

Making a 4-patch mini quilt

1 Snip and tear a strip of backing fabric. The measurement is your hand span. Snip and tear into a square. Repeat to make the centre square using the measurement of your middle finger. Fold and finger press the base square diagonally both ways. Line up your centre square, with the corners sitting on the diagonal lines, to centre it. Pin in place.

2 On each side of the base square, fold the raw edge in to meet the raw edge of the centre square. Finger press or seam roller this line. You can iron this in place if you have an iron. Now fold the raw edge to meet the creased line, and crease the new line. Now fold the middle line to meet the centre square raw edge and crease the line. You now have a grid to guide your sewing.

3 Snip and tear or cut 'log' fabrics as you need them. Starting with the light fabric, cut a piece the length of the centre square. Match up the raw edges and place it **right sides together** on the central square. Stitch a seam $\frac{1}{4}$ in (5mm) from the raw edge. If you are sewing by hand, you can just approximate where the seam should sit; start with a knot (this will be on the side of the work that faces you, not left exposed on the back), and a backstitch. When you reach the end of the seam, leave the threaded needle on the back of the work. It is less traditional but also perfectly valid to sew these seams on the machine, should you prefer!

4 Fold the stitched log WS together so the raw edge is in line with the first creased line. Pin in place.

5 Cut and align the next light-coloured log and (if hand sewing) bring the needle up ready to stitch the $\frac{1}{4}$ in (5mm) seam. It will not be at the start of the log, and that is fine.

6 Continue to stitch and fold logs around each side of the square. For the second two logs, use your darker fabric. At the end of the first round of logs you can finish off and cut the thread, leaving the thread tail on the inside of the log.

7 Continue on in the same order until the last round of logs. Make sure you do not stitch to the raw edge of the base fabric here, but always leave at least $\frac{1}{4}$ in (5mm) of the log free (7a). This will help when you join the blocks together. When each block is finished, put a pin in each outer log to keep the fold in place until you are ready to join the blocks together (7b). Make the other three quilt blocks in the same way.

8 Work out your chosen mini quilt arrangement. To join two blocks together, put the blocks RS together. Pin the fronts only together (as shown). Stitch a $\frac{1}{4}$ in (5mm) seam from raw edge to raw edge.

9 Press in one direction. The seam roller works well on this narrow seam.

10 Flatten the backing fabric in the opposite direction to the pressed seam. Fold over the remaining SA so that it covers the flattened SA. You can usually feel how the fold on the back knits in with the seam pressing on the front. Pin in place and stitch down with a slipstitch or hemming stitch. Stitch from raw edge to raw edge, catching the backing fabric only.

11 Repeat with the second pair, this time pressing the SA in the opposite direction.

12 Now you can stitch the two pairs together. You will find that the seams will knit together neatly at the junction. Again, stitch the front together first, then press and stitch the backing. Once together, the mini quilt can be bound (see pages 20–25).

