocks alternate ways - no seams to match apart from at the corners!

Note - it's perfectly possible to make these with scissors, but you may find it helps to pin the layers together before you cut the curves. If trimming the blocks this way, make a template and mark with a pencil before cutting...

#### Other sizes

For 4-inch finished blocks (trimmed to 4- 1/2 inches) start with 5 inch by 7 inch rectangles

For 6-inch finished blocks (trimmed to 6-1/2 inches) start with 7 by 9 inch rectangles

For 9-inch finished blocks (trimmed to 9-1/2 inches) start with 9-1/2 by 11 inch rectangles

I make them smaller, too, but this needs practice and a twisted mind...

## Teaching Notes

I'm really happy to have you teach this block, and it's both easy and satisfying for students.. I have taught it many times; demonstrated it to thousands of people, and often get emails with images of rather large quilts..

Please make a reasonable number of samples before you teach this on..

I designed these blocks (in the 6-1/2 inch trimmed / 6-inch finished size) to be most economical from 1/8 cuts of fabric, and of course they work equally well from fat quarters. I recommend cotton fabrics, of course, and as with all patchwork, new students should use new cotton fabrics of good quality for the best results..

Because the blocks are trimmed after sewing, the possibilities for inaccuracy are much reduced, and if you wish to make quick quilts for Linus, raffles etc, these can be made safely with lots of different hands and machines. If you are doing this it's good to either get one person to trim the blocks, or to check them as they are trimmed - if students are making particularly undersized blocks it may be helpful to suggest a larger rectangle cut to start with

Also, because the blocks are each only two fabrics, it's possible to add more colours or fabrics into a quilt at any time - you know that if you have a big and complex block with several colours, and then run out of one, it can ruin the result...

Because these are somewhat bias-cut, try not to unpick - when I am teaching I will sometimes "rescue" a block, but mostly I suggest that attention to order-of-sewing and direction of fabrics will make for a much more satisfactory result.. A common problem is the tendency to pick up pairs of pieces after the first one, instead of adding to the block one piece at a time.. It's also good to discourage movement of the pieces before they are fully sewn together - there is no need to press this block until it is all assembled. This also saves a lot of time in the making

Pattern and teaching notes devised and developed by Helen Howes, with sponsorship from Oakshott Fabrics and much help from many students and friends

You may copy these notes for teaching, personal or group use as you wish, providing that they remain in this form and include this statement and the Quilters' Guild logo.

Items made from this pattern can be offered for prizes, for sale and as gifts

If you wish to make any kind of commercial pattern using these ideas, you must devise your own written descriptions and diagrams; and I would regard it as a politeness if you would send me a copy..

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More ideas for Tigers - the yellow, brown and green one was my first attempt. I made it and quilted it on a Thursday, then drove to a trade show with it on Friday. 6 inch blocks  
The blue one is by Heather Hasthorpe, and is another tutorbox sample, 4 inch blocks  
The red-and-black one I made as a gift  
The brown one shows the blocks used as a ground for appliqué

