

# Delectable mountains

## Squares, strips and triangles

A complex-looking design, which essentially is made from pieced strips, you can make this block using just two squares of fabric. As you can see from the image of the finished block (Fig 9), it's unusual in being rectangular rather than square, but the pattern gives plenty of scope for different design options.

The instructions provided here are for a 6in high x 9in wide block (finished sizes).

### For one Delectable mountains block you will need:

- One 7in light square
- One 7in dark square

or instead of fabrics contrasting in value, you could use contrasting colours.

- 1 On the wrong side of the light square mark a diagonal line from corner to corner. Place the squares right sides together, with the marked square on top. See Fig 1.



Fig 1 Squares right sides together

- 2 Stitch  $\frac{1}{4}$ in either side of the marked line and then cut through both layers on the marked line. See Fig 2.



Fig 2 Stitched and cut squares

- 3 Open the units out and press. The parent squares were cut oversized so, keeping the 45-degree line of your ruler aligned with the diagonal seam, trim to  $6\frac{1}{2}$ in square (unfinished). See Fig 3. You will have two identical half-square triangle units. See Fig 4.

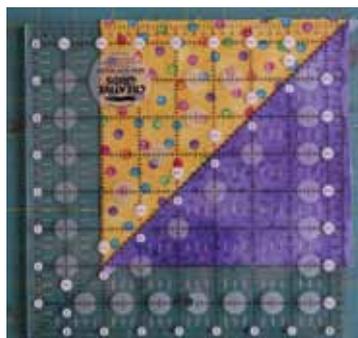


Fig 3 Trim the unit

### Calculating the block size

Using this method of piecing a Delectable mountains block, setting the height determines the size of the parent squares you need to cut, and also the width of the block; see steps 1 and 2 below for an example. If you wish to set the width of the block, that will determine the height, and thus the size of the parent squares; see step 3 below for an example. Either way, you will get a good arithmetical workout!

- 1 Decide on the finished height of your Delectable mountains block. In the example shown here, a finished height of 6in was chosen. As the strips in the block are cut from half-square triangle units, this height is the same as the finished size of the half-square triangle units. That is, the finished half-square triangle units would be 6in square. When cutting the parent squares for half-square triangle units you need to add  $\frac{1}{8}$ in to the finished size of the unit, so in this case  $6\frac{1}{8}$ in. However, as done here, you may prefer to cut the parent squares  $\frac{1}{8}$ in oversize (i.e. 7in) and trim the units to size after piecing.
- 2 The finished width of the block depends on how many strips you cut from each half-square triangle unit. In the example shown here, each unit has been cut into four equal-width strips, so each strip is  $1\frac{1}{8}$ in wide (unfinished). When re-joining the strips you will of course lose a  $\frac{1}{4}$ in seam allowance on each side of each strip, i.e. each strip will be  $1\frac{1}{2}$ in wide (finished). As there are eight strips in the block, the block will be 9in wide (finished).
- 3 But say you wanted to make a block that was 12in wide (finished) – then each strip would need to be  $1\frac{1}{2}$ in wide (finished). This means that you would need to cut four 2in wide strips from each half-square triangle unit, so the unit would need to measure 8in square (unfinished). As the finished size of the half-square triangle unit would be  $7\frac{1}{2}$ in, you would need to cut  $8\frac{3}{8}$ in parent squares (or  $8\frac{1}{2}$ in if cutting them oversized and trimming after piecing). This would give a Delectable mountains block that would measure  $7\frac{1}{2}$ in high x 12in wide (finished sizes).

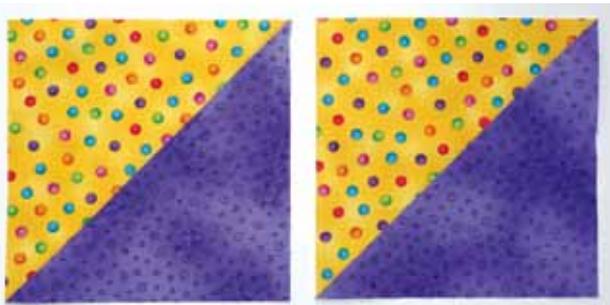


Fig 4 Two identical half-square triangle units

4 Referring to Fig 5, cut each half-square triangle unit into four equal-width strips. Each strip will measure 6½in high x 1½in wide (unfinished sizes). It's important that you get the orientations correct when cutting the half-square triangle units or you won't end up with a Delectable mountains block when re-joining the strips.

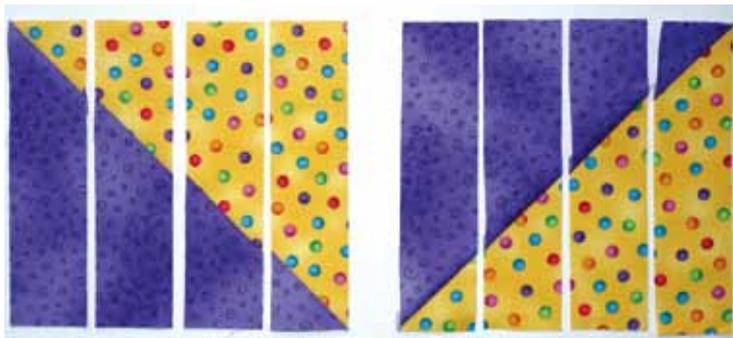


Fig 5 Cutting the half-square triangle units

5 Referring to Fig 6, re-order the strips of the left-hand half-square triangle unit. The strips are in the same orientations but the placements are reversed – that is, the strip on the left-hand side of the unit is now on the right-hand side, and so on.

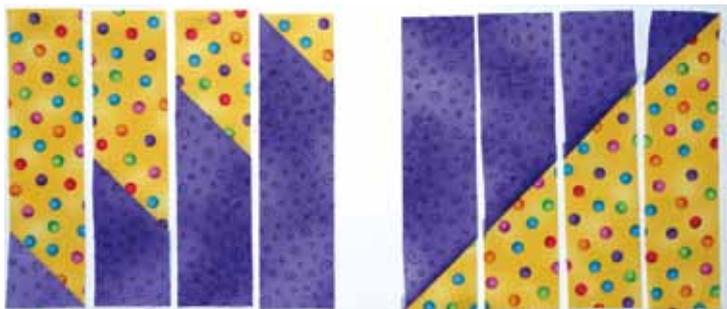


Fig 6 Left-hand unit: strips re-ordered

6 Referring to Fig 7, re-order the strips of the right-hand half-square triangle unit. The strips are in the same places but they have been rotated by 180 degrees.

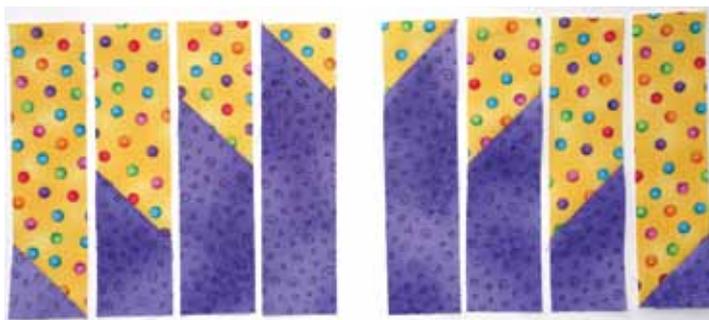


Fig 7 Right-hand unit: strips rotated by 180 degrees

7 Now for each re-ordered unit, join the strips into pairs and then join the pairs. See Fig 8.

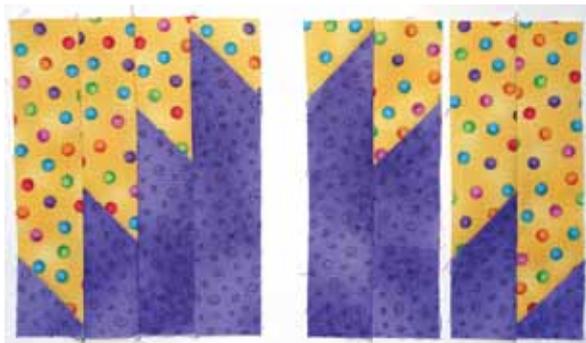


Fig 8 Join the strips into pairs and then join the pairs

8 Now join the units to complete the Delectable mountains block, which should each measure 6½in high x 9½in wide (unfinished sizes). See Fig 9.



Fig 9 Finished block

**Mystery row quilt**  
In the Mystery row quilt – part two in this issue of *The Quilter* – one of the rows has to be made using strips, so you could use the block shown here for that row; see page 30 for details.

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## Tips

- Cutting your parent squares ½in oversize and then trimming after piecing ensures that your half-square triangle units will be exactly the right size. When trimming, keep the 45-degree line of your ruler aligned with the diagonal seam.
- Experiment with quilt top layouts using the blocks in different arrangements – you can create interesting patterns by placing the blocks in mirror-image arrangements to give the effect of reflections.
- If you are making lots of blocks, then instead of completing each one as you go, you could mix-and-match strips cut from different half-square triangle units to make multi-coloured mountains – just take care to keep the strips in order.