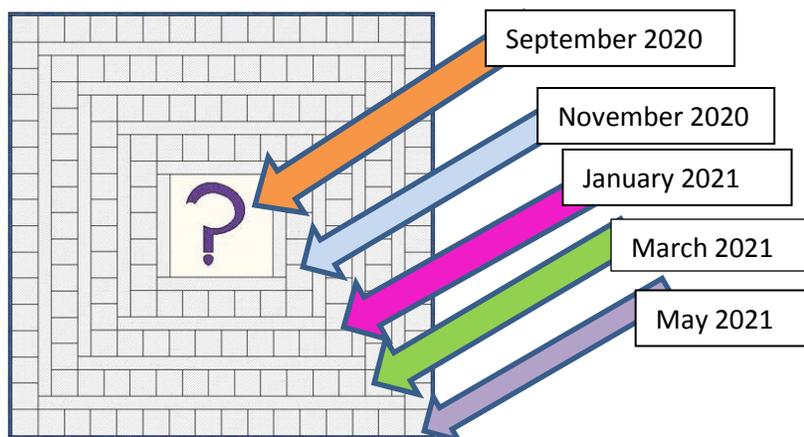


## “Make it Up as You Go” - A 2020 Stitch-a-Long - First Pieced Round



So you have completed your Center Medallion! Congratulations! What's next?

### Our first Resting Border:

Before we start choosing our pieced blocks we are going to add the first resting border to our medallion. “Resting Borders” or “Coping Borders” serve several purposes:

- They give the eyes a small place to rest between two busy rows.
- They also allow for fewer seams to meet at one place, giving us a lot less bulk when quilting.
- They allow for making corrections to our piecing errors or seam allowance differences. For instance, you cannot start out with a measurement of 17” if you want to use 3” blocks. The math doesn't work.

Let's start with measuring again to make sure that your medallion currently measures **16 ½” square**. If you are spot on, congratulations! If you are off a bit, don't panic... I have a formula for you that will bring you back to where we need to be before adding the pieced border.

You choose which of your fabrics you want to use... your background? One of your colors? Remember this is your quilt and you are making it up as you go!

Current Size	Cut your border strips
If your medallion is 16 ½” square	Cut your strips 2 ½” wide - 2 @ 16 ½” & 2 @ 20 ½” long
If your medallion is 17” square	Cut your strips 2 ¼” wide - 2 @ 17” & 2 @ 20 ½” long
If your medallion is 16” square	Cut your strips 2 ¾” wide - 2 @ 16” & 2 @ 20 ½” long
Is your medallion is in between these measurements?.... 16 ¼” of 16 ¾” ? Try this...	You can over cut your borders just a tadd, and then once they are applied, trim them just a smidge to bring you to the needed 20 ½” square. Just make sure they are trimmed equally so that they are all the same going around.

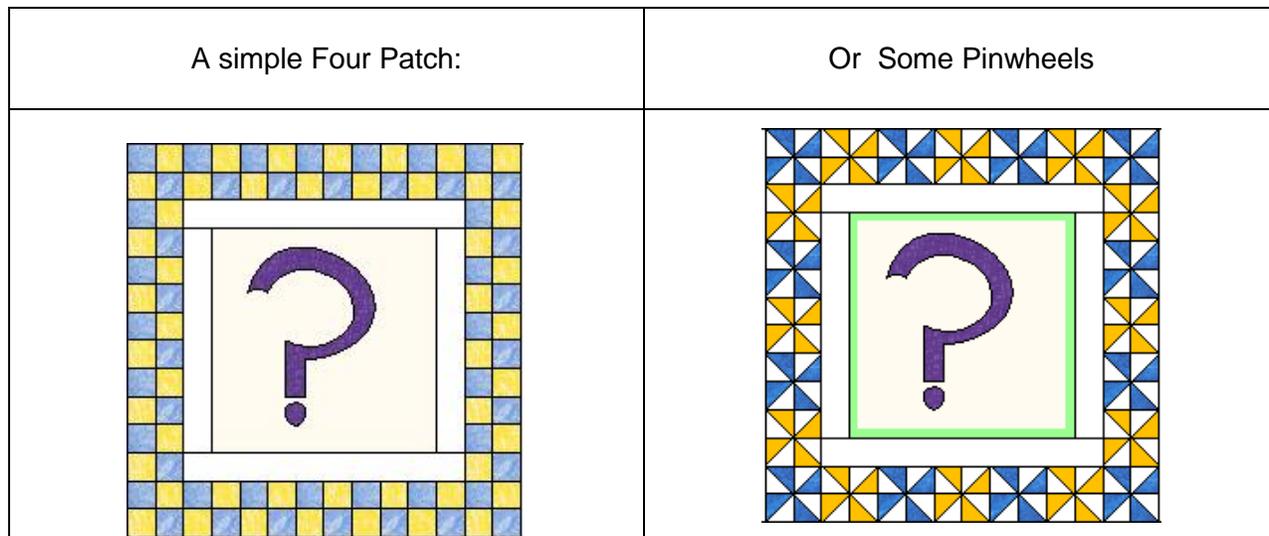
**After stitching on the resting border, your quilt will measure 20 ½” square.**

## Choosing the First Pieced Round:

Each month, we will give you instructions for choosing between two different pieced borders to add to your medallion. You can choose either one, or you can go rogue and pick something different. (*Choosing to go rogue means you are on your own for block instructions, but if you stay with the same size blocks you should be good to go!*)

**Round 1 Choices: 4" finished blocks Unfinished = 4 ½"**

**You will need a total of 24 blocks for this round**



These instructions are very simple, with no pictures. They are basic quilt blocks, and if you want to find detailed stitching instructions, look in one of your basic quilt books or check out Google & YouTube.

### For the Four Patch:

Cut 2 ½" strips of each color

Strip piece using a ¼" seam, press towards the darker color

Lay two strip segments faces together with dark strip at the bottom edge of the first layer and with darker strip on the top edge of the top layer. Make sure your seams are running straight and that they "lock" together in the center.

Cut into 2 ½" segments

Stitch with ¼" seam. If you fed with the dark first while stitching, you should be able to spin the center seams when you press.

Measure and trim if necessary to be 4 ½" unfinished.

### **For the Pinwheels:**

You will need to start with 3" strips of each color

Cut into forty-eight 3" squares of each fabric . Mark a line diagonally through the center of your light fabrics in one direction.

Match a light and dark square, and stitch 1/4" on each side of the marked line.

Cut on the line, and press towards the darker triangles. Trim to 2 1/2" square.

Arrange into the pinwheel. Remember to keep them all spinning in the same direction if that is important to you.

Stitch together like a four patch.... Spin seams if desired when you do the final pressing.

Measure to make sure your blocks are 4 1/2" unfinished.

*Note: This is just one way to make Half Square Triangles. If you have another preferred method, just use those instructions to yield 98 2 1/2" Half square Triangles.*

### **Attaching your blocks to your Medallion:**

Stitch into 2 rows of 7 blocks & 2 rows of 5 blocks

Attach to your medallion using a 1/4" seam. Press towards the resting border you added earlier to reduce bulky seams.

**Your project will now measure 28 1/2" square.**

I like to do a stay stitch 1/8" from the outside edge... this helps to keep my seams going the way I want them to, and keeps the seams from popping while we wait for the next steps.

*PS. If your measurements are a bit off, Don't panic! Don't cut off any pinwheel tips! We will be able to make that adjustment on your next resting border.*

**TaDa! Take a picture to send to Mary Fitzgibbons for Show & Tell !**

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