

Diamonds are a Quilter's Best Friend

2018 Mystery Quilt

By Ann McNew

Layer Cake? Do you, like me, have a few layer cakes in your stash? Do you take them out and pet them every so often? Well, it's time to dig one out! This year's Mystery Quilt is based on a Layer Cake. It's time to stop saving them and start using them to create works of art!

Don't worry, if you don't have a layer cake, just can't turn loose of one or prefer to make a scrappy quilt. In the Mystery Quilt, I will also be providing the information you need to create a Scrappy Quilt.

This Quilt is the perfect size for Quilts of Valor. The finished size, without any borders is 60"x70". Borders will be up to you. Although I will be give some suggestions with the final directions.

Layer Cake Mystery Quilt Fabric:

1 Layer Cake you love

2 3/4 yds (I bought 3 yds) of contrasting solid fabric, nothing too blendy-blendy. You need to have some contrast.

Scrappy Quilts of Valor Mystery Quilt Fabric:

White/cream Background fabric-about 2 3/4 yards

Reds-about 1 3/4 yds

Blues- about 1 1/2 yds AND 6 squares at 9"x9" (focus fabrics)

Note: it is scrappy, so you can add fabrics as needed.

The smallest piece will be 3 1/4" x 3 1/4"

Both: The above does NOT include fabric for a border. The border design is up to you (although I will give suggestions)! I cannot wait to see your border variations!

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2018 Mystery Quilt—Clue 1

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This month we're going to be sorting, cutting and bagging. There are 2 sets of directions, so choose the set for your quilt, either Layer Cake Mystery Quilt or Scrappy Quilts of Valor Mystery Quilt.

Layer Cake Mystery Quilt

Put aside the 8 squares you like the least, that have the least amount of contrast between them and your background fabric.

Bag 1, marked "FOCUS"

Pick out the 6 squares from your layer cake that you like the best.

Bag 2, marked "A and B"

12 squares from your layer cake

From your background fabric cut:

60 squares 3 1/4" x 3 1/4"

24 pieces 3 1/4" x 6"

Bag 3, marked "C and D"

10 squares from your layer cake

10 Squares from your background fabric cut 10" x 10"

Bag 4, marked "E and F"

6 squares from your layer cake

6 Squares from you background fabric cut 10" x 10"

Cutting hint—I cut my larger background pieces for bags 3 and 4 BEFORE I cut my fabric for bag 2. I was able to cut some of the smaller pieces from the leftover pieces of the 10" strips I cut for bags 3 and 4.

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2018 Mystery Quilt—Clue 1

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Scrappy Quilts of Valor Mystery Quilt

Bag 1, marked "FOCUS"

Cut 6 squares from your BLUE fabrics 9" x 9"

Bag 2, marked "A and B"

From your BLUE fabrics

60 squares 3 1/4" x 3 1/4"

24 pieces 3 1/4" x 6"

From your background fabric cut:

60 squares 3 1/4" x 3 1/4"

24 pieces 3 1/4" x 6"

Bag 3, marked "C and D"

From your RED fabric

90 pieces 3 1/4" x 3 1/4"

From your background fabric

90 pieces 3 1/4" x 3 1/4"

Bag 4, marked "E and F"

From your RED fabric

18 pieces 3 1/4" x 10"

From your background fabric

18 pieces 3 1/4" x 10"