

# X-Block quilt step-by-step

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Many of you have written to ask just what is the **X-Block tool**. I figured that 'a picture tells a thousand words', so come with me on my **X-Block** quilt journey and you can see step-by-step just how easy and effective the **X-block tool** is, in making dynamite quilt designs.

For this quilt I used the **6½" X-Block tool**. The measurements in this pattern relate to that size tool. With your **X-Block tools** you will receive instructions to make a similar quilt and measurements are included for all four sizes of **X-Block tools**.



## **Fabrics:**

I used my collection of New Zealand black and white fabrics. I used a constant white moko background fabric and six dark prints and nine light prints. Ideally I would have liked ten dark and ten lights so I just doubled up a couple of the fabrics.

Cut sixteen strips of background fabric, selvedge to selvedge 3¼" wide = 1.4m

Cut ten dark strips, selvedge to selvedge 3¼" wide = .85m

Cut light strips, selvedge to selvedge 3¼" wide = .85m

Sew a white background strip either side of a dark strip - four times.

Sew three light print strips together - twice.

Sew a white background strip either side of a light strip - four times.

Sew three dark print strips together - twice.

Now cross cut each of the above strips into 3¼" strips.

Arrange these into nine patch blocks.



*You will have two types of nine-patches.*

The top nine-patch block has the three lights through the centre and a background/dark/background combination top and bottom.

The bottom nine-patch block has the three darks through the centre and a background/light/background combination top and bottom.

You should have made at least 25 of each type of nine-patch.



Place your **6½" X-Block tool** on your 'dark' blocks matching the heavy lines with the seams of your nine-patch block. Trim off the edges, save these for your borders.



**FLIP OVER** your **6½" X-Block tool** on your 'light' blocks matching the heavy lines with the seams of your nine-patch block. Trim off the edges, save these for your borders.



You will now have a pile of 'dark' blocks and a pile of 'light' blocks plus the matching piles of border 'bits'.

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Page two



Lay out your blocks, alternating each type of block. I laid seven blocks across and seven rows down. When you are happy with the fabric placement, sew the blocks together to form rows and then sew the rows together. I found that pressing the seams open helped greatly.

## Border One:

Choose a contrasting border fabric, I choose **Te Koripi Wae Red** and cut five x 2" strips selvedge to selvedge. Join the strips with diagonal seams. Measure your quilt through the middle and cut two borders strips for the sides. Sew these strips to the sides. Measure the quilt through the other way and cut borders for the top and bottom. Sew them on.

## Border Two:

Sew your offcuts from the blocks together. See Fig One. Trim the blocks to measure 5" x 2½".

Now sew the blocks end to end, starting from the middle until you have enough for both sides and the top and bottom. The blocks won't fit the quilt edges exactly, just trim them off to fit.



Fig. One



## Border Three:

Cut four spacer blocks 2½" x 5¾" (one for each side of the quilt) and then sew the remaining border blocks either side of the spacer blocks until you have enough for the four sides. Sew Border two and three together and then sew them to the sides and then top and bottom of the quilt.



## Binding and Quilting:

Join fabric for the backing of your quilt and place this fabric face down on a flat surface. Pat out your batting and then lay out your beautifully pressed quilt top. Tack or pin paste. Quilt as desired and bind. Don't forget a quilt label.



*This step-by-step X-Block quilt pattern has been produced by Mary Metcalf from  
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