



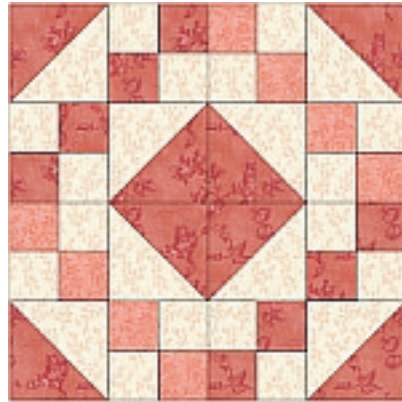
Block Name: Irish Chain

Skill level: Advanced Beginner (except 4" block)

Cutting method: rotary cutting

Fabrics: 3 colors
or 3 shades of
one color - light,
medium and dark

Cutting: use the
chart below for the
size block you need.



This is a traditional block design and may be used by anyone. The instructions, however, are copyrighted and may not be reproduced without permission.

Quantity to cut	4" block	8" block	12" block	16" block
Light color:				
4	2" x 2"	3" x 3"	4" x 4"	5" x 5"
16	1" x 1"	1.5" x 1.5"	2" x 2"	2.5" x 2.5"
(Or 2 strips)	(1" x 10")	(1.5" x 14")	(2" x 19")	(2.5" x 23")
Medium color:				
8	1" x 1"	1.5" x 1.5"	2" x 2"	2.5" x 2.5"
(Or 1 strip)	(1" x 10")	(1.5" x 14")	(2" x 19")	(2.5" x 23")
Dark color:				
4	2" x 2"	3" x 3"	4" x 4"	5" x 5"
8	1" x 1"	1.5" x 1.5"	2" x 2"	2.5" x 2.5"
(Or 1 strip)	(1" x 10")	(1.5" x 14")	(2" x 19")	(2.5" x 23")

Block size refers to finished size.

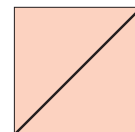
Constructing the Block

This block is comprised of 8 half-square triangle (HST) units and 8 4-patch units. Begin by making the HST's.

Making the Half-Square Triangle Units

Use the largest squares cut to make these units (2", 3", etc.).

1. Draw a diagonal line on the wrong side of the light square.

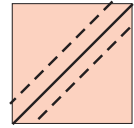




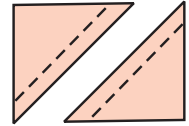
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Making HST's continued

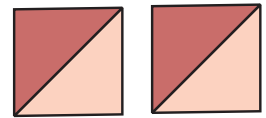
2. Place the light square on the dark square, right sides together (RST). Sew 1/4" from each side of drawn line.



3. Cut the unit in half on drawn diagonal line.



4. Open each triangle unit and press seams toward the darker color on 6 of the squares; press the other two toward the light color.



5. Trim each HST to same size as the smaller squares required for your block size: 4" - 1.5", 8" - 2.5", 12" - 3.5", 16" - 4.5".

Make 8.

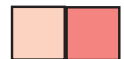
Making the 4-Patch Units

Note: instructions here are for traditional piecing. If you know how to strip-piece, the cutting measurements are provided in the cutting chart.

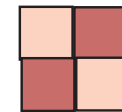
1. Sew two small squares of different colors together. Repeat with remaining small squares. Press seams toward the darker color on 8 of each color combination. Do not press the seams on the two extra units.
2. Sew two of these units (of same color combination) together, butting center seams against each other. Do not press seams yet. Trim to size needed for your block: 4" - 1.5", 8" - 2.5", 12" - 3.5", 16" - 4.5".



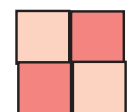
Make 9.



Make 9.



Make 4.



Make 4.

At this point, you need to decide between two different assembling methods: the "quadrant" method or the "barn-raising" method. The methods require different pressing patterns - see last page for pressing charts. Press the seams in the direction you need at the time you sew the pieces together. Personally, I think the "barn-raising" method is easier, but you might think the "quadrant" method is easier.

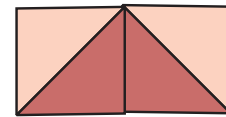
Please note: In both methods, I found one 4-patch unit that was pressed in the wrong direction no matter which way I turned it. That's why I had you make two extra pieces. If you come to this same predicament, use the extras and press them in the direction needed as you sew them together (I think this is easier than "unsewing" a completed 4-patch and starting over!)



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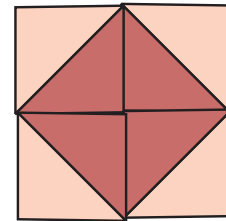
Barn-raising Assembling Method

1: Sew two HST units together, using one that was pressed toward the light color, as shown.

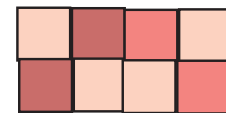


Make 2.

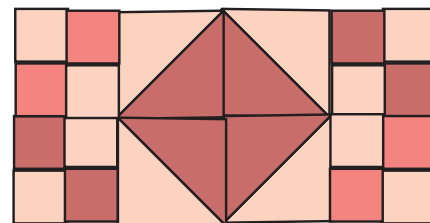
2: Sew these two units together to make the center of the block



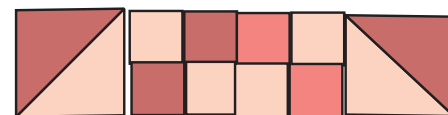
3: Sew two 4-patch units of different color combinations together: Make 2 of these.



4. Sew these to the sides of the center unit made in step 2.



5. Sew the remaining 4-patch units together as you did in the first part of step 3.



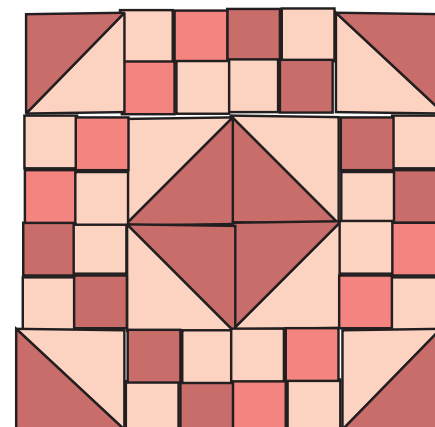
Make 2.

6. Sew a HST to each end of the units just made. Make 2 of these units.

7. Sew one unit from step 6 to the top of the unit from step 4.

8. Sew the remaining unit from step 6 to the bottom of the unit from step 4.

9. Press block then trim if necessary to correct size.

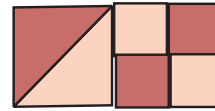




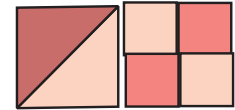
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Quadrant Assembling Method

1: Sew a 4-patch unit to each HST, placing the darker squares away from the dark triangles. Make 8 of these.

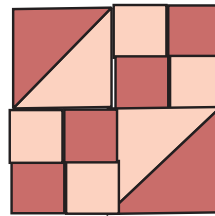


Make 4.

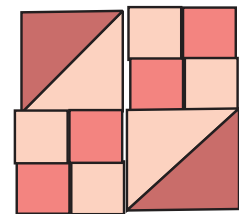


Make 4.

2: Sew two units from step 1 together as shown. Make two in the light/dark color combination and two in the light/dark/medium color combination.

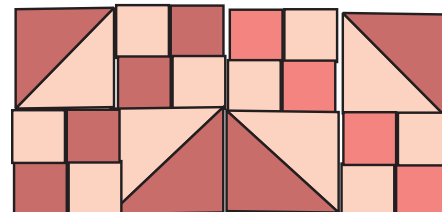


Make 2.



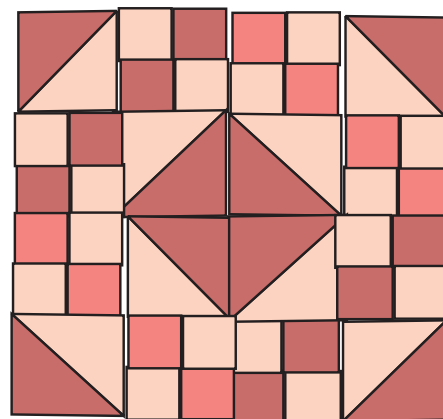
Make 2.

3: Sew a color A quadrant to a color B quadrant. Make 2 of these.



Make 2.

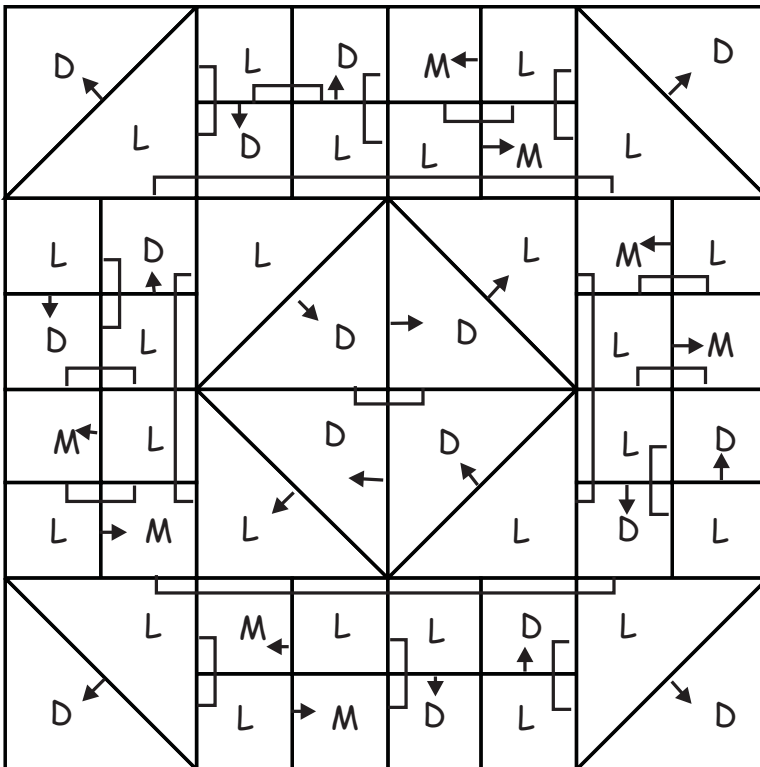
4: Sew the two halves together.



5. Press block then trim if necessary to correct size.



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Pressing Diagrams

Press seams in the direction indicated by the arrows or bars. Bars represent seams that cross other seams.

← Barn-raising Method

Tip: Color the block diagram in your fabric colors to make the diagram easier to read.

Quadrant Method →

D = dark
L = light
M = medium

