

Breaking Down the Block

by Leonie West

Over 80% of Traditional Quilt Blocks are made using a grid and basic units.

This article is about how easy it is to change the size of quilt blocks.

Once you understand the grids and the basic units it is very easy to change the size of the blocks and the size of the quilt.

My Adjustable Rulers and Triangles are designed to make changing the units size and therefore the block size extremely easy without needing to know the mathematical formulas.

The Adjustable Triangles use the measurement for the finished units - if the unit you require measures 3" x 3" all you have to do is set the tool to 3 - *it could not be simpler.*

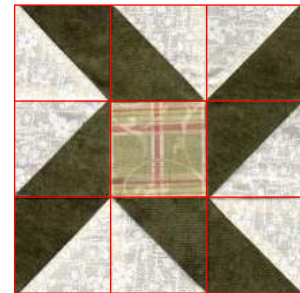
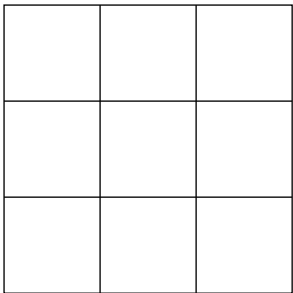
Using the Adjustable Triangles you can simply look at a block, decide which grid is used and then decide what size you wish to make the block.

If we take a look at the Eccentric Star Block we can see that the block is a

NINE PATCH - 3 x 3 Grid

Using 8 Half Square Triangle units

1 Square



We can make quilts of different size depending on the size of the unit we use.

The quilt will be made using 16 blocks (4 x 4)

UNIT SIZE

2" x 2"

3" x 3"

4" x 4"

5" x 5"

6" x 6"

BLOCK SIZE

6" x 6"

9" x 9"

12" x 12"

15" x 15"

18" x 18"

QUILT SIZE

24" x 24"

36" x 36"

48" x 48"

60" x 60"

72" x 72"



The following pages will look at Basic Grids, Basic Units and some Four Patch - Nine Patch and Sixteen Patch blocks.

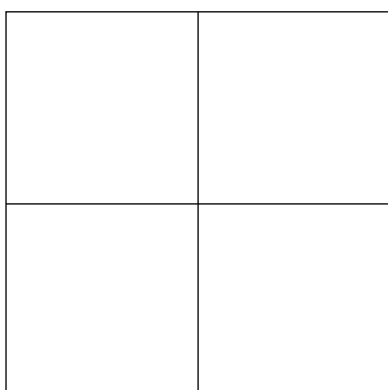
I hope that this will encourage you to use with some of the blocks in the Family Reunion Quilt to make your own quilt design.

When using the Westalee Adjustable Rulers it is easy to make blocks in many sizes and design your own quilt block patterns or change the size of favourite blocks.

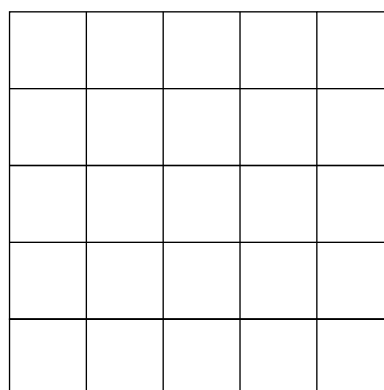
This is Part 1 where we take a look at the basic grid construction of blocks and the unit sizes.

BASIC BLOCK GRIDS

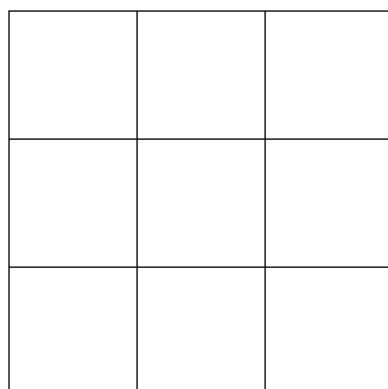
Traditional pieced block configurations can be easily defined by the number of units in the construction.



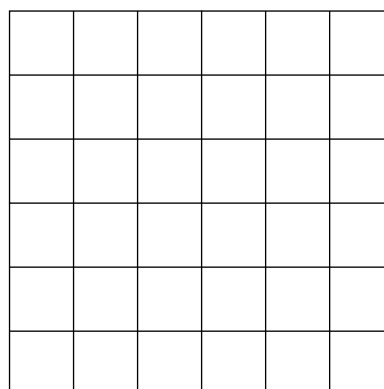
FOUR PATCH
2 x 2



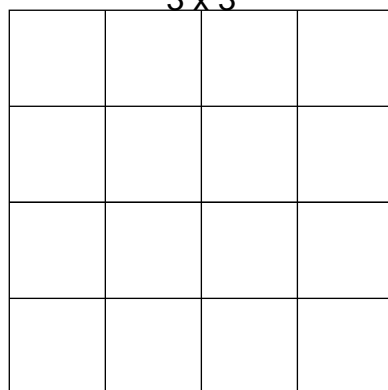
TWENTY FIVE PATCH
5 x 5



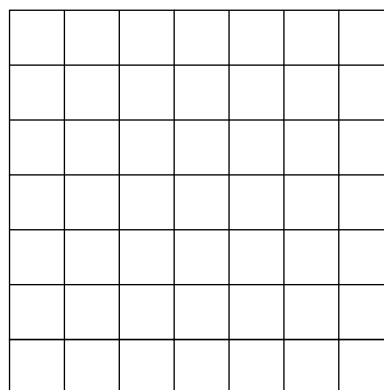
NINE PATCH
3 x 3



THIRTY SIX PATCH
6 x 6



SIXTEEN PATCH
4 x 4



FORTY NINE PATCH
7 x 7

The more units used in the grid the more complicated the block.
These are the basic grids - there are other grids that can be used.

Once you know size and the grid of the block you wish to make you then must work out the size of each unit.

This is very easy to work out.

6" x 6" finished Four Patch (2 x 2)

This block is made of 4 - 3" finished units

6" divided by 2 = 3" finished units

12" x 12" finished Four Patch (2x 2)

This block is made of 4 - 6" finished units

12" divided by 2 = 6" finished units

9" x 9" finished Nine Patch (3 x 3)

This block is made of 9 - 3" finished units

9" divided by 3 = 3" finished units

18" x 18" finished Thirty six Patch (6 x 6)

This block is made of 36 - 3" finished units

18" divided by 6 = 3" finished

Seam allowances are included in the Westalee Triangles. When cutting squares and rectangles, add half an inch ($\frac{1}{2}$ ") for seam allowance.

This instruction is for the Westalee Adjustable Quarter Square and Half Square Triangles - so all you need to do is set the tool to the required finished size.

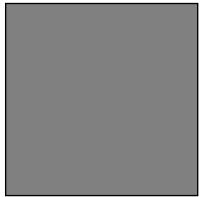
Easy Reference Chart

Finished Block Size	Four Patch	Nine Patch	Sixteen Patch	Twenty Five Patch	Thirty Six Patch	Forty Nine Patch
	Finished Unit size					
2" x 2"	1" x 1"		$\frac{1}{2}$ " x $\frac{1}{2}$ "			
3" x 3"	$1\frac{1}{2}$ " x $1\frac{1}{2}$ "	1" x 1"	$\frac{3}{4}$ " x $\frac{3}{4}$ "		$\frac{1}{2}$ " x $\frac{1}{2}$ "	
4" x 4"	2" x 2"		1" x 1"			
5" x 5"	$2\frac{1}{2}$ " x $2\frac{1}{2}$ "		$1\frac{1}{4}$ " x $1\frac{1}{4}$ "	1" x 1"		
6" x 6"	3" x 3"	2" x 2"	$1\frac{1}{2}$ " x $1\frac{1}{2}$ "		1" x 1"	
7" x 7"	$3\frac{1}{2}$ " x $3\frac{1}{2}$ "		$1\frac{3}{4}$ " x $1\frac{3}{4}$ "			1" x 1"
8" x 8"	4" x 4"		2" x 2"			
9" x 9"	$4\frac{1}{2}$ " x $4\frac{1}{2}$ "	3" x 3"	$1\frac{1}{2}$ " x $1\frac{1}{2}$ "			
10" x 10"	5" x 5"		$2\frac{1}{2}$ " x $2\frac{1}{2}$ "	2" x 2"		
11" x 11"	$5\frac{1}{2}$ " x $5\frac{1}{2}$ "					
12" x 12"	6" x 6"	4" x 4"	3" x 3"		2" x 2"	
15" x 15"	$7\frac{1}{2}$ " x $7\frac{1}{2}$ "	5" x 5"	$2\frac{1}{2}$ " x $2\frac{1}{2}$ "	1" x 1"		
18" x 18"	9" x 9"	6" x 6"	$4\frac{1}{2}$ " x $4\frac{1}{2}$ "		3" x 3"	

THE BASIC UNITS

What are the basic pieced units?

The pieced units are the components blocks are made from a:-



3" x 3"

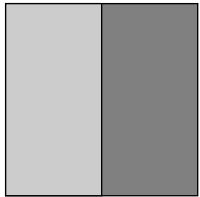


3" x 3"
1 1/2" x 1 1/2"

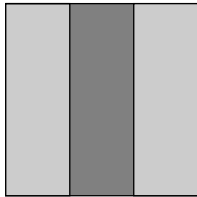
SQUARE

A 4 sided unit with all sides of equal measurement

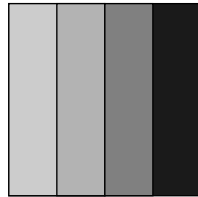
Use the Square to make a Four Patch unit



2 - 1 1/2" x 3"



3 - 1" x 3"

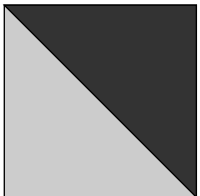


4 - 3/4" x 3"



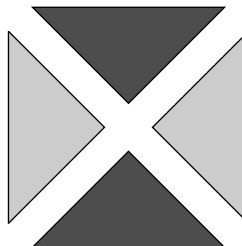
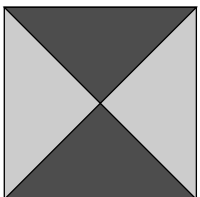
RECTANGLE

The unit can be broken into any number of pieces to make up the unit



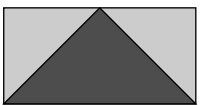
HALF SQUARE TRIANGLE

The Half Square Triangle Unit is made from 2 triangles joined diagonally



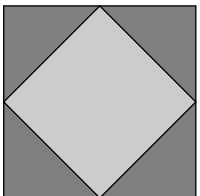
QUARTER SQUARE TRIANGLE

The Quarter Square Triangle Unit is made from 4 triangles joined diagonally



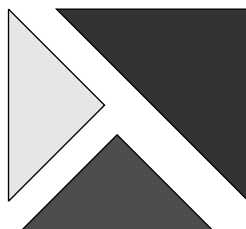
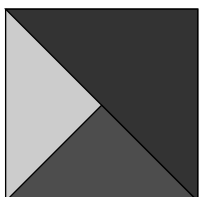
FLYING GEESE

The Flying Geese Unit is made using 1 Quarter Square Triangle and 2 Half Square Triangles



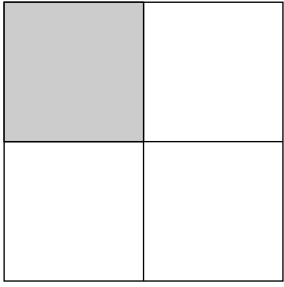
SQUARE IN A SQUARE

This unit a square surrounded by 4 Half Square Triangles

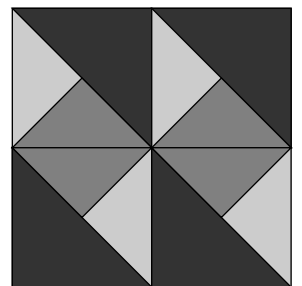
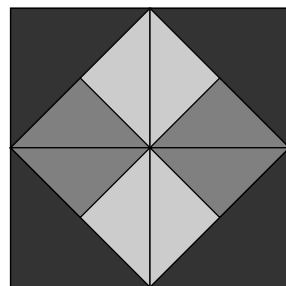
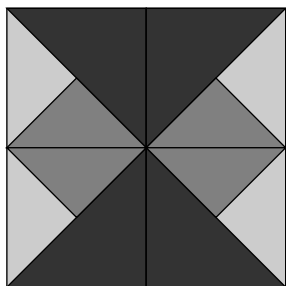
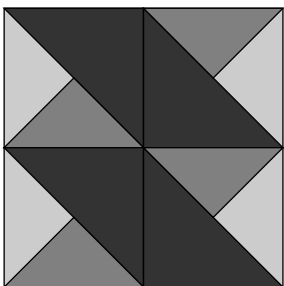
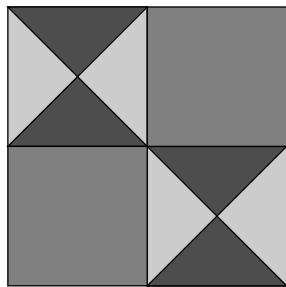
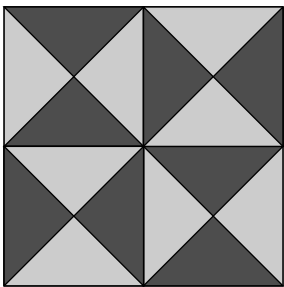
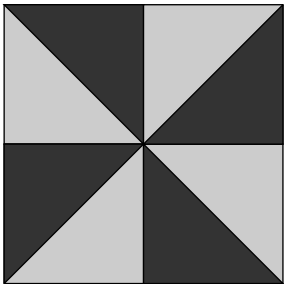
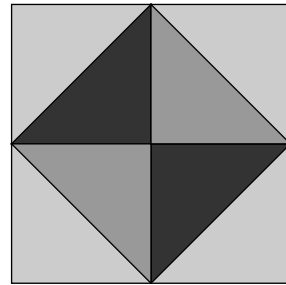
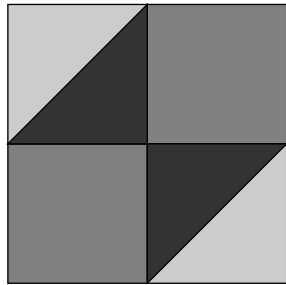
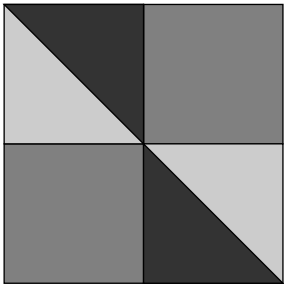
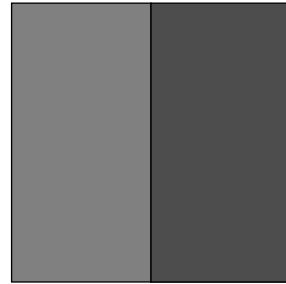
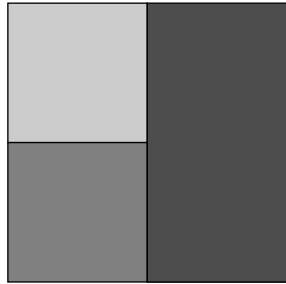
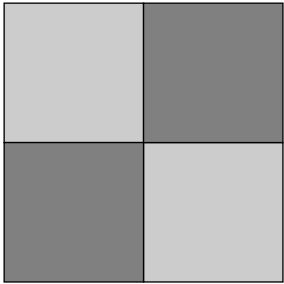


QUARTER SQUARE TRIANGLE with HALF SQUARE TRIANGLE

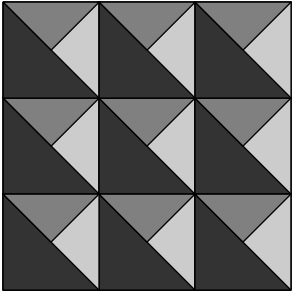
1 Half Square and 2 Quarter Square



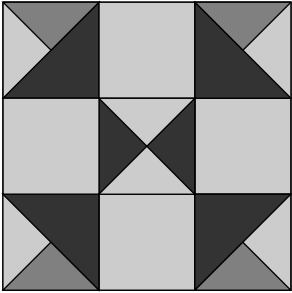
Here are just a few of the block that can be made using the FOUR PATCH grid and the basic units.



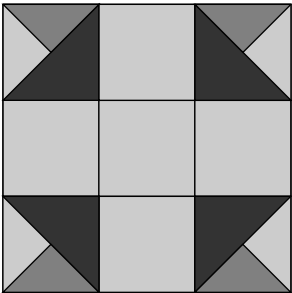
Here are just a few of the block that can be made using the NINE PATCH grid



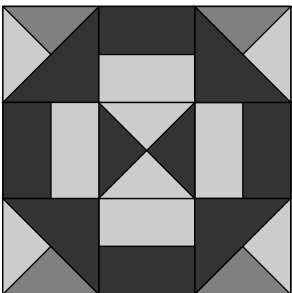
QUARTER SQUARE TRIANGLE with HALF SQUARE TRIANGLE unit.



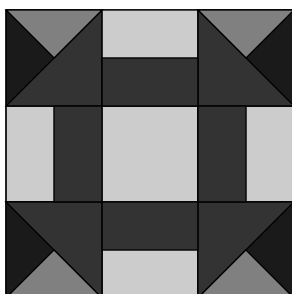
QUARTER SQUARE TRIANGLE with HALF SQUARE TRIANGLE unit.
SQUARES



QUARTER SQUARE TRIANGLE with HALF SQUARE TRIANGLE unit.
SQUARES



QUARTER SQUARE TRIANGLE with HALF SQUARE TRIANGLE unit.
QUARTER SQUARE TRIANGLE
RECTANGLES

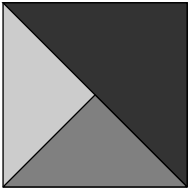


QUARTER SQUARE TRIANGLE with HALF SQUARE TRIANGLE unit.
QUARTER SQUARE TRIANGLE
RECTANGLES

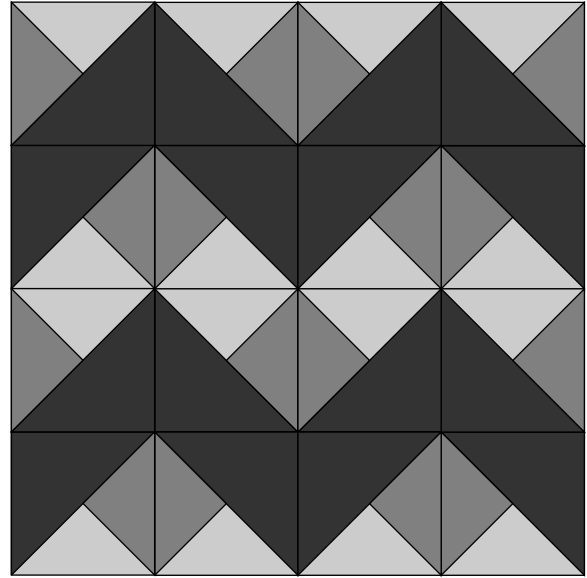
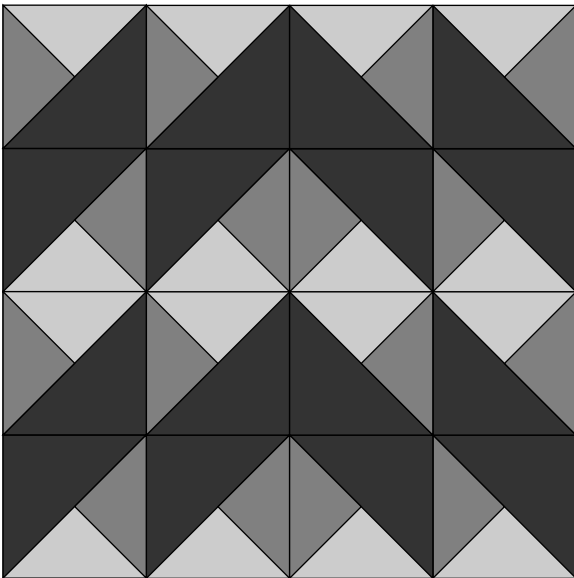
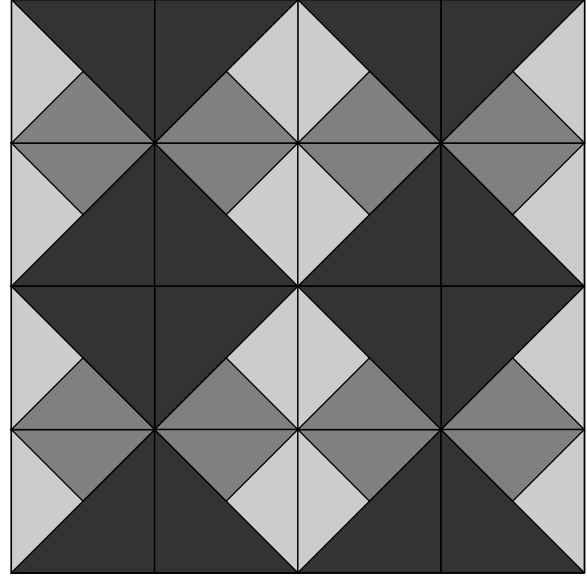
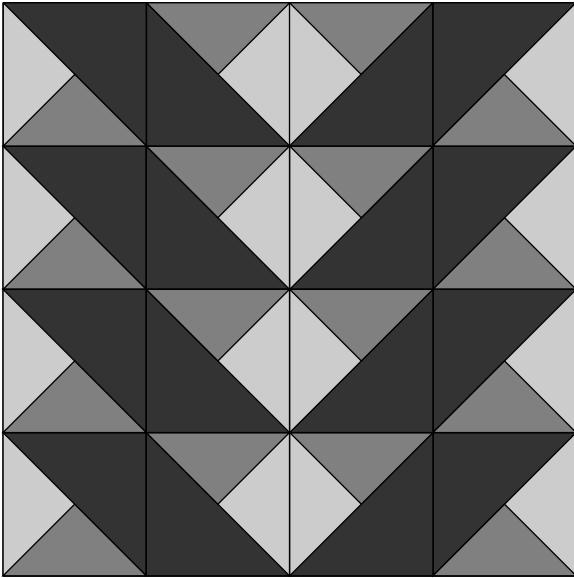
To make as a 6" x 6" finished block
The units are 2" x 2" finished units

To make as a 9" x 9" finished block
The units are 3" x 3" finished units

To make as a 15" x 15" finished block
The units are 5" x 5" finished units



Here are just a few of the block that can be made using the SIXTEEN PATCH grid and QUARTER SQUARE TRIANGLE with HALF SQUARE TRIANGLE unit



To make as a 8" x 8" finished block
The units are 2" x 2" finished units

To make as a 12" x 12" finished block
The units are 3" x 3" finished units

To make as a 16" x 16" finished block
The units are 4" x 4" finished units