

**Precut Charm Squares Table Topper or Wall hanging**  
Designed by Cindy Cockell

This simple project may be made with a 2 ½" mini charm pack or a 5" charm pack (42 squares per pack). It uses all 42 squares. The finished size of the mini one is about 13". The regular charm pack finishes about 32" which makes a great teddy bear quilt. The method is the same, the only difference is the size of the borders and what you trim the squares too. This looks complicated but it really goes together fast. The mini version took me about 3 hrs, the bigger one about 5 hrs.

You can make it with any size of squares as long as they are the same size so use up your scraps!

This was the mini version came first. I gave myself a challenge to use all the 42 squares and have no scraps left. The big version picture is at the end. Both samples are in Luci's shop if you want to see them in person.



**Fabric Requirements:**

- 1 charm pack or 42 squares either 2 ½" or 5". Or any size you choose and adjust the border widths to fit. My mini was Abby Rose. The bigger one was the new Art To Heart Holly Jolly.
- Borders:
  - Mini version: 2 strips 2" x wof. Then recut into 8 pieces 2" x 6"
  - Big version: 3 strips 4 ½" x wof. Then recut into 8 pieces 4 ½" x 14 ¼". Note: if your fabric isn't 43" wide you will need an additional strip and cut 2 pieces per strip
  - Note: your borders have to be the width of what your HST are squared up to. So if you square up to 4 ¼" then cut your borders to that.
- Binding:
  - Mini version – 2 strips 2" x wof (or 2 ½" if you prefer but that looked too wide for my liking)
  - Bigger version – 3-4 strips 2 ½" x wof. In mine I used exactly 3 strips with only selvage to spare but I had to piece with 1 angle seam and 2 straight seams.
- Backing & Hanging sleeve
  - Mini – 14" x 14" plus two 3" or 4" squares
  - Big – 34" x 34" + 30" x 8 1/2" for sleeve. So .85m
- Batting
  - Mini – 14" x 14"
  - Big – 34" x 34"

**Construction of the Center Square:**

1. The first thing I did was to separate the squares into roughly 2 piles. Most charm packs have duplicates so I put the duplicate squares into 2 piles then put all the singles into one of the piles. That just helped me mix the colors easier.
2. I pulled out 2 squares of the same color that seemed dominant. That was the 'solid' navy in Abby Rose. It just seemed like they would stand out if I put them into the center part. These are the focus triangles in the borders.
3. I also pulled out 4 'solid' squares for my corners. Or in the case of Holly Jolly I didn't think the houses would look good in the center but I could feature them in the corners.
4. That leaves you with 36 squares so your center block will be a 6x6 block size.
5. Mix up the remaining squares into 18 pairs. If there are duplicates then make sure you don't mix the same two a second time so you get more variety.
6. Draw a diagonal line on the backside of the lighter colored square in each pair. I use a Frixion pen so it disappears when I iron it or use a pencil or chalk marker. Or use the technique I showed in one of the programs of ironing in the diagonal line.
7. Make 18 HST blocks by aligning each pair then stitching a scant ¼" seam allowance on each side of the diagonal line. Note: a scant ¼" is a thread or two less than the ¼". If you have a scant ¼ foot or your machine has that setting then use it.
8. Cut the HST block along the diagonal line so you now have 36 HST squares. When I cut them apart I stack them into 2 separate piles facing up the same fabric.
9. Take the 2 stacks to the ironing board and press one stack towards one fabric and the second stack towards the opposite fabric of each square. This helps ensure half the squares are pressed

one way and half the other way so you can interlock seams easier.



10. Square up each HST: The mini ones should square up to 2". The bigger ones to 4 1/2". Some charm squares are more generous than others, especially the 5" packs. If you can't get 4 1/2" then trim to 4 3/4" - as long as they are all the same it won't matter. I literally was just cutting off the tips of the pinked edge in some cases for the 4 1/2" squares
11. Make 4 HST blocks using the fabric you reserved for the corners and square up to the same size as the center block HSTs. If you use the Holly Jolly house squares there is a trick to get all the houses to face the same way like in my picture.

For the houses you have to lay out like this: for one block the navy fabric houses face up then put the white house fabric right with the roof pointing right and the diagonal line is  $\swarrow$ . For the 2nd block the navy still faces up but the white roof points to the left and the diagonal line is  $\searrow$  like the first picture. Sew on each side of the diagonal line. Before you cut flip the edges to make sure they look like the 2<sup>nd</sup> picture.



12. Cut the 2 squares you reserved for the borders in half diagonally (navy in the Abby Rose version, red in Holly Jolly). For the 5" squares, I trimmed them to 4 3/4" before I did this to get rid of the pinked edge. Put them aside for the border step.
13. Layout the 36 HSTs so that you have a good mix of colors throughout. The best way is to start in the center with the 4 center blocks and work your way out horizontally for those 2 rows. The important thing to remember is to alternate your seams so that they will interlock wherever they will touch. That's why I ironed half one way and half the other. You want the diagonal



seams for every row to interlock so it lays flatter. Note: double check before you start sewing and either move squares around so they interlock or re-iron to flip a seam.

So my center diamond upper left is pressed to the cream, upper right to the coral, bottom left to the green, bottom right to the light coral. Then I orient the squares to the right and left of the center diamond so their pressing faces the same way as the center HST they touch. The next row above or below will be pressed the opposite way.

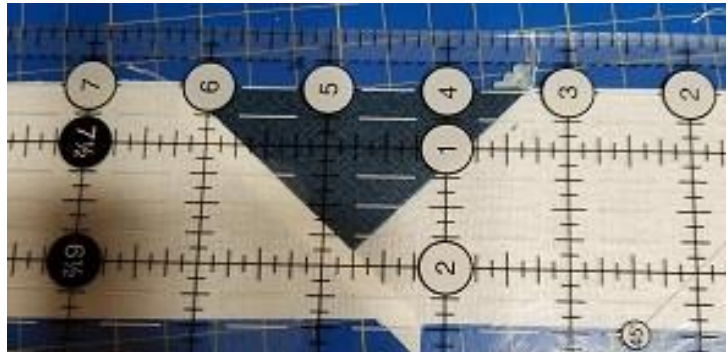


14. I sewed the squares for the 2 center horizontal rows together first. Press one row to the right and the other row to the left so the vertical seams with interlock. Use a few pins to ensure your seams interlock.
15. Then sew these 2 rows to each other. When I sewed the rows together I pressed the seams open so it lay flatter.
16. Then sew the other rows making sure you alternate which way you ironed the rows and pressing the row seam open.
17. When it's done give it a good press from both sides making sure no seams flipped or bunched up. I gave mine a light spray with Mary Ellen's starch since there are a lot of diagonal seams. Finished size of the mini should be  $9\frac{1}{2}'' \times 9\frac{1}{2}''$ . Finished size of the bigger one should be  $24\frac{1}{2}'' \times 24\frac{1}{2}''$ .

#### Borders:

1. Place 2 border strips wrong sides together and cut the end at 45 degrees using the 45 degree line on your ruler lined up on the long edge as the picture shows. Start right at the edge of the strip or you won't have enough fabric. Do the same for the other 3 borders.
2. Align the shorter, straight grain side of the triangle with the angle on the border. Make sure the ends are in  $\frac{1}{4}''$  i.e. the valley is  $\frac{1}{4}''$  from the edge. Sew the diagonal line. See pictures next page.
3. Press towards the triangle
4. Align the 2<sup>nd</sup> diagonal border edge with the other straight grain edge of the triangle and sew that seam. Note: The point of the triangle will NOT line up with the border edge.





Pictures show the mini version

5. Press towards the border. Trim off the excess border piece from the first border side you sewed.

Mini version:

- The border needs to be  $9\frac{1}{2}$ " but you want the triangle in the center. So fold the border in half at the triangle point, lay the  $4\frac{3}{4}$ " mark on the fold and trim the excess border fabric so overall it's  $9\frac{1}{2}$ ". If your center block turned out to be a different size than  $9\frac{1}{2}$ " then adjust the center of the border accordingly. Make 4 borders. Or, like the picture on the previous page shows, line up the ruler with the  $4\frac{3}{4}$ " mark on the triangle point then trim at the edge of the ruler, then trim the strip to  $9\frac{1}{2}$ " overall.

Big version:

- The border needs to be  $24\frac{1}{2}$ " but you want the triangle in the center. So fold the border in half at the triangle point and trim to  $12\frac{1}{4}$ " so overall it's  $24\frac{1}{2}$ ". Or line up the  $12\frac{1}{4}$ " mark on your ruler with the center point of the triangle and trim. If your center block turned out to be a different size than  $24\frac{1}{2}$ " then adjust the center of the border accordingly. Make 4 borders.
6. Sew the 2 side borders to the block first and press to the border.
  7. Sew the corner HSTs to the ends of the other 2 borders making sure the diagonal lines are oriented the way you want them. Press to the border. Note: for Holly Jolly ensure you have the houses oriented the correct way.
  8. Sew the top and bottom border and press to the border.

Quilting:

1. Layer the backing, batting and quilt top. Pin or spray baste together.

2. I did walking foot quilting for the entire quilt. The mini quilt (Abby Rose) was quilted with King Tut #908, a coral variegated. The Holly Jolly was quilted with Wonderfil Fabulux (FB 21) which is a red/green/gold variegated trilobal polyester thread. Luci will be bringing in some of this thread line.
  - For the mini version I just stitched through the middle of each diagonal square. Then for the last 3 rows at the corner points I used my Frixion pen to extend the diagonal seam lines into the border then stitched white thread (doing a stitch in the ditch so I didn't have to break my thread for each row). The Frixion marks will iron out.
  - For the bigger version I first did a stitch in the ditch through the horizontal and vertical center seams then through each diagonal square. I used Wonderfil Invisifil thread for this instead of normal invisible thread. This thread is super fine and nicer than invisible – it's great for the bobbin too. Or use a thread that will blend in. To quilt I just used the edge of the walking foot with my needle moved over to ½" and stitched on each side of the seam line. Then I stitched centered between those 2 lines. Then I did the extensions into the border the same as for the mini version but with my same red/green/gold thread.
3. Trim your quilt. I do this by measuring the same distance from my border seam on all 4 sides.
4. Baste at 1/8" around the quilt.

#### Finishing:

1. Add the hanging sleeve.
  - For the mini version I just put corner hangers like the picture (thanks to Marina who showed us this on one of the Zoom meetings). Use a 3" or 4" square folded in half diagonally and baste into each top corner. This is good for a small quilt and faster than a traditional sleeve.
  - On the big version I did the normal hanging sleeve across the full width (if you don't know how I sew on a hanging sleeve with no hand sewing then refer to my handout in the FAQ section on the Guild's webpage). The hanging sleeve was cut at 8 1/2" high (or outer border width X 2 + ½") and about 30" wide.
2. Binding: I used 2" for the mini and 2 ½" for the bigger.
3. Add a label.



Have fun and bring it to show & tell this fall if you make one. Cindy



