

BLOCK SIX: Diamond in a Square

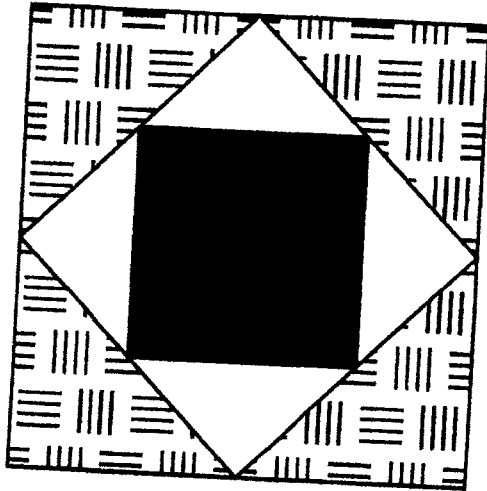
This pattern is usually made as a bed size quilt. It requires large pieces of fabric rather than scraps left over from clothing. The Lancaster Amish were more economically stable than Newark^{et} Midwest communities, so they produced more quotes^{1/15} in this pattern. The Center Diamond or Diamond in a Square is the oldest and plainest Amish design. The simple large pieces offered an opportunity to feature bold striking color combinations as well as large pallets for elaborate hand quilting.

The first years of the Amish in Pennsylvania were difficult, filled with uncertainty and disorganization. Unlike the Mennonites who arrived in large numbers, the Amish came in small family groups. They survived on a frontier environment. Some settlements were more successful than others, depending on a combination of such factors as geography as well as the charismatic powers of certain individuals who helped hold the groups together. The organization and structure of Amish community life as it exists today was unknown in the first hundred years of their existence here. Families were scattered over a wide geographic area. The Amish church was not highly organized at that time; a few bishops traveled from one area to another offering only infrequent services and performing ceremonial rights of baptism marriage and death. Consequently, the pull of more organized religious groups was strong. Many young Amish converted to other sects and religious groups in the early years.

Much of Amish history in America has been shaped by their constant need for good land at affordable prices. They frequently would go westward or southward to fringe areas in order to afford viable sized farms. They also had a problem with soil depletion.

The most common reason given in the colonial period for resettlement, was to ensure economic survival. During the Revolutionary War the Amish as well as other traditional "peace churches", were subjected to fines, imprisonment, double and triple taxes and confiscation of their property.

From a few colonial families and a small group of about 8000 people at the turn of the 20th century, the Amish population has grown to approximately 100,000 people living today in 21 different states and Canada. 75% of the Amish live in Ohio, Pennsylvania, or Indiana in well-established communities.



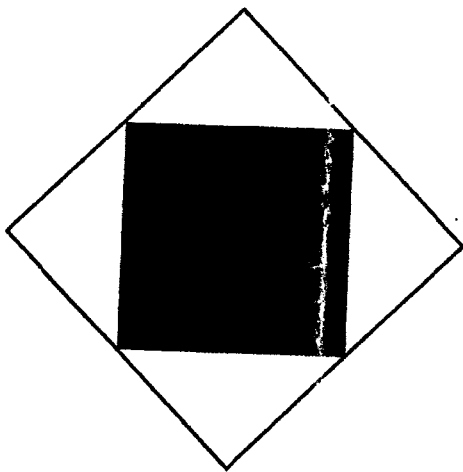
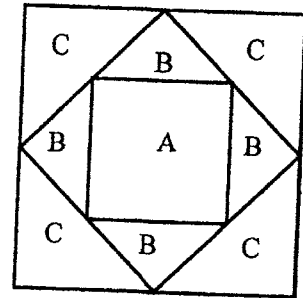
Fabric #1 (purple)



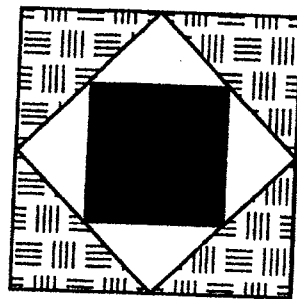
Fabric #2 (green)



Fabric #3 (blue)



Sew triangle B to each side of A. (Sew opposite sides when attaching B. Trim this unit to 9" including seam allowances.



Sew triangle C to each side of previous unit. Trim the block to 12-1/2" x 12-1/2" including seam allowances.

Rotary Cutting Measurements:

From Fabric #1

A cut (1) 6-1/2" x 6-1/2" square

From Fabric #2

B cut (2) 5-1/8" x 5-1/8". Cut once on diagonal

From Fabric #3

C cut (2) 7" x 7". Cut once on diagonal

Unit 1
Make 1