



# Grandmother's Dream & Boston Commons Tutorial

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# Grandmother's Dream & Boston Commons

These are favorite traditional quilt patterns that were originally constructed square by square. I'm showing the modern time-saving method of strip piecing.

This project creates two different quilts from the same fabrics - colors placed in reverse order:

Square: Grandmother's Dream

Rectangular: Boston Commons (cover and next page)

Note: my methods are different than some, I feel that mine are faster easier and time saving. This is an Intermediate Level Tutorial.



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Two for One: Grandmother's Dream and Boston Commons

## Planning

Fabrics:

Select a run of fabrics from light to dark in two color families\*.

Ex. dark green to light green, and light blue to dark blue. Any number of fabrics will work, odd or even.

\*Using two color families makes sorting the completed quarters simple.

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Desired Quilt Size:

Table Topper - Doll Quilt - Small Sample: Cut 2" strips of 9 fabrics.

Larger Quilts:

50" wide: Cut 3" strips: 5 Strips of each of 15 fabrics - which will become 5 stratas\*

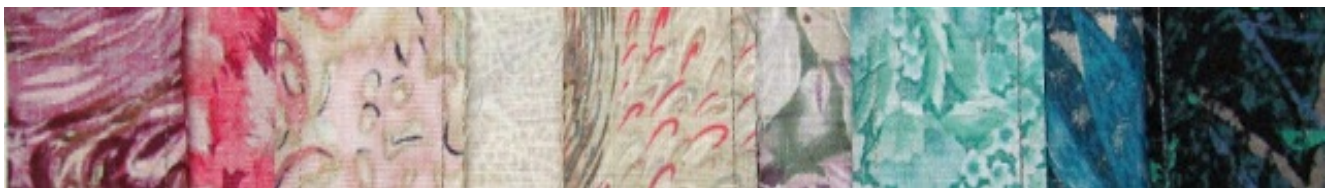
68" wide: Cut 3" Strips of 20 fabrics - 6-7 stratas\*

78" wide: Cut 3" Strips of 23 fabrics - 7-8 stratas\*

Calculate your own size: each 3" square is about 3.4" on the diagonal so you can calculate an approximate size for any number of fabrics. (3.4" x No. of fabrics= quilt width)

\*If you are making both quilts rectangular (Boston Commons) you will need to add at least another half or whole strata for the elongating rows.

**\*\*IMPORTANT\*\***Pressing: every strata must be pressed identically. Seams will be pressed one up, one down throughout the strata. This means if you press the seam toward fabric 1 on the first strata it must be pressed the same on every strata. This *eliminates the confusion* in directions that call for half of the stratas pressed up and half of the stratas pressed down and continually deciding which pile of slices to choose from.



Sewing: Straight seams are SO important. Sew at the speed that produces straight seams, *no faster*. Use a 2.0 seam length because the strata will be cut through many times. This will prevent stitches popping out at the ends.

Stratas will be left flat, NOT JOINED INTO A TUBE like some other trip around the world techniques.



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## Let's Begin...

1. Decide what size quilt you are making, choose fabric and cut strips.

You may want to make a color card with the fabrics numbered for reference as you are sewing.

2. Sew the required number of stratas for the size you are making. Press the seams one up, one down, the same way in every strata.

3. Cut the stratas into strips (slices). For small stratas place the first strata down along a line on your mat, place the second strata on top, moving it down one line, add a third strata, again moving it down one line. Trim the left edge so it is straight along a line on the mat and then cut slices (the same width as your original strips to make the strata). You should be able to get 14 three inch slices out of batiks, maybe only 12-13 out of regular quilting cottons that have been prewashed. Here is a photo of staggering the stratas from another quilt I was making.

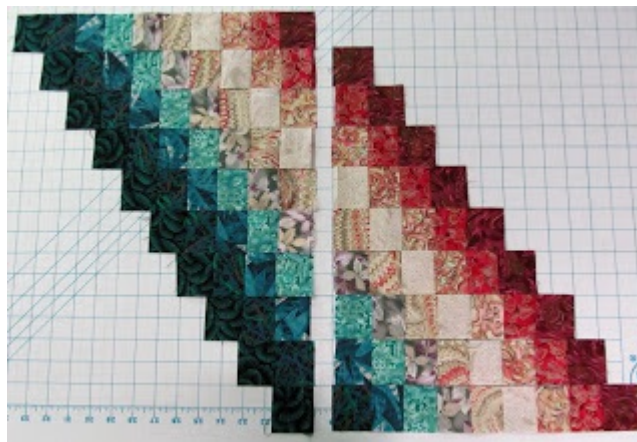


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I have left the right edge peeled back so you can see the layers. (In this photo I was cutting segments for 4 patches but the technique is the same no matter how many strips are in the strata.) Larger stratas may need to be folded in half to be shorter than your ruler and then cut 1-2 stratas at a time.

Unpicking: The first strip is left full length, the rest of the strips have a part picked off which then becomes part of a quarter for the other quilt. You will need a large table for this.

Choose the color to be the center of the left hand section and the first strip will be a whole strip. The second strip will have the first center color picked off and placed to the right for another quarter. The third strip will have a section of 2 center colors picked off and placed to the right in the other quarter. The fourth strip will have a section of 3 center colors picked off and placed to the right in the other quarter. You will continue like this until you have just one piece in the left quarter and the rest of the strip in the right quarter. The left quarter is for one quilt the right quarter for the other quilt. Below are photos of pieces for all 4 quarters of both quilts. Notice 2 quarters are one strip shorter than the other 2 quarters. Photos below.





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You need to unpick 2 identical groups of each quarter. (8 quarters total, 4 for each quilt). Photo below.



You can stack each quarter and clip or pin them together to take to the sewing machine. Four quarters will have one color at the center; the other four quarters will have the other color at the center.

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Next you will sew the quarters:

If you are making the Grandmother's Dream (square quilt) one quarter will be smaller than the other 3. Notice the top quarter is the largest with the center square in it. The 2 side quarters are identical and the bottom quarter is 2 strips smaller than the top quarter (you will not sew the 2 longest strips into that bottom quarter).





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If you are making the Boston Commons version, there are 2 identical quarters top and bottom and 2 identical quarters on the 2 sides. This gives it 2 center squares and each elongating strip (one full strip and one strip with the center square picked off) adds more center squares. You can add as many elongating rows as you wish to achieve the length of quilt that you want. Hope this tutorial makes your work more efficient and organized!

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