

The Sickle in Green

Block basics:

- In honor of springtime, and St. Patrick's Day, we're going green.
- This is another old block, published by the Kansas City Star in 1936.
- Finished block size is 8 1/2" square. (When you turn it in, before it is sewn into a quilt.)
- Use whichever neutral thread color makes the most sense.
- All seams are scant 1/4" seams unless otherwise indicated.



Choose your fabric:

- You may use one, two, or three green fabrics, and one light background fabric in solid or tone-on-tone cream, white, white-on-white, eggshell, or very, very pale green. If you use one green fabric, you need a piece 5" by 10", plus a background piece 5" by 10". The illustration shows pieces cut from an ombre fabric, from light to dark. The greens may be medium to dark, such as Kelly green, spring green, etc. Do not use teal or blue-green that reads more blue than green. Prints and tone-on-tone fabrics will both work. See the blocks shown at the bottom of page two for ideas that work.

Cut the following fabric pieces:

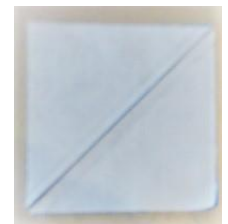
1. One 5" square of background.
 2. One 5" square of green.
 3. Two 2 1/2" by 5" rectangles of background.
 4. Two 2 1/2" by 5" rectangles of green.
- Note: you can use four 2 1/2" squares of background and green fabric instead, or one 2 1/2" by 10" rectangle of each. You get the idea.



Construct the block:

To complete your block, follow these steps:

1. Put the 5" squares right sides together with the background up. Draw a line from corner to corner and sew 1/4" on each side of the line. Cut on the drawn line, open and press to the green. Trim each to 4 1/2" square.
2. Sew the green and background rectangles together lengthwise. Cut each in half crosswise, then press toward the green.
3. Assemble these squares into two four-patches, each with the same green fabric. I like to press them to opposite sides, making a miniature four-patch on the back to reduce bulk, but it's not critical. You can press to one side if you prefer.



4. Lay out the four sections as shown. Sew the top row together, then the bottom row. Press each row toward the four-patches. This will make it easier to match the points in the middle, because you can see the stitches. After joining the rows, press to top or bottom. Note: The four-patches go in different directions. If you have four small green squares all lined up on the diagonal, it's not right. I don't know the name of that block, but it's not The Sickie.



Here's a picture of the back.



Here's the final block.



The blocks can be assembled in many different ways: Here are a few examples with four blocks.



Bring your finished blocks to the guild meeting on March 24th to participate in the drawing.

Questions? Suggestions for future blocks? Feel free to email me at judygrayj@live.com.