

Hourglasses

A 70" x 84" quilt
by Shelly Pagliai



This quilt was inspired by a quilt top made by my Great Aunt Mary many years ago, and recently finished by me. For my updated version, I'm using the "Good Life" fabric line by Deena Rutter for Riley Blake Designs.

This fabric collection is so absolutely adorable. The colors are wonderful, and by using them all together, it gave me just the look I wanted when reproducing my Aunt Mary's quilt in new fabric.

The pieced block in this quilt is a traditional block called Hourglasses.

I recommend that you read through all the instructions before beginning.

Here's a list of the materials you'll need to make your quilt:

20 different 1/2-yard pieces of various prints for the blocks. You could also use 10 different 1-yard pieces, but the more variety, the better, so I chose to use 20 pieces.

5 yards for backing

5/8 yard for binding

CUTTING INSTRUCTIONS

I always suggest that you cut and piece one block by itself at first. That way you can tell if everything is going to work out all right before cutting up all your fabric. To that end, I'm giving instructions here for cutting ONE BLOCK ONLY.



In addition, for this quilt, it allows you to mix and match your fabrics to get the greatest variety.

Choose TWO fabrics that you wish to make your block from, and from each of them, cut:

Eight 4 3/4" squares

Decide which of your two fabrics is the lighter-colored one, and on the back side of each of these squares, draw a diagonal line with a marking pencil.

SEWING INSTRUCTIONS

You'll need one square of each color. Match them up, right sides together, with the lighter one on top so you can see your drawn line.

Stitch 1/4" on each side of the drawn line. Cut apart on the drawn line. Press seams toward the darker fabric. Trim any dog ears. You should end up with 2 triangle-square units. Repeat with the remaining 7 pairs of squares.



You should now have 16 of these units.

Separate them into two piles of 8. On the units in one pile, draw a diagonal line on the back side in the opposite direction of the seam, as shown below.



Take one of each unit (one with a line drawn on it and one without) and match them up, right sides together, with opposite fabrics touching. In other words, have your light fabric on the top piece against the dark fabric on the bottom piece, and vice versa, as shown here. The seams should nest nicely up against each other, and you can feel with your fingers when they're in place. Pin them.



Once again, sew 1/4" on each side of the drawn line, and cut them apart ON the drawn line. You'll now have 2 units that look like this. Press seams open. Trim any dog ears. Each unit should measure 4" square.



Repeat for the other 7 pairs of units, until you have 16 of these units for your block.

Now, lay them all out in four rows of four, turning every other one so that like fabrics are never next to each other.



Begin the block assembly by sewing them together in pairs. Press seams toward the darker fabric.



Then sew the pairs together into sets of 4 units, pressing seams open.



Sew these four larger units together to complete the block, again pressing seams open. The finished block should measure 14 1/2" square.



NOTE:

There are two different layouts for this block, and you should mix them up so that when you're ready to set your quilt together, you have a variety of each.

In this block, the darker fabric is on the **SIDE edges** of the top left corner unit.



In this block, the darker fabric is on the **TOP and bottom edges** of the top left corner unit.



Can you see the difference? If you make a variety of each type of block, it makes for a better variety in your final quilt layout.

For the entire quilt, you'll need 30 blocks. If your first sample block came out all right, you're now ready to make the other 29 blocks!

Once you have all your blocks completed, you're ready to assemble the quilt top.

Arrange the pieced blocks into 6 rows of five blocks in a manner that you're pleased with. Sew the blocks in each row together. Press seams to one side.

Now sew the rows together to complete the quilt top. Press seams to one side.

You're now ready to layer and quilt your quilt. In my quilt, I used Quilter's Dream Poly Select white batting, a lovely solid in a soft robin's-egg blue for my backing, and a blue-and-white polka dot for my binding.



I quilted loops and curved lines in every triangle, alternating. It's covered pretty densely. You don't have to quilt yours this heavily. I just maybe sorta got a bit carried away!



Put your binding on when you're done quilting, and with that . . . you're finished!

I hope you've enjoyed this tutorial, and thanks so much for visiting me at Riley Blake's Cutting Corners College.