

Seymour Quilters' Guild Block of the Month - September 2026

Prairie Queen

Fabric Requirements:

Colour 1 (white background):

Cut (2) 5" squares for HSTs

Cut (1) 2½" x 22"

Colour 2:

Cut (1) 2½" x 22"



Colour 3:

Cut (2) 5" squares for HSTs

Colour 4 (Focus print for Centre):

Cut (1) 4½" x 4½"

Step 1:

Take your 5" squares of the white and 5" squares of Colour 3 fabric to make your HSTs. Draw a diagonal line on the back of the white background squares and place right sides together on top of the Colour 3 squares. Sew on each side of the diagonal line. Cut apart. Press towards the darker fabric. Trim to 4½" x 4½". There is very little to trim off. This will yield 4 HSTs.

Step 2:

Next you will make the 4-patch units. Take your 2½" x 22" strips (white and Colour 2) and sew down one side. Press open to the darker fabric. Cut the strip into eight 2½" units. Since I cut my two strips at 22", you will have a little extra left over after cutting your 2½" units.

Take two of the units and sew together to make a 4 patch. Repeat to make a total of four 4-patches. Each 4-patch should measure 4½" x 4½".

If you do not want to make your four patch units with strips, just cut each of your squares for the 4 patch units at 2½" x 2½" and sew them together as you normally would for a 4 patch.

Step 3:

Layout the HSTs and the 4-patches units around your $4\frac{1}{2}$ " x $4\frac{1}{2}$ " focus print as shown in the block pictured above. Note the placement of the HSTs and pay close attention to the orientation of the 4-patch units in the picture above.

Sew the three horizontal rows together. Press the seams for the top and bottom rows to the outsides, and the middle row towards the centre. Join the rows together. Your block should measure $12\frac{1}{2}$ " x $12\frac{1}{2}$ " unfinished. This will give you a 12" x 12" finished block.



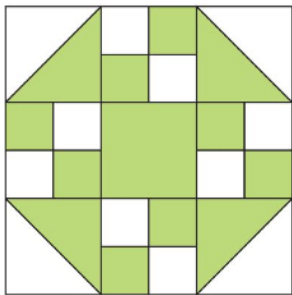
My block as used for our demonstration.

Interesting Fact:

This block gained popularity in the mid 1800s. In 1929, it was featured in Ruth Finley's book "Old Patchwork Quilts and The Women Who Made Them". Nancy Cabot later shared the pattern in her weekly newspaper columns during the 1930s.

I have since looked at different layouts for the 4-patch units, as well as having the block made up in two colours.

Try a two colour version with 4 patch units orientated in the same direction as my block above:



Version with different orientations of the 4 patch units:



Or the picture below uses the same colour for the centre square as your HSTs:



There is also a two colour version of this block that uses the white background for the centre square, and different orientations of the 4 patch units. It makes up for a lovely quilt. I recommend that you look at the Fat Quarter Shop tutorial at <https://www.fatquartershop.com/prairie-queen-quilt-block>.

Happy Quilting!

Susanne Dickenson