

Totebag 2024 block and front panel instructions

9.5" (9" finished) Log Cabin Quilt Block

For our QUilters 2024 totebag project, we will be making a 9.5" (9" finished) log cabin block, **with a dark center square**. You will begin with an inner 3.5" center square and work around the center square with 1.5" strips. The traditional log cabin block uses lights and darks on opposite sides. Our block will be scrappy, without a color pattern. (This sample block has warm colors on one side and cool colors on the other.) You will need to use at least 4 different fabrics if you don't want like fabrics to touch each other. There can be up to 13 different fabrics used for a totally scrappy block.

Cut the following:

1 **dark** square 3.5" x 3.5"

1 strip 3.5" x 1.5"

2 strips 4.5" x 1.5"

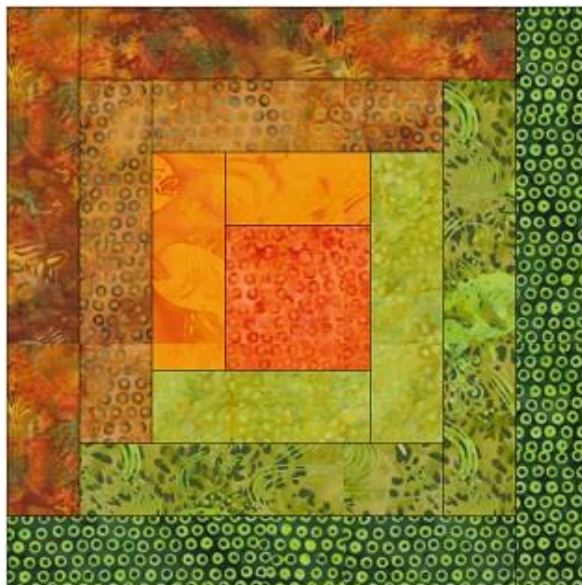
2 strips 5.5" x 1.5"

2 strips 6.5" x 1.5"

2 strips 7.5" x 1.5"

2 strips 8.5" x 1.5"

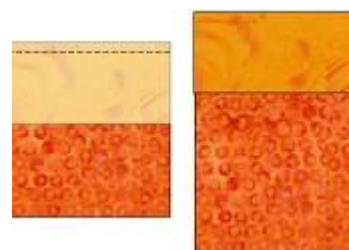
1 strip 9.5" x 1.5"



All strips should be stitched using a *scant* 1/4" seam allowance (closer to 3/16"). Press seams to the outside.

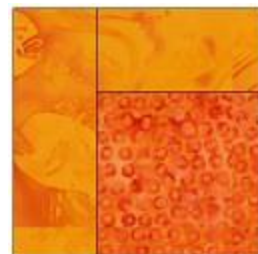
Begin with the center square, and add the 1st strip on the top of the center square.

Here is the center square with the first strip added on top of it. Stitch and press the seam away from the center square, to the outside of the square.

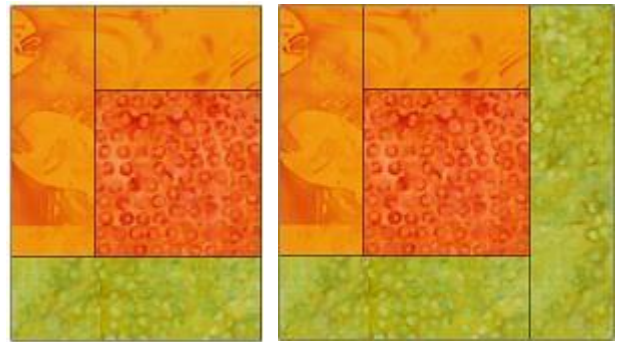


Now stitch the 2nd strip to the rectangle. It doesn't matter to which side of the rectangle you stitch the strip, just so as you're always going around the square in the same direction, clockwise or counterclockwise.

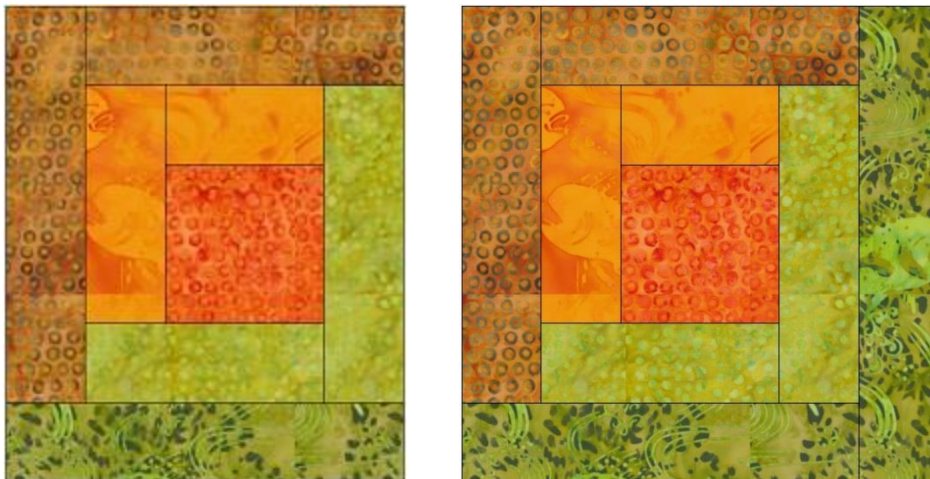
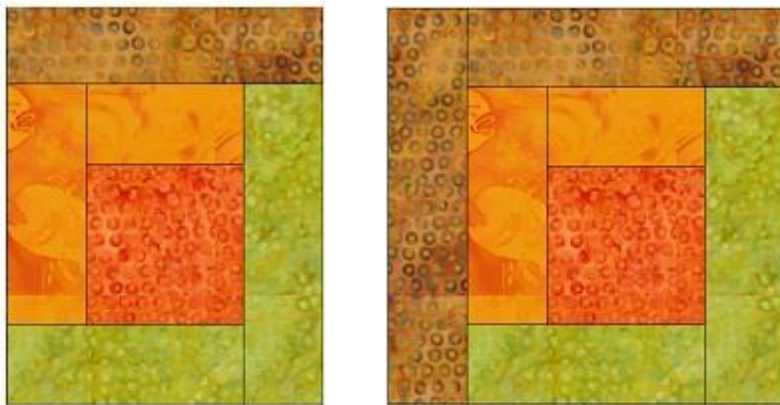
Here is the block with the 2nd strip added:



Now continue adding the 3rd and 4th strips around the center square. After the 4th strip is added, the first round of strips is complete, and should measure about 5.5"x5.5". Trim to make it square.

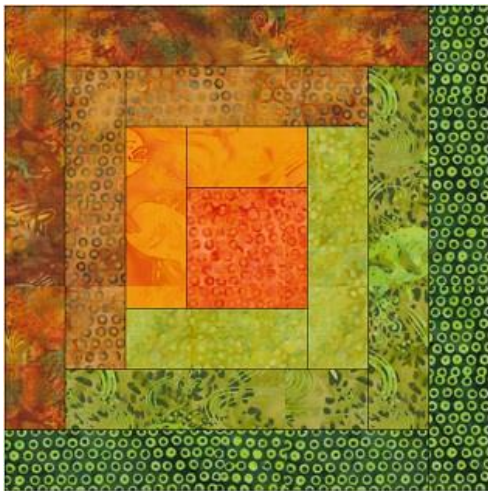


Continue in the same direction stitching and pressing the next 4 strips to complete the 2nd round of strips.



The block should now measure about 7.5" x 7.5". Trim to make it square.

Now continue adding the next 4 strips to complete the 3rd and final round of strips.



Your block is now complete and should measure about 9.5" x 9.5". It's no problem if your block is little larger or a little smaller than 9.5" – you can trim your background panel fabric to fit.

Variations:

1. You may choose not to cut your strips to specific length, and just trim to size after each strip is attached.
2. You may use different widths of the strips, but then you'll definitely need to use the trim method. Trim your final block to about 9.5" x 9.5".

3. You may stitch your strips together at an angle to make a "wonky" log cabin block, as shown to the right.

4. If you want your block to have only 2 rounds of strips instead of 3, cut the strips 2" wide and adjust the lengths of the strips as follows.

For the 9.5" block, you'll need to cut:

- 1 square 3.5" x 3.5"
- 1 strip 3.5" x 2"
- 2 strips 5" x 2"
- 2 strips 6.5" x 2"
- 2 strips 8" x 2"
- 1 strip 9.5" x 2"



Now you're ready to finish the rest of the panel and complete the totebag.

CONSTRUCTING THE TOTE BAG FRONT PANEL

To finish the front panel:

Supplies: one 9.5" block

Background Fabric 18.5" x 34" (almost width of fabric—wof)

Cutting instructions:

From the 18.5" x 34" strip of fabric,

cut a piece 18.5" x 9.5"

and from that same piece, cut *two* pieces 5" x 9.5".

Next, from the large leftover piece,

cut one piece 18.5" x 4.5".

The piece leftover now is 18.5" x 20" and will be the largest piece in the panel.

Stitching Instructions to complete the panel:

1. To each side of the log cabin block, stitch the 5" x 9.5" cut pieces. Press seam to the outside.
2. Add the 4.5" x 18.5" fabric to the top of step 1. Press to the outside.
3. Add the 20" x 18.5" piece to the bottom of the log cabin block. Press seam to the outside.
4. The completed front panel for the tote bag should measure about 18.5" x 33".

To complete the tote bag, follow the instructions entitled "Tote bag finishing Instructions updated for 2024." You will notice that the front block is different, it is the design we used in 2023, but the steps for bag completion are the same.