

Extreme Piecing

1. Cut 1 1/2 inch strips, subcut into 1 1/2 inch squares. I need to look up the numbers of each color, background, dark, medium and light green and red.
52 background
16 red
12 light green
24 medium green
16 dark green
2. Arrange your squares on a spare fat quarter according to the diagram.



Hmmm...This does not look a bit like the Shamrock block...oh well...Judy went dumpster diving again...

3. To sew...starting at the left column you'll pick up the top left square, put it on top of the 2nd square, put that on top of the 3rd square, put that on top of the 4th square and so on. Always keeping #1 on top!



First square on top of second,



second square on top of third, and continue to the bottom.



4. Pick up the second column in the same fashion. Be sure to keep #1 on top.



First square on top of second square,



second square on top of third, and continue to the bottom.



When you have both columns stacked, this is what it will look like.

5. Take both stacks to your sewing machine and put them in front of you, column 1 on the left, column 2 on the right. Notice there is a bunny tail under the presser

foot!



6. Pick up the top square from column 1, pair it with the top square from column 2 and sew 1/4 inch seam.



Take care to keep the squares oriented in the same way that they were layed out!



7. Next, pick up the second square from column 1 and pair it with the second square from column 2. Sew the 1/4 inch seam.



Continue mating the squares, like turning the pages of a book.

8. When you finish sewing the blocks from column 1 and column 2 together, you will have a bunny tail followed by a chain of blocks. There is another bunny tail under your presser foot.



9. DO NOT CLIP THREADS BETWEEN THE BLOCKS!

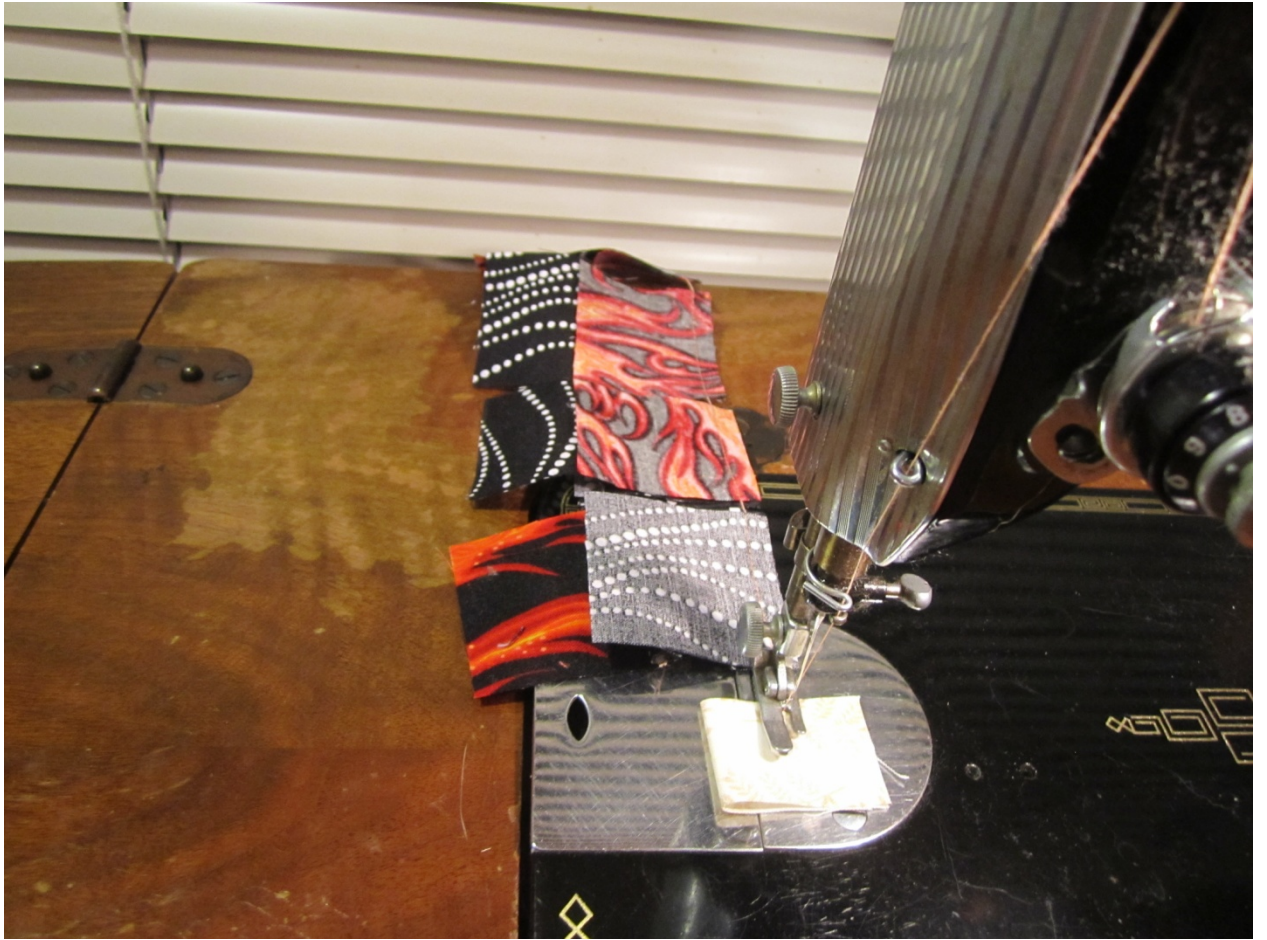
10. Pick up column 3, top to bottom as before. Take it to your sewing machine.



11. Starting with the bunny tail end of your chain (this is the marker that indicates the top!), open the first pair and finger press. Pick up block 1 from column 3. Place this block on the right hand side of the opened blocks and sew that seam. You should have 3 blocks in a row. The rest of your chain is in front of the needle, waiting to be opened, fingerpressed and another block sewn to the right side.



Continue sewing the column 3 blocks to the combined column 1 & 2 blocks.



Finished with column 3 and adding the bunny tail.



Columns 1-3 sewn together!

12. Pick up the blocks for column 4 and sew as you did with column 3. You should be able to see the 'spider web.'



Notice all the bunny tails at the top edge of the web!



13. When you get all the columns sewn together, it's time to stretch it out and check to make sure all the blocks are in the right places...Now is the best time to unsew and correct errors! In my illustration, the direction of the print is turned 90 degrees from it's neighbors.



14. Now to press the seams in opposing directions. Take the mess to the ironing board and place it wrong side up. Straighten the 1st row and press all the seams

to the left.



15. Pick the work up by the ends of the second row. Allow the first row to fall behind and put it down on the ironing board so the first row is underneath the second



row.

Move your iron to the left of your work and press the seam allowances to the right...make sure your seam allowances from the 1st row are laying flat and all going to the left.



Working at the edge of the ironing board makes it easier.

16. Pick up the work by the ends of the third row. Allow the second row to fall behind. Press all the seam allowances to the left.



By doing it this way, you don't have to try to press each row when it's inbetween the other rows.



Finished pressing! Now check to make sure the seam allowances are going in

opposite directions in each row.



17. Sew the rows together, locking the opposing seam allowances together.



For half, the top will lock into the bottom as the presser foot pushes them together.



For the remainder, it's best to pin.



See the little loops of thread at the crosswise seams? That's the spider web!



All done!

18. Press the seams from the back to lock the threads.



Start at the top and fold the pressed edges under as you press the next row.



19. From the front, press the all the row seam allowances in the same direction.





Nice and tidy on the back with no loose threads...It does NOT look like the inside of a pumpkin! The Quilt Police are Thwarted again!

20. And the front looks pretty good too!





21. Here's my finished block. I cut some more of the reds, 4 strips of $\frac{3}{4}$ inch by 12 inches. Fold in half and press. Place the raw edges along the outside raw edges of your quilted piece and stitch down with a scant $\frac{1}{4}$ inch seam. Do all four sides. Then apply your binding as usual, stitching with a healthy $\frac{1}{4}$ inch seam.